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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

12 SKATING DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
Throughout December
• Olean, 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

MASQUERADE PARTY
Tuesday, December 31
Peak N' Peek, Clymer, NY

VIVA VIA LAS VEGAS NEW YEAR'S EVE
Tuesday, December 31
Harbor Hotel, Coloron, NY

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
Tuesday, December 31
White Inn, Fredonia, NY

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

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

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

SNOWSHOE HIKES AT ASP
Wednesday, January 15
4:30pm @ Allegany State Park

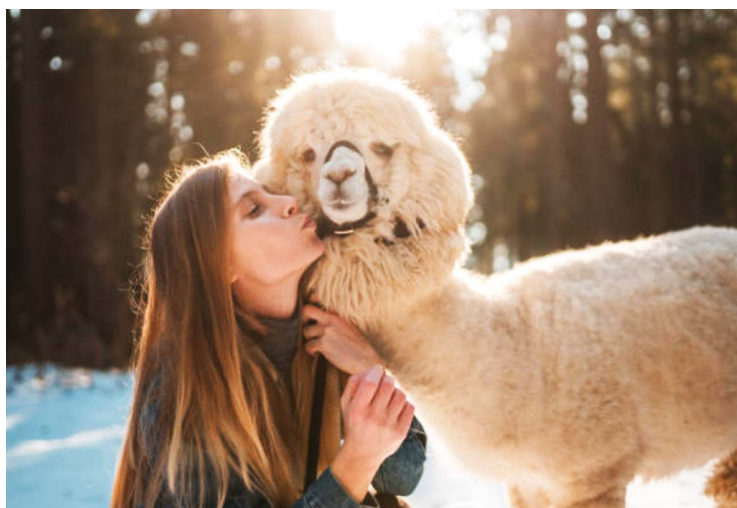
MONTHLY FAT BIKE RIDES
Friday, January 17
Allegany State Park, Salamanca, NY

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

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Christmas is HOPE

Season of Love, Forgiveness, & Laughter



BY CAROL FISHER-LINN

No matter your age, 'tis the season for Christmas wishes, dreams, and hopes. If you still mail greeting cards, how many times have you written, "we wish you all the best in this holiday season." Or "here's hoping all of your Christmas dreams come true."

Many of the holiday songs you hear are filled with nostalgia and yearning for something better.

Amy Grant, in her song, "A Grownup Christmas List" sings about dreaming of "no more lives torn apart, that wars would never start, and time would heal our hearts. And everyone would have a friend, and right would always win, and love would never end."

Years ago, Bing Crosby reminded us, "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my

SEE "CHRISTMAS" PG. 14

Rust Belt Books

The Art of the Independent Bookstore



BY JEFF MARTIN
THE VILLAGER

If you're lucky, every time you go into a bookstore there's a book just waiting for you.

If you visit Rust Belt Books in Buffalo, you're likely to find just that book.

Kalissa and Vinny Rondinelli, a local couple with no prior bookstore experience, have made a bold leap into the world of independent bookselling.

Six months ago, the couple purchased Rust Belt Books, located at 415 Grant Street in Buffalo, after Vinny first spotted the property listing a couple of years ago. The couple, parents of three children, was drawn more to the building than the business itself.

Vinny, a real estate broker who manages properties across Western New York,

SEE "BOOKS" PG. 11

Pour Taproom Open in Ellicottville

Inside Lincoln Boutique Motel

BY KATE BARTLETT



Pour Taproom in Ellicottville will be hosting a grand opening party on Saturday, December 28th, officially celebrating their establishment as a part of the Ellicottville community. They are located at 6089 US-219 inside the Lincoln Boutique Motel (formerly Slope-side at the Telemark Hotel).

Pour Taproom is now open in Ellicottville inside the new Lincoln Boutique Motel. Beautifully situated near the slopes of Holiday Valley, but just outside the hustle, the restaurant offers a full bar and menu alongside their unique 30 tap pour-wall with stunning views of Ellicottville year-round.

Matt Prime and Joe DiCenzo opened their first location of Taproom on Pearl Street in downtown Buffalo 3 and a half years ago. Pour was the first restaurant to introduce the serve-yourself pour-wall to the area, and it's been a huge success. Guests are provided a wristband to scan at the pour-wall where they can serve

SEE "TAPROOM" PG. 6

Volunteer Spotlight: EVL's Alley Katz

Beautifying the Village for over 40 Years



The organization, supported by donations and volunteer work, is responsible for planting, weeding, watering, and maintaining the hanging flower baskets, barrel planters, and permanent garden beds throughout the village. Their efforts ensure Ellicottville remains a picturesque destination for both locals and visitors. (Pictured Alley Katz members left, Nadine Saviano and Debra Yantomasi.) Photos/Nadine Saviano. (See "ALLEY KATZ", page 7.)

Sneak Peek

Inside this Edition...

Edna's at the Tamarack Club
Holiday Valley Reveals New Seasonal Menu ... Pg. 5



Edna's at the Tamarack Club at Holiday Valley recently announced their new lunch and dinner menus, artfully blending seasonal comfort food with global and American classics. Edna's will continue to offer guest favorites along with new innovative features striving to be the best place to dine with the best views in Ellicottville.

This Year in Photos ... Photo Page Pg. 16

A Look Back at some Highlights of 2023 in WNY

Online Submissions Accepted

www.thevillagerny.com or email info@thevillagerny.com

New Year's Eve Tradition

Torchlight Parade at Holiday Valley



As they have for decades, the Holiday Valley Ski Resort in Ellicottville is throwing its very popular family-friendly and fabulous New Year's Eve party, and they would love it if you joined in the fun! It's free to attend, no reservations are required and guests can come and go throughout the evening. "If you're looking for a family friendly atmosphere where the parents can have just as much fun as the kids do, the Main Lodge is the place to be on New Year's", said Dash Hegeman, Holiday Valley's Director of Marketing. "For many families, this has become an annual tradition".

That's no surprise, because there's so much to enjoy at the annual, exciting party! The highlights include the traditional Torchlight Parade, in which skiers carry flares as they ski and create a stunning sight, and the fireworks show. It will begin about 11:45pm and end with a grand finale, an impressive fireworks display forming

SEE "NEW YEAR" PAGE 7

Alpacaville in Bemus Point

Growing Wonderment in Alpacas



Elliot (6) and Lylah (4) Panebianco feed an Alpaca at Saturday's event at Alpacaville near Bemus Point. They are the children of Mike and Grace Panebianco of Jamestown. Photo/Phil Zimmer

BY BARBARA ARNSTEIN

"We love what we do and seeing the effect on people when they visit", said Shauna Anderson, the owner of Alpacaville, in Bemus Point. She and the alpacas she owns, which look like smaller llamas, have been visited by groups from nursing homes, assisted living, group homes, mental health groups, home schools, traditional schools, day care and many more places. Alpacaville is a unique place where visitors can not only see and feed alpacas (which have cute woolly faces), but also learn about them, buy warm winter items made from their coats, and see chickens, pigs and goldfish.

SEE "ALPACA" PAGE 15

Publisher's Word

"Welcoming the New Year Ahead..."



you are comfortable, safe and happy. We have highlighted some of the fun in 2024 and prepared for you a list of some events to mark on the calendar year to come. Each week we strive to fill these pages with happenings and people in our area that will motivate you to get out and inspire you to believe in your community, neighbors and small businesses. I would like to ring in the New Year with a call out to you: *The Villager* is looking for your ideas and thoughts on people and events to feature. If you would like to become a part of the art, please email info@thevillager.com and let us know; the more information we can share, the more fun to be had by all! Also, please take a thoughtful eye on each of our advertisers, it is because of them we are available to you. The more we believe in each other, the stronger we all become.

Good morning, afternoon or evening. I hope wherever you are,

and thoughts on people and events to feature. If you would like to become a part of the art, please email info@thevillager.com and let us know; the more information we can share, the more fun to be had by all! Also, please take a thoughtful eye on each of our advertisers, it is because of them we are available to you. The more we believe in each other, the stronger we all become.

Have a wonderful celebration and make the New Year the best one yet!

Happy Birthday

Carmen Vacchiarella... December 26th • Jeanette Caprino ... December 27th
 Linda Opferbeck-Huffman... December 29th • Blair Hamilton ... January 1st
 Noelle Swanson... January 1st • Roslyn Johne... January 3rd
 Vivian Swan... January 5th • Joe Clark... January 5th
 Becky Colburn... January 8th • Nick Pircio... January 8th
 Don Haglund... January 18th • Kayla Good... January 19th
 Carson Hoag... January 20th • Conner Callaghan... January 21st
 Email us your birthday greetings: info@thevillager.com

Calling All Volunteers!

The Villager Would Like to Give You Much Deserved Appreciation



By JEFF MARTIN
 COLUMNIST, THE VILLAGER

The last time I volunteered was in 2011.

I was working as a newspaper reporter outside Kansas City, and part of my weekly assignment was to write a column. The subject matter could include anything, except controversial subjects that I may have had direct, or even indirect, involvement in.

One of my columns looms large in my memory: filling sandbags for the Army Corps. of Engineers at Levasy, Missouri, where the Missouri River threatened to flood one of many small towns. Here's an excerpt from that column:

"At this point, water from the upper Missouri Basin was slowly released, according to a Response Team official at the scene on Thursday. The basin holds back millions of acre-feet of floodwater. The release is the Army Corps of Engineers' response to heavy rains and prior snowfalls. One of the most important reservoirs in this area is Gavins Point Dam along the Nebraska-South Dakota border, which as of Tuesday morning had reached its peak release.

Flooding has closed Interstate 29 on two stretches in western Iowa. In Hamburg, Iowa, water is about 2 feet deep at a makeshift levee. Many volunteers on Thursday talked about Hamburg. And Levasy."

Long story short – there was no flooding that afternoon, nor any days following. The only flooding that happened that day was the sheer volume of talking.

I'm not a big talker but I recall making a lot of small talk that day. The sheer volume of work involved in filling sandbag after

sandbag loosened people up, got them sharing stories about what it's like to live along and/or near a big river where, in an instant, entire livelihoods, even lives, could be swept away. I remember talking about living along the Ohio River, the Mississippi River; about who I was and where I came from, what I was looking for, even hoping for. And people talked about why they volunteered. There were the obvious reasons (to protect their homes, towns), but there were less obvious reasons, like the teenagers who wanted to "work out," the older woman who just got divorced after 22 years of marriage and was bored sitting at home. There was even a politician there, too, helping his constituents in spite of having left politics years ago.

Fast forward to December 2024 and here I am again writing for a small paper. I started thinking about that weekly column of mine and other assignments throughout the years, especially one in which our publication reported on a volunteer and/or volunteer organization each week. It was a way to balance the news. People always complained that there wasn't much positive news out there, but this weekly showcase proved otherwise. You think people are just in it for themselves, huh? Take a look at so-and-so... You think if someone cries out for help no one will answer, huh? Take a look at this organization... Here's some stats for you.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau and AmeriCorps., which partners to conduct surveys every two years, approximately 75 million, or 28 percent, of the U.S. population aged 16 and up volunteered between September 2022 and September 2023. That number is significant, according to the report, because it's a return to pre-Covid levels.

There are two types of volunteering. Formal volunteering is helping others through organizations, like food banks and non-profits. Informal volunteering includes acts like mowing a neighbor's lawn, shopping, house sitting. The recent survey showed that both

types are on the rebound and growing in popularity.

Dumping sand into bags, one after another, in an effort to build a wall to block floodwaters would be considered informal volunteering, but the rewards were anything but impersonal. I made a couple friends that day AND I learned about other ongoing issues that I might not have ever heard about.

The point is – volunteering, whether for your neighbor or for a non-profit or even online, which is the newest form of volunteerism at a participation rate of 18 percent, is good for everyone. According to that same survey, formal volunteers completed an estimated 4.99 billion hours of service, which translates into approximately \$167 billion in economic value.

But it's about more than just money. It's about civic engagement and community well-being. I think everyone can agree that we need increased wellbeing as a society, especially after such a contentious election season.

Going forward, The Villager would like to invite readers to make suggestions as to who deserves special recognition for their volunteering efforts. It doesn't have to be a single individual, either it can be a group of people or an organization. It can be a formal volunteer or an informal volunteer. The main requirement, however, is that the person and/or group, or the organization, cannot be financially compensated or turn a profit.

Once they're nominated, we will contact them and write up a profile.

Sandbaggers from Missouri will receive special consideration.

Please enjoy our first feature you will find this week on the Alley Katz of Ellicottville.

If you have a suggestion for an upcoming volunteer organization that deserves recognition please contact us. It is easy, simply log on to www.thevillager.com and click the "General Submissions".

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Be a Part of the Art!

Brian McFadden Signs Off

Bidding Farewell after 28 Years with the Ellicottville Chamber

By KATE BARTLETT

to the area. “We had very little funding, but in 2 weeks, I managed to raise over \$100,000 to hire Longwoods.” With the help of several area institutes including St. Bonaventure University, Chautauqua Institution, Holiday Valley, HoliMont, our County Tourism department and others, they conducted an exhausted regional study on how to attract tourists to the area in all four seasons.



Brian and his wife Dona McFadden are proud of the work that has been done and look forward to see what is to come.

Ellicottville’s slogan “Doesn’t this place feel great” was developed during this study. “We held focus groups of people who had visited the area. We listened to their stories on why they visited. Most were looking for a place to escape, a retreat to relax and get away from the hustle of the everyday. We heard many people say, over and over again, “It just feels great.” From the moment they crossed into Ellicottville, they’d say they felt relaxed, and it just felt good to be here.”

The research study concluded that the number one way to attract tourists to the area was through festivals and events. Brian and Lisa Jessey, the only other employee, started numerous annual festivals including the Jazz Festival with the help of Grace Kell, expanded Summer Music Festival on 4th of July weekend, and the already popular Taste of Ellicottville and

Octoberfest, as it was called in those days. Ellicottville now boasts 18 annual festivals and events throughout the year with a visitor base of an estimated 1.5 million annually. Ellicottville has truly become a four-season destination and an important income generator not only for Ellicottville, but for the entire county.

Throughout the years, Brian’s goal, simply put, was to “put feet in the streets” by attracting visitors from an ever-growing radius as Ellicottville gains national attention. Visitors frequent the area from Ohio, Canada, Pennsylvania, Southern Ontario, and recently even Maryland and West Virginia. Ellicottville has been written about in national publications,

“McFADDEN” PAGE 8

Brian is proud to have accomplished his lofty goal of turning Ellicottville into an all-seasons resort town. “I was hired with one specific task, and I think I’ve completed that. The foundations were set by The Chamber, and the community and resorts took over. I’m proud to see how far we’ve come, and look forward to the next chapter.”

Ellicottville Lights up the Village

Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce Celebrates the Season



Ellicottville, NY – Eight years ago the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce took on the responsibility of providing and installing the beautiful tree lighting on Washington and Monroe Streets. Over that time we have been experimenting with various types of lights and now have an amazing display, lights that handle the wide variety of weather condition we experience here in Ellicottville. This year, as in past we have added additional lights to various trees and added several more trees by the M & T bank end of the Washington Street.

We wish to give a special thanks to one of our multi-

year donors, Bill Schaab, William Sundeen and the employees of American DND Inc of Grand Island, a company not even located in Ellicottville. Additional long-term sponsors include Holiday Valley and HoliMont as well as many local businesses.

Please join us in thanking the donors for a project that is so well received and talked about by locals, visitors and so many other communities. We also thank our DPW crew. With the addition of new power sources, they were amazing in providing power to each of the trees.

Finally, Eric Dudek,

the man who has been installing the lights since day one. Erik is a full-time union stage hand and has done an amazing job. Many of you have seen Eric at all times of the day and night, regardless of weather and always with a smile.

Ellicottville is amazing, and as we say “Doesn’t This Place Feel GREAT!”

PS: Anyone wishing to donate to this year’s lighting fund can call the Chamber office with a credit card or mail a check to The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 456 Ellicottville NY 14731. Thank you in advance.

Toy Donations to OGH

Catt. Co. Highway Association Gives to Pediatric Patients

OLEAN, NY – Olean General Hospital (OGH), a Kaleida Health facility, received toy donations from the Cattaraugus County Town Highway Superintendents Association (CCTHSA), just in time for the holiday season.

The Cattaraugus County Town Highway Superintendents Association generously donated an assortment of toys, games, and stuffed animals to the pediatric and emergency departments at OGH. For many years, the group has been committed to

collecting and donating toys to brighten the days of children receiving care at the hospital. Over 30 years ago, this small initiative began with toy donations to social services, and over time, it has expanded to benefit multiple organizations in the community, including OGH.

“We’re so grateful to the Cattaraugus County Town Highway Superintendents Association for helping us bring smiles to our pediatric patients,” says Jennifer Ruggles, MSN, RN, chief nursing officer,

OGH. “The holiday season is a time for giving, and our community always rises to the occasion. A small gesture, like giving a toy, can make a world of difference for a sick child and their family while they are receiving care at OGH.”

Donated toys will be distributed to various units throughout the hospital that frequently care for and treat children, including the emergency department, the second-floor pediatrics unit, and outpatient care areas.



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- 83 Potter Rd.
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HoliMont's Report on the Resort

Are You an Innie or an Outie?

By DAN BALKIN

90% of the people wandering this world have innies. We are, of course, talking about belly buttons. This discussion of belly innies and outies, however, concerns your ski stance. An instructor once said, "Ski tips fly around like snowflakes in a blizzard." One can hear and try to adopt the greatest ski tip in the world, but it is all for naught if we neglect the foundation of all good skiing – a rock-solid, athletic ski stance that allows us to remain in balance and adjust our balance while skiing. First, disregard dear mother's admonitions about posture that makes us shine at an après ski event: Arch your back! Straighten those shoulders! If you try that, you will notice it also pushes your belly button away from your spine, something we'll call the "outie" position. Good dryland posture is counterproductive on a ski slope. Why? In skiing, we are moving forward, under the spell of gravity, on a slippery incline. These combined factors naturally nudge us backwards, which can only be counteracted by assuming a different stance on the slopes than while standing around savoring a chicken wing.

The woman in the photo has mastered a great ski stance. Remember what a parallelogram is? It's essentially a rectangle where the base of the rectangle stays in place while the top three lines have all been tilted equally forward. If you look at the lines formed by the woman's shins and back – just like a parallelogram - they have been tilted forward at the same angle. While skiing, there is a simple acronym for this: POP - Position of Power. In this stance, she is a graceful skiing parallelogram. Is this Position of Power difficult to feel so we can assume it while skiing? No. There is a simple trick that will teach your body to feel a rock-solid ski stance. As



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a kid, did you ever plant both your feet in front of a stick and jump over it? Of course you did. For giggles, unless you're wearing high heels or clogs, try it again now. Imagine a stick has been placed in front of you and you want to joyfully spring forward and over it with your feet together – the key word here is forward. To spring forward to clear the stick, you must get in the exact same flexed body position the woman assumes in the photo. You will flex your ankles to tilt your shins forward, and you will gently retract your belly button toward your spine (the "innie" position) to allow your back to tilt forward at the same angle as your shins. Your hands? Your body will naturally know that you will have better balance for the spring with your hands in front of you – just like the woman in the photo. In short, in preparing for the forward spring over the imaginary stick, you will naturally get a POP – Position of Power. The actual jump – it means nothing. The proper ski stance is in your pre-jump position. The idea of jumping, however, is what primes us to feel the Position of Power stance. Some more proof of the validity of the Position of Power while skiing: Stand in mom's approved dryland stance (arched back etc.) and try to lift on leg – your range of leg motion is very restricted. Now get into your pre-jump stance and try to lift one leg – you have much greater freedom of movement. To absorb the terrain and ski smoothly, our legs need freedom of movement. The man in the photo might have made an incalculable contribution to Western civilization – perhaps he's Josh Allen's father – but his poor "back seat" stance would compromise his balance, lock up his legs, and give him an uncomfortable sense of being jostled by the ever-shifting terrain on a ski slope. A little ski stance hack: While skiing, think of gently retracting your belly button toward your spine, rounding your back, not arching it. In other words, while skiing place your belly button in an "innie" not an "outie" position. What about good ol' mom? If she's a skier, she'll nod approvingly at your "innie" pre jump ski stance. Mom, after all, is always right!

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EVL Pickleball League

Powers through
Power Outage; Completes
Playoff Tournament

By JON ANDERSON

The Ellicottville Pickleball League showcased its determination and fun-loving spirit when a power outage hit halfway through its playoff tournament. Despite the sudden darkness, players used phone lights and flashlights to keep the games going. The power returned just in time for the final match.

The league, known for its social and welcoming atmosphere, invites players of all skill levels to join. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner, everyone is welcome to participate.

Play will resume after the ski season. For more information or to sign up, text Randy Clark at (716) 903-0311. Don't miss out on the fun!



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Edna's at the Tamarack Club

Holiday Valley Reveals New Seasonal Menu

BY KATE BARTLETT



The menu incorporates local flavors with seasonal ingredients in a wide array of dishes. From casual fare, including stone-fired Margherita Pizza and Beef on Weck Eggrolls, to more refined dishes like Chilean Sea Bass Cioppino and a top-quality Angus Reserve steak, the menu appeals to a variety of appetites. Pictured Roasted Half Chicken served with Edna's Mashed Potato, Grilled Broccoli, Cabernet Sauvignon Blanc and The Lodge Steak, a 24 oz Prime Bone-in Ribeye with Gorgonzola, Demi-Glace, served with Beer Battered Onion Rings, Edna's Mashed Potato, and Broccoli.

culinary journey that resonates with comfort and innovation."

Edna's is also offering a new Wednesday evening Prix Fixe dinner for two which started December 18. Guests choose an appetizer pizza (margherita, pear & prosciutto or pepperoni), entrée (ricotta gnocci, seared salmon or roasted half chicken) and dessert (brownie sundae or cheesecake) for \$70/person.

The bar at Edna's continues to offer a variety of seasonal cocktails along with 12 lines of craft brews. Currently, the menu features 3 hot cocktails (warm cider, coffee, and hot chocolate infused with spirits), sparkling martinis and seasonal margaritas.

"Our bar has the perfect après ski or complement to any meal," says Matt.

Ski season is (arguably) the best season to experience Edna's in their cozy slope side atmosphere. Catering to skiers, families and couple alike, Edna's offers a high-quality, relaxed dining experience with spectacular views year-round. "The ski slopes in the winter, golf course and resort pools in summer months all make for a very scenic dining experience," says Matt.

Starting January 3rd, Edna's will feature local musical artists on Friday evenings. "We're looking forward to showcasing some local talent, while

SEE "EDNA'S" PG. 14

Learn to Love Winter Event

Holiday Valley Invites Beginners to Take First Step

Discover the joy of skiing and snowboarding with Holiday Valley's Learn to Love Winter event on Friday, January 3rd! This day is for anyone ages 4+ who is brand new to snowsports, this beginner-friendly experience is the perfect way to start your winter lifestyle journey!

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 1.5-Hour Group Lesson: Tailored instruction for kids or adults to build confidence on the slopes.
- Rentals + Beginner Area Lift Ticket: Everything you need to hit the snow is included at a discounted rate of just \$25.00.
- Options for Skiing or Snowboarding: Choose your adventure and learn the basics from our incredible instructors.

EVENT DETAILS:



Time: Lessons begin at 10:30am for both kids' lessons and adults' lessons. Ages: Open to participants aged 4 and up. Important Notes: This special promotion is only available during the day. Evening lessons are not included in this offer. A 24-hour cancellation policy applies to all reservations. Book your lesson today and embrace the magic of winter in the New Year ahead.

THINGS TO CHECK OUT

EDNA'S AT THE TAMARACK WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRIX FIXE MENU

The perfect mid-week date night. Dine with fantastic views of the slopes this winter. For only \$70, you get a pizza appetizer, choice of two fantastic entrees, and dessert!



LEARN TO LOVE WINTER DAY JANUARY 3

There's no reason to hibernate in the winter. Embrace winter and all the fun it has to offer when you start with a lesson from the Holiday Valley Snowsports Team! Friday, Jan. 3, 1st time lessons are only \$25. It's the perfect way to begin your snow-sports lifestyle.



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

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT HOLIDAYVALLEY.COM

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CONT. FROM COVER

themselves from a selection of 30 taps, paying by the ounce. “Not only does it allow for much quicker service, but guests can take as much or as little as they like,” says Matt. “They can easily sample different drinks, possibly finding a new favorite while expanding their palate.”

The 30 taps rotate regularly, but typically include a variety of local and regional brews. “We like to showcase local breweries for out-of-town guests, but also feature breweries from out of the area for the locals to experience.” Typically, about 80% is local breweries and drinks include beer, ciders and seltzers. Pour also offers a full bar with wine, bottled domestics, and specialty cocktails.

The Ellicottville menu is similar to their Buffalo menu and features traditional pub fare including burgers, wings, soups, beef on week and salads with gluten free options available. Both restaurants are also similar in style offering a café style, laid-back dining experience. “It’s great that guests can make the experience what they want. They can grab a drink or two, or sit down for a full meal. We find that customers really enjoy ‘café’ style, which provides a more laid-back experience. It allows customers to unwind a little, while still getting high-quality food and hospitality.”



Pour Taproom in Ellicottville offers a cozy, après ski atmosphere with a lodge-like feel. Vaulted ceilings paired with their gas fireplace gives the restaurant a cozy, warm feel with spectacular views of the slopes. Large windows allow guests to watch the action on the slopes and provide abundant natural lighting. The small outdoor space is open during warmer months with picnic tables and outdoor games.

The restaurant held a soft opening last weekend, but is now open for business 6 days/week (closed regularly on Mondays, but will be open Monday, December 23 and Monday, December 30). They’ll be hosting a grand opening party on Saturday, December 28th, officially celebrating their establishment as a part of the Ellicottville community.

Both Matt and Joe grew up in Springville, and had their sights set on Ellicottville for a second location. “We always dreamed of opening something in this area,” says Matt. “This location is absolutely perfect, and we knew it’d be a great fit from the start. It’s been a great partnership with The Lincoln Boutique Motel;



The Ellicottville menu is similar to their Buffalo menu and features traditional pub fare including burgers, wings, soups, beef on week and salads with gluten free options available.

they’re great people and we’re thrilled to be in business with them.”

Matt invites everyone to come out and celebrate the opening of Pour Taproom in Ellicottville, located at 6089 US-219 inside the Lincoln Boutique Motel (formerly Slopeside at the Telemark Hotel). “Come join us for before, during or after skiing for a drink or a meal.”

For more information follow on Facebook and Instagram, as their website is coming soon, or call 716-699-1050.

Solomon’s Hidden Treasures

Home of Thrifty Giving in Springville, NY

BY BARBARA ARNSTEIN

Did you finish up your holiday gift list yet? Are you wishing you could buy lots of things on it (and possibly everything) for a lot less money? And while you’re wishing, do you wish you could save lots of money buying all kinds of items, all year long? Then Solomon’s Hidden Treasures in Springville, NY is where you want to go for your thrifty gifting. The thrift/all-new outlet store offers all kinds of items at great prices, including clothes for men, women and children, accessories, toys, tapes, DVDs, books, furniture and much more. You can’t beat that one-stop shopping! Plus, every purchase comes with the added bonus that shopping there always helps out various people in need.

Proceeds from purchases at Solomon’s have been used to help individuals and groups of all kinds, including (just to name a few): survivors of domestic violence, survivors of fires, hurricane and tornado relief groups, and Ukraine refugees. Also, money has been used to help people with job training, provide veterans with clothing and household goods, provide temporary shelter for the needy, help local Shoebox ministries, local Ministry Outreaches, and do much more.

As for the prices, they’re very easy on your budget. In their New Outlet area, everything is usually 75% off the retail price and there are different discounts and special sales for various departments every week.



Pastor Gail McCrory, founder of Solomon’s Porch Ministries, and her daughter Hannah

Last week, every thrift item in the store was priced at twenty percent off. Plus, customers could pick out thrift dress pants, sweaters and blazers priced at ten dollars or less (not including vintage and infant items), and fill up a bag with them for a total cost of only ten dollars. All the other thrift clothing items that cost over a dollar (with the exception of winter clothing) were fifty percent off.

As a thoughtful gesture for those who needed something new to read to treat their cabin fever, every thrift book was priced at just a dollar. All the thrift media items, including VHS tapes, DVD’s, cassettes and records, were: buy one, get one free. The thrift purses and wallets were half off! Even the all new outlet clothing was priced at a healthy twenty-five percent off. (All thrift

sales exclude already-discounted items.) If you weren’t there last week, don’t worry because every weekly sale offers similar budget-boosting bargains.

Ever thought about volunteering? Volunteers at the store not only serve the community by organizing shelves, pricing items and tagging clothing, but they can also get community service hours, plus a five-dollar store credit for every hour they work.

Solomon’s Hidden Treasures is located at 14218 US 219 (South Cascade), Suite 2, and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am-5pm and Saturdays from 10am-4pm. It is closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information, call (716) 560-7767.

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The group is currently maintaining 58 hanging flower baskets, 20 flower barrel containers, and several garden areas around the village, including the Veterans Memorial, creekside beds, the area by Katy's, the clock tower, and The Alley Katz garden. The group is also responsible for the design and seasonal decorating of the gazebo and other local spaces, including redesigning the library entrance and sprucing up gardens around historical buildings and the Episcopal Church.

Alley Katz

STORY FROM COVER

BY JEFF MARTIN
The Villager

Here's a quick quiz everyone in Ellicottville can answer.

Who is that group of dedicated women wearing bright yellow hats and t-shirts working tirelessly to beautify the village through its flower displays and other assorted attractions? Here's a clue: there are about thirty of them, ranging in age, and they've been volunteering their skills and abilities for over 40 years.

Don't know? That's hard to believe, according to Debra Yantomasi, a member of the Alley Katz of Ellicottville since 2008. These volunteers are part of the nonprofit organization that has been enhancing the village's charm for over four decades.

"People know us – well, originally they were a group of volunteers that got together and cleaned up alleys behind businesses in town, if you can believe it," she said. "The work has changed but the mission is still the same: helping keep the village beautiful through volunteers."

The organization, supported by donations and volunteer work, is responsible for planting, weeding, watering, and maintaining the hanging flower baskets, barrel planters, and permanent garden beds throughout

the village. Their efforts ensure Ellicottville remains a picturesque destination for both locals and visitors, according to Yantomasi.

The group is currently maintaining 58 hanging flower baskets, 20 flower barrel containers, and several garden areas around the village, including the Veterans Memorial, creekside beds, the area by Katy's, the clock tower, and The Alley Katz garden. The group is also responsible for the design and seasonal decorating of the gazebo and other local spaces, including redesigning the library entrance and sprucing up gardens around historical buildings and the Episcopal Church.

Despite its many accomplishments, the group's work is far from over. The Alley Katz organization has several projects on the horizon, though such projects depend on donations.

"We get all of our funding from the village and town, as well as Holiday Valley," she said. "They are our biggest supporters."

To complete the projects, the group needs about \$8,000 for summer flowers, \$5,000 for fall and about \$1,000 for winter decorations. Yantomasi said it would be ideal to get \$10 – 15,000 in donations for the year.

Upcoming projects include replacing wooden barrels with metal planters, redesigning and planting additional garden spaces at the historical buildings and Episcopal Church, and revamping the library's back garden and signage area.

For Yantomasi,

volunteering just makes sense. It's a way to not only give back to a community she adores, but it allows her to engage in activities she already loves on a grand scale.

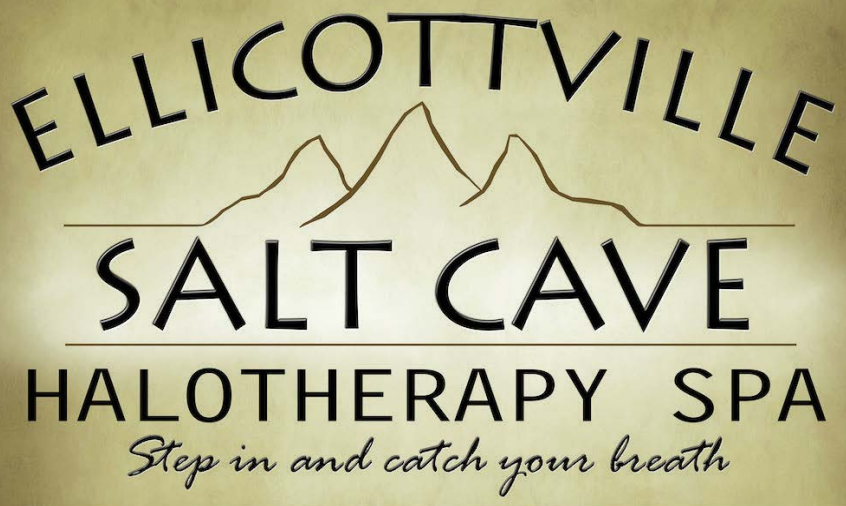
"For me, volunteering isn't hard because I love gardening to begin with," she said. "When I moved to the area, I wanted to meet people. I learned about this group and that was that. I've been doing it ever since."

The work isn't without its struggles, specifically recent damage done to some of the displays.

"I know it's not villagers doing it," she said, referring to flowers being ruined and/or destroyed. "It's out-of-towners, but it's still discouraging. Hopefully that situation will improve."

There are multiple ways for the community to support ongoing efforts and projects, she said. Contributions can be made through monthly or annual donations, with all gifts being tax-deductible. Donations can be sent via check to Alley Katz of Ellicottville, PO Box 14A7, Ellicottville, NY 14731, or through recurring bill pay options via your financial institution. A QR code for donations is also available for easy access.

In addition to financial support, the group is actively seeking new volunteers. No experience is necessary, and just a few hours a week during the spring through fall can make a significant difference. Interested community members are encouraged to contact Debbie at evlalleykatz@gmail.com or by phone at 716-803-3388 for more information.



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New Year

CONT. FROM COVER

an awesome spectacle of color and a crescendo of sound, at midnight.

"Guests twenty-one and over will be given the option to take part in a champagne toast at midnight", Hegeman continued. (Great news: the champagne is free!) DJ Campbell Dawson, who begins playing music in the Main Lodge at 9pm, will continue rocking it until 12:30am. Earlier in the evening, the T-Bar will be open upstairs in the Main Lodge, and drinks and food specials will be available at the Mountainside Cafe and

the Ullr Bar. The snacks that will be for sale will include pretzels, nachos, popcorn, cookies, and brownies.

The televisions in the Ullr Bar (named after the famous Norse god who is associated with skiing) will be turned to the famous New York City New Year's Eve countdown show, featuring the giant, illuminated ball on a building that descends in the last ten seconds before the new year. Count down with the folks at the Holiday Valley party (hundreds are expected to drop by), (and the countless people out there watching the annual show on their screens) as the seconds tick down to the end of 2024. Kiss a loved one at midnight for good luck in 2025, and wish

everyone a Happy New Year.

"People come to the Holiday Valley New Year's Eve party to make great memories", said the Director of Marketing. "New Year's Eve is the perfect time for families to make happy memories they can look back on years later. We are looking forward to ringing in the new year in style, and we hope you can join us!"

The Holiday Valley Ski Resort is located at 6557 Holiday Valley Road, Route 219, Ellicottville, NY. For more information, go to: info@holidayvalley.com or call (716) 699-2345. For information about the snow and skiing at Holiday Valley, call the Snowphone at (716) 699-2644.



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Creating New Incentives to Network Members

BY DARLENE BRACE

The Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce is an organization that supports and promotes its local business members, and it is located at 300 North Main Street in Jamestown. Prior to the year 2000, locations in the county had their own separate Chamber of Commerce. Since 2000, it has been a county-wide chamber with members they advocate for.

When businesses join and become members of the Chamber, they receive a variety of resources and benefits depending on what tier of membership that they qualify for and/or choose to belong to. Some of the resources within these tiers may include workshops, networking events, trainings, information, ribbon-cutting ceremonies, advertising, and marketing. Currently, over 900 businesses across the county are Chamber members.

As a member of the Chamber, your business becomes part of their online business directory, which

can be located on a tab at the top of their website. It is a handy tool that is very user-friendly. You can type in a business category that you are looking for, and it will give you a comprehensive list of the Chamber members in that category across the county.

The Chamber's mission is, "To build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion local businesses in Chautauqua County." Daniel Heitzenrater, President and CEO of the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce, said, "During this past year, the Chamber organization was rebranded to make it more unique, modernized, and recognizable. With the rebranding, the Chamber was renamed to CHQ Chamber as well as adopting a new logo. This rebranding is a step forward in clarifying what the Chamber is all about and what they do for the community. By creating this new brand, it will make it easier to connect with other county organizations using the CHQ prefix."

To encourage the support of local businesses, the Chamber is promoting their Shop Local CHQ gift cards. These gift cards range from \$5-\$500.00 and can be used at over 150 participating restaurants, retail stores, and other businesses throughout the county. The recipient of the gift card can pick and choose where they want to use their gift card, and there is a list of the participating businesses on the Chamber's website. These gift cards would make a great Christmas gift, but they are available year-round. The gift cards are only available at the Chamber, so if you are interested in purchasing them, you can stop in or call to place an order.

This year, the Chamber received a grant to initiate a new platform that helps customers interact with the businesses and events that are being organized by the Chamber. The new platform is called Bandwango, Bandwango helps connect people to the events that they can participate in using their phone. You can sign up for an account at go.chqchamber.org, and you will be signed up for current and future events. During events, customers check in at the first merchant and then continue to go to any participating merchant.

SEE "CHQ" PG. 11



While the festivals are notable in their own regard, Brian's favorite thing to do is just walk the streets on any given weekend and enjoy good company at one of Ellicottville's many great establishments. "I just love going out and enjoying the people and being in the center of it all. It's the people that make this place special, and I feel fortunate to be a part of it." Its a true testament that Ellicottville is a 4 seasons resort which was his goal when he first began.

McFadden

STORY FROM PG. 3

including USA Today and several times in the NY Times newspaper as well as dozens of regional and international publications. "To be featured once by the NY Times is amazing, but twice is like being struck by lightning," says Brian. Ellicottville was also featured on the home page of National Geographic Traveler magazine and website for 6 straight months.

According to Brian, people may be attracted to Ellicottville for its festivals, but they return for the people and its small-town charm. "We're a friendly community. People say hello when you pass on the streets; we have that warm welcoming feel and it's contagious. Ellicottville is safe and walkable. Almost everything you need is within a 4-block radius."

has seen an increase in the number of activities in the Ellicottville area. "As we attract more visitors and have more year-round events, naturally there's been a growth in the number of things to do throughout the year," says Brian. Holiday Valley invested in expanding their golf course, added the Tamarack Club and Sky-High Adventure Park. The Wingate was constructed in 2004 providing accommodations for the growing number of visitors. "No matter the season, there's always something going on here," says Brian.

Brian is thankful to have worked with such a great team on The Chamber over the years. "We have grown to a board of 12 people here at The Chamber with an office of 3 staff members. We put on 18 events annually and run the largest tourism marketing campaign in Western New York. We're proud to have 250 members in this great organization."

Over the years, Brian appreciated the community

events festivals, especially the Gazebo Concert Series and the Summer Music Festival. He reflects on many fond memories over the years, especially the first Summer Music Fest. "I'll never forget when we brought our first nationally touring act to the festival in 2000 - The Rascals. We were scrambling to raise the funds to bring the band, but it was well worth the effort. Nowadays, we bring at least 2 nationally renowned acts to the area for that festival, and the budget has increased significantly. But at the same time, we always stive to make it affordable for locals."

While the festivals are notable in their own regard, Brian's favorite thing to do is just walk the streets on any given weekend and enjoy good company at one of Ellicottville's many great establishments. "I just love going out and enjoying the people and being in the center of it all. It's the people that make

"MCFADDEN", Pg. 15

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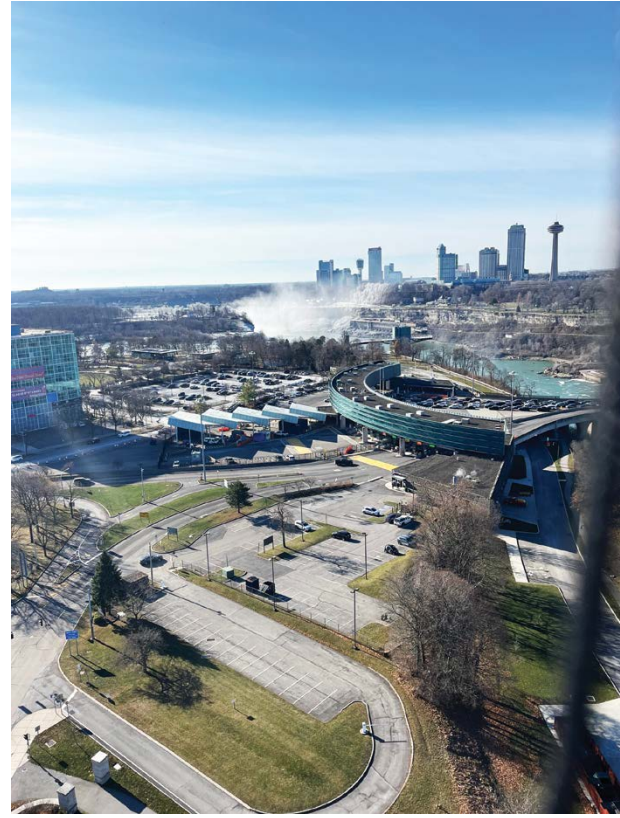
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Niagara Falls Hot Air Balloon - Newest Year-Round Attraction



By KATE BARTLETT

Indiana (Connor Prairie). This custom-built balloon is inflated with helium and lifted by an electric winch, tethered to the ground, reaching heights of up to 500 feet (weather dependent). The 15-minute flight offers spectacular views of Niagara Falls, the Niagara Gorge, and the iconic Niagara Falls, all accompanied by music from Live's very own Niagara Radio Station. The balloon's basket accommodates up to 30 passengers, along with one certified Balloon Pilot. The attraction runs year-

round, weather permitting, offering an incredible experience in any season. The winter/off-season offers a great opportunity to beat the crowds while experiencing the falls in its winter majestic beauty. Opt for a sunset or night ride to experience the golden and twilight hours from a new level. Fireworks rides are available from Spring to Fall. The CEO, Michael DiCenzo, saw the balloon while visiting a tradeshow and thought this would be a wonderful addition to the north end of the

tourism corridor, to help compliment the expansion of the Aquarium of Niagara's newest exhibit – Great Lakes 360, and the State Park renovation. Standing 8 stories high, the balloon itself is as tall as the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Niagara Falls. While the balloon is equipped to fly year-round, ideal conditions include clear skies, mild temperatures, and low wind speed. On a clear day, guests can enjoy views from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, with glimpses of Toronto on a clear day. Constructed Aerophile

s.a, a French company, the gondola of the balloon is crafted of composite materials and aluminum, and the upper portion of the gondola is surrounded by netting, ensuring all passengers safety. The balloon is filled with helium, an inert, nonflammable gas. LIVE! Incorporated believes in the transformative power of entertainment. With headquarters in Niagara Falls, NY. Their mission is to elevate the entertainment landscape in hotels, restaurants, attractions and concert venues,

turning each event into a symphony of excitement and pure delight. The Niagara Falls Balloon Ride is one of many experiences that blends the unique character of the environment with a curated playlist to create a memorable, immersive experience. For more information visit live-incorporated.com, balloonovernigara.com or call (716) 513-0001. The balloon is located at 454 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY USA. Follow on social media for updates.

Audubon Nature Event, January 3

Above & Below the Allegany River with Piper VanOrd

Audubon Community Nature Event: Friday, January 3, 2025, 11 a.m.–noon, First Friday: "Above and Below the Allegheny River with Piper VanOrd." Bring a brown bag lunch for conversation after. \$8, \$6 for Nature Center members and ages 9–15. Reservations appreciated by calling (716) 569-2345 or through Programs and Events at AudubonCNC.org. Walk-ins are welcome. The Nature Center, 1600 Riverside Road, Jamestown, N.Y., one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown, N.Y., and Warren, Pa.

Audubon Nature Event, January 11

Little Explorers: "Winter Wonderland"

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 10–11:30 a.m., Little Explorers: "Winter Wetlands." Children ages 3-8 and their favorite grown-ups enjoy a nature lesson, walk and craft, making for a fun-filled morning of learning. \$12 adults; \$9 Nature Center members and children ages 3-8. Space is limited. Paid reservations required by Thursday, January 9, 2025: Call (716) 569-2345 or visit AudubonCNC.org. The Nature Center is located at 1600 Riverside Road, Jamestown, N.Y., one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown, N.Y., and Warren, Pa.



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The Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) has been facilitating economic growth to the area for over 55 years. Authorized and empowered by the State of New York, the organization aims to "retain, promote and assist business development thereby advancing job opportunities and economic welfare to the people of Cattaraugus County."

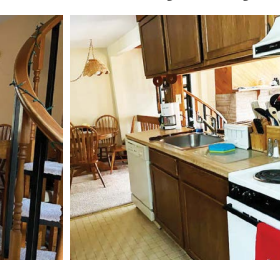
2024 Projects Included:

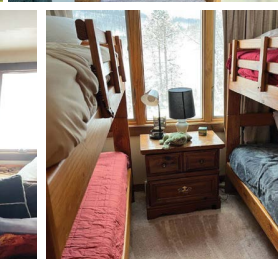
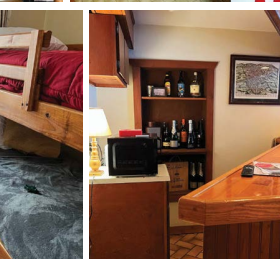
- The Lincoln Boutique Motel \$1,850,000
- Turbo Machining LLC \$1,019,000
- Great Lakes Cheese Modification \$97,000,000
- Win-Sum Ski Corp. \$304,000
- Kless Boys Development, LLC \$6,500,000
- Olean Centre Mall \$40,229,315
- Edelweiss Dairy LLC \$32,500,000
- Holiday Valley \$2,459,120
- MJ Painting Contractor Corp. \$1,733,500
- North Park LLC/North Park Innovation Group, Inc. \$770,000
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The Cattaraugus County IDA offers assistance in the forms of incentives including tax abatements, low interest loans, and bond financing. Those who are interested in investing in the growth of the area are encouraged to contact the Cattaraugus County IDA to see what forms of assistance may be available. Additionally, economic growth enhances the opportunities for job creation and retention, ultimately investing in the overall growth of the area.

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Photographer Jeremy Lesch-Wragge

Telling a Story with Videos and Photos

By Darlene Brace-

Jeremy Lesch-Wragge is a talented videographer and photographer, and he has had a photography business in Fredonia since 2022. The Villager stumbled across his work a few weeks ago when we were featuring the newly reopened White Inn in Fredonia, we asked to use a few images and through our conversation felt it would be a fun story to share with our readers.

Jeremy is originally from Fredonia, and he majored in business administration in college. He has no formal training in photography or videography, so you may wonder how he became a



It all started after graduation from college when he had a job in Fredonia that he felt wasn't fulfilling. He quit that job and went on several adventure cycling trips, including a month and a half cross-country cycling trip with his brother and a solo mountain bike trip from the Mexican border to Utah (pictured). With just a regular camera, he began taking pictures of his journeys and the beautiful nature surrounding him during his travels.



Recently, Jeremy has done a lot of video work for the CHQ Chamber of Commerce, some political organizations, and local non-profits. He finds working with local non-profits very rewarding and enjoys giving back to the community. Whether it's for special occasions, businesses, or various organizations, Jeremy enjoys working with others who have a passion. Their passion inspires him to tell their story with his videos and photos.

professional photographer.

It all started after graduation from college when he had a job in Fredonia that he felt wasn't fulfilling. He quit that job and went on several adventure cycling trips, including a month and a half cross-country cycling trip with his brother and a solo mountain bike trip from the Mexican border to Utah. With just a regular camera, he began taking pictures of his journeys and the beautiful nature surrounding him during his travels.

He spent the next nine years working seasonal jobs which enabled him to do a lot of traveling. He traveled and backpacked in Nepal, Southeast Asia, and South America. He was immersed in the cultures, and he documented his travels, taking footage of natural landscapes and historical and cultural sights. He was inspired by nature, and this was his way of sharing his experiences with others. Taking videos and photos was becoming more than a hobby. It was becoming his passion and a creative outlet.

In 2020, he went on a seven-month road trip to the southwestern United States, taking footage featuring his adventures through mountains, deserts, and the Grand Canyon. It was around this time he began using drone videos and started putting his videos on YouTube, where he developed quite a following.

Then, in 2021, a turn of events changed this life. His custom-made truck was stolen that was filled

with all his equipment, and he lost everything he owned. Shortly after that, he returned to Fredonia. He started working on personal projects for himself just for the love of doing it. He and his brother loved kiteboarding, and he began shooting adventure-style videos of his brother kiteboarding.

Now he began to feel that what started out as pure enjoyment could turn into a career path where he could tell other people's stories through his craft. In 2022, he decided to use his passion for videography and photography, and he started doing freelance work for businesses and organizations. Now Jeremy offers several different types of services. One of the main parts of his business is photography for local real estate companies. He takes interior and exterior photos and videos of homes and businesses that are for sale. He can even use a miniature drone to take videos of the inside of a house, capturing unique shots and angles that you might not otherwise see using just a camera. Then, the realtors use the footage on their websites to entice prospective buyers.

Jeremy uses his craft in other ways as well. Some of his services include taking videos and photos for weddings and other special occasions. He has also worked with other local businesses to help them spotlight their business and for their advertising. He can show what features the business has inside and out.

Recently, Jeremy has done a lot of video work

for the CHQ Chamber of Commerce, some political organizations, and local non-profits. He finds working with local non-profits very rewarding and enjoys giving back to the community. Whether it's for special occasions, businesses, or various organizations, Jeremy enjoys working with others who have a passion. Their passion inspires him to tell their story with his videos and photos.

If you want to learn more about Jeremy and all the services he provides, go to jeremylw.com or his Facebook page. Here you will find information on all the different types of services and the different packages he offers. You will also see examples of some of his videos featured on his website.

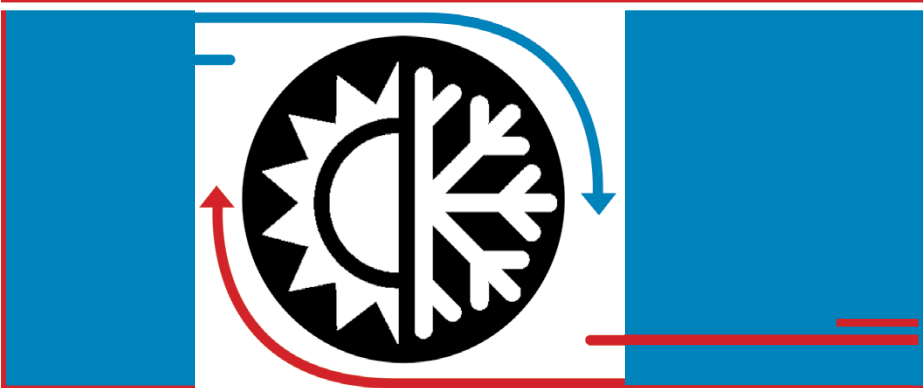
Jeremy is always looking for new ways of making a unique product. He continues to learn and use new innovative techniques. Being that he is self-trained, he does not feel he has to work within a box as with traditional training and sees this as a strength. He feels he is a trailblazer and a leader in the field of drone videography. With his specialized drone, he can create visually stunning, jaw-dropping sequences that impress the viewers. He has a special talent using a creative eye and techniques that create beautiful and unique footage. So, check out innovative Jeremy Lesch-Wragge for any videos or photo projects you may have.

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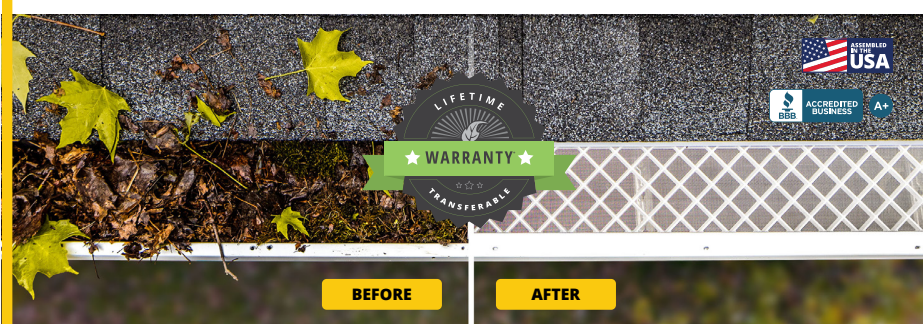
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Free Story Time at Audubon

First Sunday Story Time is January 5

At Audubon Community Nature Center's (ACNC) First Sunday Story Time, 2-8 year-olds go on literary adventures with animals through habitats and seasons and discover new things with every page.

On Sunday, January 5, 12:30-1pm, storyteller Claire Certo will share books that are powerful tools to connect children to nature and establish a strong foundation for their educational journey.

Nature Center doors open at 12:20pm for the event before opening to the public at 1pm.

After Story Time, children can visit Audubon's animal ambassadors, explore the interactive exhibits and indoor Nature Play Area before going outdoors to view ACNC's three resident birds of prey, Cricket the American Kestrel and Soren and Bridget the Red-tailed Hawks, and enjoy the outdoor Nature Play Area.

First Sunday Story Time is free as is Sunday admission.

Reservations for Story Time are requested by Saturday, January 4. To reserve your space, call the Nature Center during open

hours at (716) 569-2345 or go to AudubonCNC.org and click through Programs and Events.

Participation is limited to 15. Walk-ins are welcome if there is room.

Audubon Community Nature Center is located at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown, N.Y., and Warren, Pa. You can visit the nearly 600-acre nature preserve, check in on the live birds of prey, and hike, snowshoe or cross country ski the more than five miles of trails dawn until dusk daily for free.



The independent bookstore faces competition from both online giants like Amazon and shifting consumer habits, as many have turned to digital options for reading. The rise of smartphones and streaming services has reshaped the book-selling landscape. Though used bookstores have endured intense competition in recent years, a resurgence in physical book sales, particularly among younger readers, has offered a ray of hope.

Books

CONT. FROM COVER

"I think a lot of readers, book lovers, still love a used book store they can come into and get lost in," Kalissa said.

admitted that he wasn't initially interested in the bookstore's operations. He simply found the building intriguing.

Despite never having worked in a bookstore, Kalissa, a former paralegal, had always entertained the idea of running one. "I always wanted a library," she said with a laugh.

"They had a lot of inquiries about the business, but most were from dreamers," said Vinny. "They knew I was serious when I asked to see the basement."

The store, which spans two floors, is home to approximately 100,000 books, with notable sections including poetry, philosophy, and art. There's also an activity room in the back where the Rondinelli's plan to host more events in the future. Murals decorate both the interior and exterior of the building, and an old card catalog holds a treasure trove of sketches, notes, and memories from past visitors.

Kalissa has been particularly surprised by the influx of tourists to the store. "I didn't realize it was such a big tourism business," she said.

Some visitors travel from as far as California, visiting bookstores across the country. The Rondinelli's find that their customers' interests

are as diverse as their backgrounds, with many coming for books on poetry, philosophy, and art.

Though Rust Belt Books has an online presence, the Rondinelli's are aware that if the business is to thrive long-term, they will need to expand their digital footprint and engage more with trade shows and estate sales. The store still operates much like its predecessor, with an emphasis on used books and walk-in sales. "We buy used books, or do trades and store credit," Kalissa explained. "Bring us what you have."

The independent bookstore faces competition from both online giants like Amazon and shifting consumer habits, as many have turned to digital options for reading. The rise of smartphones and streaming services has reshaped the book-selling landscape. Though used bookstores have endured intense competition in recent years, a resurgence in physical book sales, particularly among younger readers, has offered a ray of hope. Experts predict that the used bookstore industry will continue to see growth, with a slight 2.9% increase expected in 2024 and 2025.

Rust Belt Books is benefitting from this trend, bolstered by strong local support and renewed interest in reading. Kalissa said the word of

mouth at the business is tremendous, not to mention the continued help from the former owner. The Rondinelli's have learned business specifics from not only the former owner but through research. She never thought there would be so much work involved in owning a bookstore, which includes book jacket repair and, yes, dusting and cleaning of the books.

"I can't say enough good things about the support we've received," she said.

In the broader bookstore market, 2023 saw a mixed performance. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that bookstore sales dropped by 0.7% overall, falling from \$8.39 billion in 2022 to \$8.32 billion by the end of the year. However, a bright spot appeared in the first half of the year, with sales up by 6.9%. The second half of 2023 saw a significant drop, particularly after a 17% decline in August, typically a strong month due to the back-to-school rush. This suggests that the downturn in bookstore sales may have been largely driven by college stores, with independent bookstores like Rust Belt Books remaining resilient in the face of adversity.

"I think a lot of readers, book lovers, still love a used book store they can come into and get lost in," Kalissa said.

CHQ.

CONT. FROM PG. 8

Bandwango, Bandwango helps connect people to the events that they can participate in using their phone. You can sign up for an account at go.chqchamber.org, and you will be signed up for current and future events. During events, customers check in at the first merchant and then continue to go to any participating merchant. You will earn points for entries to enter giveaway drawings for the Shop Local CHQ gift cards. Last week, for the Holiday Window Decorating contest, the top three businesses chosen won advertising packages, and almost \$1,000 in gift cards were given to lucky customer participants.

This same format will be used for similar events in the future. The Doors

Open event on January 25, 2025, is the next event using this format. On the Chamber's website, there will be a list of places to visit with their location and hours. More information about Doors Open will be posted on the website soon.

Each year, the Chamber of Commerce presents awards in various categories to its members. The nomination process for these awards starts in late summer through the Chamber's website. Then the board reviews the nominations and makes decisions about which businesses

will receive this special recognition. The awards are then presented at an awards ceremony in October each year.

There is a wealth of information about the CHQ Chamber and how they support their members online at chqchamber.org. Here you can find out how your business can become a member, the benefits of different tiers of membership, the business directory, and much more. You can also call (716) 484-1101 for more information or feel free to stop in at the CHQ Chamber.

Prior to the year 2000, locations in the county had their own separate Chamber of Commerce. Since 2000, it has been a county-wide chamber with members they advocate for. Currently, over 900 businesses across the county are Chamber members.



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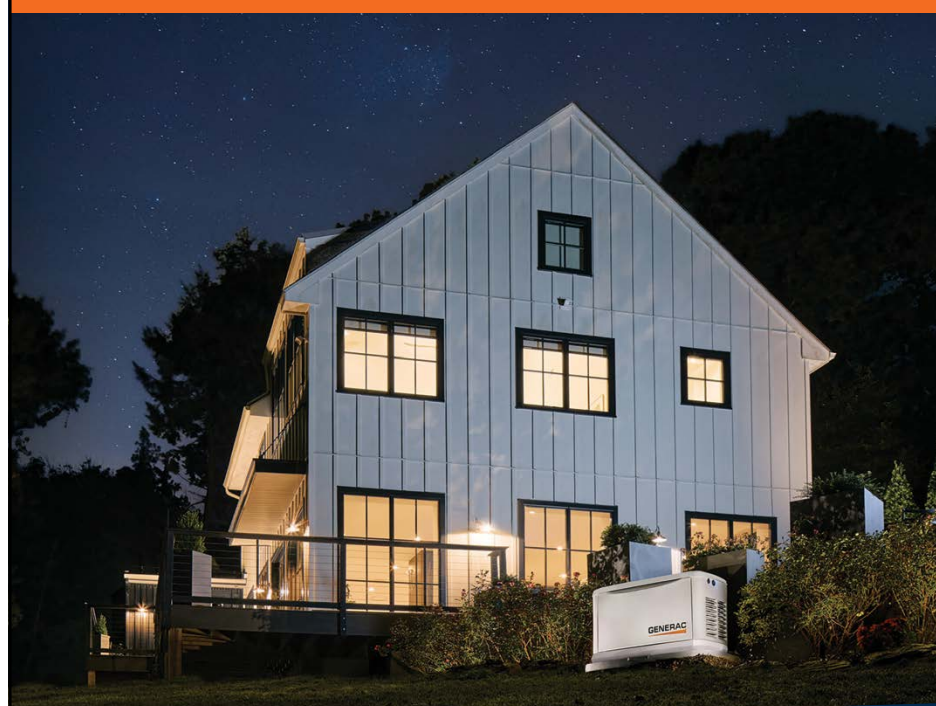
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BROADWAY *in Briefs*
Musical #20: “Man of La Mancha”

BARBARA ARNSTEIN

“Man of La Mancha” is about the misadventures of a man who is living out his fantasy of being a wandering knight on a quest to do good deeds. Despite the fact that the author of the satirical novel that it is based on viewed him as a ridiculous character, he’s now seen as a symbol of resilience in the face of life’s obstacles. The novel, originally written in Spanish, published in two volumes in 1605 and 1610, has been called by countless people “the greatest novel ever written”, as well as “the first modern novel”. It begins in a region of Spain called La Mancha, and its full title is “The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote (pronounced key-ho-tay) of La Mancha” (although it’s usually referred to simply as “Don Quixote”), by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. It is considered great for many reasons, one of them being that it originated basic elements of the novel including chapters and a developing plot. Another is that it involves various elements in life familiar to everyone, including the search for love. The musical, adapted by Dale Wasserman from a televised non-musical he wrote entitled “I, Don Quixote”, premiered on Broadway in 1965, and it has been revived there four times since. Its songs, written by lyricist Joe Darion and composer Mitch Leigh, have been recorded numerous times by popular singers. At one time, the song “The

Impossible Dream”, which beautifully evokes Don Quixote’s devotion to the cause of righteousness, hit Number One on the Easy Listening Chart, and Cynthia Erivo, now starring in the movie “Wicked” as Elphaba, sang it in 2016 at the Kennedy Center Awards ceremony. The original production won five Tony awards, including one for Best Musical. In both the novel and the musical, Don Quixote (a name that the man, actually named Alfonso Quijano, calls himself) imagines that he’s on a quest to fight evil, as he travels with a neighbor of his, Sancho Panza (whose name means “clown with a potbelly”) and due to his delusions, he constantly clashes with reality in ludicrous ways. For example, in one chapter, he thinks windmills are giants, and he tries to fight them, while in another, he insists that a basin used by a barber to wash his customers’ hair is a golden helmet. Many times, in the novel, he and Sancho get into fights with people, and lose them (although sometimes they win them by accident), and sometimes people pull pranks on them. In one scene in the musical, he imagines that he’s met his dream woman, whom he calls Dulcinea (a name the author invented, which means “sweetness”). He expresses his adoration to her, in the lyrics of the beautiful song, “Dulcinea” (which include “Thy name is like a prayer an angel whispers”), not recognizing that he’s actually addressing a woman named Aldonza, who despises him.

However, in the end, she realizes that seeing herself the way he sees her is the key to transforming her life for the better. He also changes Sancho’s life, by conveying to him that, in life imagination can be as helpful as practicality. This time of year, many people remember the editorial that has been called “the greatest editorial ever written”, written by Francis P. Church in 1897, in response to a letter written by a little girl asking if Santa Claus really existed. In the editorial, which has been translated into twenty languages, and has inspired several movies, Church could have been describing Don Quixote’s philosophy of life when he wrote that despite “the skepticism of a skeptical age”, one should always believe in “faith, fancy, and love” to see life’s “beauty and glory”. Next week, I’ll write about the inspirational messages in “Don Quixote” and “Man of La Mancha” that will start your new year off right!

Fun fact: Someone wrote an (unauthorized) sequel to “Don Quixote” in which he falls out of love with Dulcinea, and in love with a woman named Barbara!



Illustration of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza

Ring in the New Year with You Friends in Style

BY DARLENE BRACE

It’s hard to believe that another Christmas has already come and gone. Check out the live entertainment this weekend as well as New Year’s Eve parties to bring in the new year.

Thursday December 26th - If you want a little after-Christmas cheer, head on out to the **Busti Tap House**. **Jamie Smith from the Porcelain Busdrivers** will be performing. You can enjoy a delicious meal from their wonderful menu while enjoying the music from this talented musician starting at 7pm.

Friday December 27th - **Wicked Warrens Jamestown** is having a **birthday dance party** for Jodi, their front-of-the-house manager, and you are all invited. DJ Jay will be playing tunes and there will be drink specials. Join Jodi and her friends at 9pm for her birthday celebration.

Guitarist and singer Alex Kates will be returning to perform at **Group Ther-Happy in Lakewood**. Enjoy listening to this talented musician with family and friends starting at 8pm.

It’s **Pop Culture Trivia Night** with DJ K FIT at the **Southern Tier Distillery**. It’s open to all ages, free to play, and starts at 6pm. Your team can show what you know, and maybe you will be the big winner.

Saturday December 28th - **Osborn Nash** returns to **Big Inlet Brewing** starting at 5:30 pm. Osborn Nash plays a variety of music spanning generations and genres of music. Come enjoy listening to this talented duo while sipping on your favorite Big Inlet Beverage.

The end of the month **Beat the Brix Music**

Series continues at 21 Brix in Portland. **Midnight Recovery** will be rocking it out, playing classic rock and country music starting at 7pm.

The **Brazil Lounge in Jamestown** welcomes back **Gavin Paternity**. He will play a variety of music starting at 7pm. Bring your family and friends and enjoy some beverages while listening to this talented soloist.

Also in downtown Jamestown, **We Speak Canadian** performs at **Shawbucks** starting at 10pm. They put their spin on popular pop and rock tunes that will tempt you to the dance floor.

The **Peek n’ Peak Resort** in Clymer will have live music from **Paul Hunter** in the Sports Bar from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Then **Krossbones** will be performing classic rock in the Bistro 210 at 9:30pm.

In the River Bar at the **Seneca Allegheny Casino**, the talented duo **Jesse and Erika** will perform Friday night. **On Saturday night, JJ White and Mojo Sauce** will perform. Both nights the music starts at 7pm.

New Year’s Eve Festivities For New Year’s Eve, the **Chautauqua Harbor Hotel is bringing in the New Year with a Viva Las Vegas** theme party, with a DJ playing the tunes. There are overnight packages that include dinner, five hours of open bar, a champagne toast, and more. Go to chautauquaharborhotel.com for more information.

Event planner, Nina Headen, is hosting two events at the **Grandview in Ellington**. From 11am-2pm, there will be the **Noon Year’s Eve Party** for families, including a kid’s dance party, vendors, Nick Mambretti, the magician from 11:30am-12:30pm,

and a countdown/ball drop. Later that night, adults will celebrate with a cash bar at the **Rocking Down the Clock Decades Party**. DJ Payne will play tunes from 8pm to 1am, and there will be food and lots of dancing. Drivers will be provided to help people get home safely.

It’s time to celebrate the **100th year anniversary of Crystal Ballroom** on New Year’s Eve. Travel back in time to 1924 for the evening with their **Great Gatsby-themed party celebration**. Starting at 8pm, come dressed for the theme and enjoy cocktails from the cash bar. Your ticket will include hors d’oeuvres, live music by Pearl City Jazz, dancing, and of course, the ball drop.

The **River Bar at the Seneca Allegheny Casino** will be celebrating New Year’s Eve with DJ Jimmy from 7pm to 11pm, and it will also feature the **Twilight Band** from 10pm to 12:30am. The casino is also having a **Countdown the Cash Drawing**, and they are giving away \$25,000.

Make your reservations for a three-course dinner with a flute of bubbly at **She Sings Café** in Mayville. The entertainment will be supplied by **Rebecca Magnuson, John Cross, and Jay Hagen** starting at 6pm.

In Dunkirk, the **Spot on the Lake** will be having a **New Year’s Eve Party**. The drinks will be flowing, and you will be able to dance the night away with DJ KT Stylez, who will be playing tunes until 4am.

It’s been a fun year filled with fun family festivals and live music. Keep your eye on this weekly article so you know what’s happening in CHQ, County. Have a Happy and Safe New Year!

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so you can shake your junk in the window on Washington.

SATURDAY

The Gin Mill is back and so is John Frinzi from 12-3pm. Brian Rick will take over from 3-5pm. Word has it that Brian and John might do a couple songs together around 2pm. Lastly The Rig will take the stage from 8-12am. This Buffalo band plays classic rock covers from The Stones to The Clash. Check out the Carriage House Sidebar for some craft cocktails made with high-end spirits.

The T-Bar at Holiday Valley will host The Campfire Junkie from 4-7pm. He plays a country/rock/alt/prog set of covers and originals.

We're back at Balloons for Darkwater Duo and Company from 6:30-10pm. This Bradford band plays a rock/pop/alt/prog /country set of covers and originals. The back bar will host The Chillbillies from 10-1am. If you read this column, you know what a fan I am. Dj Lyfe will provide the sauce so you can shake it like a boss from 10-2am.

Madigans is back and so is Dj Persia from 9-2am providing the thumpin for bumpin. Check out the dart board and pool tables for some friendly competition

SUNDAY

Back at The Gin Mill The Chillbillies will play from 7-10pm. Celebrate the Bills victory with some rock/pop/folk/blues/ country covers and originals featuring smooth guitar licks and sweet vocal harmonies.

Villaggio hosts its AYCE Pasta Night and Prime Rib Special from 12:30-9pm. Watch the game on the big screen and enjoy The Girls of Grosh from 5:30-8:30pm. These singer/songwriters play a rock/pop/alt set of originals and covers

with some killer vocals and guitar work.

MONDAY

Monday is Strings and Wings from 4-10pm. 50 cent wings and a nice selection of craft beers to wash em down with. This week's musical guest is Michael Nowak from 6-9pm. Michael plays a rock/pop/folk/country set of covers.

The Gin Mill's Monday music will be hosted by The Hick Ups from 7-10pm. This collection of local musicians, from various local bands, have been playing together to many years. They play an eclectic set of bluegrass/country/folk covers that you'll enjoy.

TUESDAY

NYE Balloons will host County Lines from 8-11:30pm. This band plays a rock /red dirt country/southern rock set of covers and originals. Dj Kage will do the countdown and keep the party going till 2am.

The Gin Mill's NYE music will be provided by West from 8-12am. These Evl vets play a rock/pop/blues/country set of covers that you can dance to. Don't forget those 37 beers on tap.

Holiday Valley will host a NYE party in the main lodge with Dj Campbell Dawson from 9-12:30am with a toast at midnight. He'll provide the jams so you can shake your gams.

WEDNESDAY

Last but not least we close it out like we have for the last 40+ years at The Gun Mill for Wing, Wednesday from 7-10pm. \$1 wings with music provided by Brian Rick. Brian plays a rock/folk/pop/ country set of covers.

We hope you enjoyed your New Years in our village and you return often with family and friends but wherever you are PLEASE, ALWAYS SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Beat on the Street:

“What do You Think 2025 is Going to Bring Us?”

BY CHAD NEAL



We've taken one more lap around that gaseous ball of fire that pops up everyday. One more revolution since the last time we changed the big number on the calendar we require to document every day. And we as a society definitely document every day. We have historical information going back a long time that gives us a timeline to this day. We have a survival instinct that gives us the desire to know the future. Some speculation is pretty well streamlined, yet other things can succumb to randomness and throw a wrench into the works. We have had a tumultuous past few years and a few things are going to change for better or worse, depending on the narrative one has a inclination for. Some have positive notions and others are not so sure about them. What do you think 2025 is going to bring us?



Travis H.- Hopefully less skibbidi toilets!



Matt H.- 365 more chances to seize that carp!



Mark M.- Don't know, but I suspect it will trump 2024.



Jeff S.- I like James C's optimism and am on board! 2025.... less war, more transparency and a better place for the common folk.



James C.- A Buffalo Bills Super Bowl!



Dante C.- The same thing every new year brings us all, A chance to rise above the nonsense and be a better version of ourselves than the previous year.

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WRITERS WANTED

The Villager is looking for writers who are interested in weekly assignments. We cover local businesses, people and events. If you're interested, please submit your résumé and writing samples to: info@thevillagerny.com

Christmas

CONT. FROM COVER



In Kintsugi, beauty is found in the broken and mended. Our imperfections, much like these cracks, make us uniquely beautiful.

dreams.” Josh Groban, in his song, “Believe” reminds us of the magic of Christmas ... “When it seems the magic slipped away, we find it all again on Christmas Day.” At any age, we still want to believe in the magic of Christmas – of the day and of the season.

But listen to a radio program or turn on the television, any day, any time, even now at Christmastime, and you will surely be bombarded with more negativity than you can handle. Alas, we are not only divided – we are broken - almost impossibly broken, with so many pieces there is no chance for repair without it being noticed.

Perhaps we ought to consider applying the philosophy of the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi to our brokenness. My daughter introduced me to this repair style when I had a large ceramic rabbit that would not let me repair it in the standard way because of its size and amount of breakage. I guess it was something like America – large and broken in many places. Kintsugi is a Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with thick lacquer dusted or mixed with precious metals like powdered gold, silver, or platinum. When the object is repaired, the precious metal seams are raised, highly visible, and glistening, creating an entirely new nature for the once-broken item. Not the same, it becomes an entirely distinctive entity – still its original self, but changed, and stronger, displaying the breakage and repair as a part of its history,

rather than disguising it. Remember, this isn't the first break in the American dream. Yet, with every rift we have mended and grown stronger.

Here's where hope comes in. Hope for a better world. Hope for a kinder world. Hope for a more promising future. Divided as we are, hope is one of the very few things we Americans still have very much in common. Buffalo Bills football fans all understand the almost primeval feelings of hope. It is real. It is visceral. Hope lives, not only in the “Go Bills” slogan, but in our guts and in our dreams and in our hearts and in our very souls. Hope keeps us going, year after year, when we are at our lowest of lows, always hoping for the best, even against snowstorms or -1 degree temperatures. As 18th Century poet, Alexander Pope said in his 1732 An Essay On Man, “hope springs eternal”. Jonathan Cain of the rock group Journey remembers calling home in despair when things were looking their worse. His dad always said, “don't stop believing or you're done, dude.” So, he toughed it out and instead, Journey wrote a song about that. They found and celebrated hope. Christians find hope in the Christ Child, but hope is not reserved only for Christians at Christmas. Hope exists for everyone, for people of all faiths, or for people of no faith. Here's the good news: hope, defined as a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen can be shared by each one of us. You and I can give hope to the person we smile at on the street or store, to the recipients of the food pantry or fund raiser we donate to, to the local business, school, church, or charity we support, to the neighbor we help, to the family member or old friend we call to say hello. That is why, all over the world every soul in invited to join in the celebration of Christmas. No matter your faith, may you joyfully embrace and share the essence of the Christmas season: Love, Forgiveness, Togetherness, Laughter, Memories, Family, Tradition, Food, Friendship, Joy and yes, HOPE. Have a Merry, Joyful, Hopeful Christmas season. (And hug an Alpaca.)

FOOD DRIVE

Please help us collect non-perishable food items for the Great Valley - Ellicottville food pantries. This helps serve many families within our community. Thank you for all your help!

DROP OFF LOCATIONS
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Edna's

CONT. FROM PG. 5

elevating the dining experience here at Edna's.” Looking forward to the new year, Edna's will continue to offer their unmatched customer service, paying tribute to the resorts history while committing to the future of culinary and hospitality teams at Holiday Valley.

Named after Edna Northrup, a founding member of Holiday Valley, Edna's at the Tamarack Club is rich with history and timeless with their spectacular views and hospitality. “We truly have a once in a lifetime opportunity here at Holiday

Restaurant Manager, Matt Campion (left), has been working with the Edna's team since it transitioned to in house hospitality with the Holiday Valley team in April. He is pictured with Executive Chef James Stark.

Valley, bringing our guests lunch, dinner, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. For more information visit holidayvalley.com/dining/ednas or call 716-699-5350.

★★ 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!

Last Week's Puzzle:

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

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

Walter's World

Photo Picks From “The Rittman Show”

Tina Turner, 1986

Embracing the frosty delights of winter, our favorite diva cozies up to the coolest guy in town. Decked out in winter white that makes even the snowman look twice, she's the queen of the snowball scene. With a smile that could melt glaciers, she's proof that you don't need to be cold to be ice hot.

Alpaca

CONT. COVER

“Alpacaville actually started with a flock of chickens about 13 years ago.”, said Shauna. “We loved having them so much that a year later we added mini pigs and alpaca. We bred and showed alpaca and truly fell in love with the lifestyle. About a year later a certificate in animal assisted therapy, activities and learning was completed and we began to do farm visits when people came to the store.”

“We provide tours to any group visiting the farm that wants one”, she continued. “The response has been very positive from all the groups. We also provide special events at the farm for the public. Most recently we had a ‘Service in the Barn’ in conjunction with St Luke’s Church in Jamestown. Clergy from St Luke’s conducted a service and shared the story of the birth of Jesus.”

During the farm visits, as well as seeing the alpaca, visitors hear facts about reasons to have them, and about the various uses for their hair. “When you visit our farm, we can show you examples of needle felting and wet felting, and how that can be helpful.”, added Shauna.

“We take our cues from the animals and let them decide to what degree they want to interact.”, Shauna continued. “Sometimes they walk away and head to the pasture, and sometimes

you can’t get them to stop following you. Alpaca are very timid animals generally and require much patience and encouragement to become more social over time. After the farm has re-opened to the public in the spring for a few weeks, the herd is receptive to being fed by visitors and some allow petting.

The chickens and pigs are always interested in eating and getting attention.”

Every May, a professional shearer is hired for the alpaca’s annual shearing. The amount of fiber they get from each one depends on the alpaca’s health, whether it’s pregnant and how cold the winter is. “We are always happy when the weather is colder as that helps the alpaca grow more fiber.”, explained Shauna. “But if the change from warm to cold is too abrupt, the alpaca can become cold and require coats until their hair grows out a little bit.” Shauna also made the point, “Some farms are meat farms, but we are strictly a fiber farm.”

“Alpaca manure is one of the best fertilizers you can get.”, Shauna shared. “People who are well versed in manure call it ‘Black Gold’. Composted manure is extremely good for a garden, and we send it out in recycled feed bags as well as by the truck full. We have had it given as birthday and anniversary gifts to gardeners!”

“If you are looking for an interesting outing, please consider visiting



with us for an hour or two.”, she said. “Alpaca are wonderful animals as are mini pigs (and chickens are wonderful, too!)” Alphaville’s hours until January 15th, 2025, are Thursdays from 5-8pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 2-5pm. It is closed from Jan 15th to April 15th. “We close because it can get quite snowy and icy, and unsafe to go to the barn”, said Shauna, “but if we have a mild winter, or get breaks in the winter, we can open if you contact us. Starting in April 2025, we are reducing our regular hours to Saturday from noon-4pm, and by arrangement, to allow us to try a new venture. We hope to be available for birthday parties and events like painting with alpaca.” Alphaville is located at 4463 Mahanna Road in Bemus Point, NY. To buy alpaca items, including hats, mittens, fingerless gloves and blankets, go to alpaville.com/store. For more information, email Shauna Anderson at anderson.shauna324@gmail.com, or call (716) 664-0663.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - LEGAL NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Village of Ellicottville Zoning Local Law, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Park Side Drive, Ellicottville, NY 14731 on the 7day of January, 2025 at 5:30 P.M., to hear all interested parties regarding an appeal by Andrew and Tori Jenis for a Zoning Interpretation and Area Variance at 7Park Square (SBL 55.035-3-9.1) to construct a residential. Further information is available for review at the Engineering Department, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731. Prior to the meeting, documents may also be viewed on the Village website at www.ellicottvillegov.com. Persons wishing to do so may submit comments prior to the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Village of Ellicottville Zoning Board of Appeals, 1 Washington Street, P.O. Box 475, Ellicottville, New York 14731, dropped off in person to the same address, or emailed to greg.keyser@evlengineering.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - VILLAGE OF ELLICOTTVILLE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Village of Ellicottville Zoning Local Law, the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Ellicottville Town Center, 28 Park Side Drive, Ellicottville, NY 14731 on the 7 day of January, 2025 at 5:30 P.M., to hear all interested parties regarding an appeal by John Sabatos for an Area Variance at 31 E Washington Street (SBL 55.036-1-34) to construct a new pavilion. Further information is available for review at the Engineering Department, 28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville, New York 14731. Prior to the meeting, documents may also be viewed on the Village website at www.ellicottvillegov.com. Persons wishing to do so may submit comments prior to the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Village of Ellicottville Zoning Board of Appeals, 1 Washington Street, P.O. Box 475, Ellicottville, New York 14731, dropped off in person to the same address, or emailed to greg.keyser@evlengineering.com.

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.

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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

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McFadden

CONT. FROM PG. 8

this place special, and I feel fortunate to be a part of it.”

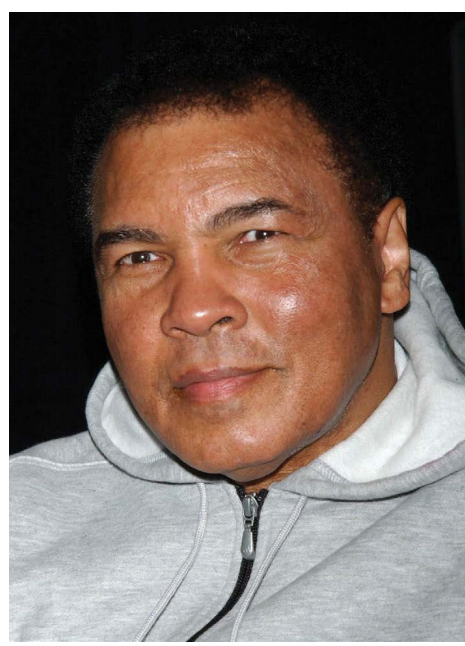
Brian is proud to have accomplished his lofty goal of turning Ellicottville into an all-seasons resort town. “I was hired with one specific task, and I think I’ve completed that. The foundations were set by The Chamber, and the community and resorts took over. I’m proud to see how far we’ve come, and look forward to the next chapter.”

For more information visit ellicottvilley.com or email brian@ellicottvilley.com.



Over the years, Brian has appreciated the community events festivals, especially the Gazebo Concert Series and the Summer Music Festival (pictured). He reflects on many fond memories over the years, especially the first Summer Music Fest. “I’ll never forget when we brought our first nationally touring act to the festival in 2000 - The Rascals. We were scrambling to raise the funds to bring the band, but it was well worth the effort. Nowadays, we bring at least 2 nationally renowned acts to the area for that festival, and the budget has increased significantly.

Born in January



Muhammad Ali : January 17, 1942
Birthplace: Louisville, Kentucky. Age: 74

Retro Images

Photo Picks From CATT and CHQ Counties



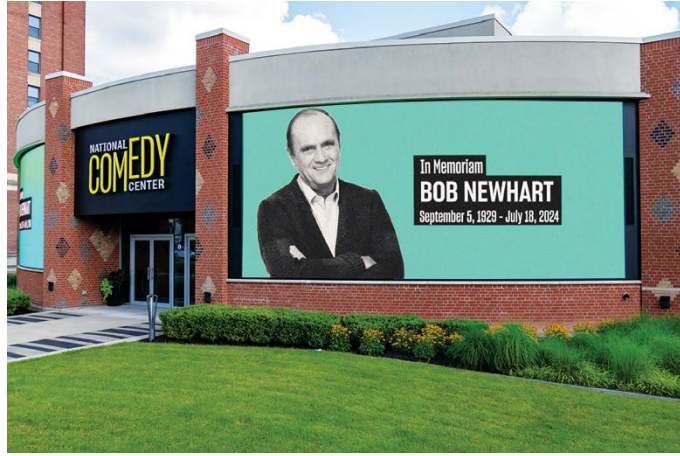
1965 opening of the Sculpture Park at Kissing Bridge

From Bryan’s Brain



Kindergarten nap time in the 1950s
In the 1950s nap time was a crucial part of the kindergarten experience. Educational philosophies of the time emphasize the importance of rest for young children to support their growth and development.

Highlights of 2024: Happy New Year! Article Feature Photos of 2024



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- 11:30 PM • \$5,000 CASH
- 12:30 AM • \$10,000 CASH

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