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The Villager

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Area Events

MOVIES AT THE REG - OH, CANADA
Friday, February 5,
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY

PUBLIC SKATE AT FREDONIA ARENA
Saturday, February 8 • 130pm
SUNY Fredonia NY

MOVIES AT THE REG - WICKED
Sunday, February 14,
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY

CHAUTAUQUA STRIDERS WINTER 5K
Friday February 22, Celoron, NY

MOVIES AT THE REG - A COMPLETE UNKNOWN
Friday, February 7,
Reg Lena. Jamestown, NY

MONTHLY FAT BIKE RIDES
Friday, March 14
Allegany State Park, Salamanca, NY

PUBLIC SKATE AT NORTHWEST ARENA
Saturday, February 8 • 130pm
Jamestown NY

HOLIDAY VALLEY'S PENGUIN PADDLE
Friday, February 22 • 2pm
Ellicottville, NY

JAYHAWKS HOCKEY AT NORTHWEST ARENA
Monday, January 24 • 7pm
Jamestown, NY

SNOWSHOE HIKES AT ALLEGANY STATE PARK
Wednesday, February 5
4:30pm @ Allegany State Park

ART AFTER 5 AT RTPI
Friday, February 28,
RTPI. Jamestown, NY

MERRITT TRAIN RIDE
Saturday, February 8
Gowanda, NY

HOLIDAY VALLEY'S YOUR TURN WOMEN'S SKI CLINIC
Monday, February 24
Holiday Valley, Ellicottville, NY

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP: DNA
February 1 • 10:30am
Benus Hall Research House
Jamestown, NY

DUELING PIANOS
February 21 • 10pm
EBC Little Valley, NY

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The Tradition of Groundhog Day

It's Here Again – What will the Prediction Be?



Now, in 1887, the Germans who settled in Punxsutawney, Pa. brought the custom with them to America, having to substitute the cute, prickly hedgehog with an American groundhog, since nary a hedgehog lived here. Turning to Bill Deeley, a retired handler of that famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, and part-time resident of Ellicottville, this writer got "the scoop" on Phil.

BY CAROL FISHER-LINN

The Groundhog Day tradition as we know it today, began in fact with a hedgehog in Germany in the 1800's.

It all started with immigrants, as did so many wonderful events, customs, and traditions about everyday life in America ... and the lowly hedgehog. Now, cute as they are as pets, hedgehogs are

not native to the United States but originate from Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The German farmers were well acquainted with the hedgehog. It is a favorite in European gardens, both for its endearing appearance (again, they are sooo cute) and its preference for eating a range of

SEE "GROUNDHOG" PG. 6

EBC Fan Zone Beer Project

Collaborating with Over 16 Univ. & Fan Bases



According to Dan Minner, Head Brewer with EBC, the Fan Zone Beer project started in 2022 as a way to enhance the tailgating experience for sports enthusiasts.

BY KATE BARTLETT

Ellicottville Brewing Company is partnering with over 16 Sports Fan Bases on their Fan Zone

Beer Project. This project is aimed at delivering a unique craft beer experience in support of fans

favorite teams, including St. Bonaventure and Canisius. EBC also offers tribute to

several other fan bases in the Northeast, including university and professional teams in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan.

According to Dan Minner, Head Brewer with EBC, the Fan Zone Beer project started in 2022 as a way to enhance the tailgating experience for sports

SEE "EBC FAN ZONE" PG. 6

Artist Spotlight: Sydney Sterlace

Local Teen Placed 3rd this Season on The Voice

BY KATE BARTLETT



As a part of team Gwen, Sydney gained a lot of confidence as a singer along with valuable advice. "Gwen told me to be true to myself, and trust my instincts as a singer. She encouraged me to know who I am as an artist, and to stay true to that person."

Western New York native Sydney Sterlace made it to the final round of the most recent season of The Voice, coming in third place on season 26. Sixteen-year-old Sydney was on team Gwen (Stefani, pictured right), and learned many valuable lessons she plans to carry along in her singing career.

Sydney was born and raised in West Seneca, a suburb of Buffalo, along with her two younger sisters, Sienna and Shae. Her parents, Anthony and Stefanie, noticed Sydney's voice was special, and enrolled her in voice classes at a young

SEE "VOICE" PG. 3

Cassadaga's Annual Winter Festival

This Weekend is Filled with Outdoor Activities



The festival really gets in full swing this Saturday, February 1 at 8am, gather your family and friends for a 5K-50K walk/run around Cassadaga Lake. The exhilarating Ice Scream Polar Dip will take place at 1pm and will feature people who are brave enough to go for a plunge into the freezing lake. There is a \$20 entry fee, and you will be awarded a T-shirt for being daring enough to participate. (See story "WINTER", pg. 11.)

Sneak Peek

Inside this Edition...

"Chairway" to Heaven ... Pg. 4

HoliMont's High Speed Detachable Quad Chairlift



The first high speed detachable lift built by the Austrian company Doppelmayr was installed in ... some famous ski resort in Europe? Nope. It was installed in Breckenridge CO in 1981. High speed lifts were a revolution and continue to evolve. HoliMont's flagship Exposition high speed detachable quad chairlift was built by Doppelmayr and installed in 2012. Chad Jacoby, HoliMont's Lift Maintenance Supervisor, offered to show us the inside workings of the base terminal above the loading zone for the Expo chair.

It's Time to Be Happy as a Penguin ... Pg. 5

HV's Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program Fundraiser

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Women 2 Women Project

Mud Sweat Gears x Blizzard/Tecnica



Join Mud, Sweat 'n Gears for the Women 2 Women Project to celebrate the camaraderie of women skiers and connect with like-minded women who LOVE to ski. Meet and ski with Leslie Baker Brown, who championed the most progressive women's program in the industry by launching the Women 2 Women Project. Bring a friend or two, your shared passion for skiing and let's have some fun!

BY KATE BARTLETT

February 20-21 marks the 4th annual Mud Sweat Gears x Blizzard/Tecnica Women 2 Women Project inspirational women's weekend at HoliMont. Formerly known as Powder to Prosecco Women's weekend, this empowering

SEE "WOMEN" PAGE 10

HoliMont Men's Day, Feb. 7

Phoenix Adaptive Program Fundraiser



The Phoenix Program began in 1996 when former program director Chuck Richardson (front, center) was asked to work with a special needs student. Since then, the program has grown to include students of all disabilities, both physical and cognitive. Though the efforts of the Men's Day fundraising, the program was able to purchase a Tetra Ski, the world's first alpine sit-ski (pictured), and other adaptive equipment. The Tetra Ski provides independent turning and speed variability using a joystick and/or breath control, with the help of well-trained instructors.

BY KATE BARTLETT

Next Friday, February 7th marks the annual HoliMont Men's Day to benefit the Phoenix Adaptive Program. Men's Day has been raising funds for this program just over 5 years,

SEE "MEN'S DAY" PAGE 7

Publisher's Word

"Weather the Weather!"



will know what our furry friend has predicted but I say his forecast is as reliable as, well, the weather. I hear we have some good snow coming next week, but we hear a lot of things are coming next week. One way or another, there is no excuse to not enjoy the here and now especially when you live in our amazing area and you have such great reading material right at your fingertips, www.thevillagerny.com.

We have a full list of events for you to schedule out on the cover

The good thing about us Western New Yorkers is that we are hardy. Whether the rodent casts more winter upon us, or (even) less of a winter, we can all still be happy. We have four seasons and events are planned accordingly around them. Soon, you

and some ideas of new businesses you may want to explore, detailed throughout the paper. As always, if you have a story idea for us or are interested in being a part of our team, please contact us, its easy! Simply log on to www.thevillagerny.com and hit the "General Submissions" tab, or email me directly at info@thevillagerny.com, we look forward to hearing from you.

Until next week, enjoy the read and the ride- Jeanine Caprino Zimmer

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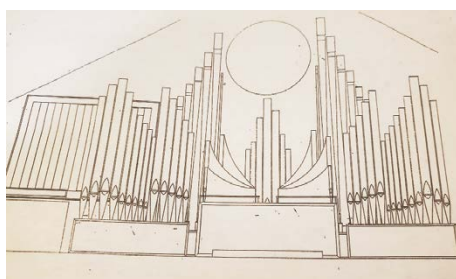
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 Anna Solar... February 18th • Stacy McCarragher... February 18th
 Stacy McCarragher... February 18th • Luan Bobinchuck... February 18th
 Scott Campbell... February 19th • Laura Kohler... February 20th
 Kathy Ahlstrom... February 20th • Bill Reading... February 22nd
 Email us your birthday greetings: info@thevillagerny.com

E'Ville's St. Paul's Church Organ

Vintage, Refurbished Concert Quality Instrument in Lutheran Church



Sometimes a dream seems nothing more than a vague outline (left). That is, until you follow your heart to share your dream to make it a reality (right). Dreams do come true when ambition meets action. Larry Ploetz, who sketched out his dream, shared it with his church community and now the product of that love and labor, says Larry, "...will endure for generations and will help to glorify our Lord weekly across the land."

By CAROL FISHER-LINN finally breaking ground in September 1964. This new church needed an organ. Larry Ploetz, church member and part of those families who moved from the Beaver Meadows Church, knew who had that original church organ. He contacted Emily Olmstead of Sardinia whose father Harold had bought it from the church. She kindly gave it to him—well, the hundreds of pieces, which had been stored in a dirty, wet barn for twenty-five years. It was not pretty, but it was theirs. Now to find the money and the means to repair it. Contacting all the original Beaver Meadows Church membership scattered all over the counties and out of state, and getting a donation from the Edward Northrup estate, they generated \$18,000. With that money to buy parts, they now needed: 1) to know how to repair it and 2) volunteers to do the work.

Post-Civil War, a church, St. Peter's Lutheran, was born, with members meeting in people's homes. Around 1880 a building was built on the corner of Beaver Meadows Road and Route 219 in Ellicottville. Unfortunately, the membership, struggling under the cost of maintaining an aging building, disbanded in 1957. The building and everything inside were sold and the new owner planned to dismantle the church to reuse the lumber. Unfortunately, in 1958, it went up in flames. Meanwhile, original members moved to churches in Springville, Otto and Ellicottville.

The Lutheran membership in Ellicottville had bought the old Seventh Day Adventist church on Elizabeth and Mechanic (now a home) in 1937. By 1959, needing a larger building and parking room, members purchased the W.O. Nannen property on Rte. 219, raising funds and

new worship hall and narthex were added. Now, here's where the story gets interesting. Ploetz, having turned certified organ professional over the ensuing years had a vision for an organ with more variety. In 2008 an organ that he wanted became available for sale in Niagara Falls from a church that was disbanding. Ploetz knew the organ having done work on it while he was learning the trade. He bought it, knowing he still needed to gather more parts to bring it to the quality of instrument he wanted for the church. Over the ensuing years, many volunteers including Rob Snider and Jim Kellerman along with Ploetz have dedicated countless hours in preparation for installation which began about a year ago and by October was assembled as one sees it in the organ loft. It can be played minimally, but the hoped-for completion goal is Easter 2025, barring any unforeseen events. An organ needs to find its "voice" which requires patient, skilled and meticulous hands'—on for each of the nearly 1500 pipes including 65 massive zinc pipes and the 61 copper trumpets which range from 6 inches to 8 feet long. As with love, the voicing can't be hurried.

Once dedicated, it will be a concert quality instrument. Ploetz says that plans are to offer a year-long series of free concerts, bringing in artists from Fredonia, Houghton, Jamestown, etc. Can't wait! Stay tuned.

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Volunteer Spotlight: Paul E. Kazmierczak

Dedicated Member of Catt. Co. United Way



donations are handled with the utmost professionalism. "Individual CattCo donors should know their precious local donations are handled very professionally," he said. He also highlighted the successful merger between the Cattaraugus and Allegany County United Ways as a win-win scenario for both communities.

For Kazmierczak, the most fulfilling aspect of his service has been witnessing the positive impact of United Way initiatives. Programs like the Warming House and Bonna Buddy, run by St. Bonaventure University students, and the invaluable services provided by Genesis House, exemplify the organization's reach. His pride extends to National Grid employees who volunteer through the company's Project C program, further strengthening community ties.

Kazmierczak credits National Grid's support of his volunteer efforts for enabling him to balance his professional and community commitments. "Given this support, it only motivates me for more off-hour community volunteerism," he explained.

Unsurprisingly, the primary challenge Kazmierczak identifies is securing enough donor funds to meet the community's needs. Despite this, he emphasized the thorough and regimented allocation process, which includes analytical scoring, agency interviews, and passionate

input from board members. Ongoing monitoring by the United Way staff ensures that funds are used effectively.

Kazmierczak's role at National Grid provides him with a unique perspective on community needs. "I see first-hand how business retention, policies, and growth affect all facets of society," he noted, emphasizing how these insights inform his work with the United Way.

Kazmierczak encourages others to get involved, no matter the capacity. "It's so rewarding at all levels. Many hands produce great results," he said, underscoring the importance of collective effort, whether at the board level or through hands-on activities.

Looking ahead, Kazmierczak hopes that donors will feel inspired by seeing the tangible impact of their contributions. He also believes the successful merger of the CattCo and Allegany United Ways could serve as a model for other agencies, potentially expanding support to even more communities.

Kazmierczak's dedication to the Cattaraugus County United Way exemplifies the power of committed volunteerism. Through his efforts, the organization continues to thrive, ensuring that vital programs and services reach those who need them most. As he reflects on his experiences, his message is clear: community involvement is a rewarding and impactful way to make a difference.

Paul Kazmierczak is jurisdiction manager for National Grid out of Olean. He credits the company's support of his volunteer efforts for enabling him to balance his professional and community commitments. "Given this support, it only motivates me for more off-hour community volunteerism," he explained.

By Jeff Martin, THE VILLAGER

Paul E. Kazmierczak, a dedicated member of the Cattaraugus County United Way (CattCo UW) Board and Allocations Committee, brings years of experience and a passion for community service to his role.

In a recent interview, Kazmierczak shared insights into his volunteer work, the challenges and rewards of serving on the board, and his vision for the future of the organization.

Kazmierczak's commitment to community improvement led him to join the CattCo UW Board. For the past six years, he has been actively involved in refining the allocations process to ensure that local



St. Bonaventure's Warming Hut is one of the nation's oldest student-run soup kitchens. For Kazmierczak, the most fulfilling aspect of his service has been witnessing the positive impact of United Way initiatives. Programs like the Warming House and Bonna Buddy, run by St. Bonaventure University students, and the invaluable services provided by Genesis House, exemplify the organization's reach.

Voice

CONT. FROM COVER

age. "My parents say I was singing before I could even talk," laughs Sydney. She took classes with Bello Voice, a local studio, and sang at various venues in the area including coffee houses, Darien Lake, and the Erie County Fair. Sydney has also participated in many school musicals and choirs both during and outside of school.

As Sydney watched The Voice with her family, she always dreamed of being on the show. "My mom and dad always encourage us to chase our dreams, so I decided to take a chance and gave it the best I could," says Sydney. While on the show, Sydney was away from home for more than 2 months, but kept up with school work. "We never knew if we'd be going home or not; things were very uncertain week to week. I'm so thankful I had my mom with me. She kept me grounded and supported me unconditionally."

Sydney formed friendships with other contestants, who she still keeps in touch with. "We became like family," explains Sydney. "It's an incredible journey and we were all going through it together, bonded over this common interest. I'm so grateful to have met so many incredible people.



West Seneca native, Sydney Sterlace, outside the set of The Voice in Hollywood, California where she participated this past season.

We got through it together. We loved hanging out together, just going to the mall and being teenagers." Sydney describes all the judges as very down to earth and humble. "Gwen (Stefani), Michael (Bubl ), Snoop, and Reba (McEntire) are all the sweetest people ever. They really care about us and want to help us reach our goals. Every time Snoop would always wish me luck, I'd have a 'pinch me' moment; it was surreal."

Gwen, Sydney gained a lot of confidence as a singer along with valuable advice. "Gwen told me to be true to myself, and trust my instincts as a singer. She encouraged me to know who I am as an artist, and to stay true to that person." Sydney was also inspired by the other contestants, who were all striving for the same goal. "We really inspired each other," recalls Sydney.

As a part of team "VOICE" Pg. 5

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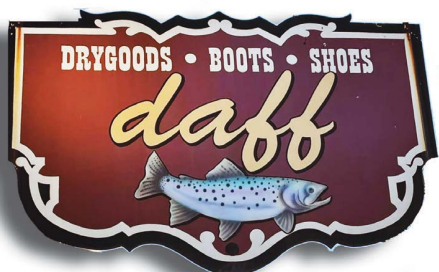
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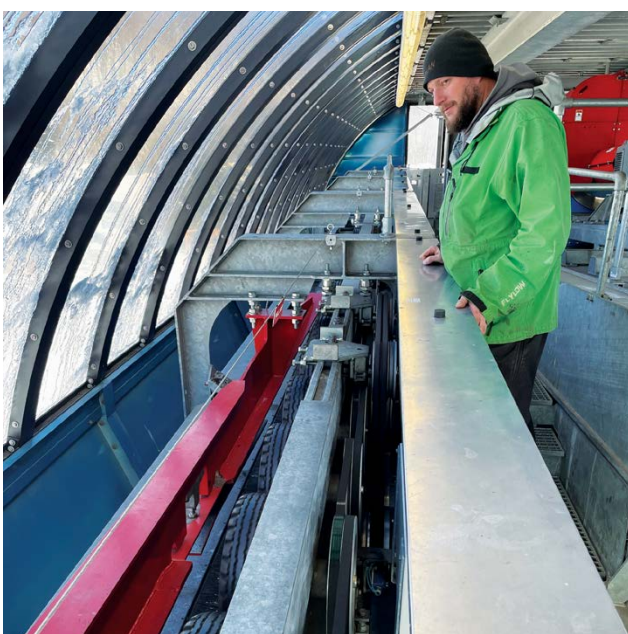
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HoliMont Spotlight: “Chairway to Heaven”

HoliMont’s Exposition High Speed Detachable Quad Chairlift



Chad Jacoby, Lift Maintenance Supervisor, standing in the upper Exhibition lift terminal. The detached chairs are being pulled along beneath the spinning tires.

BY DAN BALKIN

The first high speed detachable lift built by the Austrian company Doppelmayr was installed in ... some famous ski resort in Europe? Nope. It was installed in Breckenridge CO in 1981. High speed lifts were a revolution and continue to evolve. They went from seating four, to six “the six pack,” and now can seat as many as eight. State of the art high speed lifts have heated seats and “bubbles” that can be pulled down over the chairlift to protect skiers from high winds and inclement weather. HoliMont’s flagship Exposition high speed detachable quad chairlift was built by Doppelmayr and installed in 2012. Chad Jacoby, HoliMont’s Lift Maintenance Supervisor, offered to show us the inside workings of the base terminal above the loading zone for the Expo chair. Even as it passes through the base and summit terminals, the main cable continues to always spin at the same high speed. That is why the magic word for a high-speed lift is “detachable.” In other words, within the terminals, the chairs are being moved along by a completely different mechanism than

by the cable that whisks us up the mountain. The secret? There is a very rigid, black “traction plate” attached to the skyward side of the arm where the chair grips the cable. When a chair enters the terminal and detaches from the high-speed lift cable, a long series of small tires are spinning at a precisely calculated position where they engage with the traction plate and propel the chair slowly forward. With remarkable synchronicity and the use of many sensors that keep the chairs evenly spaced, the tires keep the chairs moving toward a bullwheel which turns the chairs toward the other side of the terminal (the side where passengers are loaded on the chair). The traction plate reengages with another long series of small tires where the chairs are now progressively sped up in preparation for being reengaged with the rapidly spinning chair lift cable. Watching all this progress from the terminal elevated above the loading area is like seeing an engineering ballet where the chairs all make precise, in-sync movements.

HoliMont GM Ed Youmans shared some interesting facts about high-speed lifts: A high-speed lift is roughly twice as

expensive as a fixed grip lift – but it moves twice as fast. A high-speed lift is ascending at 1,000 feet per minute. Every six seconds, passengers load and unload from a high-speed lift. On a fixed grip lift, the chairs are spaced approximately 55 feet apart, while on a high-speed lift they are twice the distance, 110 feet apart. This means that even though the high-speed lift moves twice as fast, because it only has half the number of chairs as a fixed grip lift, they both bring 2,400 people up the mountain per hour. Put another way, a high-speed lift has half the number of people riding, but they are moving twice as fast. Without longer lift lines, a skier can get more runs in on a high-speed lift. The high-speed lift has an enormous safety advantage because the slow speed of the “detachable” chair as it goes around the bull wheel at the bottom and top of the hill makes it safer to load and unload passengers. High-speed lifts, however, have five times the moving parts of fixed grip lifts, meaning that maintenance is magnified versus an old-fashioned fixed grip chairlift. Chair lifts, like life, are a series of compromises.

Due to the enormous weight and tension a chairlift cable endures, it must be shortened at least once in its lifetime to remove excess slack. Remarkably, there are only FIVE persons in the entire U.S. that can shorten and resplice a chair lift cable. Two cable splicers from Missouri were at HoliMont this summer and, with the help of our full-time employees, removed six feet of slack and masterfully respliced the cable. HoliMont? Missouri? High Speed Chair? Sounds incongruous, but it’s also a reminder we are interconnected and need one another.

HoliMont Member’s Music Series



The first of HoliMont’s Winter Concerts was held last Saturday, January 18 featuring Strange Magic NY, The ELO Experience. Their music is a mix of progressive pop/rock, orchestral pop, and art rock.

BY KATE BARTLETT

HoliMont kicked off their annual live music series on Saturday, January 18. These member-only events are part of HoliMont’s strong social scene, which offers members the opportunity to enjoy live music in a family-friendly environment.

HoliMont has been offering these live music series as a member perk for many years, and it adds to the experience at HoliMont. “We’ve always had a strong social scene here and HoliMont,” says Travis Widger, Snowsports Director. “We’re proud to offer these family friendly concerts to our members and their guests. It’s a great opportunity for everyone to gather après ski in good company with good

music.” The first of HoliMont’s Winter Concerts featured Strange Magic NY, The ELO Experience. Their music is a mix of progressive pop/rock, orchestral pop, and art rock.

The second winter concert will take place on February 22nd, featuring music by Queen City, a Queen Tribute band. The third and final concert will help to celebrate HoliMont’s 61st anniversary on March 8th with music by Bob Meier and the Hitmen Horns Band. All concerts are members and their invited guests only and held at the Main Chalet from 7-10pm with a \$20 cover charge, under 18 free.

“We’re looking forward to another great season of music,” says Travis. “It’s another great perk

for our members; a great opportunity to have some fun after skiing. We offer a variety of social events for our members. Our calendars are jam-packed, and we welcome potential new members to contact us if they would like to join our family and experience all the fun, we have at HoliMont.”

For more information and a full list of events visit HoliMont.com and follow-on social media for updates.

Caption: The first of HoliMont’s Winter Concerts was held last Saturday, January 18 featuring Strange Magic NY, The ELO Experience. Their music is a mix of progressive pop/rock, orchestral pop, and art rock.

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It's Time to Be Happy as a Penguin

Annual Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program Fundraiser

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The Penguin Paddle is a fundraiser designed to benefit the Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program at Holiday Valley Resort. The Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program is a chapter of Move United and teaches persons of various disabilities to become skiers. By concentrating on abilities, not disabilities, our students develop the attitude of "If I can do this, I can do anything!"

This year, the annual silent Penguin Paddle Auction will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 on site at Holiday Valley Yodeler Lodge.

The Penguin Paddle auction event relies completely on community donations to make the event successful. We are seeking your generosity in donations of goods or services to help make the 2025 silent auction a success. Donations in the past have included gift certificates, vouchers for services/goods, online vendors, gift baskets, anything ski related such as décor or gifts, vacation packages, etc... No donation is too large or small! The money raised from the Penguin Paddle finances specialized adaptive equipment for sit-



down and stand-up skiers as well as training and certification to improve the skills of our pool of 100% volunteer ski instructors.

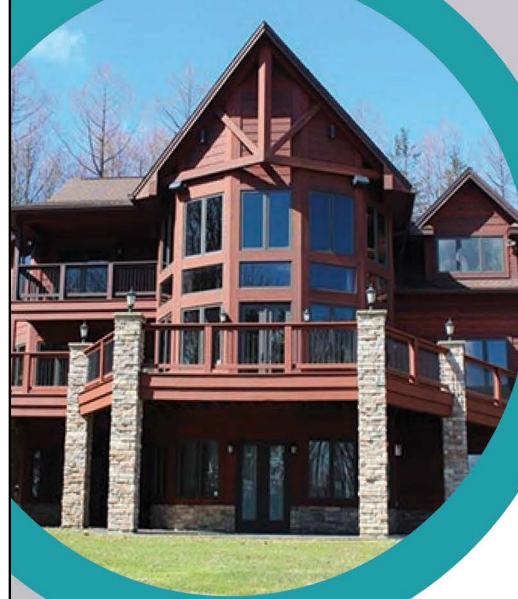
If you are able to donate, please email penguinpaddle@lounsburyadaptive.org or call or text Janice Hobba-Glose at 716-316-2175 and they will connect with you to pick up or arrange for you to deliver your donation no later than Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

They would also like to publicly recognize our donors at the event, in electronic/social media

and in print. They intend to fly banners at the auction thanking you for your support in donation to make the event a success. If you would like to opt out of this public recognition, please email penguinpaddle@lounsburyadaptive.org indicating the same and we will not use your name/business in publicity.

They look forward to you being a part of our event and thank you in advance for your support. If you would like more information on the program, please contact our Directors, Sue Whistler or Bill Bredenburg at 716-699-3504.

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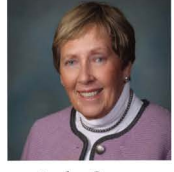
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Voice

CONT. FROM PG. 3

"I'm so grateful for the experience."

While the experience was invaluable, Sydney was happy to return home to her friends and family. She is currently involved in the West Seneca West production of Les Misérables, and is working on her songwriting. "I'm focusing on developing my songwriting, working with as many people as possible to learn about the process

and who I am as an artist." Sydney loves to express storytelling in her songs, and explains her style as emotional and storytelling with influences from country and pop. A few musical idols include Megan Moroney, Benson Boone, and Avery Anna. "These musicians all started small, and have grown into bigger artists. That's something I admire and hope to learn from."

Sydney encourages others to take chances and chase their dreams. "You are your own biggest supporter," encourages Sydney. "Find that confidence, and believe in yourself, even if no one

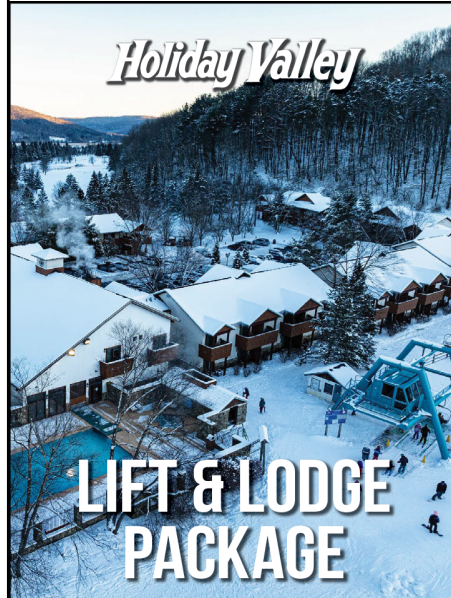
else does. Be true to who you are, and you'll go far."

For more information on Sydney Sterlace, watch on YouTube and follow on Instagram @sydneysterlacemusic and tiktok @sydneysterlacedings. Watch her incredible journey on this past season of The Voice, Season 26, on NBC. Sydney also wants to thank everyone for their support during her time on The Voice. "I'm still amazed at how many people voted, and how much support I received from the Western New York Community. It really is the city of good neighbors!"

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www.thevillagerny.com, "General Submissions"

The Villager is looking for your story ideas. What's new in your neighborhood? Is there a business you'd like to see us feature or an event that would be great to highlight; we'd like to know. If your idea is chosen, we will place it in our next edition and be sure to credit you with bringing it to our attention. Be a part of the art! Submit your ideas to info@thevillagerny.com or call 716-699-2058.



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Catch Deeley, Punxsutawney Phil and the whole inner circle again at this year's Mardi Gras Parade in Ellicottville, March 8, 2025.

Groundhog

CONT. FROM COVER

garden pests, i.e., snails, slugs, beetles, ants, wasps, grasshoppers, etc. They quasi-hibernate, generally waking up to move to another location. The old-country German farmers used the hedgehog to signal when they should start getting ready for the spring farming season ... sharpening plows and tools, laying in seed, etc. They watched for the hedgehog to emerge from its hibernation hole and hoped it would see its shadow so they had six weeks to get the farm ready. If it didn't, darn! They had to hustle!

Now, in 1887, the Germans who settled in Punxsutawney, Pa. brought the custom with them to America, having to substitute the cute, prickly hedgehog with an American groundhog, since nary a hedgehog lived here.

Turning to Bill Deeley, a retired handler of that famous groundhog,

Punxsutawney Phil, and part-time resident of Ellicottville, this writer got "the scoop" on Phil.

Back in 1887, a group of 15 men from Punxsutawney decided to form a club to celebrate and perpetuate the custom/legend. As with many strange customs and traditions, they basically made something out of nothing by celebrating the lowly groundhog every February. Deeley mused that likely copious amounts of corn likker may have also been involved. It remained a small local tradition for decades with Pittsburg covering it for local news until in 1993, the movie Groundhog Day hit the scene. It brought the famous groundhog to the world. Things changed after that. It became a massive annual event bringing thousands of tourists to Gobblers Knob (Phil's home) and income into the community. It was a good thing.

According to Deeley, Phil is roughly 140 years old. In the wild, groundhogs can live up to six years with two or three years being the average. Were it not for Phil's generations-old elixir there would not be

a story to tell. It is made by his handler from the ancient secret recipe, and he receives it at the summer picnic, one sip of which adds another seven years to his longevity. (Sorry, it does not work on humans). Barring any unforeseen events (such as happened to his cousin, Staten Island Chuck, who succumbed to his injuries after he was dropped by then Mayor DeBlasio) Phil remains immortal.

Groundhog Club members take their turns at being Phil's handler. Incidentally, any reader may become a member, (go online) but one must reside in Punxsutawney to be part of the "Inner Circle" from whence the handlers are chosen. Deeley, a lifelong resident known in the club as "Digger O'Dell" (thus named because he had been a funeral director) was invited to be a member and handler. Other members bear monikers tying into their professions or hobbies like Sky Painter, Ice Man, Ozone, Storm Chaser, etc. What might your membership name be?

"GROUNDHOG", Pg. 10



Fan Zone has featured several Buffalo Football super fans on their cans including Bills Elvis, Pizza Pete, and Pinto Ron. "It really elevates the tailgating experience," says Head Brewer, Dan Minner. "There's nothing better than preparing for the game with a great craft beer that brings your team to life." Fan Zone has also worked with renown superfans in Detroit Macho Mane (Gary Campionni pictured with Dan Minner) and Detroit Don.

EBC Fan Zone

CONT. FROM COVER

enthusiasts. "We thought it'd be fun and unique to make a craft beer with a label designed with fan favorite teams," says Dan. Fan Zone now collaborates with over sixteen universities and fanbases including: Pittsburgh Football, Philadelphia Football, Cleveland Football, Cincinnati Football, New Jersey Football Teams, Detroit Football, NY Baseball, Philadelphia Baseball, Buffalo Hockey, Philadelphia Basketball. Fan Zone has featured several Buffalo Football super fans on their cans including Bills Elvis, Pizza Pete, and Pinto Ron. "It really elevates the tailgating experience," says Dan. "There's nothing better than preparing for the game with a great craft beer that brings your team to life." Fan Zone has also worked

with renown superfans in Detroit Macho Mane (Gary Campionni) and Detroit Don.

Fan Zone has helped Ellicottville Brewing Company reach a wider number of customers through this initiative. "We've been able to connect with fans as far as Michigan and New Jersey, ultimately allowing us to branch into new markets and provide new opportunities for our company."

Dan describes the EBC Fan Zone beer as a light IPA with popular hops including Simcoe and Mosaic, giving it an almost tropical taste. Simcoe is known for its citrus and pine notes, while Mosaic is known for tropical fruit, stone fruit and berry notes. "Our Fan Zone beer is thriving in the craft beer market. It has easily become a favorite by many," says Dan.

Fan Zone recently attracted the attention of the local Universities St. Bonaventure and Canisius. "We've really enjoyed

working with these local universities," remarks Dan. "It's been great to help expand their marketing platforms all while supporting their sports teams." Both colleges have seen a positive response since working with Fan Zone, especially in their Alumni relations. "We're in our third iteration of our St. Bonaventure cans; the first two were such a hit, we can't wait to see how this one is received."

Each market's Fan Zone receives a unique label, and is periodically updated with additional Super Fans, fan traditions, and popular jerseys, or updated logos and other designs. The label art features game day activities, iconic figures and symbols, landmarks, and Easter eggs relevant to the respective team's culture and spirit. "Each artwork is intended to be highly engaging, packed

"EBC FAN ZONE", Pg. 10

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The HoliMont Men's Day Committee is comprised of committed and passionate group of HoliMont Members. This year, the event will be held on Saturday, February 7th and includes a day of skiing, food, games, drinks, and fun. Prizes and giveaways will be held throughout the event; a good time guaranteed for all. "The food is an event of itself," says Mike. "We have the smoker outside for steak, and Dina's at the Mont puts on a delicious spread of food and deserts."

Men's Day

CONT. FROM COVER

raising a cumulative total of \$100,000. This year, they aim to raise \$40,000.

HoliMont's Men's Day has been a longstanding tradition of camaraderie, fun, food, drinks, games, and skiing. Mike Sims has been involved with the Men's Day program since its inception and reports how the program gains momentum every year. "While Men's Day has been around for several years, but we started raising funds for the Phoenix program just over 5 years ago," says Mike. "We are proud to have raised a cumulative total of \$100,000 for this wonderful program."

The Phoenix Adaptive Program teaches children and adults with special needs to have fun on the ski slopes. With trained instructors and adaptive ski equipment, The Phoenix Program

has helped numerous children and adults of all ages navigate the slopes. "We have people come from far and wide for this program," says Mike. "It's incredible to see what they can do; it's an amazing gift to help families ski together here at HoliMont."

The Phoenix Program began in 1996 when former program director Chuck Richardson was asked to work with a special needs student. Since then, the program has grown to include students of all disabilities, both physical and cognitive. Though the efforts of the Men's Day fundraising, the program was able to purchase a Tetra Ski, the world's first alpine sit-ski, and other adaptive equipment. The Tetra Ski provides independent turning and speed variability using a joystick and/or breath control, with the help of well-trained instructors.

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Mike appreciates the event on many levels, but reports the best part is the camaraderie. "It's almost a reunion of sorts," says Mike. "All the men gather in good spirits for a good cause, making new friends and reconnecting with the old. It's really a great day, and a testament to what HoliMont is all about."

For more information on Men's Day and The Phoenix program visit holimont.com or email info@holimont.com. Tickets are available online for our members and their invited guests, best purchased before the event.



On February 2nd, Ashley will partner with Northwest Arena in Jamestown for the "Love is in the Air" Bridal Show, which will run from 12pm to 4pm and it is free to attend. There will be wedding vendors of all categories. She is pictured here in her shop at located 117 Chautauqua Avenue in Lakewood, NY with a selection of her dresses and with a happy client.

Marquise Bridal Boutique

New Boutique on Chautauqua Avenue in Lakewood, NY

BY DARLENE BRACE

Marquise Bridal Boutique is a one-of-a-kind business in Lakewood, NY. It is owned by Ashley Whippo, and it's at located 117 Chautauqua Avenue. This bridal boutique features a private bridal experience offering a variety of dresses and accessories to ensure that the bride-to-be has everything she wants and needs for her special day.

Ashley has a special flair for bridal shops that began when she was young, as she was influenced by her great aunt, who owned a charming bridal boutique in Bolivar, NY. Growing up around that delightful atmosphere, Ashley loved seeing the happiness on brides' faces when they found their perfect dress. These early experiences gave her the foundation she needed to open her own bridal boutique.

Before starting her bridal boutique, she earned an associate's degree in 2012. She then worked for 13 years in hospitality and healthcare, serving as an office coordinator and medical education liaison for eight years. After working in the medical field, Ashley decided it was

time for a new career path. She chose to pursue her long-held dream of opening her own bridal boutique. In early 2024, she rented a building in Lakewood, and along with her husband, they completed renovations, including new flooring, lighting, painting, and more. Ashley opened Marquise Bridal Boutique in May 2024. The boutique has already become very successful, and she has sold approximately fifty wedding dresses.

When planning your big day and looking for your perfect dress, make a reservation at Marquise Bridal Boutique for a private bridal experience. Then, you will fill out a questionnaire online that provides Ashley insight into what style of dress you may prefer. During the private bridal experience, you can invite up to eight family members and friends to join you. Ashley selects four dresses to start with that she thinks would be of interest to you, according to your questionnaire answers. After you try the gowns on and give her some feedback, she will continue to assist you until you say, "Yes to the dress!"

The gowns in her boutique

are hand-selected and are samples of what she can order for you. There are gowns of various styles and silhouettes including gowns designed by Justin Alexander and Morilee. The gowns are available in sizes 4 to 30 and range in price from \$1200 - \$3000.

Ashley's boutique also offers tuxedos from Generation Tux, which delivers directly to the gentlemen's home two weeks before the wedding. This allows for convenient at-home fittings. After the event, pack the tuxedo in the box and return it via UPS. This simplified process is a game changer compared to other rental venues, which often require multiple trips to the shop right before the big day.

Ashley occasionally hosts small events at her boutique. On January 17th, she organized an event called "Sip and See," in collaboration with local event planner Nina Headen. The Sip and See event was an informal gathering that invited prospective customers to preview her gowns,

SEE "BRIDAL" PG. 11



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Dr. Woloszyn grew up in Poland where he graduated from the Medical University of Gdansk in 2002. He completed his internal medicine residency at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, New York. He has been proudly practicing since 2011 as part of Jamestown Area Medical Associates. Dr. Woloszyn is currently affiliated with Olean General Hospital.

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Chautauqua County Events

By DARLENE BRACE

It's already the end of January and the middle of our winter season. The harshest weather is typically during the next few weeks. If you are still daring to go out and about, here's what's happening in Chautauqua County this weekend.

Thursday, January 30th - Karl and Mark's Revolution will return to the **Good Time Saloon** at 7pm. They play a variety of older rock and easy-listening tunes. You can play pool or Quick Draw while listening to this talented duo.

Friday, January 31st - Nick Leduc will be performing at the River Bar inside the **Seneca Allegheny Casino** starting at 7pm. Nick plays original songs, and he is considered a refined rock artist. Come to the River Bar to check out his unique style of music.

Brazil Lounge in downtown Jamestown is having a special **Happy Hour with Oldfish** starting at 5pm. Come and enjoy Happy Hour with this talented duo as they perform cover music and some originals.

It's Karaoke Night at Shawbucks in downtown Jamestown. DJ Giulia will be playing the tunes starting at 9pm. You can choose your favorite karaoke song to sing to entertain the crowd or just come and enjoy watching the show.

Big Inlet Brewing will be hosting **Campfire Junkie** on their stage. This talented musician plays a mix of covers from many generations of music as well as some original tunes. Bring your family and

friends with you to enjoy some great music.

Movies at the Reg continues at The Reg Lenna Center for the Arts in downtown Jamestown. Get your popcorn and enjoy a sexy drama called **Babygirl** starring **Nicole Kidman**. Kidman portrays a classy CEO of a large company, and she has a tantalizing affair with a much younger intern. The show starts at 7pm, and you can get tickets on reglenna.com.

DJ Ron will be playing the tunes at the **Cooler Bar and Grill** at 8pm. Bring your friends to enjoy your favorite beverage, while requesting some of your favorite turns, and maybe even get out on the dance floor.

Lenny and the Landshark returns to **Buddy Brewsters** in Lakewood at 7pm. Listen to their full band sound as this talented duo plays eclectic sets of music. Enjoy a delicious meal while listening to these talented musicians.

Saturday, February 1st - Big Inlet Brewing is excited to welcome back **Ion Sky(unplugged)** at 5:30pm. They will be playing their acoustic versions of pop, rock, and country music.

Smokin 45 is performing at the **Lakewood American Legion** starting at 8pm. Smoking 45 is popular local band. They play country and rock which is sure to get you moving to the beat and dancing on your feet. This will be a foot-stomping good ole time!

A Strange Kind of Sunshine will be performing at **Shawbucks** in downtown Jamestown

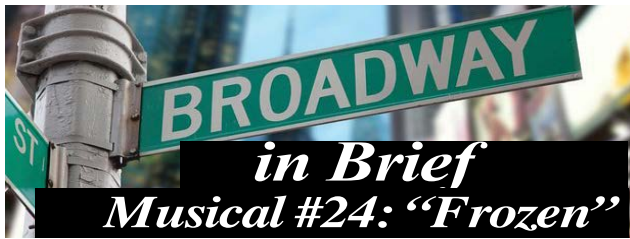
starting at 10pm. They are a rockin' party band that will play some of your old favorite tunes as well as some of today's hits. They will get you moving out of your seat and maybe you will dance the night away.

Southern Tier Brewing Company welcomes **Trevor Stribring** to their stage. Trevor is a singer who performs originals and cover music and will start at 5 pm. Bring your family and friends to hang out while you listen to this incredible musician.

At the **Peak and Peak Resort** in Clymer, **DJ Felix** will be playing the tunes in the **Bistro 210** at 9:30pm on Friday. Then on Saturday night, **Tyler McClain** will entertain the crowd with a mix of genres of music in the **Bistro 210** starting at 9:30pm.

There is a **Winter Festival in Cassadaga** all weekend. As part of this festival, **The Untouchables** will be performing Friday night at the **Cassadaga American Legion Post 1280** on **Maple Street** from 6:30pm-9:30pm. The **Untouchables** play music from the 50s - 80s. On Saturday and Sunday, the festival will include a variety of fun events such as a 5k walk/run, a polar dip, a cornhole tournament, a soup cook-off contest, and much more. For a complete schedule of events, go to **Citizens for a Better Cassadaga** on Facebook.

By the end of the weekend, it will be time to see if the **Groundhog** sees its shadow on Sunday. Check out next week's issue to see what's happening in Chautauqua County.



in Brief

Musical #24: "Frozen"

By BARBARA ARNSTEIN

effect is emphasized by the earlier song, "Dangerous to Dream", which contains lyrics like "It's dangerous to wish/I could make choices of my own." Here are some of the lyrics of "Let It Go": "It's funny how some distance/Makes everything seem small/And the fears that once controlled me/ Can't get to me at all!/It's time to see what I can do/ To test the limits and break through". In the Broadway production, when Elsa belts out the words, "I'm never going back/The past is in the past" a magical special effect instantly transforms her thick, floor-length coat into a gauzy gown, visually showcasing her new self-confidence.

The "Frozen" film won the Oscar for Best Animated Feature, achieving the distinction of becoming the first Disney film to win that award. A sequel, "Frozen 2", was released in 2019 and "Frozen 3" is in the works, scheduled to be released in 2027. There's so much to say about "Frozen" and "Frozen 2" that I'll write about them in my column next week.

"Frozen" opened on Broadway in March 2018 and closed two years later, due to Covid, later branching out into worldwide productions. It takes place in a country that looks a lot like Norway but is called Arendelle. It begins when two young princesses, Elsa and Anna, are playing together and Elsa accidentally zaps her sister with freezing rays that emanate from her hands. Anna recovers soon but their parents freak out, and warn Elsa to always keep her power under wraps.

When Elsa becomes an adult (originally played by the incredible Ciara Renee), their parents are gone, so she's crowned Queen, and on that same day, her sister becomes engaged. Anna and her fiance, Prince Hans, sing the fun, romantic duet, "Love is an Open Door", but right after that, things go wrong. Elsa is so angered by the fact that Anna's planning to marry a man she just met that she reveals her power, is accused of witchcraft and flees the kingdom (or rather, queendom). When Anna goes after her, she meets a man, Kristoff, on the way, who helps her. After Hans betrays her and worse, tries to kill her sister (Anna saves her), she falls in love with Kristoff.

Fun Facts: A cute character, Olaf the snowman, brought to life by Elsa with her powers, is played by someone carrying a large puppet, and Kristoff's animal sidekick, Sven the reindeer, is played by a ballet dancer in a full-body outfit. "Frozen" was originally inspired by a short story, "The Snow Queen", written by Hans Christian Anderson in 1844.



The husband-and-wife songwriting team of Kristen-Anderson Lopez and Robert Lopez.

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By, MOUTH SAY TONGUE

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The snow is falling and the slopes are calling and there's music in the air, so let's see who's playing where.

THURSDAY

We start our weekend on Thursday at Balloons for Burger and Brew Night from 4-10 pm. \$15 gets your choice of any burger and any domestic beer plus house made chips. Trivia starts at 7pm and there's cash prizes for 1st-3rd place.

The Gin Mill's Thursday music is provided by the very talented Chill-billys. They play a rock/pop/country/blues set of covers and originals featuring smooth guitar riffs and sweet vocal harmonies. Try some of the 37 beers that are always on tap.

FRIDAY

Edna's at the Tamarack hosts Kody and Herren from 4-7pm. They play a rock/folk/bluegrass/southern rock set of covers and originals.

The Taqueria is up next with Tim Britt from 6-9pm. Tim plays a rock/country/alt set of covers. Try Evl's only Tex-Mex menu.

Balloons is back with Seismic Urge from 6:30-10pm. They play a rock/pop/dance/country set of covers. The back bar hosts Michael Nowak from 10-1am. He plays a rock/pop/folk/country set of covers. Dj Lyfe will lay down some junk so you can shake your junk on the two dance floors from 10-2am.

We return to The Gin Mill for Dark Horse Run from 8-12am. This band plays a country/blues/southern rock set of covers try the late-night kitchen open till 9pm

Mill St Sports Pub joins the party with Kurt's Back from 8-11pm. This band plays alternative rock from 60's till today. Good pub fare and a great place to watch any sporting event.

Last but not least Madigans hosts Dj Kage from 9-2am providing the thumpin for the bumpin in the window on Washington. Grab a seat by the wood stove to take the chill off.

SATURDAY

The Gin Mill is first up with the return of The Chillbillys from 2-5pm. Barnstorm takes the stage from 8-12am. This band plays old and new country along with some southern rock. If you're a fan of craft cocktails visit the Carriage House Side-bar for some high-end spirits.

The T-Bar, in the main lodge, at The Valley hosts The Sweet Degenerates from 4-7pm. This duo plays country/folk originals and covers. Sip your favorite beverage while you watch the skiers on the slopes.

We're back at Balloons for Dead Alliance from 6:30-10pm. As the name suggests they are a Grateful Dead tribute band. Greg Zeis will perform in the back bar from 10-1sm. Greg plays a rock/folk/country/americana set of covers. Dj Andre lay down the Giant Redhead will lay down the sauce so you can shake it like a boss from 10-2am.

Madigans is a play-er with Dj Persia from 9-2am. He'll provide the juice so you can really cut loose. Check out the dart board or pool tables for some competition.

SUNDAY

The Gin Mill is the early bird with Brian Rick from 2-5pm. Catch a late lunch or early dinner with musical accompaniment.

Villaggio hosts its weekly AYCE Pasta and Prime Rib Special from 5-9pm. Fresh, to order, pasta with the toppings of your choice or succulent prime done the way you like it. This weeks musical host is Garden Party from 5:30-8:30pm. This trio plays yacht rock covers and originals.

MONDAY

Monday is Strings and Wings from 4-10pm. 50 cent wings and a nice selection of craft beers to was em down and music provided by Jim Ronan from 7-9pm. Jim plays a rock/pop/folk/country set of covers.

The Gin Mill's Monday offering is hosted by Red Gray from 7-10pm. Red plays outlaw and classic country and classic and southern rock covers and originals.

The Gin Mill is back with The Hick UPS from 7-10pm. This collection of local musicians from various area bands have been jamming together for over 10 years and plays an eclectic set of Americana style music.

We've been ending our seven-day weekend the same way for the last 40+ years at The Gin Mill for Wing, Wednesday from 7-10pm. The musical host is Brian Rick. Brian plays a rock/pop/ folk, country set of covers. Don't forget those 37 beers on tap.

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

Beat on the Street:

"What's the First Thing You Would Do if You Won the Lottery?"

By CHAD NEAL

A dream scenario many people think about and discuss is matching a handful of numbers on a ticket they bought with the numbers picked at some locale and winning boatloads of money. This dream causes many folks to habitually buy a lotto ticket for every drawing. Scratch off tickets are popular too, though now with the machines they have doling them out you can just scratch the bar code off and check the ticket without even playing it. A lot of places have the game that picks winning numbers every five minutes or so too. The idea is that it is fun, but for the "house" it's about raking in that money, billions of dollars. Where that money goes would take a little investigating, alas it would probably prove nothing. Oh, but that serotonin rush just dreaming about winning that cash is a nice break from reality. What is the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?



Emily A.- Go home and brew myself a cup of tea and load the shot gun... pack a bag and get ready for a lil me time in the woods.



Twan-Buy The Ellicottville Depot.



Rene L.- Ski the next 365 days straight!



Beth N.- Dogs and horses. There would be so many.



Maria P.- Buy a house on a hill and turn it into an animal sanctuary!



Bob P.- Hire someone to put my socks on everyday.

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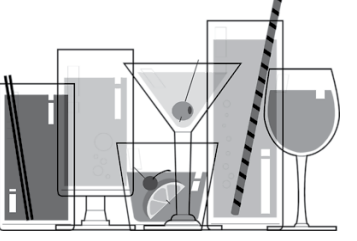
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★★ Sudoku Challenge ★★

This Week's Difficulty Level:
★★★★☆

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

Last Week's Puzzle:

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

Groundhog

CONT. FROM PG. 6

Deeley was handler for sixteen years. Retired, he continues to bring Phil to Ellicottville every March since 1988.

Imagine this: it is post the movie – throngs of people are everywhere; cameras are rolling from news media worldwide. Deeley is designated handler. (Relevant sidenote - Oddly, the group decided to try

pyrotechnics before the main event, which is quite early in the morning, hence, still dark). The inner Circle, attired in tuxedos and top hats, gathers at Phil's "door," does the required three knocks, opens the door (this is where old Phil is ordinarily at the door and can be scooped up) ... there is no Phil. Deeley turns to the Inner Circle – what to do? "Cameras are rolling. Get in there and get him!" So, tuxedo and all, in he crawled and finally grabbed onto Phil who was trying to evade him, frightened

by the noise. All's well that ends well. Deeley brought him out to the adoring throngs and he set about to do what he does best, predicting the weather for the ensuing six weeks. Hope this story bring a smile to your face even if Phil's prediction on February 2 does not. Happy Groundhog Day!

Catch Deeley, Punxsutawney Phil and the whole inner circle again at this year's Mardi Gras Parade in Ellicottville, March 8, 2025.

EBC Fan Zone

CONT. FROM PG. 6

with detail, making it not just a label but a piece of memorabilia. The scenes mimic the energy of a crowded tailgate." E.B.C.'s graphic artist, Sara Corsi Staley says. Sara hand-draws every aspect, in a manner where each character is drawn with exaggerated, yet simplified features that convey personality, emotion, and easily identifiable features, but with minimal detail. It is a group effort at E.B.C., who work together to decide what is included, what is featured, background research, and more, which guides the creative process.



This project is aimed at delivering a unique craft beer experience in support of fans favorite teams, including St. Bonaventure and Canisius. EBC also offers tribute to several other fan bases in the Northeast, including university and professional teams in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan.

EBC is looking forward to collaborating on more Fan Zone projects, especially looking towards March Madness and the fall football season. "We're

thrilled with the response; it's already provided so many more opportunities for partnerships, and we're looking forward to what's next," says Dan. For more information on

Women

CONT. FROM COVER

weekend likeminded females to connect in the camaraderie of skiing. Guests are invited to meet and connect with representatives from Blizzard/Tecnica Women 2 Women Project including Marketing Director and ski enthusiast Leslie Baker Brown.

Kimberly Reading, owner of Mud Sweat Gears, started the event 4 years ago with the intention of gathering women together an empowering them on the slopes. "Our goal is to empower women to not be intimidated on the slopes," says Kim. "We invite women of all ages and abilities to join us in this incredible opportunity."

The event has grown steadily since its inception, gaining momentum every year. "We're honored to bring back Leslie Baker Brown for her fourth consecutive year at this event. She's an inspiration and an absolute icon in the industry with great stories to share."

As a passionate skier and driven individual, Leslie has carved out her role as a female leader with Blizzard/Tecnica. She championed the most progressive women's program in the industry and launched the Women 2 Women project. "W2W is a global initiative to design authentic women's products that will take passionate skiers, regardless of ability, to new levels of confidence, excitement and freedom. Leslie is an inspiration and her energy is captivating," says Kim.

Leslie has also developed nationwide scholarship programs through the Women to Women's project, awarding scholarship funds to support women pursuing their passions. "This program is a wonderful support for women looking to further their education in any field that is of interest of them. Leslie broke through the

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glass ceiling for women in the ski equipment industry, and she's looking to empower other women to do the same."

The event kicks off Thursday, February 20, with an evening at Mud, Sweat n' Gears with Leslie Baker Brown from 6-8pm. Guests are invited to indulge in wine and cheese while they get their ski's waxed, mingle, and learn about the new Black Pearl Series Women's Ski. Leslie will do a deep dive talk about this best-selling women's ski, and talk about the recent improvements. "Black Pearl Skis have been our best-selling skis at MSG for several years. With the recent upgrades, they're a game-changer. Come meet the better Black Pearl," says Kim.

Friday, February 21, will be a full day of skiing and product demonstrations with Blizzard/ Tecnica Demo Day at HoliMont. This provides registrants the unique opportunity to try the award-winning collection of women's skis from Blizzard/Tecnica and ski with Leslie Baker Brown and local Blizzard women ambassadors. "It's an incredible opportunity to ski with Leslie and ask her questions about the products. We encourage women to trial as many skis and products as they'd like as they ski throughout the day. It's a great opportunity to try the brand, find a good fit, and learn more about the equipment," says Kim.

Lunch will be provided by Dina's at the Mont, and a raffle will be held mid-afternoon with prizes donated by women owned businesses in the industry. Guests are also welcome to gather for après ski mingling at the lodge.

After a full day of skiing, attendees are invited to meet at The Banq for happy hour around 4:30. "We always have such a wonderful day, it's hard to say goodbye! We invite all the women to continue the conversations and camaraderie. It's sure to be a good evening after a great day on the slopes."

Kim invites women of all ages and skill level to join in this inspirational event. "We aim to help educate about women's products to gain confidence on the slopes, inspire their passion and create friendships on and off the slopes. It's great to see familiar faces, and we welcome new friends. It's a catalyst of likeminded women and the energy at this event is truly something special. Skiing is more than just a sport; for many it's way of life, especially here in Ellicottville. This event is a more than just skiing, it's a bonding experience."

For more information visit their Facebook Page, purchase tickets on Event Brite or call the store at (716) 699-8300. Event limited to 50 women.

Bridal

CONT. FROM PG. 7

for a prize giveaway. There will be wedding vendors of all categories. Music and lighting will be provided by Synergy Entertainment. Mimosas will be available, along with a cash bar. The highlight of the afternoon will be Ashley's Marquise Bridal Fashion Show at 2pm, featuring a stunning collection of twenty gowns and six tuxedos. Additionally, Ashley will be giving away a veil and a free tuxedo rental.

Johnna Conti, a local soon-to-be bride bought her wedding gown at Marquise Bridal Boutique. When talking about her experience there, Johnna said "If you're looking for a stunning bridal

dress at a beautiful local boutique, then you must go to Marquise Bridal in Lakewood, NY. Ashley will make your experience enjoyable. I am so happy that I bought my dress at Marquise Bridal."

So, when planning for your big day, why drive to Erie or Buffalo when there's a lovely bridal boutique in Chautauqua County? Marquise Bridal offers an amazing selection of gowns, tuxedos, and accessories to make your bridal dreams come true, with personalized service to assist you along the way. Visit Marquise Bridal Boutique in Lakewood, and let Ashley make your special day unforgettable.

helping them decide if they wanted to schedule a private bridal experience. Guests were offered complimentary beverages and could enjoy samples from a charcuterie board provided by Mable Roads in Lakewood.

On February 2nd, Ashley will partner with Northwest Arena in Jamestown for the "Love is in the Air" Bridal Show, which will run from 12pm to 4pm. It is free to attend, but registration is required to be eligible

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Remembering Jack Quavis, '63 - '25

Former Ellicottville Marketer and Ambassador of Fun



Quavis got some great ideas about trying to give the world a glimpse into EVL by taking pictures and sharing them on his website, EVL Rocks. Quavis is pictured with the author, Chad Neal, at the Ellicottville Championship Rodeo.

By CHAD NEAL

Quavis. This is a name only one person had. A pseudonym that was catchy for a man that Ellicottville loves and is now mourning the loss of. Peter Tribus was Jack Quavis, an iconic young man that came to Ellicottville and started a whole new way to market this Bubble of Awesomeness. Quavis recently lost a bout with cancer, but not before he made a million friends and left a mark on this earth and especially in Ellicottville with his trademark red hair and yellow lensed glasses. He was the founder of EVLRocks and EVL TV, both digital enterprises he created to showcase the happenings in and around Ellicottville, Holiday Valley and Holimont. It proved to be really popular and fun.

I first met Quavis a few years ago before he came to Ellicottville, when he was Pete the Barber on Route 5 in Hamburg. He was a mentor to our local barber Jonny Barber (Barlow). Quavis got some great ideas about trying to give the world

a glimpse into EVL by taking pictures and sharing them on his website. He took thousands of photos at the resorts and in the bars and restaurants downtown, much like the late Hank Dubey did for his collage in the old local paper Special E*ffects. Many of the photos and videos Quavis took went viral and were shared all over the world. His gig was just going out and being social and taking pictures of anyone and everyone that cared to be documented. His website EVLRocks was pretty popular for a quite some time during through the 2010s. He also started EVL TV which spotlighted some locals who talked about the news of the week in Ellicottville and the entertainment that was coming up as well.

Since then, he decided he needed to do other things in life he had dreamed of and he went to Florida and started up Captain Jack Charters and did the boat thing in the warmer climate catering to folks who wanted to fish and/or take a nice ride with him in the coastal waters and waterways. His deep voice and sense of humor helped with all of his endeavors

on this plane of existence. Quavis helped Ellicottville in many ways, by his promotional ideas and him just being his extroverted self. And you can still see his stuff on the Facebook page EVLRocks as well. Jack Quavis will be remembered and talked about for years to come everywhere he made camp. If you had the chance of meeting and knowing Quavis, you parted with a smile on your face.

His last visit to the area was solemn in that he knew it was the last time he'd be here. He left a lasting impression then as he did before and probably is making that Barber Shop in the sky a really great spot to hang out and exchange energies. His energy was gigantic when he was a barber, a photog, a tv show producer and a Boat Captain and any other enterprise he decides to try. Pete the Barber/Captain Jack Quavis will be missed by so many people. I am glad to have been his friend and a reporter for EVL TV. And another funny thing he left us with is the meaning of the name Quavis, it can't be printed here, but ask around if you really want to know. Rest in Paradise you ambassador of fun!

Winter

STORY FROM COVER

By DARLENE BRACE

If you are looking for something fun to do this weekend, you could join the Cassadaga community for the annual Cassadaga Winter Festival. This festival will take place January 31-February 2, 2025 at various locations in Cassadaga. Originally, this celebration began as Winter Weekend over 40 years ago, and after years of a hiatus, it was reinstated as the Winter Festival in 2017. Now this annual festival is hosted by a nonprofit organization called Citizens for a Better Cassadaga. This organization collaborates with residents, other organizations, and businesses to organize events like the Winter Festival that promote community engagement. They also plan other events like the summer concerts, the Labor Day Festival, and more.

To kick off this year's Winter Festival celebration, The Untouchables will perform Friday night at the American Legion Post 1280, located at 228 Maple Avenue in Cassadaga. They will perform from 6:30-9:30pm. This energetic band plays tunes from the 50s to the 80s. Make sure you wear your dancing shoes so that you can dance the night away. Food will be provided by Dupers and pizza from the legion will also be available.

The festival really gets in full swing on Saturday. At 8am, gather your family and friends for a 5K-50K walk/run around Cassadaga Lake. Participants can choose their distance and whether they want to walk or run. Registration is at 7am at the Fire Hall, or you can register online at coachmarkwilson.com. All the proceeds from the walk/run will go to the Chautauqua County Fire Police.

The American Legion Post 1280 will also be the location for a vendor show from 10am-3pm. There will be craft vendors with specialty items as well as other vendors selling a variety of merchandise. A light lunch will be available.

At 12pm, head on over to the beach as the community is invited to participate



On Sunday, February 2 among the other activities, the community is invited to go sledding from 1-3pm at the Cassadaga Country Club. Then to culminate the Winter Festival, you can take part in a tour of the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park at 3pm. Enjoy the outdoors while going cross-country skiing and/or snowshoeing while on the tour. If you are interested, meet at the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park on Route 60 at 2:50pm. Parking is limited, so carpool if you can.

in the Fun at the Beach activities. There will be fire pits, s'mores, tetherball, street hockey, and an ice carving demonstration. To help warm you up, enjoy hot chocolate and chili provided by Park Church.

The exhilarating Ice Scream Polar Dip will take place at 1pm and will feature people who are brave enough to go for a plunge into the freezing lake. There is a \$20 entry fee, and you will be awarded a T-shirt for being daring enough to participate. You can register that day or at coachmarkwilson.com. Please note that this year's polar dip will be a tribute to Dennis Collins. Dennis was very involved in the Cassadaga community, and he recently passed away. So even if you are not going to take the chilly dip in the lake, come and cheer on those who are and pay tribute to Dennis.

By now you might need to warm up a bit, so you might want to go to the Cassadaga Library where Tanya and Her Goats will be from 2pm-4pm. You and your family can interact with live goats for a fun and informative experience. While there, you may also enjoy story and craft time.

Park Church, located at 25 Maple Avenue, will have a Souper-Bowl contest from 5pm-7pm. This is a soup cook-off contest. If you want to enter your soup into the contest, call 716-962-2265. It's free to enjoy the

soups being served with bread and salad.

On Sunday, there will be a corn hole tournament at the American Legion 1280 at 1pm. This is a fundraiser for the Cassadaga Valley Youth Sports Leagues. Registration begins at noon and the tournament starts at 1pm. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. A soup/chili dinner will be available, as well as a 50/50 raffle and a Chinese auction.

The community is invited to go sledding from 1-3pm at the Cassadaga Country Club. Then to culminate the Winter Festival, you can take part in a tour of the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park at 3pm. Enjoy the outdoors while going cross-country skiing and/or snowshoeing while on the tour. If you are interested, meet at the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park on Route 60 at 2:50pm. Parking is limited, so carpool if you can.

You should bring your family and friends and join in the fun at the Cassadaga Winter Festival. It will be a great community event with a wide variety of activities for people of all ages. Make sure you dress appropriately for the weather since most of the activities will be outdoors. For updated information, you can go to www.cassadaganewyork.org or visit Citizens for Better Cassadaga on Facebook.

Obituary ~ Helen Seman Lowry ~

February 22, 1927 - January 22, 2025



and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Helen loved to travel with favorite trips to Ireland, Japan and to the Holy Land. Her recent trip to visit family in Pennsylvania for her sister Martha's 100th birthday was a cherished memory.

During her career, Helen worked primarily in food services throughout the East Coast and South. She was especially proud of her work at the University of Pennsylvania. A trained dancer, Helen also worked as a dance instructor at Arthur Murray Dance Studios.

Helen and her (previously deceased) husband, William "Bill" Lowry, met in Ellicottville, NY and relocated to Georgia where they owned and operated The Sign Shop. They built a log home on 16 acres of land. Helen and Bill enjoyed hosting their friends and family, tending to their fruitful garden and their pets loved to roam the land. Helen lived in that home until her death.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents John M. Seman and Anna Husovsky Seman, along

with her husband, Bill Lowry, siblings, Dorothy Ruscak and Donald Seman, stepdaughter, Sheila Lowry Burrell and Diane Lowry, wife of George. She is survived by two sisters, Martha Mazerov and Mildred Faith. She was stepmother to Bill's six children Melissa Thatch, Sheila (John) Burrell, Marya (Bob Walsh) Lowry, Wil (Lois) Lowry, George (Tracy) Lowry and Joe (Connie) Lowry. She had 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews. Helen will be missed by her friends and family.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Anna's Catholic Church in Monroe, GA on Friday, January 31 at 11:00. A reception will follow at the church.

Family celebrations of life will be held in Pittsburgh, PA and Ellicottville, NY at a later date.

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Helen Seman Lowry, please go to <https://trees.sympathy.shop/> to visit their Sympathy Store.

Views from Ellicottville: **The Bills Make Us Want to Shout!**

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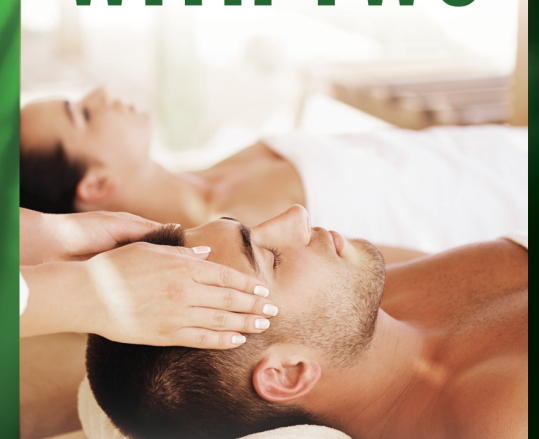


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