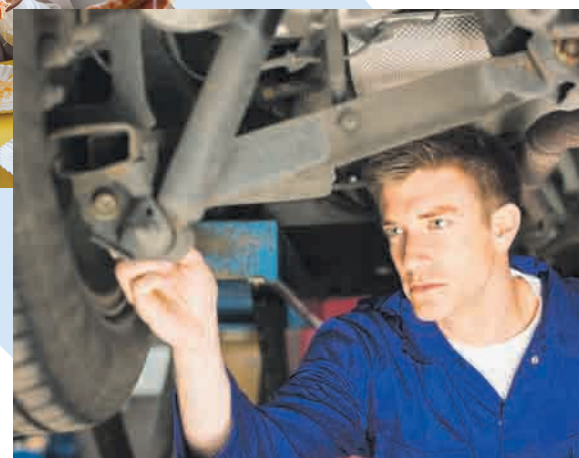


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Spirit drives Hero Fund

2020 was an unprecedented year, and for Hero Fund America, the COVID-19 outbreak made it necessary to cancel its signature event, the Run 4 The Hills for First Responders, as well as sister event, the Hero Fund America Tour for First Responders.

The Board of Directors of HFA learned quickly to never underestimate the power of the human spirit.

While the difficult decision was made to cancel the 2020 race, thanks to the generosity and support of participants and followers, Hero Fund America, with the guidance of the Community Foundation, stewards of its Endowment Fund for awards, they were able to hand out 18 emergency grants, totaling \$18,000 to fire and EMS agencies in the Central and Upstate regions of New York.

With an abundance of caution and planning, the 2021 Run 4 The Hills for First Responders has been scheduled for October 2, with details to be announced.

The event will look much different this year, and planning is in sync with the latest national health and safety information.

In addition, there will be a virtual participation option that offers the flexibility of participating remotely.

Stay tuned for more details here, on social media and their website, www.HeroFundAmerica.org.

Applications for Hero Fund America's 2021 grant rounds are now available and open to any fire, EMS or law enforcement agency in the United States seeking funds to support education, training or equipment needs.

The grant intake form is available at <https://www.foundationhoc.org/hero>. The deadline to apply is June 18.

All grant applications are reviewed and administered by The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, in Utica, New York.



Now more than ever Hero Fund America pledges to continue its unwavering commitment to first responders.

"We live in unprecedented times, and the need for the latest in education, training, and life-saving equipment could not be more necessary for those on the front line of emergency response. Without you, we could not do what we do. We truly are stronger, together," said President Garth Roberts.

To learn more about Hero Fund America, how to get involved, donate or participate, visit them at www.herofundamerica.org, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Additional questions? Contact HFA President Garth Roberts at Garth@HeroFundAmerica.org. For questions about the 2021 Run 4 The Hills for First Responders, or the Duty Gear Challenge, contact HFA Vice President Patty Johnstone at (518) 231-1751 or Patty@HeroFundAmerica.org. Photo by Sidewinder Photography.

Mission: Hero Fund America shall conduct activities that increase awareness, advocacy and support for Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement Agencies in order to further the education, training and life-saving equipment needs for First Responders.



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Learn more about Hero Fund America at: herofundamerica.org or visit Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
Contact Patty Johnstone at patty@herofundamerica.org or (518) 231-1751 with questions about the Duty Gear Challenge

Shelter looks forward to a new year

The Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley in Howes Cave first opened its doors in 1974 and cares for both dogs and cats looking to be adopted into their forever homes.

Staff stepped up in 2020 to adopt out even more pets while implementing safe COVID-19 measures.

In 2021, staff and board members are looking forward to come up with new ways to connect with the community through fundraising and as volunteers and they thank everyone for their continued support of the Shelter.

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Gobblers Knob Family Fun Park on Route 145, East Cobleskill is now celebrating 19 years of business, providing fun for the entire family. Come visit them and enjoy a lighted 18 hole miniature golf course and 12 station lighted driving range. They also have a Clubhouse with a snack bar and ice cream parlor and a pavilion for parties and corporate events. Rubbin' Butts Barbecue Truck is now at Gobblers Knob.

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Times-Journal:

All the news you need

Literacy Volunteers adapt to the times

Faced with a detour because of the pandemic, Literacy Volunteers just shifted gears and continued their good work.

The program—the full name is Literacy New York—Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie Counties—teaches adults reading, writing and math. Instruction is free.

Like most schools and education agencies, Literacy New York was challenged when the state locked down because of COVID-19 last March.

But also like schools, Literacy New York went to remote teaching, with volunteer tutors and stu-

dents linking up weekly via computers.

"It was difficult at first and not ideal, but our tutors and students managed well," said Literacy Executive Director Lisa Cardilli.

The remote sessions lasted till July 1, when pandemic numbers dropped. Tutors and students went back to their usual practice of meeting at a neutral setting.

COVID numbers climbed again in the fall, and instruction went back to distance learning in November.

"We're planning to stay at distance until June 30, but if vaccines

increase, that date could be pulled back," said Ms. Cardilli.

"We hope to go back to who we are and put distance in the past."

But even with distance learning, Literacy's been a success. Many students have landed jobs, moved up to better jobs, earned their high school equivalency diploma and gone to college.

A very few students are learning English as a second language, instruction that Literacy offers.

"Whether it's in-person or remote, Literacy has an excellent track record of improving people's

lives," said Jim Poole, president of the board of directors.

"Lisa's done a great job of continuing the program through distance learning."

Ms. Cardilli has a staff of two. Linda Dearwester is the program coordinator in Fulton and Montgomery counties, and Ann Avery-Jones is an instructor in Fulton County.

The staff and volunteer tutors are working with about 80 students in the three counties, and more students are welcomed.

Potential students should call Ms. Cardilli who's based in Cobleskill, at 518-234-2576 for an in-person intake interview.

An in-person assessment follows, and that includes testing in reading and math so that the student can be placed with a tutor.

Students should have access to a computer and reliable internet, though not all do. For those without, tutors or Literacy staff will meet in person.

"We have some tutors who insist on meeting their students in per-

son," Ms. Cardilli said. "But right now, we prefer distance for everybody's safety."

Students and tutors usually meet once a week; a student's goal may take a year.

Materials are free, as well as instruction.

• • •

The SCRABBLE tournament, Literacy Volunteers' popular fundraiser, is looking to return this fall.

Literacy held the tournament each March for more than a dozen years, but the 2020 tournament was cancelled because of COVID-19.

The traditional March date wasn't possible this year, either, but Ms. Cardilli hopes a date in the fall will work.

"We want to bring back SCRABBLE, but we want to be safe, too," she said.

"It's important to us as a fundraiser, but it's also important to the SCRABBLE teams that play and have fun. Many return every year."

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ONLINE Services available



Terrace Mountain Auto Repair, located at 209 Terrace Mountain Road in Schoharie. The business was formed 25 years ago. The shop offers all aspects of auto repair, diagnostics and NYS inspections.

Terrace Mountain Auto Repair started new hours in 2020: Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm and Saturday-Sunday, 9am-3pm. In 2021 the shop looks to keep the same consistent high quality service they have always given.

Clayton Scutt, Jr., head mechanic and Teresa Scutt, owner, pose for a photo.



Middleburgh Pharmacy & Medical Supplies, located at 119 Market Street in Middleburgh, offers Medterra CBD, full prescription drug service, pet meds, medical supplies and 99 cent greeting cards. The business was formed in 2017 and grown from five to eight employees. The pharmacy added Janet, Linda, Emily, Deb and Julia to the team. The pharmacy has now grown to a patient population approaching 3,000, filling prescriptions for them.

In 2021 the pharmacy is looking to help people with its new line of clinical strength CBD products from Medterra. These are stronger than the original product line and will help those who have tried CBD in the past without success.

"Thank you to all who have put your trust and faith in us to take care of you. The difference in Middleburgh Pharmacy is we take the time to safely fill prescriptions and minimize errors.

"This sets us apart from chain-store factory pharmacies. All of our patients have access to safe and personalized care at Middleburgh Pharmacy," said Peter Camporese III, pharmacist in charge/owner.



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Pangman Outdoor Power will be moving from Barnerville Road to East Main Street, Cobleskill, in the former Rubbin' Butts building across from the Bank of Richmondville. Pangman Outdoor Power offers sales and full-service repairs on a variety of outdoor equipment. Owners Shawn Pangman and his father, Brian expect to be in the new location in March. "Dad and I want to thank all of our customers for their con-



fidence in us and the equipment we sell and repair," said Mr. Pangman. "We are really excited to move to and open our new location."

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Cobleskill Partnership Inc. and You

Please consider joining or renewing your CPI membership.

The prospects for 2021 are uncertain, but CPI's board of directors will continue its assistance to Cobleskill businesses through promotions and by working together cohesively.

Be safe,

The Board of Directors at Cobleskill Partnership Inc. (CPI)

Annual Membership Categories: *Membership runs from January 1 to December 31, 2021*

☐ \$75 Business ☐ \$25 Not-for-profit ☐ \$25 Individual/Family

One-time donation (tax deductible): _____

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Contact Name _____

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Legal experts

The Law Office of Michael J. Shultes PLLC in Cobleskill is ready to serve you with Mr. Shultes and Christine Smith, a legal assistant to the firm. The business is a general practice including estates and wills, real estate, criminal law, family law, DWI cases, vehicle and traffic violations and more.

Ms. Smith offers 'Mycase,' a portal for clients to communicate with Mr. Shultes and staff.



Your Way Café, Darcy Gray's warm and friendly Main Street diner in Schoharie, has offered home-style cooking, desserts and catering with roast beef and turkey cooked on the premises since March 2015.

"Thanks to everyone for their support during these difficult times. Please consider Your Way Café for your catering needs," said Ms. Gray.

From left: Debbie Diamond, cook and Darcy Gray, owner.

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Our Vision is to support the 50 Plus Community to inspire friendships, social engagement, and to stimulate active living.

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- Operating our two "Everything Shoppes" in Cobleskill and Middleburgh
 - Operator for Public Transportation
- Medical Alert Program – offering an emergency response service to eligible seniors
- Discretionary Funding – emergency funds to assist eligible seniors in an emergency situation
 - Advocacy Services for our 50 Plus Community members
 - Partner with our 11 Senior Citizen Clubs in the county
 - Sponsors special events geared toward the 50 Plus Community
 - Employer of bus drivers and Medicaid Drivers for Public Transportation
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AJ Fletcher opened his Fletcher’s Tree Service in 2020, offering land clearing, tree removal, and forest services. In 2021, he plans to add tree planting and fertilization. “We’d like to thank all of our customers for their support in our first year,” Mr. Fletcher said. “We’re excited to continue serving Schoharie County as we expand and grow.”



The staff at the Apple Barrel in Schoharie is ready to serve you. Front row from left: Jubilee Schmid, with Sydney, a Chocolate Labrador, Annette Andrew, Joshua Loden and Heather MacGregor. Back row from left: Annie Poquette, Sheyenne Wales, Stefanie Nesbitt, Sue Loden, Tia Carter and Leanne Baker. See story on facing page.

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Creative: Apple Barrel makes the most of 2020

Like many, The Apple Barrel in Schoharie experienced the unprecedented challenges, difficulties, and stresses of 2020.

We did what many had to do this year, adapt, change, reflect and grow. While not always easy they took stock of what was important and found the silver linings and the opportunities only 2020 could provide.

"While plans had already been set to undergo major remodels and redesigns, the shut down in the spring afforded the opportunity to undergo a complete remodel of the ground floor; redesigning and floor plan, checkout area and opening the rooms to allow more traffic. The shutdown also allowed time to rebuild the website and introduce e-commerce to the business; focusing on a curated assortment of products that exemplify Apple Barrel.

"We had to pivot the café's business model dramatically. A multitude of these changes will become a permanent part of our business model. For a decade our holidays' buffet and German buffets have been our most popular events in the café, selling out weeks in advance and attracting hundreds of patrons at each event. With the pandemic making it impossible to execute those normally, we moved the events into our wildly popular meal kits. Featuring everything on the buffet

in a pickup box that patrons can enjoy at their leisure in the comfort of their home. Another offering we started was our family dinner-to-go trays, which have been the perfect hit and solution to all of our customer's family dinner needs.

"On top of the remodels to the store we installed a new point of sale system that is an essential part to our future expansions, tracking systems, new rewards and loyalty programs. We continue to be the area's exclusive purveyor of Magnolia Home, Larissa Loden Jewelry, Oprah's favorites and many other sought-

after brands and items.

"While this year hasn't been what any of us expected, it has been a year of silver linings. It has led us to undergo some of our goals and projects at an accelerated timeline and helped pave the way for some of our more ambitious goals and plans. But none of this could have been possible without our wonderful community, customers, friends and family that have helped us get through this year. Like most of you, we're looking forward to a new year, with new opportunities and new promises. We look forward to seeing you in 2021."

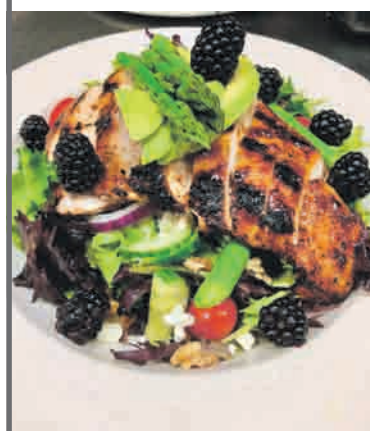


Peggi Flemming and her friend, Chloe, are ready to greet customers at Peggi's Measure for Measure at 121 Lincoln Avenue, Cobleskill. The hair salon offers perms, colors, highlights, lowlights, cuts and more for men, women and children. This June, Peggi's Measure for Measure will celebrate 37 years in business.

"I thank all my loyal customers over the years and look to continue for many years to come," Ms. Flemming said.



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“This company is all about people and communities; with agents on our team that volunteer with fire departments, booster clubs, area events, business associations and the Chamber of Commerce; building on my dad’s legacy. He proudly served as mayor, then town justice, and volunteered with the Rotary, and Knights of Columbus-just to name a few. That’s a tradition we are proud to continue.”

Now, more than ever, it’s important for real estate companies to keep a competitive edge for clients.

Century 21 has adapted through virtual tours, online resources and contactless transactions.

“It’s been a challenging year, but we’ve risen to the challenge. We have more buyers than property available which is a testament to our area and our team,” Mr. Nunamann said.

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Century 21 maintains two fully automated offices and full-time staff of well-trained real estate professionals.

With offices in Schoharie and Duanesburg, they draw from a diverse client base. Many residents commute to or from the Capital District for employment but prefer the relaxed lifestyle offered here.

Whether you’re thinking of buying, selling or just have real estate questions call or stop by one of the office locations or visit their website, www.Century21RuralEstates.com; Schoharie, (5 1 8) 2 9 5 - 8 5 4 7 ; Duanesburg, (518)895-2902.



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Marathon's mission is to help patients

There are few organizations that can have such a dramatic impact on someone stricken with cancer in Schoharie County as the Marathon for a Better Life.

The Marathon's mission is and will always be to serve and support Schoharie County residents who have been hit with cancer.

This year marks the Marathon's 25th year anniversary and to mark that milestone, special anniversary-driven events will be held throughout the year.

The Marathon thanks everyone who contributed and/or volunteered over the last quarter-century to make the organization a success for so many who needed its assistance.

2020 was a tough year for the Marathon for a Better Life as their main money-raising activity was altered – but it persevered.

Rather than the usual cancer walk, volunteers held a COVID-19 compliant drive-thru-for-cancer event and thanks all who participated.

The prospects for 2021 are again uncertain for the annual cancer walk.

Marathon hopes to be able to hold the event, but if not, the board's ingenuity will again kick into high gear and promises to come up with an event and venue that will maximize its fundraising.

The board also must recognize Dean Nunneman, the Exalter Leader for the Cobleskill Elks Club, who he has selected the Marathon for a Better Life as their fundraising companion for 2021. As of this writing, Mr. Nunneman and the Eagles members have contributed over \$11,000 to the Marathon.

"Dale's selection of the Marathon for a Better Life is truly a blessing to us as an organization, but more importantly a blessing to those we strive to help day in and day out....those stricken with cancer," said Kathy Diamond, president.

To make a contribution to the Marathon for a Better Life, send a check to Marathon for a Better Life, PO Box 269, Warnerville, NY 12187 or by credit card online at <https://marathonforabetterlife.org/makeadonation.html>.

Their phone number for help is (518)281-9238.

Also check out their Facebook and Instagram pages.



2020 was another banner year for The Sandra Poole Team of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services.

"2020 was a crazy year in real estate, too," Ms. Poole said. "Inventory of homes to sell was low, about 16 percent less than the year before. Low interest rates and the ability to work from home brought many new buyers into the market. And they were coming from all over: Local Capital District and Downstate. At year end, the average price was up 25 percent over 2019. We expect that 2021 will be the same."

Ms. Poole, at left, stands with other agents on the team, Rebecca Cross-Zarski and Andy Steiner. To reach one of the teammates: Ms. Poole, 518-231-5601; Ms. Cross-Zarski, 518-231-6616; and Mr. Steiner, 585-269-8622.

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The George Landis Arboretum in Esperance is one of Schoharie County's best-loved outdoor wonders. It features miles of hiking trails through labeled plant collections and old growth forests. A year-round calendar of events includes plant identification classes, guided tours, workshops, plant sales, concerts, and more.

In 2020, Landis saw its meditation-themed garden grow with the addition of a bridge over the pond, a waterfall, more hardscape, and more than 35 birch trees planted.

The Emergency Shelter was completed with new bathrooms and a huge patio was completed below the Meeting House as an Eagle Scout project in collaboration with SUNY Cobleskill staff and students. The trails were also improved so visitors could socially-distance.

In 2021, the Arboretum plans to improve the trails along the Native Plant Trail with the

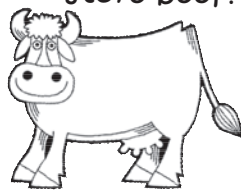
addition of wooden planks in wet areas and rebuild the musical bridge. They will also be recreating the Bog Garden and will continue to plant and develop the Meditation Garden as well as landscaping along the new Emergency Shelter. "Nothing would have been possible without the generous support of our Landis community—the members, friends, and volunteers who give their time and financial support," said the Arboretum's Fred Breglia. "Despite the unprecedented circumstances, we continued to grow."

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Grand Gorge Apartments are for seniors who are looking for an affordable alternative to financially managing their own home or looking for the convenience of an easier lifestyle offered in a secure environment.



At Firemark Insurance, Raymond Gillis and Mary Ann Jones, above, are ready to meet the challenge.

In 2020, Firemark completed the purchase of its building and then began remodeling both the exterior and the interior. They also revamped their website and social media presence, Mr. Gillis said, and expanded their territory to encompass all of New York State.

"We wish to thank our clients for their understanding and patience through this past challenging year," Mr. Gillis said.

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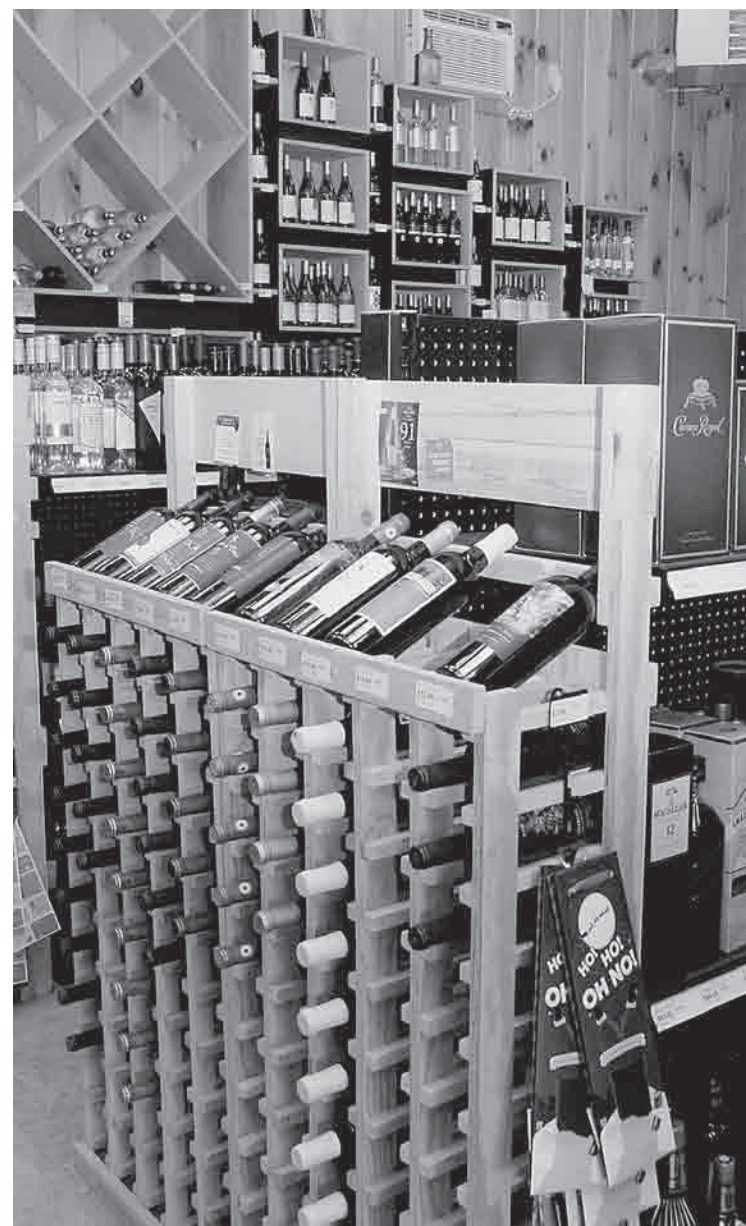
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Upstate Cycle & Powder works is a full-service motorcycle, ATV/UTV and snowmobile shop now conveniently located at the same spot as JT's Cycle on Elm Street in Cobleskill.

Owner Brady Schuyler is celebrating his third year of business, and looks forward to continuing to serve local power sports enthusiasts.

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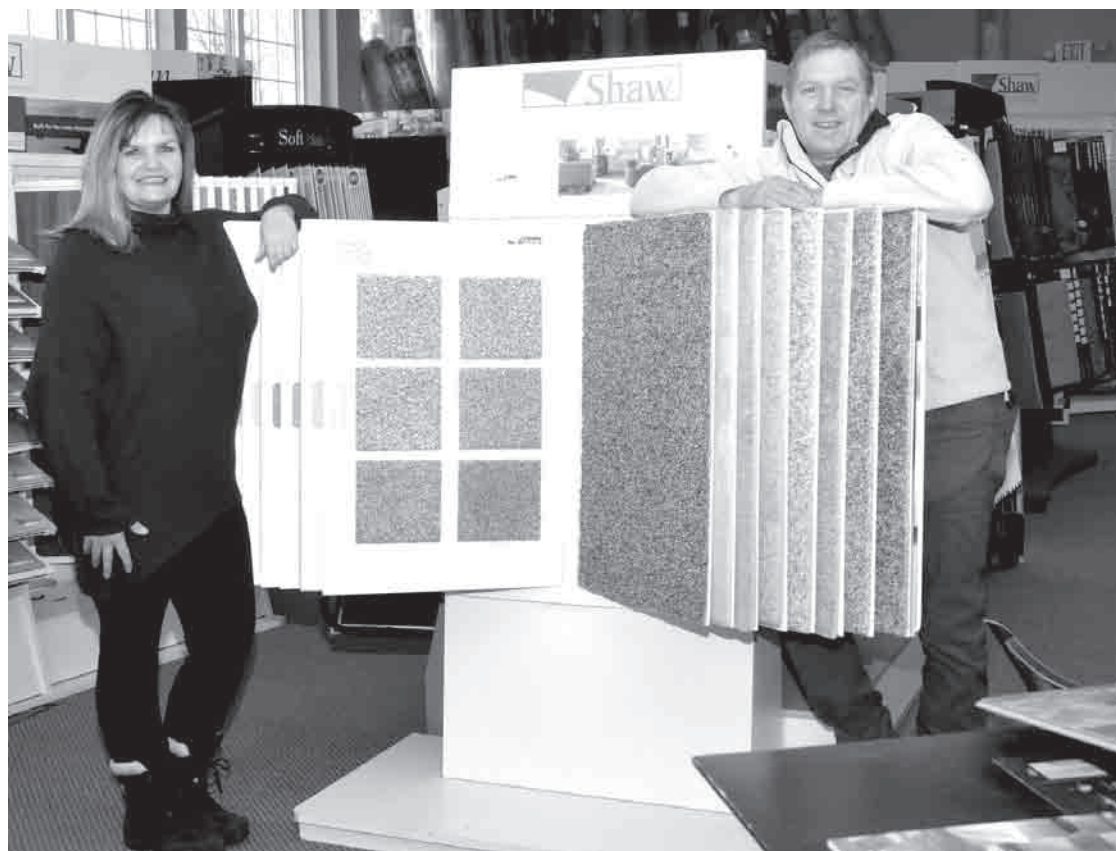


2020 was hard on many, but Jessica Goblet-Beretz's Farmhouse Floral Design in Middleburgh is still here, bringing smiles to everyone's face with beautiful blooms and unique arrangements.

"When the year started, we were mapping out some of our largest weddings and events. When we had to shut down in March, we were uncertain what the year would look like," Ms. Goblet-Beretz said. The local flower farmers the shop works with had already started their seedings—many grown specifically for summer and fall weddings.

"Then the cancellations happened and nearly all of our booked weddings were cancelled or postponed," she said, "so we used our downtime to revamp and improve the shop and plan for 2021. And Mother's Day was our busiest ever."

Showcasing the resiliency of Schoharie County, Ms. Goblet-Beretz said many people sent neighbors and friends arrangements "just because." "Every delivery was met with a smile," she said. "We thank everyone for their support and look forward to a better 2021."



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"We service clients throughout New York State and continue to diversify our services to meet their needs."

In addition to land surveying, services include providing expert testimony, the sale of construction-related products, and services for state, development and private development projects.

Above, from the left: Jim Sweeney, Caleb Grippen, Ms. Crum, Ken Hellijas and Jill Thompson.



Joanne Darcy Crum, LS, Esq, attorney at law, offers full-service law at 479 West Main Street in Cobleskill.

Ms. Crum provides services to clients throughout New York State.

While specializing in property disputes, real estate, title, municipal, land use, wills and power of attorney and probate, Ms. Crum also offers general counsel legal services. Contact her at (518)234-4650.




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2020 was a truly historic year for the Mereness-Putnam Funeral Home, the community and the world as Janet and Richard Putnam and staff worked to negotiate the challenges of COVID-19, professionally and personally.

"When new state regulations and safety requirements mandated the traditional services and settings families are accustomed to needed to adapt, we sought out creative solutions to ensure compassion and empathy remained at the forefront of what we do when assisting families in their time of need," Ms. Putnam said.

Through technology and a variety of apps, family and friends have been able to come together to grieve while remaining socially-distanced.

"Though it certainly does not replace the solace one finds in the warm embrace of hugs or a hand of the shoulder, we saw and felt firsthand the creative ways our community



reached out to provide their sympathies and strength while working to keep one another safe," Mr. Putnam added.

While Mereness-Putnam transitioned its merchandise to an online platform before COVID, the pandemic has required them to come up with new ways to share the information; the team has also remained on-hand and available to assist with the decision process when desired.

"As always, it is truly our honor to serve every family in their time of need," Ms. Putnam said. "We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the families we've served this past year as well as to those who visited to share their sympathies when they were needed most.

"Your patience, adaptability, and effort to remain compliant with COVID-19 mandates ensure Mereness-Putnam can and will continue to offer our services to our community."



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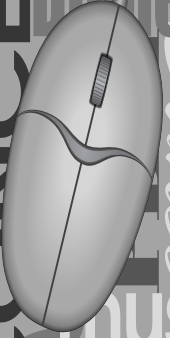
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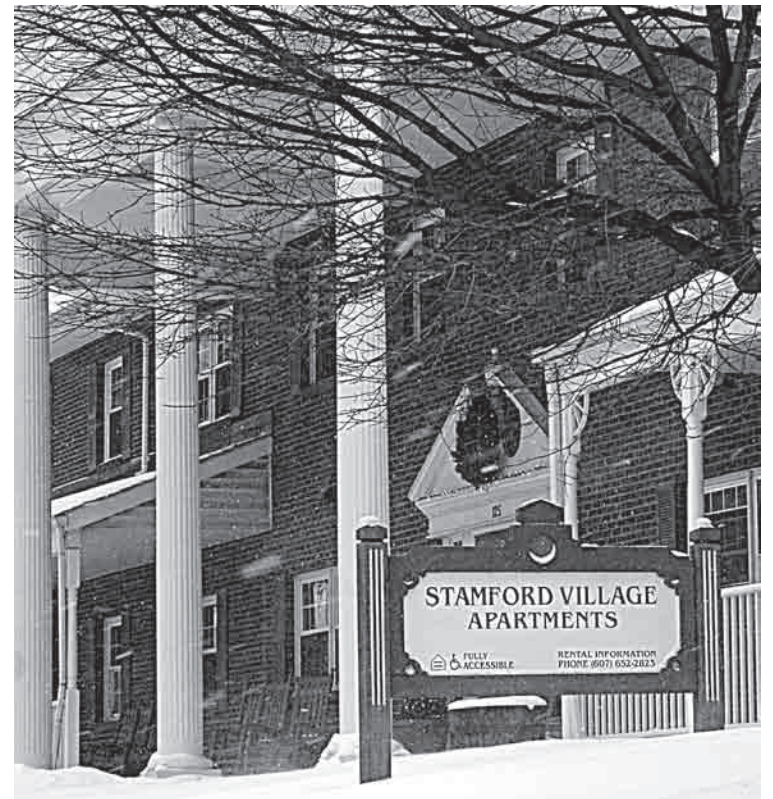
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They are helping the local economy by supplying seniors with affordable housing in a clean, safe environment.

Golf and Country Club an economic engine

Helping to boost the local economy and highlight Schoharie County businesses is high on the

agenda in 2021 for the Cobleskill Golf & Country Club.

"We are excited to be part of the Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation efforts to promote Schoharie County Tourism," said Club President Bob Smith.

"We have a fabulous golf course that continues to bring golfers from all over the area to Cobleskill, so we are working to develop ways to partner with local businesses and organizations to take advantage of that."

One of the first efforts the club is undertaking is to help promote the recently announced Schoharie County Eagle Trail.

The club is taking part in the program as a "Friend of the Eagles" and will be utilizing images on its score cards and social media outlets to promote the area and its tourist attractions.

The eagle theme will also be included on some of its golf merchandise such as eagle head covers.

They are also looking forward to working with the Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation, and local charitable, and fraternal organizations, highlighting local events and attractions on their Facebook page and website.

"Using our resources to cross-promote what is happening in our community is the best way we know how to say thank you to those who support us," added Mr. Smith.

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Smith's Collision Inc. in Sloansville is Chris Hickey's auto body shop.

"We would like to take this time to thank our customers for their continued support. Your review and referrals are greatly appreciated. A huge percentage of our work is from word of mouth and that certainly says a lot about us.

"It is because of the trust you put in us that we continue to grow each of every year," Mr. Hickey said.

Middleburgh Winery, LLC was formed in 2017 and held a grand opening in June of 2018. It is owned by Tonda and Don Dunbar and is at 2636 State Route 145 in Middleburgh. The winery offers wine, wine tastings, local beverage products, yard games, board games, picnic tables and a view to take your breath away.

In 2019 a heart-shaped pond was added to the vineyard to host events.

The Vineyard Mile, a one mile walk through the three vineyards, became a familiar event through the summer of 2020.

Also in 2020, Ms. Dunbar published her book "Wine-ing for Retirement," a tale of the couple's journey of winding down careers to building a winery.

It's available at the winery as well as on Amazon.

"We appreciate all the local support from our winery friends, far and near," said Ms. Dunbar.

Pictured in photo are: Don and Tonda Dunbar with Lucy, an English-blend Labrador and Abby, a border collie.



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2020 showed us once again that we’re all part of a community that bands together and overcomes challenges, said Lindsey Giagni, who offers insurance and financial services at her Lindsey-Giagni State Farm Insurance in Middleburgh.

“Thank for all of your support,” she said. “We are open and able to assist with any of your insurance needs for auto, home, renters, business, and life.”

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In addition to helping more people with their insurance needs in 2021, Ms. Giagni plans to continue her fundraising and awareness efforts to benefit local veterans and their families.

Above, from the left: Sunnie Martens, account manager; Elizabeth Wood, account manager; “Jake” from State Farm, Ms. Giagni, agent/owner; and Stephanie Aiello, senior account manager.



Kyle’s Waste Management gears up as new business

New in 2020 Kyle’s Waste Management is a family-owned and operated trash removal company serving Cobleskill and surrounding towns.

Along with residential trash pickup, Kyle Cacciola offers residential/commercial dumpsters and roll-off containers.

They strive to provide timely, courteous service at competitive prices.

The KWM team would like to thank the community for their support in 2020 and look forward to the upcoming year. Pictured are Danielle LeBlanc, Kyle Cacciola, and Bo.

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SCCASA enjoys a year of growth

Schoharie County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (SCCASA) is located at 349 Mineral Springs Road in Cobleskill. SCCASA offer substance abuse prevention as well as addiction recovery support. It was formed in 1985 and has five employees.

In 2020 a new executive director was hired and the new recovery resource center, Open Arms, was opened. In 2021, SCCASA looks to continue to grow its recovery support community.

“Starting with this organization at the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic was made so much smoother due to the amazing people that I get to work with. Thank you so much to Tom, Danielle, Maggie and Sarah,” said Justin Hamm, executive director.

In photo, Justin Hamm, executive director, sits in his office.





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518-234-8705.

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Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm





**Open Arms
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Open Arms is a walk-in, open access point where people looking
for information about substance use or addiction can come free
of charge, free of judgement, and free of appointments.
Open Arms is a program of SCCASA, Inc.

Call (518) 605-3867

Open Arms Recovery Resource Center
289 Main Street
Schoharie, NY 12157
Hours: Tu. and Th. 8am-4pm



The Open Arms Recovery Resource Center opened its doors at 289 Main Street, Schoharie, in 2020. Services are available on a walk-in basis for anyone needing help with addiction, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am-4pm. Its goal is to create a safe, sober environment where people can come for help. From the left: Tom Moran, peer engagement specialist and recovery coach; Maggie Jackman Pryor, family support navigator; and Justin Hamm, executive director.



Strong together

At Strong's Towing & Recovery, owners Shawn Strong and his son, Justin, are celebrating 17 years of running this local, family-owned business.

With over 37 years of experience and a fleet of 10 trucks they can handle anything...from a motorcycle to a tractor trailer.

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They are the only towing company located in the village of Cobleskill, at 282 MacArthur Avenue. (518)234-9209.

Above: Shawn Strong—owner, Justin Strong (Shawn's son), and Adam Strong (Justin's son).



The Valley Market is a full service grocery store with an in-store bakery, deli counter, meat/butcher, produce and an in-house walk-in beer cooler. The store opened in January of 2018 and has 31 employees. Pictured in photo from left: Jim Harwood, grocery manager; Tiffany Becker, price accuracy manager; Aaron Powell, meat manager; Geanine Eisel, owner; Lucy Moore, bakery manager; Jami Harwood, produce manager; and Steve Lawyer, deli manager.

"Thank you to the entire community for their loyal support throughout this year," said Ms. Eisel.

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New Beginnings Thrift Shop, located at 404 Main Street in Schoharie, features a wide variety of gently-loved merchandise at affordable prices including clothing, home décor, furnishings, and more.

The store relies on donations from the community for its inventory and is always in need of good quality merchandise.

New Beginnings offers employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities supported by The Arc Lexington - Schoharie.

With the safety of customers and the people they support a top priority during the pandemic, New Beginnings requires masks while shopping, offers multiple hand-sanitizing stations and limits store capacity to 10 people.

New Beginnings is open Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5pm and Saturday, 10am-2pm.

For more information on making a donation, call (518)295-7467 or visit them on Facebook.



Tod Nicolai opened Cobleskill Clocks 17 years ago on Main Street, and although he does not occupy a store front any more he is still meeting the needs of the community with his clock repair services.

The business has grown over the years due to the many good reviews and referrals that Mr. Nicolai receives, and he would like to thank all his loyal customers for their continued business and support.

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A cafe that nourishes neighbors

By Shannon Hayes

To tell the truth, a little time to stay home and put my feet up didn't seem half bad.

The ache in my knees and arches from so many hours standing and moving was beginning to wear me down.

The fear of the pandemic wasn't helping matters — the constant hand-washing, the wiping down of everything, the dread that the big bad bug was going to infiltrate my family's farm and business, make my customers fall ill, make my loved ones fall ill.

That much fear in a tired body is pretty toxic.

So we agreed to close our doors to the public two weeks before the state shut down last March.

But the pain moved from my feet straight up to my heart.

In exchange for rest it felt as though we had surrendered our vocation. No. It was more than that. In exchange for rest and safety, we were surrendering our calling.

Sap Bush Hollow Farm is a business that exists to let our family members fulfill a mission: to nourish and restore family, community and planet.

When COVID-19 required that we shut our doors, I went into mourning.

Maybe my knees and my feet hurt every Saturday as we unlocked the cafe doors to get ready to make omelets from our hens' eggs, pull espresso shots from our neighbor's fresh roasted coffee beans, fry sausages and burgers made from our pigs and cattle, serve up soups and stews made with the meat and bone broth from our grassfed livestock.

But the minute my hands are lifting croissants into the proofing oven, kneading fresh bread, stirring, slicing and rolling out crusts, all pain vanishes.

My oldest daughter, Saoirse, now 17, dials in the espresso machine.

My youngest, Ula, 13, rolls silverware, wipes down tables and brings the fresh-baked pastries up front.

My husband Bob works at the sink, keeping up with the flow of dishes.

Mom and Dad work with the weekend help to feed the live-

stock and monitor the pastures.

Pain is forgotten.

We're growing food for our neighbors.

We're cooking food for our neighbors.

We're making the front of the house ready for them to come in the door, where they will be fed with love, where they will find companionship and connection.

The business takes care of us while we fulfill our calling to this place that we love so deeply.

I think this explains the mourning that settled over my body.

How could it be that what we felt called to do: to use our farm and cafe as a platform to build community, to help people make friends, enjoy conversation, find needed hugs and helping hands...was suddenly ...dangerous?

I cried for days, until I'd emptied my body of tears. Bob and I sat out in the woods, holding each other, staring up at budding trees against the March sky, unsure what to do next.

And then we recognized that the mission of Sap Bush Hollow Farm hadn't changed one bit.

We just had to adapt how we were fulfilling it.

In February, we launched a new podcast, "The Hearth of Sap Bush Hollow," sharing stories and essays from the farm.

We resumed production with fervor, using the recordings as a way to encourage reflection and give encouragement to all our followers as we pushed through the struggles as a nation.

We moved our farm store completely online, began sourcing all-natural groceries, then cleared out a shed at the back of the cafe parking lot and set it up with a self-serve freezer and refrigerator.

Our customers could order online, we packed groceries and meat orders and frozen foods from the cafe inside the building, then moved orders out to the shed, where customers could pick up their foods with zero contact (But we got to wave to them from across the parking lot).

Whenever we could, we picked up the telephone or jumped onto online sessions to meet them for coffee or cocktails.

We read and wrote long emails



As guests enjoy themselves at the Sap Bush Hollow Cafe, the family stands near a display of blankets. From left are Saoirse Hayes Hooper, Ula Hayes Hooper, Shannon Hayes and Bob Hooper

sharing details on our lives and walked customers through their home cooking questions. When it seemed safe, we lined the service area of the espresso bar with plexiglass, then opened the cafe for take-out.

When the next phase of opening allowed, we spread tables and chairs across the cafe lawn and logged mile upon mile on our feet, serving customers outdoors.

We gave them plexiglass barriers so they could sit across from each other and take in familiar smiles.

We learned to laugh at whatever changes would suddenly be required of us from week to week to week.

We used a whole lot of soap and hand sanitizer.

We admired the fortitude of our guests, determined to keep supporting us, determined to remain safe, showing up each week

as the weather grew colder and colder, changing from shorts and sandals to flannel shirts and sweaters, until they were sitting outside, sipping lattes under blankets in coats, hats, winter boots, gloves and scarves.

And we followed the numbers and we looked toward winter.

It was easy enough to predict this time what was coming.

Our customers knew to expect it, too.

The week before Thanksgiving, Sap Bush Cafe closed its doors to the public once again.

All farm products, including frozen cafe soups, stews and curries, are available online with pick up at our self-serve shed.

But this time is different.

We know what to do to keep safe. We know that spring will come again.

We know that the first weekend in April, we will be able to dial in that espresso machine,

bake the croissants, make the breakfast sandwiches and see our neighbors once more. Until then, we're taking some time this winter to make the most of these unprecedented times. We're watching the snowflakes, lingering over our coffee, and this time, really and truly putting our feet up. Without the fear. Stay safe, everyone. You can order Sap Bush Hollow Farm grassfed lamb and beef, pastured pork and poultry, as well as frozen homemade soups, stews and curries, all our wool products and natural groceries online at www.sapbushfarmstore.com. We expect to re-open the cafe for outdoor dining and take out April 3.

As guests and friends enjoy their meals at the Sap Bush Hollow Cafe, the family stands near the display of blankets on the far wall. From left are Saoirse Hayes Hooper, Ula Hayes Hooper, Shannon Hayes and Bob Hooper.





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Schoharie Hypnosis and Reiki, is owned by Susan Cimino-Cary.

Services are offered virtually, online, which means that time for travel is not necessary, making them easier to schedule into your busy day.

Hypnosis and life coaching services are offered for any behavioral change and wellness improvement, such as to stopping smoking, weight loss to reduce stress or to make any change.

The business was formed in February 2017.

In early 2019, Ms. Cimino-Cary started offering her services online using a popular HIPPA-compliant telemedicine platform which works through a web browser, rather than through an app.

This proved to be more popular than originally expected and allowed for an expansion, offering services to those that wanted to maximize their time by not having to travel to appointments, even those from out of state, or those that were more comfortable receiving services in the comfort of their home or office.

"It is an honor and a privilege to provide services, which change people's lives by helping them to reach their goals," Ms. Cimino-Cary said.

"Each day I see miracles happen, as I observe clients changing the habits, which no longer serve them, as they benefit from the services I offer. Like a 55 year-old mom of two, who lost 70 pounds after 30 years of suffering from being overweight.

"There is the dad with three young children, ages five to ten, who stopped smoking two packs of cigarettes a day, after being a smoker for 15 years...he is now smoke-free. And the woman with breast cancer, who received services to reduce stress and increase relaxation, while she was receiving chemotherapy and radiation.

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Dedicated to Iroquois culture

The Iroquois Indian Museum is an educational institution dedicated to fostering understanding of Iroquois culture using Iroquois art as a window to that culture.

The Museum is a venue for promoting Iroquois art and artists, and a meeting place for all peoples to celebrate Iroquois culture and diversity.

As an anthropological institution, it is informed by research on archaeology, history, and the common creative spirit of modern artists and craftspeople.

The Museum presents a contemporary art exhibit with works by Iroquois artists each year in addition to permanent archaeology exhibits; a children's museum; a gift shop with items by Iroquois artists; a 45 acre nature park; and workshops, artist demonstrations, and festivals every summer.

Formed in 1981, the museum has seven employees, who kept going in 2020 despite the challenges of COVID.

"Although the Museum was closed due to COVID, we were busy in 2020 offering virtual and outdoor activities for people to engage with Iroquois culture," said Director Stephanie Shultes.

"We presented a Facebook Live video series of artists demonstrations and mini-lessons on topics such as women's roles in Iroquois culture, quillwork, and hide tanning."

All the videos are available on the museum's YouTube page.

For in-person visitors, the museum created an outdoor exhibit on Native stereotypes over the summer in its amphitheater and there was an increase in visits to its 45-acre nature park with four trails.

"Additionally, we presented a virtual art opening discussion with artists represented in our 2021 exhibit 'Identity/Identify' and started offering virtual field trips for school groups and adults from all over the Northeast to learn about the Iroquois," said Ms. Shultes.

The museum also welcomed a new communications manager, Cassandra Miller.

The Museum is looking forward to opening in April to welcome in-person visitors to experience the archaeology exhibits, children's museum, and 2021 contemporary art exhibit 'Identity/Identify,' which asks who is considered Iroquois and who gets to decide.

Most weekends this summer, the Museum will host artist demonstrations, workshops, dancing groups, and other special events like the Labor Day Weekend Festival.

A group of archaeologists, museum professionals, and Iroquois consultants have started meeting

to re-imagine the Museum's extensive archaeology collection for a 21st century audience.

For those who want to experience the Museum and Iroquois culture remotely, the Museum has started creating virtual tours that will be available on the Museum's

website and include topics such as the Creation Story, oral history and storytelling, Iroquois and the Natural World, and more.

The tours are made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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Counter Fitters looking to expand

At Counter Fitters, Route 20, Carlisle, Scott and Denise Warren offer custom countertops. They have more than 20 years in the business and opened their Carlisle facility in 2015, bringing in stone slabs so customers don't have to travel to other locations to view them. In 2021, they plan to bring in even more stone for viewing and begin working with commercial building projects as well.

"We would like to thank all of our customers for helping us be a successful small business," said Mr. Warren, above center with Ms. Warren and Jim Giroux. "We consider all past and future customers to be our friends and we're pleased to have so many."

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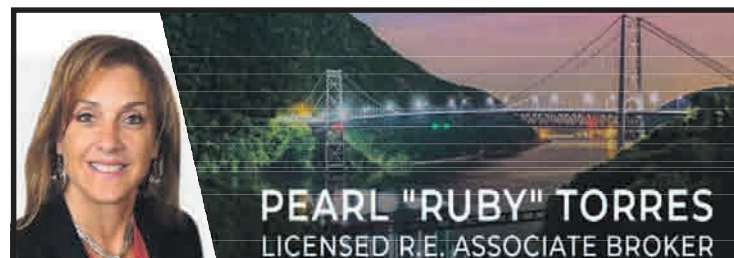
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Langan Funeral Home begins its 56th year of serving the greater Schoharie County area in 2021, offering three different locations to serve the community.

Central Bridge was begun in 1965 when Joseph Langan purchased the funeral business from Denny Clark.

The Schoharie location was opened in 1983 when his son, Michael, above with his 1941 Packard Henney three-way funeral coach, purchased the building from the former owner, Don Warner.

"This very rare car is available if requested for local funeral services with our firm at no extra charge," Mr. Langan said. "It is always a nostalgic event when we use our Packard as so many people can remember their dad or grandpa driving around in cars that looked like it."

The Cobleskill location was purchased in 2008, when the Guffin family sold the funeral business and building to make sure the tradition of serving the Cobleskill community continued.

With the increase in business that the three locations have experienced, more staff has been added over the years. Several committed, local part-time people have assisted in the operation.

In 2017, Middleburgh native Jeremy S. Lindemann came on board as a full-time licensed funeral director. He and his wife, Gina, have made Central Bridge their home and are happy to be back in his native Schoharie County.

Langan Funeral Home offers caskets, burial vaults, monuments, cremation, urns, cremation jewelry, thumbies, and even blown glass with cremains. They also offer pre-planning at no cost or obligation.



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CPI aids economy during pandemic

Cobleskill Partnership Incorporated (CPI), the non-profit organization with a mission to make downtown Cobleskill a better place to live, shop and visit had to adjust its business model in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Most CPI-sponsored events were cancelled due to the pandemic.

However, CPI's outreach switched to helping businesses survive during the pandemic.

CPI sponsored many shop local ad campaigns and Sterling Insurance provided a \$50,000 grant that CPI administered and distributed to local businesses in Cobleskill to help them endure during the shut-downs as a result of COVID-19.

CPI set up a grant committee to review grant applications from Cobleskill businesses and distributed the entire \$50,000 to help them survive the business downturn.

During 2021, the CPI board is looking to again help its members by invigorating its Shop Local campaigns and, if permitted, resume CPI-sponsored events in the downtown shopping district.

Some preliminary ideas are: drive-in concerts, a gift card campaign to encourage local shopping and the promotion of their business membership using their website and social media presence. "CPI may try simpler events, such as walks through downtown Cobleskill or safe family gatherings," said President Lucas Fiedler. "We are looking for ideas, and we're the mechanism to put them into play. I encourage anyone with ideas to contact us here at CPI."

If you are interested in joining CPI, you can find a membership form in the 2021 Progress publication or go to their website www.cobleskillpartnership.com for details.



The crew at Schoharie Valley Farms, Route 30, Schoharie, stands ready to serve customers. From left are Grace Vanderveen, Liz Bisnett, Joyce Kennedy, Wendy Burbank, Liz Tessarzik, Cyndee Burton, Taylor Ball and Ethan Ball.

Operated by the Ball family since 1993, Schoharie Valley Farms offers a farm market, greenhouse, bakery and café, along with gifts and more. New this year, Schoharie Valley Farms is open year 'round, every day, 9am to 6pm.

Besides expanding to year 'round operation, Schoharie Valley Farms, with about 50 employees, will continue to expand offerings from the farm, greenhouse and café.

"We are fortunate to live, work and farm in the best-kept secret in the country for a community to be thankful for," said Richard Ball.

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CRH, Bassett provide top care

Being part of the Bassett Healthcare Network offers many advantages to patients of Cobleskill Regional Hospital and the five health centers nearby.

The health centers provide primary care to residents while the hospital offers appointments in more than 25 areas of sub-specialty care.

Approximately 40 different physicians regularly see patients at Cobleskill Regional Hospital providing everything from cancer care to plastic surgery.

Some, like Dr. Vanessa Goyes Ruiz, an endocrinologist who treats many patients with diabetes, are new to Bassett. She works at the hospital four days per week.

Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky, a pediatric orthopedist, has worked at Bassett for 25 years. Like some other sub-specialists, he comes to Cobleskill twice a month for the convenience of his local patients.

"To have this many sub-specialists with this range of expertise at our small, 25-bed critical access hospital in rural upstate New York is remarkable," said Eric Stein, southern region executive, who recently assumed responsibility for A.O. Fox Hospital in Oneonta and O'Connor Hospital in Delhi in addition to Cobleskill Regional Hospital.

A Network of Coordinated Care

Bassett Healthcare Network cares for patients in nine counties serving residents within 5,600 square miles of countryside.

Bassett Medical Center serves as the hub of the network.

Bassett Medical Group employs more than 650 physicians and advanced practice clinicians including physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse practitioner anesthetists.

Stronger Together

"I am extremely proud of how closely all the essential agencies worked together this past year to fight COVID-19," said Dr. Roy Korn Jr., medical director of Cobleskill Regional Hospital.

"The low infection rates in Schoharie County is testament to the extraordinary work done by our Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services, primary care partners and hospital staff. I am so grateful to our staff for all the extra hours they worked and extra responsibilities they assumed to keep our patients and the communities we serve safe in our care."

Bassett operates five hospitals. Cobleskill Regional Hospital is Schoharie County's only hospital. If you have an emergency in our county, chances are the ambulance will bring you to our hospital depending on the severity of your condition.

Primary Care

Cobleskill Primary Care operates 60 hours per week offering appointments every Saturday and most evenings. It is the largest Bassett Health Center in the entire network and has onsite mental health practitioners



Dr. Olayemi Racheal Jafojo examines patient Jessica Proctor at Bassett Primary Care, which is adjacent to Cobleskill Regional Hospital. Bassett Primary Care and CRH offer a wide range of healthcare services, including many specialties and clinics.

ners and a smoking cessation specialist available.

The health centers in Cobleskill, Middleburgh, Schoharie, Sharon Springs, plus Delanson in Schenectady County are conveniently located close to their residents.

All five of our primary care offices offer visits for acute conditions, preventive care, and chronic disease management. All are certified as Patient Centered Medical Homes.

They are staffed by specialists in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, family nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

"Our practitioners are helping to create the healthcare workforce of the future by providing clinical education to resident physicians, medical students, nurse practitioner and physician assistant trainees," said Dr. Joseph R. Sellers, physician executive.

Surgery

Cobleskill Regional Hospital's operating room is staffed by Bassett surgeons in several sub-specialties.

"Hernia repairs and gall bladder removals are frequently performed in our hospital," said Cindy Palmer, southern division director of ambulatory nursing.

Bassett plastic surgeons perform carpal tunnel surgery and remove

cancerous lesions locally. Bassett orthopedic surgeons do diagnostic procedures as well as surgical repairs on knees, shoulders, ankles, and feet at the community hospital.

While you may need to have a total joint replacement or more complex surgery done at Bassett Medical Center, a level II trauma center, you can see your surgeon before and after your surgery locally at the hospital.

Cancer Care

Lung cancer and breast cancer are two of the most common cancers treated by the 110-member team at Bassett Cancer Institute (BCI) in Cooperstown.

Three members of this cancer care team treat patients at Cobleskill Regional Hospital.

Dr. Anush Patel, division chief of hematology/medical oncology for BCI, sees patients in Cobleskill one day a week.

"We offer personalized cancer care based on next generation sequencing tests for certain cancers," he said.

Chemotherapy and other targeted therapies are available two days per week at Cobleskill Regional Hospital thanks to Victoria Stabinski, certified oncology nurse practitioner, and others being onsite to oversee infusions.

"Cancer requires multidisciplinary management,"

said Dr. Allard-Picou, a board-certified surgical oncologist for Bassett who also see patients in Cobleskill.

After seeing your primary care physician and a radiologist, a Bassett cancer patient often sees three specialized physicians: a medical oncologist, a radiation oncologist, and a surgical oncologist. This multidisciplinary team approach results in improved patient outcomes.

"We often hear 'I used to get my treatments in Albany,'" said June Furstman, a certified oncology nurse who has worked at the hospital for 27 years.

"People are starting to realize that Cobleskill Regional Hospital offers many types of immunotherapies and maintenance chemotherapies.

"This saves people a lot of travel time when they feel their worst."

COVID-19 Response

"We really appreciate how the community came together and donated masks and other personal protection equipment plus honored our healthcare workers with meals and parades to keep our spirits high," said Mr. Stein.

Bassett Healthcare Network and all of its local affiliates are here to improve the health of our patients and the well-being of our communities.

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Tough teams at M'burgh Lanes

When COVID gets the world down, the Middleburgh Central School bowlers shove back and fight for their honor at Middleburgh Lanes.

MCS basketball players joined the boys bowling team and are holding on to a .500 record. Even though the girls team missed their opportunity to be state champions, they are working hard toward their next opportunity.

The boys' team includes Will Churchill, Devon Lacko, Ethan Adams, Tyler Mann, Troy Cammer, Austin Johns, Alex Hertz, Andrew Johns, and Braiden Cole.

The girls team includes Julia Dunham, Hailey Slater, Dani Chichester, Delilah Shultes, Cameryn Shultes, and Jaidyn Rose.

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Jack Miller Tractor and Truck Inc. is located at 4932 State Route 30 in Schoharie. The business offers New Holland tractors, hay tools and service, Ferris Lawnmowers sales and service, Pequea hay tools sales and service, implements and attachments.

The business was formed in 1969 and has 10 employees. The business continues to expand their customer service. They have built a new warehouse that will allow for better service with all their parts, twine and accessory transactions to allow customers in and out in a timely manner.

New Holland continues to provide great innovation to their

product line. The business is excited to be able to offer customers exceptional products. "We would like to thank all our past customers. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to being able to serve your needs in 2021 and the future," said Josh Miller.

Ready to serve you at Jack Miller's are: Kyle Miller, Wesley Tucker, Alex Marbot, Michael Diamond, Jack Miller, owner; Veronica Castro, Dave Dixon and seated in front, Drake a red Labrador.

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Alex's Enterprises is a Sharon Springs business offering interior and exterior painting, residential and commercial painting, kitchen, bathroom, and basement remodeling, vinyl siding, small carpentry and repairs for the last 30 years. "Thank you to all my customers who have supported me through these difficult times," Mr. Rohac said.



A&H Forest Management is committed to the betterment of the forest industry and providing land owners with the utmost professionalism. In business for over 40 years, owner Doug Handy, has established a reputation for giving landowners competitive pricing while maintaining the integrity of the landowner's property.

Above: Gavin O'Bryan and Doug Handy with an impressive load of white oak logs.



Cobleskill Outdoor Sports is a hunting, fishing, and shooting supply store located at 116 France Lane, Cobleskill, with more than 30 years of experience in the industry. Mike and Nancy Spenello, here with Bud, offer a full line of accessories. They also do scope-mounting and bore sightings and basic gun repairs.

"We want to take this opportunity to thank our loyal customers for their business this past year," Mr. Spenello said. "We'd also like to acknowledge and thank the local business community—especially CPI and the Sterling Foundation—for their help through these unprecedented times."

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2020 was Amy McCann's first year as a licensed real estate salesperson for Keller Williams.

"This has been a dream of mine for the past 15 years and the timing just seemed right to venture into selling real estate," she said.

"Keller Williams is a well-known and respected agency and I encourage anyone looking to sell or buy a house, to contact me."

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Retirement plans essential for small business owners

By Peter Sweetser

Fenimore Asset Management

Over the years, I have seen that many business owners – especially ones with a handful of employees – do not take advantage of the basic retirement plans that are available because of the misconception that they are complicated and time-consuming.

As an entrepreneur, you have numerous issues to juggle and may place retirement planning on the back burner.

However, retirement investing can be easily understood and administered.

Additionally, a retirement plan can help you achieve your long-term financial goals while attracting and retaining employees.

As yourself, "Who is saving for my future?" Just like many aspects of your operation, you must be proactive and save for your retirement.

In my experience, small business owners tend to pay themselves last, but you may want to consider treating your retirement contribution like a monthly bill and pay yourself first.

Two of the options available to small businesses that can be effective and easy to implement are the Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA and Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE) IRA. A SEP IRA is a popular option if you are the only employee of the business or if it is just you and your spouse.

A SIMPLE IRA can be good for

both entrepreneurs and your employees. Additionally, if you have a SEP or SIMPLE plan through your company, you may invest in your own Traditional or Roth IRA to supplement your retirement savings.

Both the SEP and Simple IRAs also offer low-cost, tax-advantaged retirement savings opportunities for self-employed individuals and small business owners.

It is important to note that contributions for both you and your employees can be a tax deduction for the business. Moreover, contributions can grow tax-deferred until the money is withdrawn in the future.

To reiterate, a retirement plan can be a sound way to save for those golden years. It may also help attract and retain employees. As Ben Franklin said, "You may delay, but time will not."

As always, I recommend that you speak with your tax professional.

Nothing herein should be construed as an investment recommendation or as legal, tax, accounting or other advice, and you should consult your own attorney, financial advisor, tax advisor or accounting as to legal, financial, tax, accounting and related matters concerning the material and disclosures provided.



Peter Sweetser

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Brick House:

Breakfast, lunch and much more

The staff at The Brick House Bakery on West Main Street, Cobleskill, takes a break from the counter and kitchen. In back from left are Kieran Maillard, Kurt McMahon, Vincent Zaba, Amanda Dibella, Gabby Schuster, Kelsey Mallery-Winegard and Richard Baumann. In front are Daniella Graham, Victory Aulita, Olivia Holland and Andrew Mummenthey. Not in the photo is Maryn Hill.

A popular spot for breakfast, lunch and more, The Brick House added a salad bar and Boar's Head deli offerings with fresh cold cuts in the past year. Brick House also has an ice cream counter. "2020 was an unusual year for all of us, but we here at the bakery want to express our appreciation for the loyalty of our customers," said Mr. Zaba, who opened The Brick House more than three years ago.





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Community benefits from SCCAP

Schoharie County Community Action Program's (SCCAP) mission of building stronger, healthier communities and empowering families that experience economic and social challenges has never been more meaningful and important to meeting the needs of the community.

The year of 2020 presented many challenges to the health and well-being of staff, families served and the community at large due to the pandemic.

SCCAP rose to the challenge by rapidly establishing procedures conforming to NYS Forward guidelines to ensure there would be no interruption to client services and that they would be delivered in the safest way possible.

The agency received CARES Act funding to assist essential workers with child care expenses and day care providers with PPE supplies and facility enhancements for safe operations.

The agency's federal emergency assistance funding was also increased to address food insecurity and other stabilization services for those COVID impacted.

Knowing the pandemic will have long-term effects on the needs of those we serve, continued donor generosity is helping to assure SCCAP will have adequate resources to address these impacts in the days ahead.

SCCAP currently hosts seven departments of focus:

Child Care Resource & Referral provides free referrals to licensed and registered child care providers in Schoharie County, provides information to parents/guardians on how to choose a quality child care provider and information on child care financial assistance.

Staff also oversee youth development services through the Creative Connections for Youth mentoring and camp scholarship programs.

Community Services provides for situations requiring emergency assistance.

The SCCAP food pantry is also under the Community Services umbrella as well as the processing of HEAP applications and VITA tax return preparation.

Employment Training Center administers the New York State Displaced Homemaker Program (DHP) which offers services including career pathway development and counseling, help applying for jobs with interview preparation, resume and cover letter writing, and job search strategies, readiness and referrals.

Computer workshops are also currently held for Microsoft Office program and accounting software. The Center also offers workshops to area employers to assist with employee development needs.

Energy Services administers the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) which provides services to assist qualified, income-eligible residents of Schoharie County save on fuel and energy consumption.

An energy auditor visits the homes and provides a list of the measures that may be addressed, such as air infiltration/exfiltration, indoor air quality tests, insulation, ventilation, refrigerator testing and/or replacement, window and door replacement for mobile homes, amongst other measures. Energy audits are also available to local homeowners on a fee-for-service basis.

Family Support and Resource Center provides a range of assistance to individuals and families: education, training, and resources through skill building; peer support and advocacy for families; anger management curriculum and Family Team Conferencing.

Healthy Families Department provides nutrition assistance through the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Qualifying individuals have access to farmers' market vouchers, breastfeeding peer counselors, nutrition and health education and free lead screenings by the Schoharie County Department of Health. Breastfeeding support groups are also free for all Schoharie County residents.

Parent and Child Connection Center offers supervised visitation services for non-custodial parents and children to maintain parent and child bonds, as well as cooperative parenting classes.

SCCAP was established in 1965 to promote self-sufficiency for those of limited income, ensuring that all residents are able to live in dignity by implementing innovative and cost-effective programs to improve the lives and conditions of the disadvantaged; by proving support and advocacy for those in need of assistance; and by being a major voice of reason in established welfare system reforms.

For more information about SCCAP's services, call (518)234-2568 or visit their website at www.sccapinc.org. Be sure to "like" their Facebook page for up-to-date events and class information.



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NBT is committed to high customer satisfaction and has earned a spot on the Forbes World's Best Banks list two years in a row in both 2019 and 2020.

NBT is one of only 75 banks in the United States to be included on this list, out of the tens of thousands of financial institutions globally considered for the recognition.

More information about NBT is available online at www.nbtbank.com. Member FDIC. NBT Bank's Cobleskill Branch Manager Lisa Hecker, Schoharie Branch Manager LeeAnn Arnold, Business Banker Bill Nordenhold, Middleburgh Branch Manager Melinda Andrews, and Sharon Springs Assistant Branch Manager Heather Ward pose for a photo in early 2020.

While the events of 2020 were unprecedented, NBT's ongoing investments in banking technology positioned the company to exhibit flexibility for customers and employees alike throughout the pandemic.

Digital technology enabled employees to remain connected as they pivoted to provide critical relief and support for customers in need. As a community bank, NBT remains committed to supporting customers and economic recovery throughout this new year with relationship-focused banking services.

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Tretter improving infrastructure

Tretter CPA, PC Cobleskill is a full service CPA firm offering, tax and bookkeeping services.

"We wish to express our gratitude to all of our existing clients for your business, especially during this past very difficult year," said Chris Tretter. "We are making an investment in our IT infrastructure which will allow us to better serve our clients."

"This IT project will be completed during the calendar year 2021 and we are confident that these enhancements will benefit all."

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Donat's Brow offers floor plans with several amenities. Some inside features include natural gas fireplaces, all appliances including dishwasher, washer/dryer in each unit. Outside amenities include a children's play area, raised garden beds, a dog park and a barn full of 4 legged animals that love to be fed.



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Warnerville Self Storage and U-Haul is located on Routes 7 & 10, just west of Exit 21 off I-88. The self-storage facility rents spaces large and small, from closet-sized units to ones that can hold the contents of a five-bedroom house, all with drive-up convenience.

Once you move in, you keep the only key to your self-storage unit, which you can access on your schedule.

All of the Storage agreements are month-to-month, and you can change your storage unit space and location without penalty. Outdoor storage space is also available for your RV, truck or other vehicle.

Moving in, to or from the area? Get free truck rental rate quotes at Warnerville Self Storage. U-Haul rental trucks are specifically engineered from the ground up to assist moving families, not freight. The moving trucks have more safety features than other moving trucks in the industry, including gentle ride suspension and high visibility mirrors to assist the driver.

Whether you are moving a smaller apartment or a large four-bedroom house, Warnerville Self Storage and U-Haul in Warnerville will provide you with the moving truck rental you need to get from point A to point B.

Their moving van rentals include air conditioning, rub rails to protect your belongings and come equipped with a hitch to tow a trailer rental. Find the perfect size moving truck to assist with your move. U-Haul is home of the \$19.95 rental truck and cargo van.

Reserve a van or truck for your moving needs or deliveries from Warnerville Self Storage. Visit their website at uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-Warnerville-NY-12187/041657 or give owner Greg Furlong a call at (518)366-9296.



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Michael and Karen Hogan have turned more than 35 years in the restaurant business into their popular Route 166, Roseboom Hogan's Café. The Café opened in August 2019 and is known for its homemade food, using local meats and produce, including desserts, burgers, and fresh, hand-cut fries.

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The Schoharie County Country Music Festival, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that created and developed the Festival Farmers Market, an outdoor farmers market based in Cobleskill. Fresh produce is made available each week throughout the growing season by long-term fruit and vegetable farmer partners along with sales of USDA meats, eggs, cheeses, local maple syrups and more.

The market has consistently emphasized the available social and human services in the area, bringing them in order to make them more accessible to customers.

Centered within all its efforts is a concern for the youngsters who come to the market, making sure that they gain both information and nourishment to allow them to thrive – now and into the future.

In 2021, the outdoor market will open every Saturday starting July 11, 10am-2pm. They continue to accept all NYS Fresh Connect and Farmers Market Coupons as well as SNAP.

The Schoharie County Country Music Festival, Inc. was formed in 1991, and the Festival Farmers Market, one of the first in New York State, was developed five years later.

New this year: Each week, they will feature a new recipe that will highlight produce or products seasonally available in the market to promote the need for local purchases and seasonal preparation. They also hope to establish internship positions funded, in part, through a new weekly "Market Partnership Sponsorship Program."

"We are very much looking forward to celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Festival Farmers Market in 2021 and hope everyone will come by to join us for birthday cake and Farmers Market Birthday Specials on Saturday, August 28," said Donna Olsen. Photo by Regina Tillman.

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"I want to thank all my loyal customers who continued to support my business throughout the COVID pandemic," said Andy Reightmyer, here with his daughter, Raina. "And I look forward to serving them and meeting new ones in 2021."

Stop in at 139 Main Street in Middleburgh or call (518)827-5900. Andy's is open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.



Beekman 1802 is located at 187 Main Street in Sharon Springs. The business was formed in 2008 and has more than 200 employees. Despite the current situation, Beekman 1802's team grew. Beekman 1802 launched many new products including deodorants and CBD probiotics, and also launched products from Ulta. They were able to create successful events during the pandemic, including turning the farm into a giant outdoor restaurant with local restaurants and caterers.

Beekman 1802 is looking forward to expanding the skincare line in Ulta, having more social-distance events that partner with local farms, restaurants and other businesses. "We call our customers neighbors, and this year neighbors turned out in full force to support us and our partnerships with local businesses. It's a reminder what the power of a community can really do," said Josh Kilmer-Purcell and Brent Ridge.

Pictured in photo, front row from left: Caitlin Scott, visual manager, Nicolette Gallinelli, visual coordinator and Caitlyn Halsey, assistant mercantile manager. Back row from left: Veronica Klaus, mercantile expert and Emily Weise, mercantile manager.

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Carl Warner Jr. recently celebrated his first year owning Cargie’s, which is right at the four corners in Richmondville. Cargie’s offers a variety of products, including a retail shop with meat, sausage and deli counter; catering with barbecued chicken and side dishes; and a full meat processing facility. “I want to express my gratitude to all of my customers for their support during the past year,” Mr. Warner said.



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Middleburgh Hardware is located at 316 Main Street and was formed in 1888. There are seven employees. The business offers hardware, paint, lumber, UPS shipping, screen and glass repair. In 2020 lumber was added. In 2021 the hardware store plans expansion and renovation. “Thank you for all of the customer support. Without you we would not be where we are today,” said Rich and Heather Vilegi. In photo, from left: Rich Vilegi, Heather Vilegi and Steve Hoerz.



Kenyon Insurance Agency is an independent agency in business for over 50 years specializing in “personal service” and long term relationships.

Being independent means they represent a number of companies which allows them to choose an insurance program that best fits individual needs with competitive pricing.

They have grown largely due to referral business from their current insured’s, lawyers and realtors.

Their goal is to protect customers and their families from unexpected events by finding the right coverage at an affordable rate.

They strive to provide excellent customer service and to ensure your needs are handled correctly and quickly.

They offer insurance for personal auto, commercial auto, home, farm, renters, landlord’s, student housing, vacant properties, secondary homes, umbrella, recreational vehicles as well as small contractors and small businesses.

The Kenyon Agency welcomes the opportunity to offer quotes to new perspective clients and want to thank all current customers for their continued business.

Visit them at kenyoninsurance.com for more information about the agency and the companies they represent. You can make payments, ask for a quote, request an ID card or Certificate of Insurance, file a claim or even refer a friend.



Pizza Shack, located at 558 Main Street in Cobleskill, has been consistently voted the best pizza in Schoharie County. The restaurant focuses on pizza and Italian food for lunch and dinner.

“We want to again thank our loyal customers, especially during the past year. It’s comforting to see the faces of our customers enjoying our food during the pandemic,” said Sal Liardo, owner.

“I also want to thank the staff at Pizza Shack. Without the dedicated cooks and wait staff, we wouldn’t be as successful as we are.”

From left: Kim Liardo, Sal Liardo, Norman Andaya and Nathan Dostie.



In business since 1975, attorney Michael L. Breen and his staff offers services for businesses, real estate, wills and trusts, divorce, criminal, zoning and planning. The office is located on Railroad Avenue in Middleburgh. Pictured are Michael Breen and Lori Roney. Not present for photo, Melody Diamond.



Fred's Sanitation Service Inc. is located at 3585 Route 20, Sloansville. The company offers residential and commercial trash services, roll-off containers, and septic pumping, and has portable toilets available for weddings, parties and special events as well as for construction needs.



In 2020, Megan Ostrander welcomed Jackie (Binas) Kossmann to her team at the Ostrander Insurance agency. She also added new companies to meet customers' every need. She's located at 2457 Route 7, Cobleskill, and offers auto, home, and business insurance. "I want to thank all of my customers, CPI, and the community for being so welcoming and supportive and making my first year a success," Ms. Ostrander, above left, with Ms. Kossmann, right, said.



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The Plaide Palette, Main Street, Cherry Valley, is Sue Murray-Miller's one-of-a-kind shop featuring Irish, Scottish, British, and Welsh gifts, foods, teas and more. Ms. Miller also offers fair trade and metaphysical items, including crystals, rocks and minerals added in 2020. Also new in 2020 were additional incense and essential oils. In 2021 the shop will be adding product seminars in the garden every other weekend. "Thank you for your support and let's stay strong," Ms. Miller said. "Buying local is the glue that keeps us together."

MIDTEL pitches in during pandemic

When the Coronavirus pandemic began, MIDTEL, a local telephone, internet, Wi-Fi and cable TV company, providing services to businesses and residents, was there to help the community.

MIDTEL knew that high-speed internet access was critical for online learning and work from home situations, and they took action to help.

MIDTEL partnered with local municipalities and community partners to offer Free Wi-Fi access at various locations throughout their service territory.

The free Wi-Fi locations are the Blenheim Town Hall, Broome Town Hall, Fulton Town Hall, Huntersland Fire Department (front parking area), Middleburgh Public Library (back parking lot), Schoharie Fire Department (visitor parking), Summit Town Hall, and Wright Town Hall.

MIDTEL also continued to work on its fiber upgrade projects to connect high-speed internet access in more homes and businesses.

MIDTEL's fiber optic main line network has been completed and over 2,000 satisfied customers have been installed for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the New NYS Broadband Grant Program and surrounding locations in the areas of Blenheim, Broome, Cobleskill, Conesville, Fulton, Gilboa, Jefferson, Middleburgh, Richmondville, Schoharie, Summit, and Wright.

Additionally, MIDTEL is beginning installations for Phase 3 of the grant, which will extend fiber services into parts of Rensselaerville, West Berne, and Westerlo through 2021.

In 2020, MIDTEL also welcomed Samuel Bradshaw, Edward Paine and Brenda McDermott to their growing team of employees.

MIDTEL looks forward to a busy and exciting 2021 as they continue to expand, invest, and connect the community.

For more information, or to see if your location is in one of their fiber service areas, visit www.MIDTEL.com or call (518)827-5211.



Lenny's Tire Service on Route 30 in Middleburgh is owned by Karen Coons. The business was formed in 1967 and has nine employees.

It offers a large selection of tires, alignments, brakes, oil changes, tune-ups, NYS inspections, brakes, shocks, exhausts and more.

"I would like to thank all of our customers and all other small businesses that continue to keep it small and keep it local," said Ms. Coons.

Above, left to right: Catlin Haemmerle, Karen Coons, Jimmy Arnold, John Kendle, Alan Richardson, Lenny Cook. Back row: Erick Hendrickson, Haus Brown.

2020 was a crazy year for everyone—including New Looks Landscaping, Pam and Les Foland's Schoharie landscaping business.

The firm started off the year earlier than normal with spring cleanups, then quickly moved into mowing with plenty of jobs to keep them busy. Still, they managed to take time as a family for fun like camping and day trips with the bike. They closed out 2020 with fall clean-up, just in time for the snow; December's 30-inch storm kept them busy for days.

"We know 2020 was a hard year for most," said Mr. Foland, "so we want to thank our customers who chose to stick with us during the tough times and who support all of the small businesses around us. Here's to hoping 2021 is a better year all around."

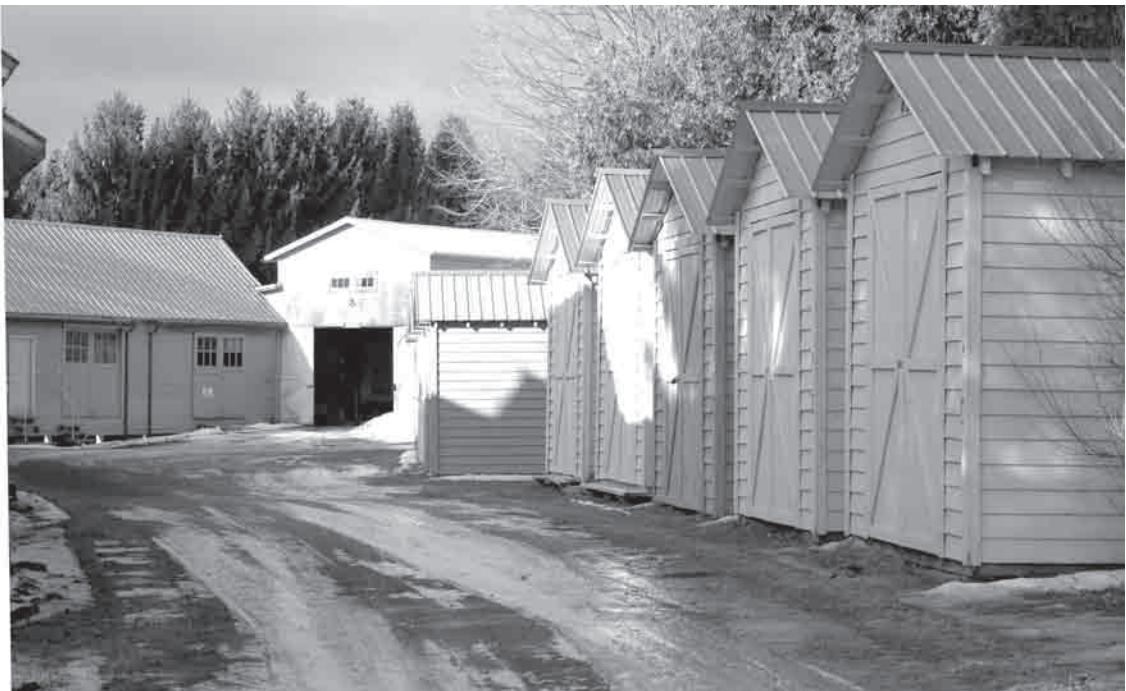
Spring will be here soon. For a free estimate, call New Looks Landscaping at (518) 231-2696 or email Newlookslandscaping@yahoo.com.



Tri-Town Computers has been serving the community for over 20 years. Located at 836 East Main Street, Cobleskill, across from Burger King, they value honesty and integrity and are dedicated to helping the community with growth. They offer computer sales and service, laptops, PCs Mac products, tablets, accessories, and the sales and service of security systems. TriTown Computers also offers in-home and business onsite services. Left to right, above are owners Thomas Rundblad and Michael Consalvo.



Warren R. Melby Design offers masonry, foundation, and fireplace restoration and footing work; addresses drainage issues and does new builds and construction services. “My roots are in Schoharie County,” said owner Roy Melby, “and I look forward to working with the great people and friends in the new year.”



In 2015, Ray and Mary Parsons purchased Sharon Springs Self-Storage from Peter and Jeanne Irwin. A former lumberyard converted into self-storage units, the business offers 72 units in various sizes. It’s self-service, but assistance is available by calling (518)234-2315.

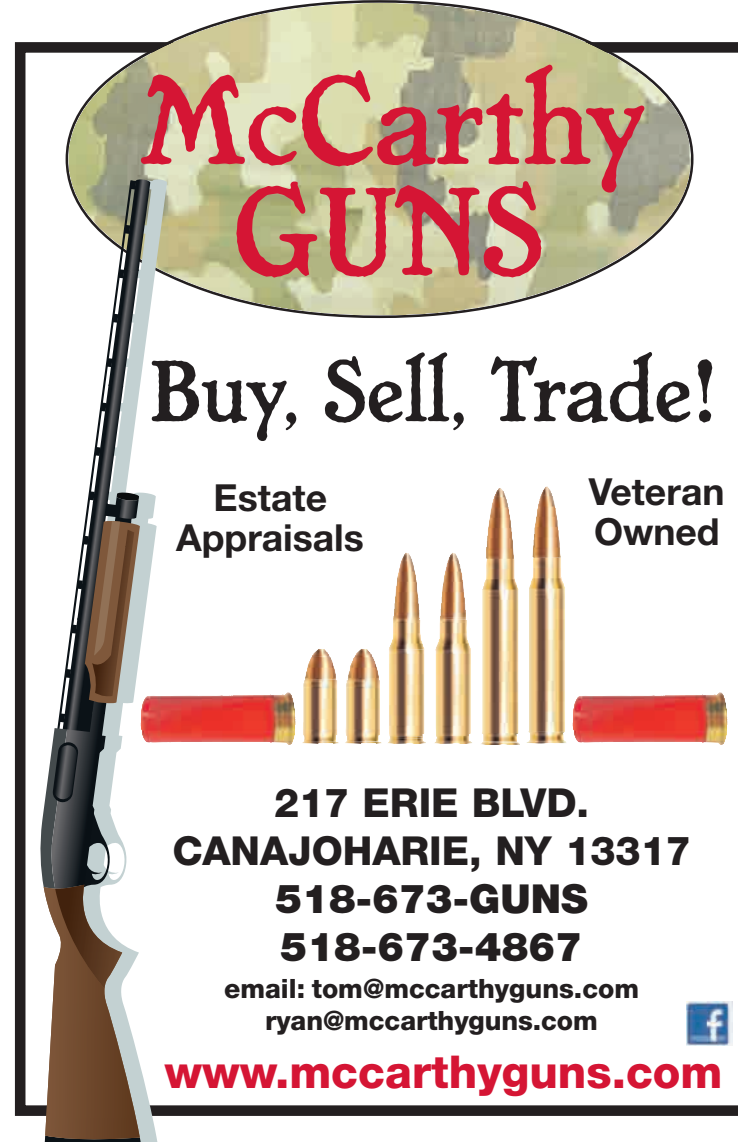
Shults Insurance Agency, 3 Canal Street, Fort Plain, offers home, auto and business insurance. Formed in 1854 they have 20 employees.



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A small, square portrait of Lisa Tenneson, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark top and a necklace.

A large, rectangular portrait of William Adams and Lisa Tenneson standing outdoors. William is on the left, wearing a grey suit jacket over a blue shirt. Lisa is on the right, wearing a blue and white plaid jacket over a white top. They are both smiling.

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Bulldog Barber Shop, located at 334 East Main Street in Richmondville, is a professional barber shop owned and run by Deane Benbenek, a licensed master barber who has studied at both the Fashion Institute of Technology and the Paul Mitchell School.

Mr. Benbenek aims to provide quality, affordable haircuts and styling, as well as hot towel shaves, facial treatments and more, all with a "bulldog pride" twist on the classic "old school barber shop" experience.

Bulldog Barber Shop is open Wednesday-Friday, 8am-4pm; Saturday, 9am-1pm and Sunday, 9am-noon. Walk-ins are always welcome.

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Clean Cut Lawn Care

Clean Cut Lawn Care is owned and operated by Matt Hanson of Schoharie.

He offers weekly lawn care, as well as spring and fall clean-ups.

Mr. Hanson thanks his customers for another successful year.

Contact him for a free estimate, (518)867-9741.

560 Salon & Spa marks fifth year on Main Street

The 560 Salon & Spa, 560 Main Street, Cobleskill, marked its fifth year of business in 2020.

All members of the 560 team are now independent contractors, allowing each stylist to have creative and business freedom.

"Although I have begun my real estate career, I want my customers to know that I will still be there for them," said owner Amy McCann.

"All of us here at the salon want to thank our loyal customers for staying with us during the past year.

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Aidone Eyecare

Aidone Eyewear is marking a year at its new 3630 State Route 145, Cobleskill location, a full-service eye care center offering exams, glasses, and contact lenses. "We are proud to be your local source for quality eye wear and vision care," said owner and optician David Aidone. "At Aidone Eyecare, we are dedicated to providing you with the best care and service in the Cobleskill area with high quality products and service and fair pricing that won't break your budget."

Aidone's offers a wide range of frame styles and always strives to stay on top of new industry developments. Many of its lenses are made in-house, giving them the opportunity to control every step of the process.





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SEEC puts our economy 1st

One year ago, SEEC aimed to lift the local economy and set Schoharie County up for a prosperous future.

Six months after SEEC appeared on the scene, the pandemic took hold and governments nationwide mandated business closures, shutting down the New York State economy.

2020 became a whirlwind of uncertainty.

Yet, one thing remained steady: SEEC's mission to foster economic growth.

SEEC proved to be flexible in 2020.

As such, progress was made.

SEEC focused on business retention and strengthening the local Economic Alliance.

SEEC helped local businesses navigate the pandemic by launching a loan program and gifting grants, channeling credible information, brokering relief programs and coordinating a local alliance to better serve the business community.

The alliance deployed surveys, developed local resource materials, co-hosted Recovery Roundtables, organized a Business Task Force and sponsored the SchoCo Promise, a program emphasizing the importance of safety protocols for the community to stay healthy and keep businesses open.

Now, moving further into 2021 and striving to restore normalcy, SEEC is broadening business retention and expansion initiatives, introducing new talent and industry attraction efforts, and continuing to facilitate targeted value-add investments.

"While federal relief programs might have helped a good portion

of our local businesses in the short term, SEEC realizes there are still businesses that slipped through the cracks. Since launching our Resiliency Fund, businesses now have access to capital necessary for this important stage of the recovery process," said Tom Putnam, founder and executive chairman Fenimore Asset Management and SEEC founding member.

The SEEC Resiliency Fund, through local donations, received another allocation of capital and will continue into 2021.

SEEC was able to swiftly raise \$100,000 to award loans and grants to local businesses.

More than 26 businesses were assisted and \$75,000 was committed in 2020.

Another \$25,000 is available now for local organizations to make adaptations in response to the on-going public health crisis.

The Resiliency Fund proved to be a life-line to many businesses in Schoharie County.

For example, a Resiliency grant awarded to J Lacy Salon allowed owner Leslie Price to complete renovations so she could offer additional services.

Power-Up Fitness owners, Travis Hyer and Donna Pesta, used their SEEC Resiliency funds to cover the cost of an air purification system, hands-free sanitizer stations, cleaning supplies and HVAC inspection and filters, all newly legislated requirements to re-open their gym.

Two dozen other organizations have similar stories and appreciation for receiving their Resiliency Fund awards.

SEEC actively assists local governments make targeted value add investments, too.

SEEC secured a grant that the Town of Summit sponsored to help Sauvage Beverages buy new equipment and post four new jobs during the pandemic.

SEEC is also mobilizing matching community investments into Main Street revitalization.

SEEC has submitted an Appalachian Regional Commission grant application in direct response to the COVID crisis and long-debated need to support Schoharie County agriculture.

The grant would underwrite a business plan that will introduce a state-of-the-art, profitable, regional independent food processing center intended to bolster local ag-production and shorten the food supply chain.

SEEC is also competing in the EDA SPRINT Challenge, a \$25 million national competition funded by the CARES Act known as Scaling Pandemic Resilience Through Innovation and Technology (SPRINT).

If funded, SEEC has proposed a project that would establish a Resiliency Innovation Zone for Entrepreneurs to address the economic, health, and safety risks caused by the coronavirus pandemic through entrepreneurship and innovation.

SEEC is making other strategic investments to attract freelancers to the community, recruiting those individuals fleeing more densely populated urban areas by asking them to live in Schoharie County year-round.

SEEC is coordinating the launch of the Schoharie County Eagle Trail, a unique economic development initiative to boost tourism activity in 2021.

SEEC is also working with Schoharie County leadership to craft "community benefit incentives" that will present unique negotiating power soliciting enterprise relocation and meant to reward job creation in the community.

In 2021, SEEC will continue to host forums and steer enterprise leaders to the Small Business Development Center for free mentorship and professional development training.

"These resources can teach us how to fully leverage technical platforms to better reach customers, facilitate greater efficiencies and tap new markets," said Paul Conroy, SEEC advisor.

Fostering economic growth is not SEEC's job alone.

SEEC asks consumers to remain "hyper-local."

"Spending dollars in the community will buoy community spirit as well as support economic activity," said Executive Director Julie Pacatte.

"Data shows the local sales tax collection held the line in 2020 because residents curbed their behaviors by shopping local and buying products delivered to their homes. When doing so, all sales tax dollars are collected in Schoharie County as opposed to the leaking dollars to nearby regional shopping districts. Shop local. It matters."

Above all, moving forward, SEEC advises the community to appreciate resiliency.

"Businesses and residents have

been resilient, extraordinarily so, through flood recovery and now the international pandemic. "We must remain open to change and vigilant in our pursuits to stay healthy mentally, physically and emotionally," added Ms. Pacatte.

"Our 'essential' economy depends on it."

SEEC will measure 2021 success not merely by jobs created or capital investments made; rather, by community and economic development engagement, awareness of business resources and expanded network connections throughout the region and ability to maintain or enhance Schoharie natural resources and community character.

Established by the private sector, Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corporation, commonly known as "SEEC," was organized as a not-for-profit to strengthen Schoharie County by fostering economic growth.

SEEC serves as a liaison to local municipalities and institutional leaders with the common goal of highlighting distinctive points of light within the community, cultivating entrepreneurial endeavors and enhancing the ability of local businesses to add value to their enterprises. SEEC is guided by social, environmental and financial principles that will accelerate growth and help provide sustainability through a collaborative and thriving business community.

Visit SEEC online at www.SEECNy.org.



Fox Valley Excavating does it all

Fox Valley Excavating, owned by Dan Przysiecki, is located in Schoharie (Town of Wright). They offer delivery of a full line of products, including gravel, shale, topsoil, bluestone, fill, etc.

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House of Hair Design

Since 1978, Paul Hahn has been styling hair at his House of Hair Design.

Located on Mineral Springs Road, Cobleskill, he offers haircuts for men, women and children, also perms, highlights and colors.



Games A Plunder marked its 10th year selling video and board games, D&D, Warhammer, Cards Against Humanity and more at their 107 Union Street, Cobleskill shop. “We now have online shopping through our website, www.gamesaplunder.com,” said owner Michael Willman. “We’re looking to add more products in 2021 and eventually welcome everyone back for in-store gaming. “We’d like to thank our community for shopping locally and we hope they enjoy the flexibility of being able to shop our store from anywhere now.”

Sharon Springs Garage a legacy

Sharon Springs Garage was founded in 1906 by Freddie Handy as a car dealership.

In the mid-1950s, his son Edgar had the foresight to start transitioning out of the automobile business and into tractor sales, when Oliver tractors were added to their lineup.

In 1981 Edgar’s son, David, took over the business and the business was incorporated to Sharon Springs Garage, Inc.

In 1988 the business moved to a much larger – and its current location – on Route 20, where a full line hardware store was added to tractor sales and service.

In 1997 two more locations of Sharon Springs Garage were opened in Oneonta and Troy.

Many lines of tractors have been sold at Sharon Springs Garage.

Currently Sharon Springs Garage offers a full line of Kubota tractors and implements offered at all three locations where a total of 24 people are employed.



“We can contribute the success of the business to our service, sales and office staff and our valued customers,” said owner David Handy.

Above, Kubata the Lab loves riding his Kubata mower.



All the classics...

Owners Bill and Kitty offer more than 10,000 hubcaps at their Bill’s Auto Salvage/Hubcap Heaven four miles south of Middleburgh on Route 145. All hubcaps in stock are \$20 and include classic collector’s caps, spinners, Baby Moon, spun discs, trim rings, and seg disc center caps as well as wall hangers and center caps for trucks, trailers, and cars from 1950-2010. “All are welcome,” Mr. Smith said. “Don’t miss this huge collection.” All sales are final; they’re open seven days a week.

What’s new in 2021 at Serious Brewing? A lot

“2020 – Just that one number says a lot.

“What it doesn’t say is how much the people who walk through our doors, feel more like friends and family than customers. We can’t thank them enough for being with us in 2020.”

That’s how Serious Brewing’s Bill Felter looks back on 2020.

2021 will be another year of progress at the Howes Cave brewery.

“We are completing an expansion of the seating area and upgrading the tables to fit in better with the atmosphere,” Mr. Felter said.

“We now have seven regular beers on tap: Serious Blonde, Schoharie Burning Wheat, George the Inventor Porter, Running Red Coat Red, Alco Oatmeal Milk Stout, Bine of my Existence IPA, and Serious Pale Ale, along with rotating beers. Look for the return of Stone-

walled Maple Porter in early April.”

When the expansion is complete, it will also include a system to allow Serious to brew smaller batches of beer.

“So when you ask what’s new, we’ll have a lot to say,” Mr. Felter said.

2020 brought about expanded seating outside. It was a big hit. As time permits, customers can look forward to a new deck and maybe play a game of corn hole.

Mr. Felter is also promising an expanded lineup of food trucks every weekend.

“Check out our ever-growing and popular lines of NYS products. Stop by and try our NYS ciders, moonshines, and wine slushies,” he said.

“We’re a great place to hop on the Schoharie County Beverage Trail.”



Fancy florals

Cross Hill Heirlooms, France Lane, Cobleskill, is Jenna Malette-King's florist and floral design business.

Ms. Malette-King opened her storefront in 2020 and enjoys providing the community with fresh, quality blooms.

"Thanks to everyone for supporting a new business," she said.



At your automotive service...

Since 1978, the Rodden family has been providing full-service auto repair at its Sharon Hill location. They also sell used cars and rent storage space. "We appreciate our loyal repeat customers and look forward to taking on new ones," said John Rodden Jr. Above, front from the left: Cindy Dixon with Beau; back row: Lars Schmid, John Rodden Jr., Barbara Rodden, and John Rodden Sr.

Lamont Engineers offers hands-on help

Lamont Engineers PC is a Civil Engineering Firm employing 22 people and is located at 197 Elm Street in Cobleskill.

Its affiliated operations company, LVDV Operations, provides professional water and wastewater contract operations and maintenance services.

2020 saw the completion of the Cobleskill Water Project, Middleburgh Ambulance and Emergency Shelter, the Schoharie County Public Safety Facility as well as projects in Granville, Tannersville, and VanHornsville.

In 2021, the firm will continue working with the Catskill Watershed Corporation and on new wastewater systems in Halcottsville and New Kingston, a new highway garage in the Town of Montgomery, new dining hall facility at the Girls Zone in Gilboa, facility expansion in at the Frost Valley YMCA Camp, and projects in Schoharie, Speculator, and Afton to name a few.



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Mr. CPA

R. Sherwood Veith is a Certified Public Accountant with 30 years in the business. He’s located at 105 Union Street, Cobleskill, and thanks all of his loyal customers for their support over the years. “I also welcome the opportunity to take on new customers,” he said. Call him at (518) 234-0942 or go to [www. SherwoodVeith.com](http://www.SherwoodVeith.com).



Beretz Lumber and Logging family-owned and operated

Beretz Lumber and Logging is a family-owned and operated business and New York State logger-trained and certified company located in Middleburgh. They are fully licensed and have provided services to the community for more than 60 years.

Beretz Lumber specializes in bulldozing and land-clearing, hardwood and softwood sales, and harvesting. They are also certified consultant foresters.

JT’s since 2006

JT’s Cycle has been in business since 2006 and will be celebrating its 15th anniversary on May 6. The shop carries maintenance and performance parts for Harley Davidson and all other motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs, dirt bikes and snowmo-



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biles. JT’s also carries Amsoil. JT’s has many parts in stock and special-order parts usually take just a day to arrive. Customers can also have service done by Brady Schuyler at Upstate Cycle Power Works located in the same building. Above, from the left: Brady Schuyler, Zachery Schaffer, Pete Gardano in cut-out, John Holmes, and Joe Tracy with Louie the Boxer.

Bank of Richmondville part of our communities

The Bank of Richmondville is an independent community bank with offices located in Richmondville, Cobleskill, and Schoharie.

Offices are open Monday thru Thursday 8:15am-4pm, and Friday 8:15am-6pm with additional drive-thru services on Saturdays at the Cobleskill and Schoharie offices from 8:30-11:30am.

The bank currently employs 31 full-time and seven part-time employees and has a seven member Board of Directors committed to the principles and operation of the bank as an independent community bank.



Bank of Richmondville continues to offer a successful blend of modern products and services for its customers, such as a Student E-Z Access Account, mobile banking, a debit card rewards program, e-statements, and a variety of loan and mortgage products.

Bank of Richmondville has always taken pride in the fact that it is an independent community bank involved with its customers, residents, and businesses of Schoharie County on a continuing basis through support of a large variety of community and civic projects.

Bank of Richmondville has always taken pride in the fact that it is an independent community bank involved with its customers, residents, and businesses of Schoharie County on a continuing basis through support of a large variety of community and civic projects.



Arc Lexington: Essential

The Arc Lexington New York provides supports and programs to over 1300 people with developmental disabilities in Schoharie, Fulton and Albany Counties.

Home to nearly 1,800 essential employees, Lexington has earned recognition as a Best Companies to Work for in New York and as one of the region's Top Work Places by the Albany Times Union.

Lexington is currently hiring for positions in Cobleskill, Richmondville, Schoharie and Middleburgh.

The organization offers competitive salaries, paid training, flexible schedules, robust benefits and opportunities for growth and advancement.

To learn more about Lexington, visit them online or at facebook.com/LexingtonArc.

To learn about job opportunities at Lexington in Schoharie County, visit www.thearclexington.org/available-positions or email GrossmR@thearclexington.org.



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Patterson and Sons Sharpening Services at 378 Little York Road in Cobleskill performs sharpening services for knives, woodworking tools, scissors, garden tools, carbide tip tools, planer and jointer blades, and carbide saws.

"We started the business in 1982 and we're still open," said Robert Patterson.



Wellness for all

New Harmony Wellness Center began in 2018 as an offshoot of The Olde Corner Store Deli and Health Food Store by Joy Heckman, CNHP, ND.

In 2020, the New Harmony Wellness Center office moved from Middleburgh to Gallupville.

This health consulting practice, which includes bio-energetic testing and the use of nutraceutical and homeopathic supplements, expanded to include animals, specifically horses and dogs.

Most energy work is done using DNA samples.

Owner Joy Heckman thanks Geri White of Native Hoof, a barefoot hoof care specialist based in Middleburgh, for referrals to caregivers and their animal companions across New York State and nearby states.

Ms. Heckman expects 2021 to be an exceptional year with the addition of a USA-based skin care company, L'Bri Pure and Natural, and continued growth as the acceptance of energy medicine becomes mainstream.

32 years for Race Printing

Denny and Debbie Tilson along with their staff, would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped to make them their neighborhood printer and postal center for over 32 years.

Together as the "Race Printing Team," they have a combined total of over 80 years experience in the designing, printing, wrapping and shipping business.

"We are here to serve you with fast, friendly, courteous service. We have graphic designers on staff to assure you get expert help designing anything you need printed," said Ms. Tilson. "If it can be printed

"During these uncertain times, we are doing everything possible to keep our custom-



ers safe, we are cleaning and disinfecting between customers and have an air purifier running. We would love for you to stop in the next time you're in Cobleskill."



At Kristy's Kreations Hair & Nail Salon, 125 Granite Drive, Cobleskill, Kristy Reynolds offers hair cuts, styling, perms, coloring, foiling, ombres, balayage, manicures, pedicures, waxing, massage and more. In 2021, Ms. Reynolds plans to add eyelash extensions. "Thank you to all of our loyal customers for supporting us throughout the pandemic," she said. "We look forward to welcoming new customers in 2021."



Dutchman’s customers are king

Dutchman Enterprises, 95, Willet Street, Fort Plain, offers cooking, grilling, and heating stoves and chimneys, along with coal and open and closed trailers, and keeps Bravo trailers (above) in stock. Owner Ben Fisher has been delivering results since he opened his store more than 12 years ago. “Our goal is to provide superior customer experience and tremendous value,” he said. “We have the knowledge to match your requirements with the right equipment and are passionate about exceeding your expectations.”

Dutchman Enterprises carries several lines of heavy-duty equipment to suit both home and business requirements and its list of manufacturers is among the brightest in their categories.



By the books

Eva Haessler offers bookkeeping, payroll and tax return services from her business at 551 County Highway 50, Cherry Valley, a new site since consolidating the business to the Cherry Valley location in 2019. Ms. Haessler formed the business in 1968 and thanks her many loyal customers. “I’m always looking to expand my client base,” she said.



Best BBQ and more...

High on the Hog BBQ Company is located on Route 30, Middleburgh, and after opening in 2018, they are making plans to expand their catering business in 2021.

Owners Denise and Todd Nunnemann serve pulled pork, brisket, ribs, steak and seafood, and do catering and pig roasts. They also serve beer and wine.

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Real beef

Reed’s Real Beef is Charlie and Willa Reed’s Black Angus beef farm, located on Evergreen Road in Cobleskill, where they sell their 100 percent grass-fed beef locally to individuals and restaurants. Their meats are individually cryovac-wrapped and sealed. They thank their loyal customers and are looking forward to providing healthy beef to new customers this spring.



Quality Heating and Cooling Mechanical Services has been serving Schoharie County for 32 years and offers sales and installation of all heating and cooling equipment as well as top-notch service on all brands of equipment—no matter who installed it or where it’s from.

Staff follows all CDC guidelines to ensure customer and employee safety and are fully trained on new installations and replacements. Quality Heating and Cooling is locally-owned and owner-operated with a 100 percent satisfaction guarantee.



Maureen LaRose Barber State Farm

The Maureen LaRose Barber State Farm Agency in Cobleskill prides itself on offering exceptional service to clients. “2020 was a difficult year for all of us and we want to thank our loyal customers for their business,” said owner Maureen LaRose Barber. “We look forward optimistically to a better year in 2021.” Above, from the left: Jessie Williams, Ms. Barber, and Eileen Fitzgerald.

2020: Arc Lexington joins forces with Schoharie Arc

The Arc Lexington, based in Fulton County and Schoharie Arc merged as of October 1, 2020 to become one organization, known as The Arc Lexington NY.

The merger of the two agencies allows them to expand the high-quality programming and services to over 1,300 individuals in Fulton, Albany and Schoharie Counties, with the support of over 1,800 employees and a budget of over \$106 million.

The community was introduced to the new organization at a socially-distanced meet and greet event on the Schoharie campus on October 9, where people supported by the agency, friends, family, agency staff and community supporters came together to celebrate the merger.

The Arc Lexington provides residential, day habilitation, employment, family and social supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in Fulton and Schoharie Coun-

ties. In Albany County, Lexington provides residential services, in partnership with Warren-Washington-Albany Arc.

In addition, Lexington’s programs include supports for young adults with autism and other learning differences through its Transitions program in Gloversville in Fulton County; the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, a year-round community arts center for people of all ages, abilities and artistic skill levels, co-located with Transitions; and Flame, a world-renowned rock band comprised of talented musicians who happen to have disabilities.

In Schoharie County, Lexington offers employment support programs for people with disabilities - New Beginnings, a thrift shop in Schoharie; Toe Path Industries that supports businesses with production, manufacturing and fulfillment services, and Toe Path Redemption

Center.

In addition, Legacy of Love – Schoharie County, the former Schoharie Arc Foundation, will continue in its mission to raise funds for needed assistance for people with developmental disabilities in Schoharie County.

To learn more about Lexington, visit the website at www.thearclexington.org, on Facebook at facebook.com/LexingtonArc.

To learn more about Legacy of Love – Schoharie County like its Facebook page at facebook.com/LegacyofLoveSchoharie.

The Arc Lexington’s Schoharie offices are located at 121 Opportunity Drive, Schoharie and can be reached by phone at (518)295-8130.

To learn about job opportunities at Lexington in Schoharie County, visit www.thearclexington.org/apply or email hr@thearclexington.org.

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- Window and door replacement for mobile homes
- Window air conditioners for customers with a medical need

NYSHCR has also changed the weatherization date from 1985 to 1994. This means that if your home was weatherized before September 30, 1994, we may be able to return to re-weatherize your home.

DHCR income guidelines thru 10/31/2021 are:

Size of Household	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$2,610
2	\$3,413
3	\$4,216
4	\$5,019
5	\$5,822
6	\$6,625

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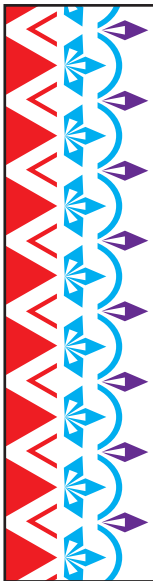
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Matt's Cycle Center: Family

Matt's Cycle Center marked a decade at its Coxsackie location in 2020. A one-stop shop for power sports, they sell new and used motorcycles, ATVs, and snowmobiles and offer a full line of accessories and parts. They have a well-trained service department and provide free delivery to their Schoharie County customers.

Front row, from the left: Rich Gaige and Justin Boice. Back row: Steve George, Don Knowles, Rebecca Rossman, Madison Gerken, Nick Gerken, Christopher Gerken, Jennifer Gerken, Tim Joslin, and Scott Grey.



Matt's Cycle Center marked a decade at its Coxsackie location in 2020. From left to right: Nick Gerken, Jennifer Gerken, Madison Gerken, and Christopher Gerken.

Helios Care offers tool kit for families

Helios Care is an award-winning organization and has been a leader in providing palliative and hospice care for over 35 years. Their staff provides professional, compassionate, family-centered care to patients with chronic and terminal illness.

The mission at Helios Care is "Making Life Easier for patients and families facing serious illness or end of life."

The focus is not only the patient, but the family and friends caring for an individual or experiencing grief.

Helios Care is currently offering free grief/bereavement counseling to any individual who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

The loss does not have to be due to COVID-19, nor does the person have to have been receiving services (hospice or palliative care) from Helios Care.

Counseling is provided by li-

censed Social Workers who have specialized training in grief, death and dying and is available through groups or individually.

They have also developed a "tool kit" of resources and activities that

parents/guardians or other adults can use to help children.

The "Coping Kits" are based on activities they use with children and teens during their bereavement camps and have been developed

by clinicians specifically to help children cope.

Kits are available by calling (607) 432-5525 or visiting their website at helioscare.org.

Anyone can reach out to Helios

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Anyone with relatives or friends dealing with a serious illness, or to learn more about Helios Care, call them at (607) 432-5525 or visit their website at www.helioscare.org.

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Buffomatic Transmissions is Shawn Buffo's auto repair shop located at 2340 Route 20 in Carlisle. As of April 1, 2020 the shop is a certified NYS auto inspection station serving the upstate region. "Buffomatic Transmissions is a full-service auto repair shop specializing in any foreign and domestic light duty and heavy duty vehicles," said Mr. Buffo.

Buffomatic Transmissions also sells used vehicles. Additionally, Mr. Buffo has storage units for rent on Route 20. Lisa Brock is manager of the storage units. Ms. Brock's phone number is (518)817-1891.

In photo, Paul Page, office manager; left and Shawn Buffo, owner. Other employees are Brian Rightmyer and Maria Burton.



First New York Federal Credit Union is located at 75 East Main Street in Cobleskill. The business formed in 1937 and employs 100 people. It offers checking and savings accounts, auto and personal loans, mortgages and home equity loans and commercial deposit and loan accounts. There to serve you are, front row from left: Kayla Shackelton, teller, and Erin Fripp, member service rep. Back row from left: Gena Tillapaugh, branch manager; Gemunu DeSilva, teller, April Sperbeck assistant branch manager. Not present for photo, Victoria Valhos, teller.

Middle Village offers the best

Middle Village Pasta & Grill, 336 Main Street, Middleburgh, celebrated its 17th year in business on January 6.

Ralph and Angela Mordocco's popular restaurant serves seafood, pasta, pizza, steaks, chicken and veal family-style. A private room is available for parties, holidays, and special occasions and take-outs are available.

"We want to thank all of our loyal customers for their support and patronage over the past 17 years," Ms. Mordocco said.





Key Bank, Cobleskill is a full-service bank grateful for its many loyal customers for their patience during this past year. From the left: Colleen Henry, Bonnie Squardere, Denise Fissell and Kathy Diamond. Missing: Christopher Hunt, Jennifer Regelski-Rotman and Denise Sawyer.



Lyn Lawyer, CPA, has 20-plus years of experience, handles personnel and business taxes, bookkeeping, payroll, sales taxes, financial statements and town and village accounting. “I look forward to providing the best CPA work to all my loyal clients and am always looking to expand my client base,” Ms. Lawyer says. “Stop in or call me.” The number is (518)254-7320.



Ryan’s Auto and Ryan’s Self-Storage is owned and operated by Nick and Joe Ryan, whose full-service auto repair center is conveniently located on Route 145 in Middleburgh. They offer computer diagnostics, transmission flushes, quality exhaust systems, A/C service, including the service of Y1234 air conditioning systems—tires and alignment. They also provide 24-hour towing services and sell diesel and kerosene. The business, family-owned and operated since 2017, added the self-storage units with 24-hour access and online bill pay in 2017.



Oak Hill Landscaping is Jason Saddlemire’s full-service landscape company. Formed in 1996, it specializes in outdoor fire features, paver patios, retaining walls, and lighting. New for 2020, they will be adding on paver patio refurbishing and sealing, adding new life to aging patios.

Oak Hill Landscaping employs five. In 2017, Mr. Saddlemire added a new paver display so customers could view his samples, and in 2018, he expanded it. In 2019, Mr. Saddlemire purchased hydroseeding equipment to ensure quicker implementation and germination.

His additional services include: Block retaining walls, light excavation, and drainage, for both residential and commercial customers.



Family friendly

Hide-A-Way Campsites is a campsite facility and campground located in scenic Central Bridge, between the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains in the heart of the Central Leatherstocking Region.

Located just minutes away from Howe Caves and Secret Caverns, Hide-A-Way also has a 17 acre park on site, a fully stocked fish pond, and a heated inground pool.

"We offer clean and family friendly camping," said Dawn Benninger. "Give us a try and we're confident you'll like what we have to offer."

Visit their website at www.hideawaycampsites.com for pictures, directions, and making reservations.



Four Star Realty Group is located at 310 Main Street in Middleburgh and is owned by Licensed Real Estate Broker Lisa Tenneson. The year has been a year of change with both ups and downs for the realty group.

In 2020, William Adams, Licensed sales Agent and Lisa's son, joined the enthusiastic team.

Four Star Realty Group is now a family-owned and operated business. In March, COVID-19 pandemic closed the business down as far as direct contact with clients. However, to

some extent they were able to work remotely for a while.

When the governor allowed the realty business to be out and about again, and working directly with clients, the market was on fire and the business was again flourishing.

"Four Star Realty Group is blessed and humbled by the love and support of our local community. We thank all of our clients for their continued support," said Lisa Tenneson.

In photo, from left: Lisa Tenneson, broker/owner; William Adams, Licensed Sales Agent and Cherie Rowlison, Admin.

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You can find just about anything you need for the farm, home, garden and outdoors at Kelley Farm and Garden on West Main Street in Cobleskill. Opened in 2000 and now with 25 employees, Kelley's offers lumber, hardware, farm supplies, clothing, lawn and garden goods, pet supplies, bird-feeding ware, footwear, rental equipment and more. Kelley's expanded its clothing and footwear in the past year.

"We continue to provide the community with all their country-living need, with great customer service," said Scott Kelley.

"We really appreciate our customers' patience during these challenging times. We're still striving to provide the best customer service in the area. Thank you to all our customers for their continued support."



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McCarthy Guns is located at 217 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, and carries handguns, long guns and supplies. The business opened in 2016 and employs three. McCarthy Guns is a family-owned/veteran-owned specialty gun shop providing expert knowledge, great customer service, and competitive pricing.

Tom McCarthy, above with Kathy and Ryan McCarthy. New items are on sale every Sunday with the price good for Sunday only.

For more information, go to their website McCarthyGuns.com.



Pearl "Ruby" Torres is a licensed real estate associate broker with Keller Williams Realty Hudson Valley North.

Ms. Torres relocated to Schoharie County from Rockland County eight years ago.

She has 28 years of experience in real estate and believes in the golden rule.

"You treat people as you would want to be treated." She has experience helping buyers, sellers, landlords and tenants and has several years of experience as a landlord herself.

Ms. Torres has been in the top 10 percent of agents in the Capital Region for the past two years.

She loves anything real estate and is currently remodeling one of her homes in Middleburgh. This photo is of the remodeled kitchen that is almost done.

Ms. Torres does not get much spare time these days but, when she does, she enjoys time with family in the great outdoors camping, gardening and taking scenic rides throughout upstate New York in her classic Corvette.

Ms. Torres is also a Zumba Gold instructor at the Body Fixx in Middleburgh, New York. She calls Zumba her "reset button." It helps her maintain a healthy, positive lifestyle.



The Red Barn Clubhouse is a full service restaurant and bar located at the Cobleskill Golf and Country Club on 2322 Route 7, minutes away from Howe Caverns.

The restaurant is open to the public seven days a week from April 1-December 31, with many authentic Texas BBQ offerings such as prime rib, smoked brisket, pulled pork and king crab, as well as a variety of burger and sandwich options.

Come enjoy a diverse menu or come share a drink with friends after a round of golf.

The Red Barn Clubhouse also offers on and off-site catering services, call (518)254-0275 to schedule an event, or visit www.golfcobleskill.com to view menus.

"We'd like to thank all of our loyal customers and club members who continually supported us through a very wild and unpredictable 2020," said Zach Bulka. "Even with limited seating capacity and all of the COVID guidelines in place, we were able to break and set new records for meals served in a day several times. We are looking forward to a return to a more conventional season when we reopen in early April. We'll see you all very soon."



Rick's Tire in Grand Gorge offers tires for cars, trucks, ATVs, and lawn and garden vehicles, as well as farm, commercial, and road service. Owners are Shelly and Rick Haight. "We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal customers and look forward to providing the same service in the new year," Mr. Haight said.



You're Worth It Salon is entering its 20th year of service to the community.

The salon is spacious and perfect for social-distancing. They offer a variety of personal services for the entire family – haircuts, color, perms, as well as waxing and pedicures.

"We want to thank you for let us help you continue to look and feel your best, even in these difficult times. Family and friends are the most important part of our lives and we consider you all our family," said owner Tammy Hotaling.

Above, from the left: Tammy Hotaling, Cinnamon Snyder and Amber Nicholson.

Eager to help

Howard Hanna Real Estate Services is the country's third largest real estate company—and New York State's largest—with personal service to its clients its top priority.

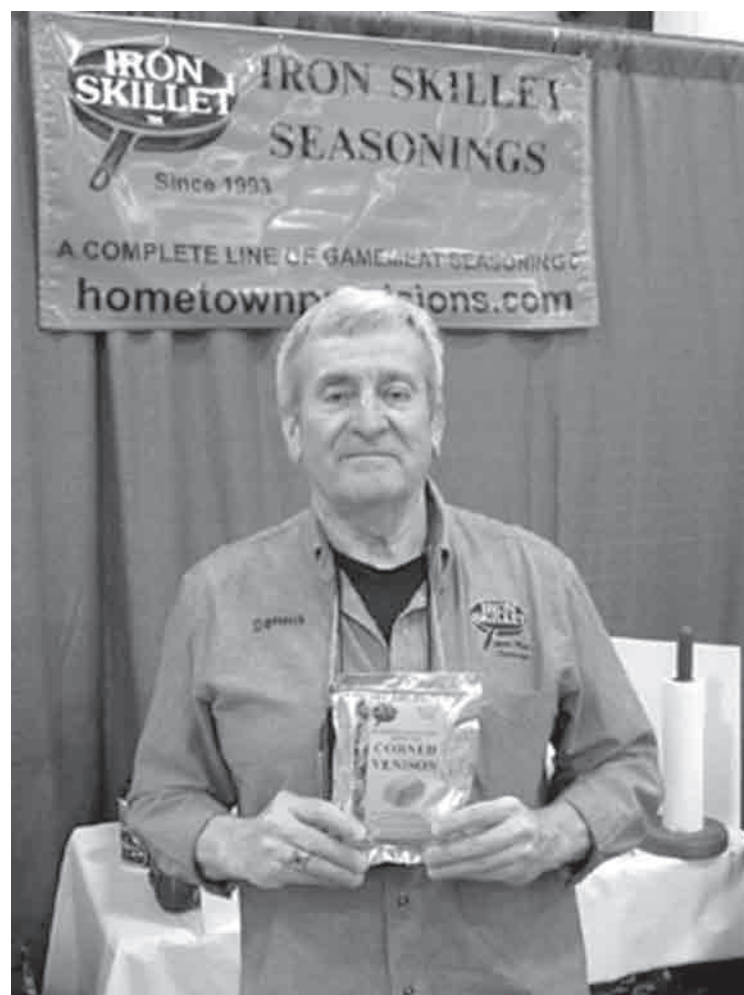
"Our company is committed to making the buying or selling of real estate a pleasant and smooth experience," said Jill Birdsall, manager. "We combine our many years of service with the products and tools Howard Hanna offers to achieve a high level of success."

The agency is based at 173 South Grand Street, Cobleskill, in the Cooperative Extension building. From the left: Debra Stanton, Sandra Poole, Rebecca Stanton, Ms. Birdsall, Michelle Curran, Rebecca Cross-Zarski, Jonathan DiCesare, and Andrew Steiner.



With locations in Schoharie and Schenectady, SEFCU Insurance Agency provides affordable protection for all of your personal insurance needs including auto, home, renters, motorcycle, boat/RV, umbrella and life. SEFCU Insurance Agency is committed to the residents of Schoharie County and is located at 297 Main Street in Schoharie.

SEFCU employees in Schoharie Office – in front, from left: Samantha Miller, Casey McFee. In back, from left: Corinne Canastra, Julia Dunham, Lin Collins, Stephanie Nelson and Kate Rowlinson.



Through his Hometown Provisions business, Hollenbeck Road, Worcester, Dennis Dedek offers the tastiest in game meat seasonings. Packets are portion-sizes and don't require measuring and feature more than 40 different seasonings specifically for game meats. "Our iron skillet seasonings are flavorful and easy to use," Mr. Dedek said.

You can now purchase the seasonings at Runnings in Gloversville, ACE Hardware in Cobleskill, Mid-Valley Auto in Middleburgh, Rhineharts in Richmondville and the Center in Worcester.

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Poor Boyz Power Sports, is located on Route 145, two miles south of Middleburgh. Owner Scott Simeon offers parts, parts installation, service and accessories for all power sports needs—ATVs, UTVs, snowmobiles, and motorcycles. Most parts are in stock, but he will special-order too.

Poor Boyz also sells used machines and offers safe indoor storage for all power sports and trailers in a dry, climate-controlled environment. They are celebrating 20-plus years of success.



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HONEY MOON is an easy-drinking, unaged spirit. Delicious on its own, Honey Moon also promises to make your favorite vodka cocktail even better.

THIRTEENTH MOON is named for the number of lunar cycles in the 12 months it's aged in American oak barrels. Perfect sipper and its rich honey backbone also makes it an elegant complement to any number of classic cocktails.

CONUNDRUM is distilled from local sorghum and honey and aged in American oak barrels for at least one year, then finished in a NYS port barrel. Flavor profile and mouth feel is most similar to a fine, barrel-aged rum.

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Hometown Hauling & Recycling is a full-service, local, family-owned waste removal and waste management company based in Worcester since 2013 and serving all of Schoharie and Otsego County. Services include: residential waste and recycling pick-up, bulk pick-up and appliance removal, residential and commercial dumpsters, roll-off dumpsters for household



clean-outs and building projects—sizes available are 10- 20- 30-, and 40-yard. Other services include demolition, contaminated soil and industrial waste removal.



Worcester repair...

J. EMZ is Joe Marsh's auto body, collision repair, and custom painting shop in East Worcester, open since 2013.

"I want to thank all of my customers for their business this past year and I look forward to working with all of you in the New Year," Mr. Marsh said.

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It's a spirits Revolution

Revolutionary Spirits is a New York State Farm Distillery located in Jefferson that produces finely-crafted spirits distilled from local honey and sorghum that was formed in 2013. In 2020, after years of planning, owners, above from the left, Carl Mummenthey, Bill Parker, and Phil Potak, introduced its first two spirits to the market last winter. In November, they launched their third.

Honey Moon is an easy-drinking, un-aged spirit. Thirteenth Moon is aged in American oak barrels and is Rev Spirit's take on a cognac. Conundrum is distilled from locally grown sorghum and honey, aged in new American oak barrels for at least a year, then finished in a NYS port barrel.

In 2021, Rev Sprits will be part of the Schoharie County Beverage Trail with tastings planned from 1-5pm each Saturday, Memorial Day through Columbus Day, at their farm stand on Route 10, Jefferson.



Precision training

Taravale Farm and Kennel competed in several Sheepdog Trials this year.

Above, Bernie Armata's "Dot" works to keep sheep together while moving them through the course.

It takes a lot of training to get a dog to this level of precision, but luckily Taravale Farm and Kennel specializes in training Border Collies for sheep herding and handling tasks.

Apart from training and competing, Taravale also operates a boarding kennel for dogs, and will be going into their 13th year of business.

Gathering Place to open in spring

The Schoharie County Council of Senior Citizens is excited to announce The Gathering Place 50 Plus Community Center, opening spring 2021.

This new center will provide resources, programs, meeting space, and many classes and activities all dedicated to enhancing the lives of our 50 Plus population in Schoharie County and surrounding areas.

This new center will provide an opportunity to serve the community in a variety of ways.

The center will include a reception area, a creative arts room, a recreation area, a small library, a computer lab and help desk, as well as many special events.

The cost of membership will be \$25 annually.

This fee will give members open access to the center and



all of its amenities and services.

Scholarships will be available for those who may be in need of assistance.

They encourage people to become a member or purchase a membership for parents, aunts, uncles, or neighbors as a gift.

For more information about our new center, information about membership, or if you are interested in teaching a class, contact Kimberly Witkowski, executive director, at (518)254-7040 (office) or (518)788-4068 (cell).

Amy's looks to April

Amy's Place, located on 145, Middleburgh, will open this season in April. New this year will be soft serve frozen yogurt, an expansion of the homemade ice cream flavors as well as the Italian ice flavors.





Customized...

With over 100 years of service in the marketing/advertising industry, New England Calendar Company is celebrating its seventh year in Cobleskill, offering customized promotional products for businesses and events.

New England Calendar sells imprinted calendars, along with many other personalized products such as presentation folders, pens, magnets, apparel, drinkware and tech products.

A friendly staff is available to answer phones during business hours, and offers in-house graphic design guidance to help with any project.

New England Calendar does its best to supply the right product for any advertising need, whether it's a business function or special event such as a wedding.

Check out their always-expanding collection of promotional products online at www.newenglandcalendar.com and if you don't see what you're looking for, reach out to Customer Service at (800)721-7225.

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Esperance LP Gas Inc. is Donald Largeteau's propane delivery and service business and has been family-owned by Don, Steve and Kayla Largeteau for more than 30 years. Rounding out the staff are Phil Bratt, Tony Kirby, and Krista Peacock.

They offer 24-hour service and bulk delivery.

In addition to delivering propane, they sell LP products such as heaters, furnaces and water heaters and do repairs on equipment. Service and installation for heating and cooling is done within a 50-mile radius of Esperance. They also do appliance sales.

From top left: Don Largeteau, Kayla Largeteau, Steve Largeteau, all owners, and on their bicycles, Max, Zack, and Sam, Steve and Kayla's children.



Long Energy is a family-owned business since 1945.

They sell propane, oil heat, kerosene, gasoline, premium on-off road diesel, and biofuel.

They do servicing and installation of oil and gas heating systems and central air conditioning. Long Energy also sells and services standby generators.

Other services include plumbing, remote fuel monitoring systems and indoor air quality equipment and duct cleaning.

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The National Bank of Coxsackie is located locally on Route 30, Middleburgh and offers a full line of financial services and loans. Customers can apply for a mortgage or car loan or open a checking, savings, or CD online through their website. Staff continues to serve Schoharie County and to be involved in the local community. Above, from the left: Tina Fisher, head teller; Jamie Casterlin, business development officer; Brenda Bellinger, platform administrator; Amber Trafton, teller; and Heather Kelly, branch manager.



TAS keeps us warm

TAS features a large selection of wood, coal, pellet and gas stoves and fireplaces. Owners Thomas and Dawn Sachs remain 100 percent dedicated to superior customer service and offer sales and services as well as custom design solutions.

TAS also offers installations by their factory trained technicians.

TAS Pools and Spas has been in business for four years and provides sales, service and installation of above ground pools. They also offer pool openings and closings.

"We thank our many customers this past year and we continue to strive on providing quality products and service," said Mr. Sachs.

Above from the left: Matt Jorgenson, Matt Jorgenson, Coles Carpenter and Dawn and Thomas Sachs.



Mid Valley Auto

Mid Valley Auto Parts is located at 158 Wells Avenue in Middleburgh.

The shop carries NAPA auto parts and does commercial and retail sales. They have a machine shop, hydraulic hoses, fly wheels and turn drums and rotors. There to serve you are, from left: Jason Symons, Dave Symons, Doug Easley, Rick Hesdorfer and Martha Lindemann.



The Todd Cipperly Agency has been meeting local insurance needs for 10 years.

Mr. Cipperly, above with his staff, Heidi Lawton and Doreen Zinssar, offers home, auto, business, life, snowmobile, RV, and boat insurance.

"I truly want to wish all our clients a safe and happy 2021 and I thank them for their business," Mr. Cipperly said.



Corsall's Plaza Liquor has been a family owned business since 1966 and has been in its current location since 1974.

"No year has proven to be more difficult than 2020," said owner Joe Corsall.

"As a small business, being defined as an essential business during this pandemic was certainly a blessing. Thank you to all of our loyal patrons who shopped local during this difficult time."



COD Oil Delivery has five trucks and has been covering Schoharie County and surrounding counties since 1987 when Everett Chichester started the business. They accept most major credit cards and have burner service referrals.



Country Cafe

The Country Café, located at 293 Main Street remains open through COVID.

The café is open Wednesday through Sunday and offers daily specials for breakfast and lunch, including home-made soups, salads, and pies.

The café offers catering which they hope to continue in 2021, as well as "take and bakes" that can be pre-ordered any time and are perfect for a family.

Lexi Ryder, owner of the café, thanks her staff and customers for keeping her going during the pandemic.

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Brand's Paving

ConnieJo Van Valkenburgh stands by her truck at Brand's Paving Inc. in Conesville. Operating since 1960, Brand's Paving has been family-owned and operated for four generations.

Brand's Paving offers a unique maintenance schedule, with each completed job being tracked to ensure all maintenance needs are caught in a timely manner to save the customer time, money and worry.

"We are grateful for our existing customers and look forward to servicing new customers as we expand our business to more surrounding counties for both commercial and residential needs," Ms. Van Valkenburgh said.



Community Bank, Cobleskill

Community Bank NA is a commercial bank serving customers in upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Massachusetts. Its Cobleskill branch, pictured here, is located at 750 East Main Street. Stop in and see what they can do for you.



Buffo Storage, Carlisle

Buffo Storage takes pride in offering a simple and hassle-free self-storage experience for customers in Carlisle.

They make sure their storage units are clean, secure, and ready to rent.

They also focus on offering a wide variety of storage unit sizes and types to make sure they can handle any self-storage need customers may have.

Buffo Storage also offers online rentals and online bill pay 24/7 to make the experience quick and easy. Look at their available storage units and give them a call with questions or simply rent a unit right on the website.

They are committed to providing a clean, secure and ready-to-rent self-storage unit. Their friendly staff provides everyone with a great storage rental experience from start to finish.

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ProActive Physical Therapy and Wellness has been offering PT, rehab, and athletic training in Cobleskill since 2007.

In 2020, Nicole Palazzo PT, DPT, joined the ProActive team. A graduate of The College of Staten Island's Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program, she recently passed her state licensing exam. She's also a West Point graduate and completed her military commitment overseas before using the GI Bill to return to earn her degree.

Ms. Palazzo brings the most recent treatment techniques to ProActive and has developed a vertigo treatment program. She is also working toward becoming a certified strength and conditioning specialist.

Stephanie Eglintine also joined owner Randy Pacatte's ProActive staff in 2020 to assist patients in navigating the complicated health care system.

Also in 2020, ProActive developed a webpage with forms clients can download in the convenience of their homes.

"The pandemic has changed the way we provide services," Mr. Pacatte said. "We are better today than yesterday, and continue to emphasize masks, cleaning, and limited contact. At the height of the pandemic, we had a 60 percent loss in patients served, but thankfully, we have weathered the storm and look forward to providing the same quality care we've been providing for the past 14 years in 2021."



On the Level Construction is Dick Buffo's residential and commercial construction firm, in business since 1978. On the Level is an accredited BBB business with an A+ rating.

"We can do all construction-related work," Mr. Buffo said, "from new homes and replacement windows to pole barns to additions to foundations, we have the skills."



RL Parsons Inc., Chestnut Street, Sharon Springs, offers a full line of fuel service including fuel oil, propane and diesel. Ray Parsons and his team also install, service, and repair heating and A/C systems and do duct cleaning. They are open and provide fuel delivery service 24/7. All staff are professionally trained oil and gas service technicians.



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Cub Cadet



The Schoharie Promotional Association has been serving the Schoharie community since 1983. Amid the chaos that was 2020, Schoharie Promotional still had a few opportunities to beautify the village and hold events. Fun included a virtual Easter egg hunt and continued work on Lily Park, which was decorated for all of the holidays. Schoharie Promotional is hoping it will be able to hold its Lily Fest this July.

Also, volunteers planted flower barrels along Main Street, lit up Fox Creek Park for the holidays, held decorating contests in the village, and set up ice skating in Fox Creek Park, courtesy of Floyd Guernsey. Continued and new events are planned for 2021.

Above, from the left: Diana Bell-Jackson, membership chair; Colleen Quirion, recording secretary; Linda Alescio, vice president; Shari Carr, president; and Chuck Alescio, treasurer.



Dentistry with class

Schoharie Dental was formed in 2014. Pediatric dentist Jake Fried joined founding dentist Hazem Elbially in 2019. Also in 2019, the business moved into the historic Marshall D. Bice House on Main Street, receiving a state Historic Preservation award for its adaption of the building.



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