

MOHAWK VALLEY
Country Editor
 Serving the Valley for 53 Years

FEBRUARY 13, 2021
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And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
 that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Was it an attack?

The House of Representatives in danger?... under attack?...
 Two Representatives' lives threatened while in The Capital?
 America under threat? An attempted coup?
 When watching, did your hand cover your mouth?
 Did you lose any desire to continue standing and reach for a chair?
 Did you yell at your TV? Did pandemonium take place?
 Democracy? / complete disorder?... Chaos?
 Do we remain the United States of America?
 Yes, yes, we do! Steps will soon be taken in dealing with the event; ... no question.
 Proper action must occur which will easily confirm the continued existence of
 our fair and powerful nation... and we will maintain our pride and continued love
 of our exceptional homeland.
 Remember, what we saw in our nation's capital certainly does not represent all

Americans. Additionally, work can and will soon be completed to repair our Democracy from the effects of this action.

I do not believe that it will take that long to convince our allies as well as our citizens that we remain a country of social equality, ...a just democracy, indulging swift reform when necessary.

Our government will successfully deal with this. Most Americans will successfully deal with this. Pride, success, and attainment of victory will return.

We will remain: "The United States of America"

We will lock arms, and move forward together. That is who we have always been, and that is who we are. Let us join together, ...Today!

Vic Sgambato, Fort Plain



Mussels Mariniere with Bacon Frisee Salad

Planning a romantic dinner for two? Serve this mussels dish with bacon frisee salad and a fresh baguette. It takes just 20 minutes to prepare.

2 slices thick-cut bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
 1 small (4-5 ounces) head frisee, leaves separated
 Pepper
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 1 tablespoon margarine or butter
 1 medium (6-8 ounces) onion, finely chopped
 2 cloves garlic, crushed with press
 1 cup dry white wine
 3 pounds mussels, beards removed, well-washed
 1/2 cup packed fresh parsley leaves, finely chopped

1 small (7 ounces) baguette, cut in half and toasted

1. In 12-inch skillet, cook bacon on medium 6-8 minutes or until crisp and browned. With slotted spoon, transfer to paper-towel-lined plate; set aside.

2. To drippings in skillet, add vinegar and cook 1 minute on medium. Pour into medium bowl (do not scrape browned bits from bottom of pan), add frisee and 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. Toss to coat.

3. In wide 8-quart saucepot, heat oil and margarine on medium-high until margarine melts. Add onion and garlic, and cook 2 minutes or until almost translucent, stirring. Add wine and heat to boiling. Add mussels, stir once, cover, and cook 1 minute. Stir again; cov-

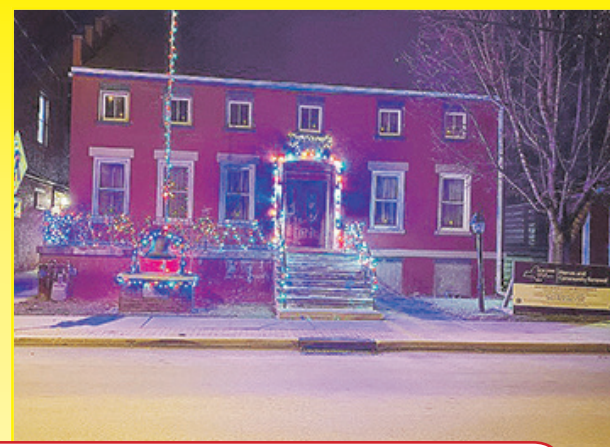
er and cook 1-2 minutes longer or just until mussels open; do not overcook.

3. Immediately divide mussels and cooking liquid between 2 large serving bowls and top with parsley. Divide salad between 2 serving plates and top with reserved bacon. Serve mussels and salad with baguette.

* Each serving (includes mussels, salad and half a baguette): About 790 calories, 39g total fat (11g saturated), 66mg cholesterol, 1,420mg sodium, 73g total carbohydrate, 8g dietary fiber, 33g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/food-recipes/.

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*Thank you to all of our vendors and everyone who helped
 with Fundraising, Christmas Tree Sales & Boot Drive.
 We appreciate your generous contributions
 and support throughout the year!
 Best wishes for 2021!*

From the Members of the Fort Plain Fire Department



PRESIDENTS' DAY STARTS NOW

ALL NEW 2021 NISSAN ROGUE AWD



**Lease Deal
Ends 3/1/21**

ALL NEW 2021 Nissan Rogue AWD

\$259
lease for 36 mos.

Model#22011. VIN#JN8AT3AB2MW206974 & 5N1AT3AB3MC711396. MSRP \$28,710. Total due at inception: \$3,000 down payment + \$0 security deposit + bank fee included in payment + \$259 1st payment = \$3,259. Price includes \$1,000 Nissan Lease Cash. Negotiated value of vehicle \$28,128.99. Lessee responsible for Insurance, Maintenance, excess wear & mileage. 12k mi/year. Plus tax, & mv fees. Well qualified credit. Offer Expires 3/1/2021.

2020 NISSAN SENTRA SV



9 Left

2020 NISSAN SENTRA SV

\$139
lease for 36 mos.

Model#21210. VIN#F111111111111111. MSRP \$21,750. Total due at inception: \$3,000 down payment + \$0 security deposit + bank fee included in payment + \$139 1st payment = \$3,139. Price includes \$1,000 Nissan Lease Cash and \$1,000 Nissan Bonus Cash. Negotiated value of vehicle \$21,573.13. Lessee responsible for Insurance, Maintenance, excess wear & mileage. 12k mi/year. Plus tax, & mv fees. Well qualified credit. Offer Expires 3/1/2021.

2020 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV AWD



Lease Deal
Ends 3/1/21

2020 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV AWD

\$319
lease for 36 mos.

Model#22010. VIN#F111111111111111. MSRP \$38,860. Total due at inception: \$3,000 down payment + \$0 security deposit + bank fee included in payment + \$319 1st payment = \$3,319. Price includes \$1,000 Nissan Lease Cash and \$1,000 Nissan Bonus Cash. Negotiated value of vehicle \$37,444.09. Lessee responsible for Insurance, Maintenance, excess wear & mileage. 12k mi/year. Plus tax, & mv fees. Well qualified credit. Offer Expires 3/1/2021.

2020 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB SV 4X4



Only 1 Left

2020 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB SV 4X4

\$259
lease for 36 mos.

Model#22010. VIN#F111111111111111. MSRP \$34,085. Total due at inception: \$3,000 down payment + \$0 security deposit + bank fee included in payment + \$259 1st payment = \$3,259. Price includes \$1,000 Nissan Lease Cash and \$1,000 Nissan Bonus Cash. Negotiated value of vehicle \$33,636.89. Lessee responsible for Insurance, Maintenance, excess wear & mileage. 12k mi/year. Plus tax, & mv fees. Well qualified credit. Offer Expires 3/1/2021.

2020 NISSAN KICKS



Only 2 Left

2020 NISSAN KICKS

\$17,999
Sale Price

Model#22010. VIN#F111111111111111. MSRP \$20,895. Nissan Customer Cash - \$2,000. Treiber Discount - \$596. Plus tax, & mv fees. Offer Expires 3/1/2021.

2020 NISSAN MURANO SV AWD



1 Left

2020 NISSAN MURANO SV AWD

\$31,999
Sale Price

Model#22010. VIN#F111111111111111. MSRP \$38,660. Nissan Customer Cash - \$4,000. Nissan Bonus Cash - \$400. Treiber Discount - \$2,161. Plus tax, & mv fees. Offer Expires 3/1/2021.

2020 NISSAN ROGUE AWD



Last One!

2020 NISSAN ROGUE AWD

\$24,995
Sale Price

Model#22010. VIN#F111111111111111. MSRP \$27,745. Treiber Discount - \$2,750. Plus tax, & mv fees. Offer Expires 3/1/2021.

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18 SUBARU FORESTER LIMITED



AWD

Leather & loaded up. 34k mi. #UC1821

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19 FRONTIER SV CREW CAB 4X4



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20 ALTIMA SL

Moonroof, Leather, Navi., Loaded! One of the Best Buys! 24k mi. #UC1854

\$19893*

19 ROGUE SPORT SV AWD



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\$18672*

19 NISSAN VERSA SV



Great commuter car. Super gas mileage! 33-35k mi.

2 LEFT

\$12814*

LOW, LOW PAYMENTS

19 PATHFINDER SV AWD



7 seater, all the buttons. 29k mi. #UC1835

\$24777*

18 CHEVY MALIBU LS



Lovely in and out. 39k mi. #UC1837

SUPER VALUE

\$13906*

2020 ROGUE SL AWD



Stunning midnight pine w/almond leather. Loaded up. 26k mi. #UC1910

\$24995*



16 ROGUE AWD

Well equipped, clean, 86k mi. #UC1860

\$12633*

SUPER BARGAIN



18 SENTRA

Beautiful car in and out! 40k mi. #UC1779

\$11944*

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ADVERTISERS: Get the best responses from your advertisements by including the age, condition, price and best calling hours. Also, we always recommend insertion for at least 2 issues for maximum benefits. DEADLINE for placing ads is FRIDAY 5pm prior to each edition date. **Call 518-673-0111**

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We want to hear from you!

Send your comments & suggestions to the

Mohawk Valley Country Editor
PO Box 121,
Palatine Bridge,
NY 13428
or email
tkrieger@leepub.com

RENTAL OF 60 acres of crop land in Town of Danube available now. 315-823-2759, 315-832-1691

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BRUTE FORCE Firewood Processors Sales & Rentals. Come see at Mohawk Valley Ag, 35 Willett Street, Fort Plain, NY 518-993-2543

8x10 Photos only \$3.00 or get 2-5x7's for **\$3.00**. Lee Newspapers Inc., 6113 State Hwy. 5, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428. 518-673-3237

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Black History Month



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 www.WADASEYE.com 



Church Directory

**To Place or Update
Church Listings
Call 518-673-0108
or email
tkrieger@leepub.com**

Amazing Grace Baptist Church
131 Clark Rd., Fort Plain
518-568-7606
Pastor Frank Calabrese
Sunday School 10am, Morning Service 11am,
Sun. Eve. Service 6:30pm, Wed. Service 6:30pm,
Sat. Visitation 10am
www.amazinggracebc.org

**Ames - Sprout Brook
UMC**
613 Latimer Hill Rd.
Ames, NY 13317
518-673-3495
Pastor Jan Markle
Sunday Service 9:00am

Bethesda Fellowship
34 S. Division St.
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-2678
Summer Schedule
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Wed. Worship and Prayer 6:00pm

**Cherry Valley
Assembly of God**
37 Alden St., Cherry Valley,
607-264-3306
Pastor David Carpenter, Jr.
Sundays 9:30am

**Christian Church of
Charleston Four Corners**
1380 E. Lykers Rd., Sprakers
518-922-9088
Pastor Brett Popp
Sunday School (adult & children) 10am,
Worship 11am,
Sunday Eve. Prayer 6:30pm,
Thurs. Eve. of Encouragement 6:30pm
www.christianchurchcharlestonfourcorners.org

Church of Christ Uniting
PO Box 896
Richfield Springs, NY 13439
Rev. Mark Ioset
315-858-1553
Service: Sunday 9:15am
Church School: Sunday 10:30am

Church of the Good Shepherd
26 Moyer St., Canajoharie
518-673-3440
The Rev. Virginia L. Ogden, Rector
Sunday Worship 9:30
with Communion
Church Email: churchgoodshepherd@gmail.com
Web Site: www.churchgoodshepherd.com

Church of the Nazarene
3316 State Route 29 W
Johnstown, NY 12095
Offices: 518-762-2982
Cell: 857-523-8417
Pastor, Rev. Mark Fowler
Sunday Morning Service 11:00am
Sunday School for All Ages 10:00am

Community Bible Church
Corner of Cliff & Walnut Streets
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 993-1016
Pastor Wally Braemer
Sunday - Adult Sunday School Class - 9:15am
Worship Service - 10:30am
**God is Good All the Time
& All the Time God is Good**

**Cornerstone
Baptist Church**
7274 St. Hwy. 10, Ames
518-673-3405
Sunday School 10am, Adults & Children
Morning Worship 11am, Youth Ministry
5:45pm, Evening Worship 6pm,
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:30pm,
Family Night Select Sundays

**Currytown
Reformed Church**
829 St. Hwy. 162, Sprakers
518-922-8422
Rev. Donald Hoaglander
Visiting Pastor Jane Hubschmitt
518-705-2201
Sunday School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am

**Dolgeville
Christian Fellowship**
3 Elm St., Dolgeville, NY 13329
315-429-9142
Dr. Marvin Isum, Pastor
Worship Sunday 10:30am
Midweek Fellowship Tuesday 7pm
www.dolgevillechristianfellowship.org

**Dolgeville United
Methodist Church**
21 N. Helmer Ave., Dolgeville
Rev. Jack Ford
315-429-7381
Worship 11:00am
Sunday School @ 9:30am beginning
September 18th
Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 12:30pm

**Emmanuel
Episcopal Church**
588-594 Albany St., Little Falls, NY
315-823-1323
Sunday Mass 10am
Coffee Hour following Sunday Mass
Sunday School & Youth Group
Tuesday 10am Mass & Bible Study
Friday 10am-2pm Thrift Shop

**Ephratah
Reformed Church**
140 Co. Hwy. 140, Ephratah, NY
To live and share Jesus Christ both locally and globally.
Everyday. Everywhere. Everyone.
Pastor Jeff Hindrliter
Sunday School for all ages
10am September-June
Sunday Morning Worship 11am
Prayer & Praise Thursdays 7pm

**Episcopal Church of
the Good Shepherd**
26 Moyer St., Canajoharie
518-673-3440
Holy Communion Sundays at 9:30am
Fellowship Time to Follow
Call for Holy Day services
The Rev. Virginia L. Ogden, Rector
churchgood@frontier.com

**Everlasting Joy
Believers Fellowship**
14 Park Place
(in with Seekers Fellowship)
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
315-858-2112
Pastor Carolee Coye
Sunday Service 10am

**Faith, Hope and Love
Church**
Rev. David W. Bowley, Pastor
Saturdays, 5 pm
at the
United Methodist Church Lower Level
50 E. Main St., Canajoharie
call 518-673-5128 or see facebook "Faith,
Hope and Love Christian Church" and our
website <http://faithhopeandlovechurch.com>

First Baptist Church
Springfield Center, NY
Rev. - Gary Tyler
Sunday School 10:00am
Morning Worship 11:00am
Sunday night Worship 6:00pm
Wed. night Bible Study 7:00pm
Free meal & music every
2nd Sat. of the month 4-7pm

**Fonda Fultonville
United Methodist Church**
11 Montgomery St., Fultonville
Pastor Nancy Pullen • 853-3311
Sunday Morning Worship 9:15-10:15,
Sunday School 9:15-10:30, Coffee
Fellowship Following Service
**Our Mission-To Actively Follow Christ
and To Inspire Others To Accompany Us.**

**Fort Plain United
Methodist Church**
39 Center St., Fort Plain
**Audie Miller,
Lay Supply Pastor**
Church Office 518-993-3863
Kitchen 518-993-3464
ALL WELCOME, Worship Service 11am

**Freysbush United
Methodist Church**
Freysbush Rd., Fort Plain
518-842-1357
Rev. Cindy Leonard, Officiating
Worship 9am,
Sunday School 10am ALL ARE WELCOME
coffee hour to follow service

**Fultonville
Reformed Church**
Corner of 5S & 30
Pastor Jane Hubschmitt
Sunday School 10AM
Family Worship 10:30AM

Glen Reformed Church
State Hwy 161 in the
Hamlet of Glen
4 miles South of Fultonville
glenreformed@nycap.rr.com
Sunday Worship at 9. Sunday School
immediately following Children's Message

Grace Christian Church
20 Center St.,
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
Pastor Martin Glynn
518-568-2122
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 11:00am

Grace Episcopal Church
24 Montgomery St., Cherry Valley
315-585-4016
Fr. Kyle Grennen, Rector
Sunday School 11:00am
Holy Communion/sermon 11:00am
Active Youth Group - call for detail

Grandview Baptist Church
15 Washington St., Fort Plain
518-993-9929
Pastor Dan West
Sunday School 10am
Morning Service 11am
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting,
Wednesday 6:30pm

Holy Family Parish
Little Falls, NY
315-823-3410
Saturday 4pm
Sunday 10:30am

Joy Fellowship
296 Co. Hwy. 119
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-3217
William Hayes Pastor
Joyce Loughran Assistant Pastor
Sunday School 9am, Morning Worship 9:30am
Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm

**Lassellsville United
Methodist Church**
State Hwy. 29
Pastor Robert A. Lindsay
Worship: Sunday 9:30am
Sunday School to start soon

Lighthouse Baptist Church
1524 St. Rt. 29A, PO Box 114
Stratford, NY 13470-0114
315-429-8854
Pastor Martin Smith
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am; Wed. Eve.
Prayer Meeting 6:00pm; 2nd & 4th Sunday
Dinner following Morning Service
with Afternoon Service following dinner
"Old-Fashioned Bible Preaching"

**Marshville
Evangelical Church**
Route 10 South
Pastor Mark Fowler
Worship Sunday 9am

**National Kateri Tekakwitha
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Fonda, NY 12068-0627
518-853-3646
Weekly Masses: Sat. 4:30pm, Sun. 10:30am
frs@katerishrine.com
www.katerishrine.com

**New Hope
Christian Fellowship**
32 Spencer St., Dolgeville, NY 13329
Pastor Pat Andreoli
315-429-3630
NewHopeChristianFellowship.net
Sunday School 9:30AM
Worship Service 10:30AM

**Oppenheim United
Methodist Church**
Route 29
Rev. Jack Ford
315-429-7381
Worship 9:30 Sundays,
Totally Awesome God-TAG time 6:30pm
Wednesdays beginning in Oct., Sunday
School 9:00am beginning September 18th

**Our Lady of Hope
R.C. Church**
115 Reid St., Fort Plain, NY 13339
Parish Office 518-993-3822
ourladyofhope@frontier.com
Mass Schedule: Saturday, 4pm;
Sunday, 8:30am & 11am;
Confessions: Sat. 3 & by appointment
Please call parish office for Holy Day schedule

**Paines Hollow United
Methodist Church**
Intersection of 167 & 168, Paines Hollow
Pastor Peg Donaghy
518-568-7604
Sunday Worship 9:30AM
Fellowship Hour to Follow

**Randall Christian
Community Church**
NY Rte. 5S
Sunday Service 10:30am
**Worship Leader
Darlene Spaulding**

**Reformed Church
of Canajoharie**
15-19 Front St., Canajoharie
518-673-2816
Rev. Matt Draffen
Sunday 9am Christian Education
9:20 Choir Practice
10am Worship Nursery provided
Fellowship hour follows worship

**Reformed Church
of Fort Plain**
165 Canal St., Fort Plain, NY 13339
518-993-4302 • fortplainrca@yahoo.com
Rev. Nancy E. Ryan
Worship 10:30am,
AA meetings Mon. & Tues. 7pm,
Second Thurs. Prayerspace 6am to 6pm

**Reformed Church
of Sprakers**
112 Sprakers Hill Rd
Rev. Nancy Ryan
Worship ~ 9AM
All Welcome!!!

**Richfield Springs
Bible Church**
19 Church St
Richfield Springs, NY 13439
Rev. David Tosi
315-858-0564
Sunday School (all ages) 10am
Worship Service 11am & 7pm
Wednesday - Prayer & Praise
Call for info on various Youth Ministries
www.richfieldspringsbiblechurch.org

River of Jubilee Church
5057 State Highway 5 S
Sprakers, NY 12166
Pastor: Gail Adamoschek
Pastor: Steve Adamoschek
518-322-1427 / 518-224-4455
Sunday Service 10:00am
Children's Church Available
Other Learning Opportunities Available
Visit us on Facebook

**Sacred Heart
Catholic Church**
111 3rd Ave., Tribes Hill
518-829-7301
Mass Saturday
4:00pm

Saint Cecilia Church
26 Broadway, Fonda
518-853-4195
Sunday Worship
9:00am

**Salisbury Center
United Methodist Church**
2545 St Rt 29, PO Box 104
Salisbury Center, NY 13454
315-429-9085
Rev. Lynn R. Lockwood

Seeker's Fellowship
14 Park Place
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-7700
Pastor Mike Yezierski
Sunday Worship 6pm, Tues. Prayer 7pm,
Bible Study 7pm (Wed., Thurs. & Fri.)
We teach the fullness of God's Word,
a life of holiness for the believer,
and salvation for all who trust
in Christ's sacrifice.

St. John's Lutheran Church
774 St. Hwy. 163, Fort Plain, NY
518-705-7552
Rev. David A. Johnson, Ph.D.
Sunday Worship 9:00am, Sunday School 10:00am,
Ladies Aid W.E.L.C.A. Handicapped Accessible

**St. John's
Reformed Church**
68 W. Main St., St. Johnsville
518-568-7396
Faithfully Following Jesus Christ
Sunday Worship 10:30am

**St. John's & St. Mark's
Lutheran Church**
143 Church St., Canajoharie
518-673-2224
Pastor A. Elisabeth Aurand
Remote Sunday Worship 11am; email for link
stjm-canajoharie.org
office@stjm-canajoharie.org

**St. Johnsville
Methodist Church**
7 East Main St.,
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
Pastor Corey Jones
518-568-7983 • 315-866-8626
Worship Sunday 3pm

**St. Joseph's
Roman Catholic
Church**
31 North Helmer Ave., Dolgeville
315-429-8338
Sunday Mass is 8:30am

**St. Mary's
Episcopal Church**
7690 Rt. 80, Springfield Center
315-858-4016
Fr. Kyle Grennen, Priest-in-Charge
Sunday Eucharist, 9:30am
Coffee - Fellowship follows service
Holy Days - as announced

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
36 Lydius St., Fort Plain, NY 13339
518-993-2040
Pastor Jonathan Litzner
405-250-8395
Church Service 11am

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
32 W. Main St.,
St. Johnsville, NY (next to NBT Bank)
518-568-3007 Church
518-568-2405 Parsonage
Rev. David Johnson
Sunday Worship 10:30am,
Tues. Bible Bungee-Jumping 7pm,
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**St. Paul's
Universalist Church**
565 Albany St., Little Falls
315-823-2284
Service Sunday 10am
Coffee hour following service.
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spiritual free thinkers with diverse
religious beliefs. All are welcome.

**St. Thomas the Apostle
Catholic Community**
1 Church St., Cherry Valley
607-264-3779
Masses Saturday 4:30pm
Sunday 11am

**Stratford United
Methodist Church**
Route 29A
315-429-9085
Rev. Lynn R. Lockwood
Worship 9am

**The Christian Church
of Rural Grove**
170 Rural Grove Rd., Sprakers, NY 12166
518-922-7831
Pastor Joshua Fetterhoff
pastorjosh@ruralgrovechurch.org
Sunday School (all ages) 9:45am,
Morning Service 11am, Eve. Service 6pm,
Wed.-Family Night 7pm,
"Where Bible Teaching is Fundamental"

**The Holy Spirit Polish
National Catholic Church**
618 E. Gansvoort St.
Little Falls, NY
315-823-0793
Father Rafal Dadello
Mass at 11am on Sunday
www.holyspiritpncc.org

The House of Zion, Inc.
580 Dillenbeck Road,
Palatine Bridge
518-577-3069
Pastors Richard & Denise Allen
Saturday Morning
Worship Service 11:30am
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the 1st Sunday of every month 3pm-4pm

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Truth Ministries**
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Amsterdam, NY 12010
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Cell 518-774-8558

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Stone Arabia**
5430 St. Hwy. 10, Palatine Bridge, NY
Pastor A. Elisabeth Aurand
Remote Sunday Worship 11am;
email for link
office@stjm-canajoharie.org
518-673-2224

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umc673@frontiernet.net
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85 E. Main St., Nelliston
518-993-3458
Pastor Ken Gies
Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am,
Sunday Worship 10:30am,
Wed. Praise & Prayer 7pm,
Fri. Youth Group 7pm (7-12th grade)

**Victorious Life Church
RMI Fellowship**
104 Main St. & 431 St. Hwy. 80
Fort Plain, NY
518-993-3102
Sunday School 9am,
Morning Worship 10:30am,
Youth Group 5pm,
Evening Worship 7-8pm

Small Communities. Big Opportunities.

Virtual conference highlights business ownership in northern New York State

A regional coalition aims to showcase small business opportunities to the next generation of entrepreneurs in a four-day virtual conference running from Feb. 24-27.

The North Country Center for Businesses in Transition (CBIT) will host a virtual event that will attract and empower aspiring entrepreneurs to pursue business ownership in northern New York. The conference — Small Communities. Big Opportunities: Own a North Country Business — will include several one-hour sessions over the course of four days to accommodate participants' work schedules. Registration is free of charge and now open at www.northcountryopportunities.com.

"There are thousands of business owners throughout the region who are ready now or will be ready to sell in the next few years," said Danielle Delaini, business transition program coordinator for the Adirondack

North Country Association (ANCA). "There's also growing interest among North Country residents and entrepreneurs from outside the region to operate businesses here. This conference is designed to address these needs and ultimately invigorate local economies with new energy."

The conference will take place virtually over four days, with most sessions lasting one hour. Participants may choose to attend the entire conference or only the sessions that interest them. Attendees will learn from local business owners and regional business support professionals about taking over an existing business, the logistics of accessing capital and insights into relocating to the North Country. In addition, conference sessions will highlight available business ownership opportunities and connect aspiring entrepreneurs with retiring business owners.

"The goal is to provide a space for entrepreneurs to explore opportunities in the region, while providing tools and resources to help them realize their dreams," said Angela Smith, assistant director of SUNY Canton Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and a lead partner with CBIT. "This is an opportunity for all aspiring business owners to learn, ask questions and connect with regional businesses and support services, regard-

less of where they are in their entrepreneurial journey."

Conference attendees will also be invited to sign up for one-on-one meetings with owners whose business opportunities interest them. Invited business owners will come to the conference ready to speak to potential buyers, having prepared their books and determined their business value ahead of time. During and following the conference, representatives from CBIT and SBDC will facilitate working groups and other services that support business owners and potential buyers through the business transition process.

Pete Cummings of Clinton County is ready to sell his property maintenance company and meet with aspiring entrepreneurs — a task made difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic. "I want to be part of the virtual conference because COVID-19 has made it difficult to meet with potential buyers in person, my preferred method. I look forward to meeting with people interested in new opportunities in the North Country."

CBIT, which was partially funded by a grant from the Northern Regional Border Commission in 2018, addresses the loss of area businesses by providing match-making services with potential buyers, access to planning tools and connection with existing services. The Center's 2021 efforts have expanded to also support aspiring entrepreneurs who wish to purchase an existing business in the region. CBIT serves 14 counties in northern New York: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington Counties.

Registration for the conference is now open at www.northcountryopportunities.com and free of charge. Questions may be directed to transitions@adirondack.org.

CBIT partners include Adirondack Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), Adirondack Park Agency Economic Services, Essex County Industrial Development Agency, Franklin County Economic Development, Hamilton County Economic Development, Lewis County Economic Development, St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, SUNY Canton SBDC at Clinton Community College, Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce, and Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce.



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Calendar of events

NOTE: Calendar items must be submitted by Tuesday prior to the publication date to be included in the Calendar of Events. Entries may be emailed to cfeditor@leepub.com

February 18

2021 Virtual "History at Home" Winter Lecture series. Hudson Valley Community College professor Matthew Zembo will provide a discussion titled, "The 34th Regiment of Foot: A British Regiment in the Northern Frontier of the American War of Independence." For information, call the Visitor Center at 518.829.7516, email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov, or visit tinyurl.com/y2vp7ge5.

February 26

Hyde Hall and the return of the Silver Goddess will be live-streamed on Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. and can be viewed on Caffé Lena's YouTube page at youtube.com/watch?v=-q_JzcEasNo. For more information about the Musicians of Ma'alwyck, contact Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, at annmarie@musiciansofmaalwyck.org

musiciansofmaalwyck.org or visit nyurl.com/y2vp7ge5.

March 4

2021 Virtual "History at Home" Winter Lecture series. Bill Merchant of the D&H Canal Museum will join Schoharie Crossing for a program about The Black Experience on the D&H Canal. For information, call the Visitor Center at 518.829.7516, email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov, or visit tinyurl.com/y2vp7ge5.

March 4

Virtual "History at Home" Winter Lecture series. Schoharie Crossing educator David Brooks will present DeWitt's Duel. For information, call the Visitor Center at 518.829.7516, email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov, or visit tinyurl.com/y2vp7ge5.

March 11

Virtual "History at Home" Winter Lecture series. Anne Clothier will provide a lecture on the History of Phrenology. For information, call the Visitor Center at 518.829.7516, email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov, or visit tinyurl.com/y2vp7ge5.

March 18

Virtual "History at Home" Winter Lecture series. To wrap up the series, Audrey Humphrey from Johnson Hall State Historic Site will present an exploration of Sir William Johnson and his connection to Fort Hunter. For information, call the Visitor Center at 518.829.7516, email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov, or visit tinyurl.com/y2vp7ge5.

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Dr. S. Scott Ferguson named executive director of The Institute for Rural Vitality at SUNY Cobleskill

Dr. S. Scott Ferguson, professor of business and management at SUNY Cobleskill, has been named executive director of the College's Institute for Rural Vitality. Ferguson will lead the Institute's continued work in engaging regional partners in a collective effort to enhance the community and economic vitality in rural New York.

A presence on the SUNY Cobleskill campus for more than 12 years, Dr. Ferguson has served in multiple roles in addition to his tenure as a professor in the Business Administration degree program. He served as the college's inaugural chief diversity officer and has led the planning and implementation of many campus-wide initiatives, including serving as chair for SUNY Cobleskill's 2017 Strategic Planning program.

Outside of his experience at SUNY Cobleskill, Dr. Ferguson is an ambitious entrepreneur and business management professional, with successes to his credit ranging from small business start-ups to multinational, Fortune 500 companies. As an extension of his business ventures, he currently serves on the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce's Education Committee and is a former president of the Chamber's Board of Directors. He also serves as president of the Cobleskill Auxiliary Ser-

vices Board of Directors and vice president of the Canajoharie Central School District Board of Education.

"Dr. Ferguson's leadership qualities have served to enhance many facets of our institution, and he has played an instrumental role in defining and advancing the values of SUNY Cobleskill," said Marion Terenzio, president of SUNY Cobleskill. "His expertise in economic and community development will be of great resource as the Institute for Rural Vitality continues to elevate its mission in the spirit of collaboration and stewardship."

The Institute for Rural Vitality was introduced in 2016 through a \$749,000 grant from the USDA and a unique partnership with Albany Law School. The Institute addresses the region's most pressing issues in economic development and education, from college access and career readiness to legal support for agricultural businesses. Its distinct centers place SUNY Cobleskill students and faculty at the forefront of community partnerships and coalitions, adding their experience in support these initiatives.

SUNY Cobleskill was recently awarded an additional \$761,141 through a USDA Agriculture Innovation Center grant. The Institute for Rural Vitality

directed the funding to expand the services of the Farm & Food Business Incubator, a program offered in partnership with the Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship (CADE) to better equip growers and producers in the Mohawk Valley in addressing the farming industry's diversification and profitability challenges.

To date, the Institute has been instrumental in securing more than \$6

million for community-based economic development projects and actively recruited a private partner poised to build an \$84 million grow center on campus. The Institute's commitment to regional development has recently been recognized by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) as the recipient of its 2019 Excellence and Innovation Award for Regional and Economic Development.



Dr. S. Scott Ferguson, professor of business and management at SUNY Cobleskill, has been named executive director of the College's Institute for Rural Vitality. Photo courtesy of SUNY Cobleskill

Pet Pals

Nobody is more passionate about animals than pet owners - and that's why Country Editor is introducing its new Pet Pals section! Every month, we'll be bringing you heartwarming stories, tips, tricks, educational and entertaining news and stories -

and photos of your fuzzy friends. We'll share our news with you, and you can share your best snaps of puppies and kitties (and others!). We'll print as many as space will allow.

You'll also learn about local businesses that offer services and necessities so you can pamper your pets. Find out about groomers, trainers and toy providers through Pet Pals!

For more information, contact members of our Editorial Department - Joan at jkarkwren@leepub.com, or Courtney at cllewellyn@leepub.com.

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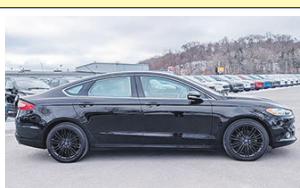
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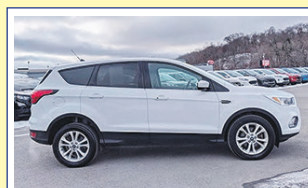
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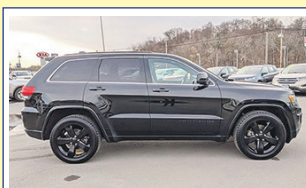
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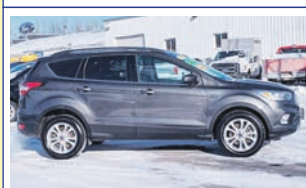
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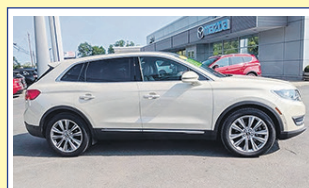
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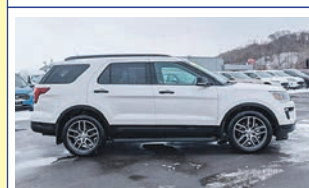
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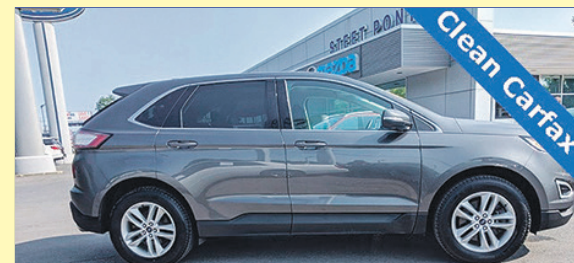
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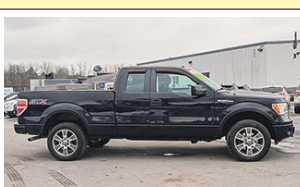
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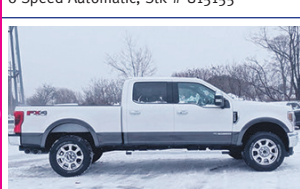
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Card of Thanks

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of our relatives, friends and neighbors for flowers, food, cards of sympathy, and memorials sent to the St. Johnsville Fire Department and St. Johnsville Ambulance at the time of our loss of our husband, father, and grandfather, Donald E. Hoffman.

A special thanks to St. Peter's Hospital, Community Hospice, St. John's Reformed Church, Reverend Matthew Draffen, Janet Shuster - organist, Rodney Mabie for organizing the beautiful parade in Don's honor, Mohawk Valley Dialysis nurses, Dr. Lee, Dr. Scalco, the cancer and radiation department staff, Dr. Sinchak and St. Mary's Healthcare for the excellent care given to Don.

Also to the Enea Family Funeral Home. Kevin Enea was so caring - he went above and beyond to make us feel loved and supported during this most difficult time.

It is such a comfort to know so many people share our loss.

Mrs. Donald E. Hoffman - Wife
Children - Todd, Daren, Paul, Donald Jr., Tom, Lynette and families

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WANTED TO BUY: Front bumper and grill for 1994 Plymouth Sundance or Dodge Daytona. Call 315-219-0684

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Let's Attend Church This Sunday". You and your family are welcome at Grandview Baptist Church, corner of Lydius & Washington St., Ft. Plain, NY. Sunday School 10am. Morning Worship 11am.

WANTED TO BUY: Vintage Clothing, Early Postcard & Greeting Card Albums, OLD... Window Displays, Oak Bookcases, Decorated Stoneware, Garden Statues, Gnomes, Axes, Folk Art, Adirondack Things, Display Cases, Nautical Items, General Store Stuff, Coin & Watch Collections, Jewelry, Beer Related, Milk Bottles, Train Sets, Old Signs, Comics, Oddities, Rookwood Pottery, Cigar Related, Unusual Enamelware, Pyrex, Old Christmas Elves, Santas, Snowmen & Ornaments. Vintage Tablecloths, Hankies, Quilts, Doilies. Also Old Paintings, Frames, Stained Glass, & Signed Fritz Vogt Drawings (1800's). We DO NOT buy anything made after 1975... Keepin' It Old! We don't take the winter off, Free House Calls, Cash Paid! Call 315-823-1177, Showcase Antiques, Leave Message For Dave

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Don't get scammed: Tips to secure your private information

To mark Data Privacy Day, multiple NYS agencies offer ways to protect yourself.

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, the Office of Information Technology Services, the Department of Financial Services, the Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection, and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services shared information security tips on Jan. 28, Data Privacy Day.

New Yorkers can help keep their sensitive personal information secure online and at home by following these tips:

Be wary of unsolicited emails and telephone calls asking for personal information. Never share personal information, such as your Social Security number, in response to an unsolicited email or telephone call. If the email or call claims to be from a company with which you do business, call it first to confirm the contact is legitimate. Scammers will also use scare tactics and threats related to tax debt to get you to share your personal and financial information.

Secure your mobile devices. Apply software updates that patch known vulnerabilities as soon as they become available. Use security features built into your device, such as a passcode, and use programs that encrypt data and remotely wipe contents if the device is lost or stolen.

Be careful with Wi-Fi hotspots. Public wireless hotspots are not secure, which means that anyone could potentially see what you are doing on your mobile device while you are connected. Limit what you do on public Wi-Fi and avoid logging into sensitive accounts.

Know your apps. Thoroughly review the details and specifications of an app before you download it. Review and understand the privacy policy of each mobile app. Be aware that the app may request access to your location and personal information.

Be cautious about the information you share on social media. Avoid posting your birthdate, telephone

number, home address, or images that identify your job or hobbies. This information may often reveal answers to security questions used to reset passwords, making you a possible target of scammers looking to access your accounts and personal information.

Use strong passwords. Create different passwords for all your accounts. Use 10 to 12 characters in a combination of letters (upper and lower case), numbers, and symbols. Regularly change your passwords.

Vary your security questions. Don't use the same security questions on multiple accounts. Select security questions for which the answers cannot be guessed or found by searching social media or the internet.

Use two-step verification to access accounts. To enhance the security of online accounts, whenever possible require a password and an extra security code to verify your identity when you sign in.

Beware of phishing. Don't click on links, download files, or open attachments in emails from unknown senders. Open attachments only when you are expecting them and know what they contain, even if you know the sender. Access more information on phishing from the Office of Information Technology Services YouTube page.

New York State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Michael Schmidt said, "Cyber criminals work year round to steal sensitive information, but taxpayers need to be especially vigilant during the tax season when identity thieves target confidential tax information."

Superintendent of Financial Services Linda A. Lacewell said, "As technology continues to evolve and we share more personal and financial information online, it is now more important than ever for businesses and consumers to protect their sensitive information. As we mark Data Privacy Day, we remind financial institutions to remain vigilant by adhering to DFS' nation leading cybersecurity regulation and we remind consumers to be informed on best practices to safeguard their private information from cyberattacks."

State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Patrick A. Murphy said, "The pandemic has impacted nearly every aspect of our daily lives and, unfortunately, the security of New Yorkers' private information is no exception. Malicious actors wasted no time launching new, COVID-related phishing campaigns and other cyber-attacks on the public seeking to access private information through fraudulent requests related to the pandemic. New Yorkers should remain vigilant during these extraordinary times and learn how to protect their personal information from falling into the wrong hands."

New York State Office of Information Technology Services Chief Information Officer Angelo "Tony" Riddick said, "Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, NYS continues to safeguard personal information and educate on steps to minimize cyber risk in an effort to prevent New Yorkers from falling prey to data thieves. In a more connected world, National Data Privacy Day reminds us of the effective steps we must take to protect our information and remain vigilant against cybercrime."

New York State Office of Information Technology Services Chief Information Security Officer Karen Sorady said, "Now more than ever, we need to be aware of the threats to our privacy that are ever-present while online. In recognition of National Data Privacy Day, all New Yorkers should remember the importance of protecting their personal data from cyber criminals. To this end, ITS provides a wide array of helpful cyber tips for the public, in addition to online safety resources and real-time advisories that can help safeguard against cybercrime."

New York State Secretary of State Rossana Rosado said, "With more people relying on digital resources than ever before, it's critical for all New Yorkers to protect their online accounts to prevent data theft. Data Privacy Day is a great opportunity to remind consumers to be vigilant in safeguarding their information."

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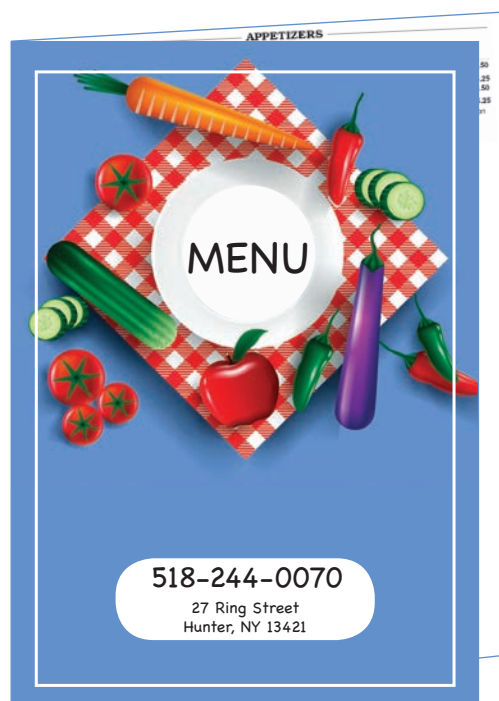
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50 "Damn Yankees" vamp
51 Irrate

DOWN

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3 Region
4 "That'll Be the Day" singer
5 Insult
6 Coin aperture
7 Wheel cover
8 Six-pack

9 Vegas game
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11 Honey bunch?
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43 Crisp cookie
45 Libertine
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47 Author Bellow
49 100%

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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"I did something wrong, didn't I?"

Americanisms



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ON THE FARM TIRE SERVICE

Homemade Ricotta Cheese

by Dairy Ambassador Morgan Tweed

What's better than cheese? Homemade cheese.

Hello everyone, I'm Morgan Tweed, a Susquehanna County Dairy Ambassador. I've made mozzarella and cheddar cheese with success and now I've found a recipe for ricotta cheese.

Ricotta is an Italian whey cheese that can be made from cow, goat or sheep milk. I have found this simple recipe for homemade Ricotta made from cow's milk.

Ingredients:
7 cups whole milk (not ultra pasteurized)
1 cup heavy cream
3/4 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons lemon juice

Directions:
Line a large, fine mesh strainer with a double layer of cheesecloth. Place over a large bowl and set aside.

In a heavy Dutch oven combine the milk, cream and salt. Slowly cook over medium heat until boiling, stirring frequently. Do not allow it to boil over. Remove from heat. Stir in lemon juice until mixture curdles. Let it stand 1 or 2 minutes. Put curdled mixture into prepared

strainer. Drain curds about 30 minutes, gently stirring occasionally. Discard the liquid. Store curds covered in the refrigerator. Best if used the same day but may be stored in the refrigerator up to two days.

I hope you take the time to try this homemade Ricotta cheese recipe and remember to get your "3 Every Day" servings of dairy, milk, cheese or yogurt.



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FALL 2019

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Impress guests with slow cooked brisket

Slow cooking can really whet the appetite. On days when a slow cooker is in use, the whole house tends to get filled with the aromas of delicious food, making everyone inside the home eagerly anticipate the arrival of dinnertime.

Slow-cooked brisket can be especially savory, as brisket is a dish many home cooks are hesitant to try because of the perceived difficulty of preparing it. Novices may find that slow cooking brisket as opposed to smoking it can be a great way to get their feet wet while still serving up a delicious meal. This recipe for "Beef Brisket with Prunes and Oranges" from Andrew Schloss' "Cooking Slow: Recipes for Slowing Down and Cooking More" (Chronicle Books) cooks for roughly half a day, giving cooks and their families something to look forward to all day long.

Beef Brisket with Prunes and Oranges

Makes 8 servings

1/4 cup finely ground coffee

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

4 teaspoons sea salt
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
3 pounds beef brisket, trimmed of excess fat
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 large Spanish onions, cut into thick wedges
8 celery stalks, cut into 1-inch pieces
4 garlic cloves, minced
1/4 cup brandy
1/2 cup cider vinegar
6 tablespoons firmly packed dark brown sugar
2 cups vegetable cocktail juice, such as V8
Juice and julienned zest of 2 oranges
16 pitted prunes

Mix together the coffee grounds, cinnamon, salt, and pepper in a small bowl. Rub half of the mixture over the brisket. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

Preheat the oven to 200 F.

Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large Dutch oven over high heat. Add the brisket and sear until nice-

ly browned on both sides, about 5 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate.

Add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil to the pot. Add the onions and celery and sauté until lightly browned, about 8 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté just until aromatic, about 1 minute more. Add the brandy and bring to a boil. Add the vinegar, brown sugar, vegetable juice, and the remaining coffee mixture and return to a boil. Add the orange juice and zest, the prunes, and any meat juices that accumulated on the plate. Return the brisket to the pot and spoon the liquid in the pot over to submerge the meat. Cover and transfer to the oven. Braise until the meat can be pierced easily with a fork, 6 to 10 hours.

Using two large forks, transfer the brisket to a cutting board and let rest for 15 minutes. Carve the brisket crosswise against the grain into thin slices and arrange the slices on a platter. Spoon the sauce and braised vegetables over and around the brisket and serve.

E-file your tax return for free

Free tax filing software is now available at www.tax.ny.gov to electronically prepare and submit both your federal and state income tax returns at no charge.

The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance recently announced Free File software is now available at www.tax.ny.gov. Taxpayers with income of \$72,000 or less in 2020 can complete and submit their federal and NYS income tax returns online at no cost in advance of the tax-filing season, which officially begins Friday, Feb. 12.

"Nearly 255,000 New York taxpayers used our Free File software last year, saving themselves an estimated \$51 million in the process," said NYS Commissioner of Taxation and Finance Michael Schmidt. "We encourage you to get engaged in the process and take advantage of this service - it's easy, fast and secure."

To be directed to the free filing options, simply click Free File your income tax return on the Tax Department's website.

To ensure you're not charged a fee, you must go to the Tax Department's website to complete your return. You'll save on preparation fees, prevent costly errors, and ensure that you directly receive any refund you're owed in the most efficient way possible.

The Tax Department has produced a series of video tutorials to assist New Yorkers with the tax return filing process. Topics range from gathering the necessary documents to choosing the right software. You can view the videos at our Get ready to e-file your income tax return webpage.

Receive your refund up to two weeks sooner by using Free File software. You can also receive the refunds you're owed up to two weeks sooner by choosing direct deposit.

Filing electronically and choosing direct deposit is safer, faster, and more efficient than sending paper returns and checks through the mail. To use direct deposit, simply check direct deposit on your tax return, then enter your bank's nine-digit routing number and your account number. For checking accounts, this information is available on your checks; for savings accounts, contact your bank.



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Montgomery County SPCA announces record adoption month

The Montgomery County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MC-SPCA) in Amsterdam recently announced a total of 60 adoptions in the month of January, a record for the organization. 36 cats, 19 dogs, 4 parakeets and 1 rabbit all found new homes due to the work of the organization's committed staff and volunteers.

"In the 20 years I've been involved with the organization, we've never adopted 60 animals in one month. It is by far a record and I am so appreciative to the staff and volunteers that made this happen. Especially during a time when we're only open to the public by appointment, it is amazing," said Jan Zumbolo, President of the MC-SCPCA Board of Directors.

The 60 animals adopted include Vanna, a 6-year-old dog who was transported from a downstate shelter that was quickly approaching its capacity and

Queen, a 7-year-old cat who was found as a stray in the city of Amsterdam and spent nearly a year and a half at the SPCA waiting for a new home.

"This community is a great place to live and this level of interest in adopting animals proves that," said Michael Buckley, Interim Executive Director of the Montgomery County SPCA. "We are so grateful to our adopters and our donors who allow us to meet our mission every day. We look forward to continuing this momentum and making 2021 a record year as we prepare for the next chapter in our organization's history."

Animals that are available for adoption can be viewed on the organization's website at mc-sPCA.org. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, potential adopters are asked to make an appointment to meet animals available for adoption. The organization can be reached at 518.842.8050.



The 60 animals adopted last month include Queen, a 7-year-old cat who was found as a stray in the city of Amsterdam and spent nearly a year and a half at the SPCA waiting for a new home.

Photo courtesy of Montgomery County SPCA in Amsterdam

The Montgomery County SPCA is a leading animal welfare organization in New York State's greater Capital Region. As an independent non-profit animal welfare organization, the MC-SPCA does not receive ongoing support from any municipality or international, na-

tional or state level animal welfare organization. The organization relies on donations and fees for service to fund its operations and meet its mission of providing protection, care and shelter to homeless, abused and neglected animals.



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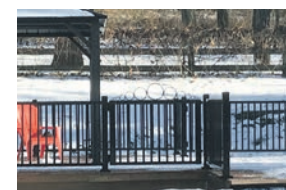
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Hercules available at the SPCA

Hercules, our oh so handsome Hercules, is a new resident at the SPCA, arriving on Jan. 30. He was surrendered when his family could no longer care for him. Hercules is about three years old and can offer a lifetime of laughs. He gets very excited about tennis balls, but hasn't learned to bring it back yet. He's been learning some leash manners because this big boy can

pull. He seems like he would be happy with a dog friend and wouldn't mind a kitty either. He may be best with older children, due to his size and energy level. Who wouldn't want this great pup as their Valentine?



He gets very excited about tennis balls, but hasn't learned to bring it back yet.

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Photos courtesy of Montgomery County SPCA

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Saving the snappers

by Courtney Llewellyn

While not exactly "pets," this past summer the staff at *Country Editor* did their part to save a wave of snapping turtle hatchlings who thought the newspaper's parking lot was a good place to start their lives outside their shells. (It was not.)

The common snapping turtle is noted for its combative disposition when out of the water with its powerful beak-like jaws and highly mobile head and neck. In the water, they're likely to flee and hide themselves underwater in sediment. Snapping turtles have a life-history strategy characterized by high and variable mortality of embryos and hatchlings – meaning that even though a lot of eggs are laid, not many tiny turtles make it very far. Their lifespan in the wild is not well known at all, but long-term data from Ontario, Canada, suggest a maximum age over 100 years.

The first hatchling at *Country Editor* was spotted on a warm summer morning, so caked in mud that it looked more like a clump of dry dirt than a turtle. A gentle poking proved the little reptile was still alive (and kicking!), so we picked it up, rinsed it off and gave it a little bucket to relax in until we figured out what to do with it. We decided to bring it to a nearby slow-moving stream.

But our turtle adventure was just beginning. The next day, we discovered more than a dozen more of the first hatchling's siblings trying to make their way across a

very hot parking lot (and not doing a great job at it). We needed two buckets this time. At the end of this day, we brought them all to a portion of Otsuago Creek in Fort Plain, which empties into the Erie Canal.

As we lowered the buckets in, some of the

days, and found new homes for them as well.

It will take a while for them to reach adulthood. Here in the North, snappers don't mature until they're about 15 years old. In the wild, they usually weigh up to 35 pounds, but the current record holder for largest

they're hibernating safely this winter.

Remember, though, snapping turtles are not ideal pets. Their necks are very flexible, and a wild turtle can bite its handler even if picked up by the sides of its shell. The claws are about as sharp as dogs' claws, but



By the second day we needed two buckets to keep the hatchlings in.

baby turtles took off faster than Michael Phelps leaping from the blocks. Others took a more leisurely approach, just floating in the water. The rest immediately headed for rocks to rest on – or under.

We found a few more turtles in the following

wild snapping turtle is 75 pounds! They eat both plant and animal matter, often as scavengers but sometimes as hunters.

A female snapper will lay anywhere from 25 to 80 eggs. We're not sure how many of this brood we actually ended up relocating, but we hope

they can't be trimmed. The best way to take care of wild animals is to keep them in the wild!

Have you had an adventure in your own life? Send your story and photos to *Country Editor* at cllewellyn@leepub.com.



Upon release this little Snapper went straight to the rocks to check out the surroundings.



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