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Annual Christmas dinner set for Dec. 25 Utica and Mohawk Railway Historical Society meeting set The Christmas season is here for the Utica and Mohawk Railway Historical Society meeting set the Toy Train Collectors' Society Toy Iarly on the railroads these days.

The Annual Christmas Dinner at the First United Methodist Church in Herkimer will take place on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, from noon - 2 p.m. This is the only dinner offered in the Mohawk Valley.

Reservations are not necessary. All are welcome to attend. For homebound delivery call 315.867.1204 by Dec. 21. Deliveries are made primarily in Herkimer, Mohawk and downtown llion.

Volunteers are needed for serving, clean-up and some deliveries. To volunteer, call Toby at 315.868.5560.

This dinner is sponsored by the churches in the Mohawk Valley and private donations.

The Christmas season is here for the Utica and Mohawk Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society with John Koslosky's videos of the Fairmount Speeders get-together in Remsen and the inaugural train from Utica to Tupper Lake being featured at their December meeting.

The Utica and Mohawk Valley Chapter of the society will meet on Dec. 9 at the Zion Lutheran Church on the corners of French and Burrstone roads in New Hartford at 7 p.m. There will be a business portion conducted by Chapter Vice President Bradford Paulson with reports on the Adirondack Railroad, the Toy Train Collectors' Society Toy Train Meet, the Amherst Railway Society's Model Train Show in Springfield, MA, and possible Amtrak and bus trips, along with many more activities and projects ahead for the chapter in the coming months and weeks.

After the break, Chapter Secretary Koslosky will have a delightful video presentation on the inaugural run of the Adirondack Railroad from Utica to Tupper Lake and the Fairmount Speeder Motor Car Collectors Association Convention and ride from Remsen to Thendara with these track cars that were replaced by hi-rail trucks that are mainly seen reguThis meeting is open to anybody who is interested in railroads, railroads of the State of New York, Maintenance of Way Operations, Fairmount Speeders and railroad history. Guests attending the meeting for the first time are invited to join as regular members. The society also invites all active and retired railroad personnel to their meetings.

For more information, contact Bradford Paulson at 315.853.5400 or 315.275.1223 or Bpaulson909@msn. com.





Let everyone know what you have to offer for the holiday season: Seasonal discounts, gift ideas, decorations, holiday prep/dining & all things festive!

This section will be featured in the Country Editor for the entire holiday season and is distributed to hundreds of locations in the area.

Place your ad with us to be included in our special Holiday Headquarters Listing. Included in this listing will be your shop information and holiday hours, or for events - time and date, location, and contact information will be included.

Run in more than one issue and receive 25% off any ad after the first.

Brought to you by Country Editor: the area's premier consumer publication, serving the Mohawk Valley from Frankfort to Amsterdam

11/26 Issue Deadline 11/17 (early Holiday Deadline)

12/3 Issue Deadline 11/25

12/10 Issue Deadline 12/2

- 12/17 Issue Deadline 12/9
- 12/24 Issue Deadline 12/16

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Consumer Alert: Division of Consumer Protection provides tips to help consumers navigate the holiday shopping season

As part of its five-part consumer alert holiday series, the New York State Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection reminds shoppers of NYS laws that protect consumers so they can make informed decisions about holiday purchases. To avoid surprises, DCP recommends that consumers carefully review and understand what to look for when reviewing return and refund policies.

"Experts are predicting a strong holiday spending season despite recent economic challenges and as a result, we're expecting more consumer activity this holiday season," said NY

Country Chuckles by Jonny Hawkins



Secretary of State Robert Rodriguez. "To avoid any surprises, I urge New Yorkers to pay attention to policies surrounding returns and refunds to be sure you are comfortable with the terms and know the policy before you buy."

Around the holidays, gift givers and receivers often change their minds. According to the National Retail Federation, retail returns increased significantly last year (16.6% in 2021 vs. 10.6% in 2020) and this year they're expecting more. To help navigate the busy shopping season, DCP offers the following tips:

• Pay Attention to Return Policies: NYS law requires that retailers post their return and refund policies conspicuously to inform consumers before the transaction is



completed. Retailers must provide a written copy of the store's return policies when requested.

NYS law does not require retailers to accept returns; however, they must post a conspicuous notice visible to consumers before the point of sale advising that no returns will be accepted.

If the retailer does not post a return policy, the law requires the retailer to accept returns of unused, undamaged merchandise within 30 days of the purchase date, with proof of purchase, and provide a refund in the form – cash or a credit – of the consumer's preference.

• Understand the Refund Terms: For retailers that allow returns, NYS law does not require refunds to be given in any specific manner. However, it does require the form of the refund – cash, credit or exchange – be clearly disclosed in advance of purchase. Retailers must also disclose any fees associated with the return. If no fee is listed, shoppers should inquire whether the store imposes a re-stocking fee for returned merchandise and determine prior to purchase if the item can be returned for a refund or only store credit.

• Retain Any Proof of Purchase: Consumers should retain receipts in the event a product needs to be returned and when purchasing gifts, ask if a gift receipt is available.

Consumers having trouble obtaining a store refund are encouraged to file a complaint with the NYS DCP.

The NYS DCP provides resources and education materials to consumers as well as voluntary mediation services between consumers and businesses. The Consumer Assistance Helpline 1.800.697.1220 is available Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., excluding state holidays, and consumer complaints can be filed at any time at dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection.

For more consumer protection tips, follow the Division on social media at Twitter @NYSConsumer and Facebook at facebook.com/nysconsumer.



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Little Falls rocks the holidays

Little Falls is known to celebrate with festivals, and the holiday season is no exception. For more than a decade, the City of Little Falls has helped make the holidays a bit brighter with an annual celebration on the second Saturday in December. What began as Christmas on Main Street grew into Christmas in Little Falls.

Last year, things went to a whole new level with the inaugural Celebration of Lights in Canal Place. Sterzinar Park was lit up in classic holiday style and even included a community tree lighting with a large crowd gathered to count it down.

This celebration has allowed folks to enjoy visits from Santa, horse and carriage rides, vendor fairs, live music and much more. This special time has attracted both Little Falls residents and those from neighboring communities to our picturesque city for shopping, dining and entertainment. Once again, the committee partners with the city, Youth & Family Center and Think Local Little Falls to spread holiday cheer throughout historic downtown.

Mark your calendars and find out what is in store this year as Christmas in Little Falls Rocks the Holidays! Enjoy a long weekend of festive events, specials and entertainment, Dec. 9 - 11.

• Dec. 9 - Celebration of Lights returns to Canal Place Friday evening beginning 5 p.m. Sterzinar Park transforms into a winter wonderland of lights with a tree lighting ceremony featuring Benton Hall Academy Principal Joe Long. There will be free horse-drawn wagon rides, outdoor musical entertainment, shopping, yummy eats and more! You can stop by the Café at Stone Mill to sip on the English yuletide beverage wassail, then head to Rock Valley Brewing for a trivia night going into the later hours of the evening.

• Dec. 10 - The fun continues bright and early Saturday morning at the Little Falls Youth & Family Center with the Red Nose Reindeer 5K Run presented by Rock City Runners. There will also be visits and free professional photos (by Bob Crister of DSP Images) with Santa! While you are visiting with Santa, you can also meet the Grinch who will be helping Pause 4 All Paws with their cookie sale and scavenger hunt.

Across the street, Chicks Along the Canal will host their Merry Chicksmas Market at the Little Falls First Presbyterian Church, which includes talented local female entrepreneurs and is brought to you by the women behind the popular

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Chicks Along the Canal event.

The Tuesday Night Knitters group is hosting two yarn popups to include items for sale as well as demos. You will find these pop-ups at Main Street Mercantile and the 586 E. Main St. building. Little Falls Public Library hosts a reading of "Little Blue

Truck Christmas," which is perfect for younger children. Guests can also have their photo taken with our very own little blue truck decked out for the occasion. Valley Cinemas also invites you to wear your favorite pajamas for a Polar Express Experience at 5 p.m. (5:30 p.m. show time) - with free admission.

Free horse-drawn wagon rides provide tours of historic downtown with pick-up and drop-off at the M&T Bank lot. The hilariously competitive Tipsy Server Race takes over Main Street and the classic Soup Fest for charity will be throughout the city, as will nonprofit agency events. You can also stop by Ann Street Wine & Liquors to sip on some warm spiced wine while you stock up for your holiday event needs.

Live music and entertainment takes over Elks Lodge #42 including the sixth grade bell choir, the fifth grade All-County band, Emily Rozonkiewiecz's piano students, LF Middle and High School band and vocal and Edelweiss Schuplatters German dancers. There will also be a barbershop quartet, Full Circle, and carolers wandering throughout downtown.

Additional morning activities include the superhero pancake breakfast at the American Legion, cookie decorating (sponsored by White Rose Bakery) with reindeer games by Connected Community Schools at the Community Center, the H.A.L.O. tree of love at CVS and the Utica Zoomobile at I F Ace Hardware

New this year is a free movie night at Rock City Centre presented by Creative Outpost. There will be "Dance on Film" screenings and a presentation by producer Hannah Straney.

Elks Lodge #42 hosts their annual holiday party with a "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" theme. Dress as your favorite character from the movie! (If you remember their Schitt's Creek" Christmas Party from last year, you know this is not to be missed.)

There will also be open houses throughout the day at Paca Gardens, Designs by Shelly and Showcase Antiques of CNY. The LF Historical Society offers an outdoor exhibit as well and





are open by appointment.

• Dec. 11 - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church invites you to join them for their 2 p.m. holiday concert.

Throughout the weekend, there will be toy collections at Dollar General and Mangia Macrina's; Mohawk Valley Center

Little A5



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Little from A4

for the Arts hosts an art sale with regional artists; Falls Diamond Co. offers a diamond necklace raffle; and you can drop off letters to Santa at Ed's Pizza Place. You can also stuff your stockings at Style on Main with Nicki Marie's team giving candy to kids who bring in a stocking.

The entire city will be bustling with entertainment, activities, shopping and more throughout the day. Folks are encouraged to review the full schedule of events to plan their day, keeping in mind the numerous local businesses that will be open and running specials for your holiday enjoyment. Full details and times are available on the "Christmas in Little Falls Rocks the Holidays" Facebook page. You may also contact the Youth & Family Center at 315.823.1740 or email LFrockstheholidays@gmail.com.

How can you help? With so many highlights, there are several ways that you and/ or your business can support this event. The committee has a goal to spread our Celebration of Lights throughout the city and hope that you will help Little Falls Rock the Holidays. As always, we welcome volunteers to make the day a success. Financial contributions are appreciated to help make this year's festivities extraordinary. All donations are tax deductible.

This event is made possible by the Christmas in Little Falls Committee, Little Falls Youth & Family Center, Think Local Little Falls, the City of Little Falls and numerous financial supporters. This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the governor and the NYS Legislature and administered by CNY Arts.



The Red Nose Reindeer 5K Run is one of many activities helping Little Falls celebrate the holiday season – and it helps Santa get in shape before his busy night later in the month.



CHURCH SERVICE DIRECTORY

<u>Ames</u> Ames - Sprout Brook umc

AMES - SPROUT BROOK UMC 613 Latimer Hill Rd., Ames, NY 13317 518-673-3495 Pastor Jan Markle Sunday Service 9 AM

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Todd Lozier Sunday AM Service 10 AM Sunday School/Adult Small Groups 11:15 AM Sunday Evening 6 PM Wednesday PM Service 7 PM Via Zoom email us for the link Youth Group Sunday Evenings during the school year. Family Night - First Sunday Evening of the month from Oct - May 7274 St. Hwy. 10, Ames, NY 13317 www.cornerstoneames.com info@cornerstoneames.com 518-673-3405

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ST. JOHN'S & ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 143 Church St., Canajoharie 518-673-2224 Pastor A. Elisabeth Aurand Remote & In-Person Sunday Worship 11 AM; email for link stjm-canajoharie.org office@stjm-canajoharie.org

REFORMED CHURCH OF CANAJOHARIE 15-19 Front St., Canajoharie 518-673-2816 Rev. Matt Draffen, Senior Pastor Rev. James Peck, Jr., Associate Pastor Saturday Evening Worship 4:30 PM Sunday: Adult Bible Study 9 AM Worship 10 AM, Coffee Hour following Sunday service. Tuesday: Knit & Stitch 9 AM Bread Giveaway 10 AM - 12 PM Weekly Prayer Meeting 12 PM Wednesday: Rug Hooker's Group 9 AM Women's Bible Study 4 PM Thursday: ALPHA 6:30 PM www.canjoreformed.org

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE CHURCH Rev. David W. Bowley, Pastor Sundays, 5 PM at the Upstate Chapel 63 Cliff St, Canajoharie Call 518-673-5128 or see Facebook "Faith, Hope and Love Christian Church" and our website faithhopeandlovechurch.com



NEW BEGINNINGS BIBLE CHURCH 63 Cliff St., Canajoharie, NY 13317 Pastor Larry Alkinburgh 518-848-4816 pastor@newbeginningsbc.org Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

CHERRY VALLEY CHERRY VALLEY ASSEMBLY OF GOD 37 Alden St., Cherry Valley 607-264-3306 Pastor David Carpenter, Jr. Sundays 9:30 AM

> ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY 1 Church St., Cherry Valley 607-264-3779 Masses Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM & 11 AM

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 24 Montgomery St., Cherry Valley 315-858-4016 Fr. Kyle Grennen, Rector Holy Eucharist 11 AM Sunday school 11 AM Fully handicap accessible Active youth group - call for details Facebook: Grace Episcopal Church Cherry Valley

COLD BROOK COLD BROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 467 Main St. Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

NEW LIFE CHAPEL OF THE AEA 3447 St. Rt. 8 Pastors: Rev. Gail & Rev. Mike Jay 315-826-7115 Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Intercessory Prayers Tuesday 7 PM (please call to confirm)

DOLGEVILLE NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Pastor Peter Spiak 32 Spencer St. • 315-429-3630 Sunday School 9:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Tuesday Bible Study 7 PM

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF DOLGEVILLE Pastor Len Byerly 12 Van Buren St. Morning Worship 11-12:30 PM Lunch 12:30-2 PM Afternoon Worship 2-3 PM

> DOLGEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Pastor Matt Worley 21 N. Helmer Ave. Church Phone 315-429-7381 Sunday Church Service Oppenheim @ 10 AM Dolgeville @ 11 AM

DOLGEVILLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP Pastor Marvin Isum 3 Elm St. Phone 315-429-8390 Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Mid-week Service Tuesday 7 PM www.dolgevillechristianfellowship.org

> UNITED LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN PARISH 26 E. Faville Ave. Worship 11 AM

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 31 N. Helmer Ave., Dolgeville, NY Phone 315-823-3410 Sunday Mass 9AM

EAST SCHUYLER CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY OF SCHUYLER Pastor Adam Coomes 3659 Route 5, East Schuyler Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Wednesday Night 6:30 PM Phone 315-895-0926 Christianassemblyofschuyler.com

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FORT PLAIN AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 131 Clark Rd., Fort Plain 518-568-7606 Pastor Frank Calabrese Sunday School 10 AM, Morning Service 11 AM, Sun. & Wed. Eve. Service 6 PM, Youth Group Wed. 6:30 PM, Sat. Visitation 10 AM www.amazinggracebc.org

GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH 15 Washington St., Fort Plain 518-993-9929 Pastor Sean Morin Sunday School 10 AM Morning Service 11 AM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting, Wednesday 6:30 PM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 36 Lydius St., Fort Plain, NY 13339 518-993-2040 Pastor Jonathan Litzner 405-250-8395 Church Service 11 AM

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VICTORIOUS LIFE CHURCH RMI FELLOWSHIP 104 Main St. & 431 St. Hwy. 80 Fort Plain, NY 518-993-3102 Sunday School 9 AM, Morning Worship 10:30 AM, Youth Group 5 PM, Evening Worship 7-8 PM

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

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, 4 PM; Sunday, 9:30 AM; Confessions: Sat. 3 & by appointment Please call parish office for Holy Day schedule

FREYSBUSH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Freysbush Rd., Fort Plain 518-429-9936 or 518-424-8488 Worship 9 AM, Sunday School 10 AM ALL ARE WELCOME

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METHODIST CHURCH Pastor Kathy Reese Sunday worship and Sunday school 10AM Outdoor service: 11 Montgomery Street, Fultonville, May-Early Sept. (byo - chair) Indoor service: Winter and inclement weather Glen Town Hall, 7 Erie Street, Fultonville Community Outreach is very important to us 518 853-3311

FULTONVILLE REFORMED CHURCH Corner of 5S & 30 Pastor Jane Hubschmitt Sunday School 10 AM Family Worship 10:30 AM



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> CHURCH OF SAINTS ANTHONY and JOSEPH 229 S. Main St. Phone 866-6373 Sunday Mass 10 AM No Saturday Vigil

REDEEMER CHURCH Pastor Michael Servello 931 Herkimer Rd., Utica, NY 13503 Phone 792-4748 Saturday 6 PM • Sunday 9 & 11 AM

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UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S PROTECTRESS 326 Moore Ave. Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 AM Holy Day Liturgy 9 AM Phone 866-1336

NEW LIFE CHURCH Pastor David Hayner 337 Protection Ave. Phone 866-1164 • www.nlc-mc.org Worship 10 AM Wednesday Worship 6:30 PM

THE SALVATION ARMY Lieutenants Derrick and Heather Purvis 431 N. Prospect St. Phone 866-1240 Facebook.com/TheSalvationArmyHerkimer Sunday School 10 AM Morning Worship 11 AM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HERKIMER AND LITTLE FALLS Pastor Joelle Faulks Prospect St & Park Ave. Sunday Worship and Sunday School 9 AM HERKIMER REFORMED CHURCH 102 Church St. Phone 866-1523 Worship 9:30 AM Shepherd's Table: Tuesday 11:30-12 PM

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Corner of West German & Henry Streets Phone 315-866-6474 Sunday Worship Services 10 AM in person and virtually on Zoom, YouTube & Facebook Bible Studies Thursday mornings 10 AM on Facebook

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 317 Gros Blvd., East Herkimer 315-866-8095 Sunday Sacrament Meeting 10 AM Sunday School/Primary 11 AM - Visitors welcome -Family History Center, open by appointment

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 90 Morgan St., Ilion, NY, 13357 Reverend Richard Riggle Bible Study 9:30 AM Church Service 10:30 AM 315-894-2070

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 8 Second Street Reverend John Partise Wednesday Mid Week Service 7 PM Sunday Morning 11 AM

JESUS NEVER FAILS COMMUNITY CHURCH Reverend Hans Drews 1161 Elizabethtown Rd., Ilion, NY 13357 518-568-7983 hansandrosaline@yahoo.com Sunday Service 11 AM

> MORNING STAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 36 Second Street Pastor Joelle Faulks Sunday Worship 10:30 AM November 1 - May 1 4224 Acme Rd, Frankfort May 1 - November 1

36 Second Street, Ilion

ANNUNCIATION CHURCH 109 West Street, Ilion, NY Pastor: Father Paul Catena Deacon: Micheal Carbone Mass Schedule: Saturday 4 PM (November - April); Sunday 11:30 AM; Monday & Wednesday 9 AM



CHURCH SERVICE DIRECTORY

JOHNSTOWN

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 3316 St. Rt. 29 W, Johnstown, NY 12095 Offices: 518-762-2982 Cell: 857-523-8417 Pastor, Rev. Mark Fowler Sunday Morning Service 11 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10 AM

JOHNSTOWN FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 37 South Market St. Johnstown, NY 12095 518-762-8263 office@johnstownpresbyterian.org Pastor George W. 'Blake' Blakesley Church Service 10:30 AM in person Zoom and Facebook Please call for more information about our free community lunch, thrift store & personal care shelf.

> LASSELLSVILLE LASSELLSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH State Hwy. 29 Pastor Robert A Lindsay Worship: Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School to start soon

LITTLE FALLS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 555 Albany St. 315-823-3392 Morning Worship 9:45 AM Rev. Chris J. Wintermute. Lead Pastor Rev. William Whalen, Associate Pastor Nursery (infants through age 4) Meet and Greet Sunday at 8:00 AM Sunday School Classes 8:30 AM (nursery through adult) **0ur Service is aired on 100.3 FM, 91.1 FM & 88.7 FM on Sundays from 11-12 with a 1 week delay. **LIVE on Facebook: "gingerleecase" account- 9:45 am on Sundavs

ST PAUL'S UNITABIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH Minister Jeffrey J. Frank Mark Bunce, Organist 565 Albany St., Little Falls, NY Phone 315-823-2284 Sunday Service & Religious Education 10 AM

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Senior Pastor Timothy Parisi 559 E. Jefferson St. Phone 823-4043 • firstaglf@gmail.com Sunday Morning All Worship 10 AM Thursday Bible Study 6:30 PM

HOLY FAMILY PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LITTLE FALLS Father Brian Slezak 763 E. Main St., Little Falls, NY Phone 315-823-3410 Saturday Vigil Mass 4 PM Sunday Mass 10:30 AM

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 512 E. Gansevoort St Sunday School 9:15 AM Sunday Worship 9:30 AM Wednesday Worship 11 AM & 6 PM

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH 588-594 Albany St Sunday Schedule High Mass, Rite II 10 AM Nurserv & Sunday School 9:45 AM (Sept.-May) Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM Holy Day Masses as announced

Confessions by appointment

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Pastor Tamara Razzano 16 Jackson St Phone: 315-823-3004 Email Iffirstpres@gmail.com www.presbylf.org Sunday Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10 AM

INGHAMS MILLS BAPTIST CHURCH Rev. Garv L. Busch, Pastor Sunday Worship Service 10 AM 443 Inghams Mills Rd Little Falls, NY 13365 Pastor's Phone (315) 717-9936

THE HOLY SPIRIT POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH 618 E. Gansvoort St., Little Falls, NY 315-823-0793 Father Rafal Dadello Mass at 11 AM on Sunday www.holyspiritpncc.org

MARSHVILLE MARSHVILLE EVANGELICAL CHURCH Route 10 South Pastor Mark Fowle Worship Sunday 9 AM

> MIDDLEVILLE MIDDLEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 24 Fairfield St. Sunday Worship 9:30 AM

MOHAWK Dennison Corners COMMUNITY CHURCH Pastor Donald King 219 Robinson Rd. • Phone 866-5215 Sunday: Sunday School 9:45 AM Morning Worship 11 AM Evening Worship 6 PM Wednesday Prayer 7 PM

MOHAWK REFORMED CHURCH Rev. Brian Engel, Pastor 20 S. Otsego St. Phone 866-4292 Email mohawkpastor@verizon.net Follow us on Facebook Morning Worship: 10:30 AM Sept. - June • 9:30 AM July-Aug Youth Sunday School (Pre-K - Sr. High) 9 AM

Adult Sunday School (Men, Women & Couples) 9:30 AM September - June

EMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH Pastor Gary Wilcox 54 W. Main St. • Phone 717-3011 Worship and Word: Sunday 10:30 AM Fellowship Lunch: 12:30 PM Discipleship Hour: Sunday 1:30 PM Bible Study & Prayer: Wednesday 6 PM CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sr. Mary Jo Tallman, CSJ, Parish Life Director Rev. Leo Potvin. Sacramental Minister 71 E. Main St. Phone 866-1752 Sunday Mass 9:30 AM

CHRISTIAN BIBLE CHURCH H. Ed Reed, Pastor/Teach 167 Ward Rd. • Phone 858-1282 www.christianbiblechurch.us Sunday School 9 AM Sunday Worship 10 AM Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 PM

THE WORD CHRISTIAN CENTER Pastor Dan Annutto 27 E. Main St. • Phone (315) 985-3596 Sunday Services at 10 AM Intercession - Tuesdays at 6 PM

NELLISTON Valley Alliance Church 85 F Main St Nelliston 518-993-3458 Pastor Ken Gies Sunday School (all ages) 9:15 AM Sunday Worship 10:30 AM, Wed. Praise & Prayer 7 PM, Fri. Youth Group 7 PM (7-12th grade)

NEWPORT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH **OF NEWPORT** 7497 Main Street Pastor's Phone 315-790-1877 Sunday Worship at 9:45 AM

UNITED METHODIST Pastor Robbin Harris • Phone 845-8730 Morning Service 11:15 AM

KUYAHOORA COMMUNITY CHURCH Pastor Dwayne Durand West Canada Valley High School Auditorium 5447 St. Rt. 28 Mailing Address PO Box 50 Middleville, NY 13406 Phone 315-292-1303 www.kuyahorracc.org Weekly Service Sunday 10:08 AM

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH St. John the Baptist Parish 7516 N Main St • Phone 845-8017 Saturday Vigil 4 PM Sunday Mass 8:30 AM

OPPENHEIM OPPENHEIM

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Route 29 Pastor Matt Worley 315-429-7381 Worship 10 AM Sundays Totally Awesome God-TAG time 6:30 PM Wednesdays beginning in Oct. Sunday School 9 AM beginning September 18th

PAINES HOLLOW PAINES HOLLOW UNITED METHODIST Lay Servant Gregg Sponburgh Rtes. 167 & 168 • 315-866-1128 Worship 9-10AM

PALATINE BRIDGE TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN **CHURCH OF STONE ARABIA** 5430 St. Hwy. 10, Palatine Bridge, NY Pastor A. Elisabeth Aurand Sunday In Person Worship 9 AM; email for link office@stjm-canajoharie.org 518-673-2224

THE HOUSE OF ZION, INC. 580 Dillenbeck Rd., Palatine Bridge 518-577-3069 Pastors Richard & Denise Allen Saturday Morning Worship Service 11:30 AM Listen to UMT on live radio 97.5FM the 1st Sunday of every month 3-4 PM

BANDALL RANDALL CHRISTIAN

COMMUNITY CHURCH NY Rte. 5S Sunday Service 10:30 AM Worship Leader Darlene Spaulding

RICHFIELD SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING PO Box 896. Richfield Springs. NY 13439 Rev. Casey Bradley • 315-858-1553 Service: Sunday 9:15 AM Church School: Sunday 9:30 AM

RICHFIELD SPRINGS BIBLE CHURCH 19 Church St. Richfield Springs, NY 13439 Rev. David Tosi • 315-858-0564 Sunday School (all ages) 10 AM Wor-ship Service 11 AM & 7 PM Wednesday - Prayer & Praise Call for info on various Youth Ministries www.richfieldspringsbiblechurch.org

SALISBURY CENTER FULL GOSPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD Pastor Robert Brent 106 Plant Road Sunday Worship 11 AM with Children's Church offered during the service

SALISBURY CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2545 State Route 29 Pastor Mark Hediger, 315-429-9085 pastormarkh@aol.com Sunday Worship 10 AM Thursday Bible Study 6 PM

SLOANSVILLE SCHOHARIE VALLEY **GOSPEL CHURCH** Pastor Pat Andreoli 133 Sprakers Rd., Sloansville, NY 518-864-5397 svgchurch@gmail.com Wednesday Prayer 6 PM; Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:45 AM; Worship Service Sunday Morning 10:30 AM

<u>SPRAKERS</u> Christian Church of **CHARLESTON FOUR CORNERS**

1380 E. Lykers Rd., Sprakers 518-922-9088 Paster Brett Popp Sunday School (ages 3-adult) 9:45 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday Prayer Meeting 5:30 PM Thu. Evening of Encouragement & Community Kid's Bible Club 6:30 PM

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) 9:45 AM, Morning Service 11 AM, Eve. Service 6 PM. Wed.-Family Night 7 PM, "Where Bible Teaching is Fundamental"

REFORMED CHURCH OF SPRAKERS 112 Sprakers Hill Rd Rev. Nancy Ryan Worship ~ 9 AM All Welcome!!!

CURRYTOWN REFORMED CHURCH 829 St. Hwy. 162, Sprakers 518-922-8422 Rev. Donald Hoaglander Visiting Pastor Jane Hubschmitt 518-705-2201 Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10 AM

RIVER OF JUBILEE CHURCH 5057 St. Hwy. 5 S, Sprakers, NY 12166 Pastor: Gail Adamoschek Pastor: Steve Adamoschek 518-322-1427 / 518-224-4455 Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Church Available Other Learning Opportunities Available Visit us on Facebook

SPRINGFIELD CENTER

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 7690 Rt. 80, Springfield Center 315-858-4016 Fr. Kyle Grennen, Priest-in-Charge Sunday Eucharist, 9:30 AM Coffee - Fellowship follows service Holy Davs - as announced

> FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Springfield Center, NY Rev. Terence Brant 607-264-3035 Sunday School 10 AM Morning Worship 11 AM Wed. night Bible Study 7 PM

ST. JOHNSVILLE BETHESDA FELLOWSHIP 34 S. Division St., St. Johnsville, NY 13452 518-568-2678 Summer Schedule Sunday Worship 10 AM Wed. Worship and Prayer 6 PM 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 10:30 AM. Tues. Bible Bungee-Jumping 7 PM, "Bible Study" that actually makes sense! A Vibrant, Welcoming Community of Faith & Vision

SEEKER'S FELLOWSHIP

14 Park Place, St. Johnsville, NY 13452 518-568-7700 • Pastor Mike Yezierski Sunday Worship 6 PM, Tues. Prayer 7 PM, Bible Study 7 PM (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

JOY FELLOWSHIP

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

ST. JOHNSVILLE METHODIST CHURCH 7 East Main St., St. Johnsville, NY 13452 Pastor Corey Jones 518-568-7983 • 315-866-8626 Worship Sunday 3 PM

EVERLASTING JOY BELIEVERS FELLOWSHIP 14 Park Place (in with Seekers Fellowshin) St. Johnsville, NY 13452 315-858-2112 • Pastor Carolee Cove Sunday Service 10 AM

ST. JOHN'S REFORMED CHURCH 68 W. Main St., St. Johnsvill 518-568-7396 Faithfully Following Jesus Christ Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH Pastor Michael Torres 20 Center St., St. Johnsville, NY 13452 518-775-0366 Email accpastor2021@gmail.com

STRATFORD STRATFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1511 State Route 29A

Sunday Worship 8:30 AM Broadcast on 95.9 FM within 2 miles of church Pastor Matt Worley

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

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MOHAWK VALLEY COUNTRY EDITOR

BUSINESS FOCUS

McCarthy Guns

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness those are all the ideals in the American dream. To help ensure all three, there are certain citizens who provide services for the defense of that dream, and two of them are the founders of McCarthy Guns in Canajoharie.

Father and son duo Tom and Ryan McCarthy originally got into providing safe and legal gun ownership as a hobby. Today, they sell both guns and ammunition to all law abiding citizens interested.

McCarthy Guns has been in business for seven years now and they provide jobs for three local employees. What's more, the American dream is represented more strongly by having the store be a veteran-owned business - Ryan has served in our nation's armed forces.

Before opening the store, Tom worked doing electrical contracting. He said he entered into this particular business so he and his son can do what they can to defend Second Amendment rights.

When asked what sets McCarthy Guns apart, Tom said, "Personalized, qualified customer service and experienced clerks." That's who you want to speak with when making important purchases such as these.

Tom also noted, "For us to continue our sport, everyone must vote." And voting is an American duty of the utmost importance.

McCarthy Guns is located at 217 Erie Blvd. in Canajoharie. They are open Tuesday - Thursday from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon - 4 p.m. Reach them by phone at 518.673.4867. Online, find them on Facebook or at their website, mccarthyguns.com.



Tom McCarthy, one half of the team behind McCarthy Guns



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DECEMBER

Herkimer County Office for the Aging

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Meals on Wheels provides a well-balanced, hot, noon-time meal which is available Monday - Friday in most parts of Herkimer County. To be eligible, the person needs to be age 60 or older and be disabled due to a chronic or temporary condition. A temporary condition could be due to a recent hospitalization or accident. If you are interested in learning more about Meals on Wheels or signing up, please contact our office at 315-867-1204.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	All Meals Served with Milk and Bread Daily.	please call the offi	to be home for a meal, ice at 315-867-1204 y in advance.	1 Chicken Parmesan Rotini in Sauce Italian Blend Vegetables Mandarin Oranges	2 Sub Sandwich Three Bean Salad Macaroni Salad Pudding	
5	Lemon Pepper Fish Rice Spinach Peaches	6 Turkey Divan in Broccoli Sauce • Egg Noodles Brussel Sprouts Warm Three Bean Salad • Gelatin	7 Chicken & Biscuits Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Cookie	8 BBQ Beef Sandwich Baked Beans Carrots Brownie	9 Macaroni & Cheese Green Beans Stewed Tomatoes & Zucchini Apple	
12	Swedish Meatballs Rice Pilaf Mixed Vegetables Applesauce	13 Lasagna Tossed Salad Italian Blend Vegetables Garlic Roll • Cookie	14 Christmas Dinner Stuffed Chicken Breast Mashed Potatoes • Peas with Pearl Onions Dinner Roll • Apple Pie	15 Turkey with Gravy Stuffing Beets Frosted Birthday Cake	16 Cheesy Ham & Rice Casserole Squash • Red Cabbage Pudding	
19	Goulash Corn Brussel Sprouts Fruit Cocktail	20 Cream of Broccoli Soup Tuna Salad on a Kaiser Roll Cookie	21 Chicken Stir Fry Rice Japanese Blend Vegetables Ice Cream	22 Fish on a Bun O'Brien Potatoes Spinach Pudding	23 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Sonoma Blend Vegetables Chef's Choice Dessert	
26	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS	27 Lemon Chicken Seasoned Noodles Squash Tropical Fruit	28 Ham with Plum Sauce Scalloped Potatoes Peas & Carrots Frosted Cupcake	29 Beef Stew with Vegetables & Potatoes Cabbage • Biscuit Pineapple Tidbits	30 Omelette Hash Browns Sausage Muffin • Fruit Parfait	





DECEMBER 8

Town of Webb Herkimer County Public Health Office Hours 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the board room at 3140 State Route 28, Old Forge, For further information call Public Health at 315.867.1176 or visit herkimercounty. org or fb.me/HerkimerCountyPublicHealth .

'Tis the Season Paint & Sip 6 p.m. at Irish Cultural Center of the Mohawk Valley - Museum, 623 Columbia St.. Utica. Get ready for the holidays with your own seasonal painted wooden sign with some guidance from instructor Jill Rae Vennera. Register through Eventbrite. Register early at tinyurl. com/y3dybpu4 Seating will be limited.

Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group Meeting 10-11 a.m. at Arkell Center in Canajoharie. Meetings held second Thursday of each month. Call 518.673.4408 for information.

DECEMBER 9

Utica and Mohawk Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society Meeting 7 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church on the corners of French and Burrstone Roads in the Town of New Hartford. Chapter Secretary John Koslosky will have a video presentation on the inaugural run of the Adirondack Railroad from Utica to Tupper Lake. For more information, contact Bradford Paulson at 315.853.5400 or 315.275.1223 or Bpaulson909@msn.com

Free Christmas Community Spaghetti Dinner 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Dolgeville United Methodist Church in their Shulenburg Fellowship Hall. Take-outs and dining in available. For more information, call 315.429.7381.

Christmas Bake Sale 12 p.m. St. John's Reformed Church, 68 W. Main St., St. Johnsville. Homemade goods for sale from noon until products last. Call Bill at 518.568.7396.

Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Park 5-8 p.m. at the German Flatts Town Park, 555 Route 5S, Mohawk (next to Ft. Herkimer Church). Events in the Community Center Building. Santa will have presents for the children. Refreshments available. Christmas Basket Raffle and Hershey Candy Raffle, along with door prizes. Fun for the family. Free. For more information contact Carol Vercz at 315.866.6791 or email pvercz@twcny.rr.com

DECEMBER 9-10

Children's Christmas Party. Friday at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at 12 p.m. Both days at Frothingham Free Library, 28 W Main St., Fonda. Crafts, games, music, Santa and yummy treat. RSVP at frothinghamfreelibrary.mvls.info

DECEMBER 9-11

Christmas in the Village Weekend at 9627 Main Street, Remsen. All events are free admission with donations accepted. Friday 5:15 p.m. Lighting of the Christmas Tree. 5:25 p.m. Hot Chocolate and Cookies. 5:45-6:15pm Christmas Caroling. Saturday 7 p.m. Remsen Community Band. Sunday 7 p.m. Remsen Community Choir.

DECEMBER 10

St Nicholas Bizarre and Luncheon 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 594 Albany St., Little Falls. Vendors, food and confections.

Visit from Mrs. Claus 10:30 a.m. -2 p.m. at Frank J. Basloe Library, 245 N. Main St., Herkimer. Bring a pantry or personal hygiene item for Stuff the Sleigh charity drive. Donated goods will be taken to the Herkimer Salvation Army. For more information, contact the Basloe Library at 315.866.1733 or by email at herkimer@midyork.org.

DECEMBER 12-13

Artificial Insemination in Cattle Training Course 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days in Little Falls. For information and how to register, go to cnydfc. cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=2004. Preregistration required by Dec. 5 and limited to 12 people. Cost is \$400 per person. To register and for more information contact the Central NY Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Program at cnydlfc@cornell.edu or 315.866.7920.

DECEMBER 13

Dream Catchers performing at 2 p.m. at Arkell Center in Canajoharie.

DECEMBER 16

Pierogi and Golumbki Sale on 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer. Pierogi sell for \$8 a dozen and golumbki \$15 a half dozen or 3-piece for \$7.50. Also, assorted baked goods will be available.

DECEMBER 17

Pierogi and Golumbki Sale 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer. Pierogi sell for \$8 a dozen and golumbki \$15 a half dozen or 3-piece for \$7.50. Also, assorted baked goods will be available.

Cookie and Book Sale 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ilion First Baptist Church, 8 Second St., Ilion. Lunch is available. For more information contact the church office at 315.894.9041.

Society, 400 N. Main St., Herkimer. 518.673.4408. With a visit from Santa until noon. Santa arriving by Fire Truck. Get your per family. Purchase three more for \$10. Cookies \$15 per package. Activities for kids of all ages.

DECEMBER 20

Canajoharie Middle School Orat Arkell Center. The orchestra is directed by Leo Milman.

DECEMBER 21

Third Wednesday Night Din-Delivery or take-outs only. Takesouts may be ordered ahead by calling 315.894.9041. \$12 per dinner. For more information contract the Church Office at 315.894.9041.

DECEMBER 22

Canajoharie "Company of Song" 1:30 p.m. at Arkell Center in Canajoharie. "Company of Song" is directed by Nicholas Anker. This is the annual holiday performance.

DECEMBER 23

Pierogi and Golumbki Sale on 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Mary's Ukrainian Pierogi sell for \$8 a dozen and golumbki \$15 a half dozen or 3-piece for \$7.50. Also, assorted baked goods will be available.

DECEMBER 24

Pierogi and Golumbki Sale 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer. Pierogi sell for \$8 a dozen and golumbki \$15 a half dozen or 3-piece for \$7.50. Also, assorted baked goods will be available.

DECEMBER 25

Annual Christmas Dinner noon-2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Herkimer. Reservations are not necessary. All are welcome. For shut-in delivery call 315.867.1204 by Dec. 21. Deliveries made primarily in Herkimer, Mohawk and downtown llion. Volunteers are needed. To volunteer, call Toby at 315.868.5560.



DECEMBER 29

Second Annual Cookie Sale 10 a.m. Canajoharie High School Cover Band will perform at 2 - 3 p.m. Herkimer County Historical p.m. at Arkell Center in Canajoharie. Contact Joan Cimino at

JANUARY 12, 2023

picture with Santa. One free picture Town of Webb Herkimer County Public Health Office Hours 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the board room at 3140 State Route 28, Old Forge. For further information call Public Health at 315.867.1176 or visit herkimercounty.org or fb.me/HerkimerCountyPublicHealth .

JANUARY 13, 2023

chestra performance at 1:30 p.m. Herkimer College New Student Registration Day. Appointments are available for 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. To make an appointment, visit herkimer.edu/register. For more information, call 315.574.4028 or email admissions@herkimer.edu.

JANUARY 18, 2023

ners-Barbecue Chicken Dinner Local History Round Table at Fort Plain Free Library. For 4-6 p.m. or sold out at llion First more information, call 518.993.4646, email fpfl@mvls.info, or Baptist Church, 8 Second St., Ilion. visit the website at fortplainfreelibrary.org.

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Town of Webb Herkimer County Public Health Office Hours 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the board room at 3140 State Route 28, Old Forge. For further information call Public Health at 315.867.1176 or visit herkimercounty.org or fb.me/HerkimerCountyPublicHealth .

MARCH 9, 2023

Town of Webb Herkimer County Public Health Office Hours 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the board room at 3140 State Route 28, Old Forge. For further information call Public Health at 315.867.1176 or visit herkimercounty.org or fb.me/HerkimerCountyPublicHealth .

APRIL 13, 2023

Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer. Town of Webb Herkimer County Public Health Office Hours 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the board room at 3140 State Route 28, Old Forge. For further information call Public Health at 315.867.1176 or visit herkimercounty.org or fb.me/HerkimerCountyPublicHealth .

First players commit to Herkimer College's 2023 women's soccer season

Herkimer College started preparations for the 2023 women's soccer season with four local all-star players making a commitment to the Herkimer Generals athletic program. According to Generals women's soccer head coach Damon Neish, Kadence York and Kailee Figger, both of Unadilla Valley; Sarah Davis of Norwich; and Charity Dygert of Herkimer had stellar high school careers and are now excited to take the next step in their development at Herkimer College.

According to Neish, Figger is Unadilla Valley's current soccer MVP and an athletic, confident midfielder. She was one of the top scoring midfielders in her conference last year and will bring athleticism to the Generals midfield.

Davis, who is Norwich's top scorer, is a goal scoring forward player. Neish describes her as comfortable on the ball and a constant threat in and around the penalty box. She will undoubtably bring goals to the Generals next year, Neish said.

Dygert comes to the team from a promising young program at Herkimer High School. She is a tough tackling defender and will bring leadership to the Generals, he added.

York, a highly rated forward player, will also be playing basketball while at Herkimer College. Neish shared that she had offers from multiple colleges to play soccer but decided to join the Generals.

"We are so happy to have these four sign on for next season," Neish said. "Usually, we don't obtain commitments until after the new year, but we are delighted to have four high quality young women come on board. All four can play but more importantly, all four demonstrate the type we look for in our program – athletic, hungry for success, humble and excited to help the team. We are getting four great players and four amazing families who can't wait to support the girls next year. We are all excited, and we expect to have another handful of players ready to commit very soon."



The first four players have committed to Herkimer College's 2023 women's soccer season. (L - R) Sarah Davis, Kadence York, Kailee Figger and Charity Dygert. Photo courtesy of Herkimer College





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AUTOMOTIVE

Christmas in the Village Weekend

The Remsen Arts Center presents Christmas in the Village Weekend from Dec. 9 - 11 at 9627 Main St., Remsen. All events are free admission with donations accepted.

Dec. 9:

• 5:15 p.m.: Lighting of the Christmas tree

5:25 p.m.: Hot chocolate and cookies
5:45 - 6:15 p.m.: Christmas caroling with accompaniment

by Dominic Fiacco on the Steinway piano. Bring your families with their singing voices and get into the Christmas spirit.

Dec. 10

• 7 p.m.: Remsen Community Band performing a traditional Christmas program with two audience singalongs and the "Sleigh Ride" song. The band consists of players from the Central New York region. F. Peter Billard is director. **Dec. 11:**

• 7 p.m.: Remsen Community Choir performs many wellknown carols, highlights from the "Messiah" and a carol singalong. Kym Johnson Fox is director; Susan Bartholomew, accompanist.



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Small businesses have adapted to meet one key consumer demand

Convenience might be the first word to come to mind if consumers are asked why they rely so heavily on big-box retailers. Such retailers can offer a variety of products their smaller coun-



terparts may not be able to match and subsequently deliver those products with a speed that the average Mom-and-Pop operation cannot possibly keep up with.

But the tide in regard to online buying is shifting, as surveys show a growing satisfaction with small busi ness' online offerings. A 2021 survey commissioned by the digital marketing platform Sendinblue found that 58% of consumers in the U.S. prefer the online shopping experience with small businesses over their larger counterparts due to the former's ability to provide a more personalized and customized online shopping experience. In addition, 53% of consumers surveyed indicated they preferred online shopping with small businesses because they felt they received superior customer service with these firms when compared to larger online retailers.











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Herkimer Elementary School brings back school clubs after 2.5-year absence





School clubs returned to Herkimer Elementary School this autumn for the first time since COVID-19 first impacted schools more than two and a half years ago.

Most of the clubs that were previously in place are now up and running again, and a new one has been added with a third grade Drama Club. Despite the gap in club availability, students jumped right back into joining clubs, Herkimer Elementary School Principal Renee Vogt said.

"Our numbers are high," Vogt said. "Kids are interested. The teachers are excited to bring it back."

Herkimer Elementary clubs had to stop meeting COVID-19 after caused schools to close for in-person learning during the second half of the 2019-20 school year, and clubs stayed out of commission during the 2020-21 school year with many COVID regulations in place. During the 2021-22 school year, many challenging aspects remained that caused the clubs to stay out of operation - including COVID restrictions still in place, staffing issues and a split schedule for the school day that would have made club and bus timing harder to manage, Vogt said.

This school year, the school is back to an aligned schedule, and the district was able to work with Birnie Bus Service to have two late buses available for students staying for clubs, Vogt said.

It was important to bring clubs back because they are a valuable aspect of school and allow students to try out different interests, Vogt said.

"I think it's a great thing for kids to have that opportunity to experience things that are above and beyond the academic day," Vogt said.

Elementary school clubs are available for students in grades 3 - 5 and are split up by grade level. The clubs operating this school year are Art Club 3, Drama Club 3, Library Club 4, Newspaper/ Social Media Club 4, STEM Club 3, STEM Club 4, STEM Club 5, Student Council 5 and Yearbook Club 5.

The schedule for clubs was spaced out so students can join multiple clubs. Students have to keep up on their grades and work to stay involved. Clubs meet after school

for about an hour. Most clubs



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Herkimer Elementary students in STEM Club 3 participate in a challenge using candy corn pumpkins and Popsicle sticks to build towers. (L - R) Quamar Davis, Quameer Davis, Dillon Denton and Alek Bailey-LaVeck. Photos courtesy of Herkimer BOCES

meet twice per month, but Drama Club takes place

three times per week.

Drama Club Herkimer Elementary students put on grade-level plays in first and second grades and regularly enjoy the singing, dancing and acting aspects, so it was clear there would be interest in a third grade Drama Club, Vogt said.

Establishing clubs that students would enjoy and benefit from is the attitude the district wants to take toward clubs in general, Vogt said.

"If that's what the interest

is, let's do that," she said. "That's why the Drama Club was created."

Second grade teachers Debra Knowlton and Brenna Kirkpatrick are the advisors for the Drama Club. The opportunity for the club to meet

Herkimer A15





Herkimer from A14

three days per week allows for a more indepth experience, Vogt said.

Students have been working on creating the props and will continue to do that through November. Auditions took place in October, and students recently received their roles. The practices will run until students put on a play in March, Vogt said.

'Above and Beyond'

Herkimer fourth grade teacher Amberlyn Ellinger, who is the advisor for Newspaper/ Social Media Club 4 and STEM Club 3, said she and the other elementary teachers are thrilled for students that the clubs are back.

"I don't know who's more excited - the students or the teachers," Ellinger said. "The longer we can have them here working on their social skills, the better it is for everybody."

Ellinger believes involvement in school clubs is very valuable for students and strengthening the school community.

"It offers a lot extra collaboration for the kids and outside opportunities," Ellinger said. "It gives them a sense of belonging outside of the classroom."

Vogt said clubs such as Student Council 5, Yearbook Club 5, Newspaper/Social Media Club 4 and Drama Club 3 are also providing aspects that benefit students not directly in the clubs.

"A lot of our clubs are in a position to support the entire student body," Vogt said.

Another example is that the STEM 5 club is creating contraptions to help items stay in storage areas connected to desks, Vogt said. "It's exciting to me to see kids so excited about doing something to go above and beyond," Vogt said.

Clubs Up and Running

Students are already enjoying the return of the clubs, Ellinger said, and she has seen it directly in the two clubs she advises.

Newspaper/Social Media Club 4 students are aiming to create a newspaper once every month or two, and the club is great for helping students develop writing skills, Ellinger said.

"They're very excited," Ellinger said. "It's a small amount of time. They have a lot of ideas they want to do."

Newspaper/Social Media Club students also want to interview teachers, generate social media content, produce videos using a green screen, develop comic strips based on the "Give Respect, Get Respect" theme for the school this year and more, Ellinger said.

STEM Club 3 students have enjoyed activities such as a challenge to see which group could build the tallest towers using candy corn pumpkins and Popsicle sticks, Ellinger said.

"All I did was give them the supplies and the idea, and they had to figure out the rest," she said.

Another early activity was painting with Q-tips as an alternative form of art, Ellinger said, and students also learn about responsibility.

"They like to get messy, but they have to clean it up, and that's not a problem for them. Making a mess is also making them learn, so I'm okay with it," she said. "There's definitely a lot of peer interaction and team-building."



HOME IMPROVEMENT

What to give new homeowners this holiday season



Moving into a new home is an exciting yet expensive endeavor. Carefully curated gifts can tap into what new homeowners need the most.

discover they now have little money to outfit those homes. Shoppers with new homeowners on their holiday shopping lists may want to help those loved ones outfit their homes this season. The following are some home-related gift ideas to get shoppers started.

Video/smart doorbell: Although the smart doorbell market began with only a handful of options, there's now a bevy of manufacturers who make video and smart home doorbells. These doorbells serve the dual purpose of alerting homeowners to someone at the door, while providing surveillance of the comings and goings outside of the home. Depending on the product, a subscription may be needed to access video history. Doorbells range from \$50 to \$200 and more depending on features and resolution.

· Furniture gift card: There's a good chance new homeowners will need to furnish new rooms in a home, particularly if they're coming from an apartment or a smaller place. Many people also like to update furnishings when they move into new places. A gift card to a popular furniture store in the area will provide the head-start new homeowners need to secure sofas, dining sets, lamps, rugs and more.

• Household tool kit: What better way to prepare new homeowners for the do-it-yourself projects and household repairs than with a tool kit? Home improvement retailers often package common tools needed in carrying cases or sets, but shoppers can grab separate items they think will be used and group them together into one gift. Pliers, screwdrivers, wrenches, a level, and measuring tape are good starter tools

Customized doormat: Give that new home additional curb appeal with a doormat customized with a special message or the new homeowners' names, such as Welcome to the Smith Home. Other customizeable products include cutting boards and wall plaques.

• Programmable thermostat: A programmable or learning thermostat will help new homeowners save on their energy bills. Many thermostats now pair with smart home systems and phones and automatically adjust the temperature as needed to reduce energy consumption.

• Linens: A high thread count sheet set or plush Turkish cotton towels may not be something new homeowners think to get for themselves. But these luxurious gifts can make life at home more comfortable.



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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Herkimer College announces Green & Gold Athletes

Herkimer College women's volleyball player Madiana Aceto was named Green & Gold Female Athlete of the Month for September. Madiana led the team in digs for the month of September with 79. She also contributed 31





Madiana Aceto

kills, four assists, eight aces and a total of 45 points in 11



matches during the month of September. Madiana is a sophomore business administration major and is now participating in an internship with Disney World.

Men's soccer player Cathal Carney was named Green & Gold Male Athlete of the Month for September. Cathal is a freshman general studies



major at Herkimer College. In September, Cathal led the Generals to six wins by making 16 saves and not allowing any goals.

Cathal Carney

Herkimer College's athletic program is a Division III member of the National Junior College Athletic Association offering 20 varsity and one junior varsity teams.

The program has amassed 65 national championships, 132 Region III titles, 176 Mountain Valley Collegiate Conference championships and 31 National Academic Team of the Year awards. Herkimer College won the National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) Cup, now called the Daktronics Cup, in 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2020, ranking the Herkimer Generals athletic program first in the nation among non-scholarship two-year athletic programs, based on national championship competition.

For more information about the Herkimer Generals, visit herkimergenerals. com.





20 Air Compressors Announcements 25 Air Tools 35 Announcements 45 Antiques 55 Appraisal Services 75 ATV 80 Auctions 82 Auto Body 110 Bedding Plants 120 Bees-Beekeeping 130 Bird Control 140 Books 155 Building Materials/ Supplies 157 Building Repair 160 Buildings For Sale 161 Bulk Foods / Spices 165 Business Opportunities 170 Butchering Supplies 173 Carpentry 175 Cars, Trucks, Trailers 180 Catalogs 180 Catering 182 Catering 190 Chain Saws Announcements 195 Cheesemaking Supplies 205 Christmas 214 Clocks & Repair 215 Collectibles \star $\star \star \star \star$ **ADVERTISERS** 216 Clothing 235 Computers Get the best responses from your advertisements 253 Consignment by including the age, con-265 Construction Equipment For Rent 275 Construction Machinery Wanted dition, price and best call-277 Construction Services ing hours. Also, we always 280 Construction Supplies recommend insertion for at 312 Crafts least 2 issues for maxi-325 Custom Butchering mum benefits. DEADLINE 330 Custom Services for placing ads is FRIDAY 360 Deer-Butchering & Hides at 2:00 PM- Week Prior to 370 Dogs 410 Electrical Each Friday Dated Paper Call Peg at 1-800-836-2888 415 Employment Wanted 440 Farm Machinery For Sale 445 Farm Machinery Wanted or 518-673-0111 447 Farm Market Ítems 460 Fencing 470 Financial Services CHECK YOUR AD - AD-VERTISERS should check 480 Fish their ads on the first week of 483 Flooring insertion. Lee Newspapers 494 For Lease 495 For Rent shall not be liable for typo-500 For Sale graphical, or errors in publi-510 Fresh Produce, Nursery cation except to the extent of 525 Fruits & Berries the cost of the first weeks in-527 Furniture sertion of the ad, and shall 529 Garage Sales 530 Garden Supplies also not be liable for dam-535 Generators ages due to failure to publish 537 Gifts an ad. Adjustment for errors 575 Greenhouse Supplies is limited to the cost of that 585 Guns 587 Hair Styling portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. Report any 589 Hardware errors to 800-836-2888 600 Health Care/Products 605 Heating 610 Help Wanted or 518-673-0111. 653 Hotel / Motel 683 Jewelers 700 Lawn & Garden 711 Lessons **BANNERS: VINYL - Single** 760 Lumber & Wood Products 790 Maple Syrup Supplies Sided - Double Sided, vari-805 Miscellaneous ous sizes. Set up, sales 810 Mobile Homes tax, & shipping additional. 811 Monuments 812 Multi Media Lee Newspapers Call 518-673-0171 Inc. at 813 Music commercialprint@leepub.com 815 Motorcycles 817 Nails 820 Nurseries 910 Plants Antiques 950 Real Estate For Sale 955 Real Estate Wanted 960 RVs & Motor Homes Paying CASH for OLD Stuff ... 975 Rentals 980 Restaurant Supplies 1040 Services Offered 1075 Snowblowers 1080 Snowmobiles 1096 Sports 1109 Thrift



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Herkimer BOCES administrator recognized with Genesis Group Outstanding Educator Award



Director of Adult, Early Childhood and Outreach Education Mary Kline receives an Outstanding Educator Award from Maria Smith, co-chair of the Genesis Group Education Committee, during the Genesis Group's annual Celebration of Education on Nov. 17. Photo courtesy of Herkimer BOCES

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Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Director of Adult, Early Childhood Outreach Education and Mary Kline recently received an Outstanding Educa-tor Award at the Genesis Group's annual Celebration of Education.

As Kline nears 44 years at Herkimer BOCES in January 2023 and retirement in June 2023, she reflected on going to college with plans to become a reading teacher, starting out doing substitute teaching, working as a teacher aide, joining Herkimer BOCES as a migrant tutor in January 1979, becoming the migrant coordinator and taking on additional administrative roles over the years. Kline said she is happy

BOCES A21





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BOCES from A20

with the path her career took. She has enjoyed the job because her involvement with multiple programs provided her with a variety of experiences and kept each day feeling unique.

"You have so many different programs to work with, and they all help people - which I like," she said. "And I've worked with wonderful staff. Some of them worked with me for more than 30 years."

Kline received the Outstanding Educator Award on Nov. 17 at the Genesis Group's annual Celebration of Education at Hart's Hill Inn in Whitesboro. Kline was also a recipient of the School Administrators Association of NYS Leadership and Support Award in 2016.

Outstanding Educator

When Kline was first notified by Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood that she won the Outstanding Educator Award, it felt "sort of humbling," she said. "It was also nice to be recognized for serving in the various

capacities that I operated in," she said.

Kline had previously worked as a substitute teacher and

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Tom 607-972-1770 • Brenda 607-972-1771, Dan Hosking 607-972-8773 - Office 607-847-8800. was working as a teacher aide in the former llion Central School District, when the Herkimer BOCES migrant coordinator was in her graduate class and mentioned a migrant tutor opportunity. Kline accepted the position in January 1979, and it turned into a 44-year career at Herkimer BOCES.

Later on, Kline became the new migrant coordinator. Through her involvement with an Even Start Program grant that dealt with various aspects of education from early childhood to adult, doors opened for her to take on administrative duties in those areas. She added the Adult Practical Nursing Program and other aspects and the position continued to have shifts in responsibilities over the years leading to her current title of director of adult, early childhood and outreach education.



After all of that experience, Kline enjoyed the Genesis Group's awards ceremony because she was joined by her husband, son, daughter-in-law and some Herkimer BOCES board members and administrators.

"It was humbling because there were some very significant educators who were also recognized," she said. "The Hall of Distinction and Distinguished Service Awards recipients they were truly lifelong educators who did amazing work."

Kline said she appreciates that the Genesis Group puts on the Celebration of Education every year.

"It's nice that they showcase education because it's really

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CTIONS 518-895-8150 x 3001 CollarCityAuctionsOnline.com the foundation of everything," she said. 'The enormity of her role'

Herkimer BOCES Director of Special Education and Alternative Education Roberta Matthews and Herkimer BOCES Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Kati Ferguson nominated Kline for the award for her leadership and devotion.

"Her title does not capture the enormity of her role at Herkimer BOCES and how valuable she is in supporting not only the students of the Herkimer region but also students in over 14 New York State counties," Matthews and Ferguson wrote in the nomination letter. "Mary has implemented countless new initiatives and educational programs for our region, including a very successful migrant education program, pre-kindergarten programs housed in five school districts, support services for students who are homeless, adult and continuing education programming and a nursing preparation program.

Her License Practical Nursing program was specifically designed to be flexible and responsive to the obstacles returning adult students often face, and she was able to secure more than \$1 million in outside funding in tuition support for these students and successfully facilitated the graduation of 622 licensed practical nurses since 2010, Matthews and Ferguson wrote.

Kline is also instrumental in securing the Literacy Zone funding for the area. It provides literacy support for residents 16 and older who would like help accessing services to improve their literacy skills or to receive assistance with overcoming barriers that may prevent them from being successful, Matthews and Ferguson wrote.

The Eastern Regional Migrant Education Tutorial and Support Services Program overseen by Kline covers more than 11,458 square miles of territory across 14 counties, after Kline grew the program from serving five counties when she started.

"In addition to leading this monumental program, Mary is also intimately involved with each of the migrant staff and families," Matthews and Ferguson wrote. "Mary knows many of the families by name and can share with you the progress they have made. Regardless of the type of support needed, a family in need does not go unnoticed. An example is when her office transforms into Santa's workshop during the holiday season."



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Herkimer Central School District ninth grader Rylee Hisert created this planter for Ms. LaLonde. Photo courtesy of Herkimer BOCES

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Herkimer BOCES administrator recognized with Genesis Group Outstanding Educator Award

Students in Herkimer Jr./Sr. High School art teacher Heather McCutcheon's social emotional artistic learning class recently created custom planters for teachers' classrooms and are growing plants in them.

The students were challenged to create a planter for the classroom of a teacher that they're friendly and comfortable with. The students asked the teachers for permission to leave a plant in their classrooms for the rest of the school year, and then they used either clay or a 3-D printer to make a planter.

Most chose something the teacher liked - such as a cat design for Ms. LaLonde's room or a tank for Mr. Sheldon's room," McCutcheon said. "These pieces were all unique."

The social emotional artistic learning students planted plants in the planters using plant clippings they received from agriculture teacher Talia Baker's class, from a student and from McCutcheon's family. Students watched the clippings grow roots, McCutcheon said.

"Now that the pieces are done and the plants have roots, they have found some new homes throughout the school," she said. "Students will check in once a week with the teacher to water the plant and grow the student/teacher relationship."



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MOHAWK VALLEY COUNTRY EDITOR





MVC Kiwanis helps children

It was a blessing that the Mohawk Valley Central Kiwanis Club could help out eight children at the Mohawk Fisher Elementary school with clothing and food for one of the families.

The Kiwanis Clubs of America help out children in many ways in the U.S. and also internationally. This 100-year-old organization has spent millions of dollars to help children in need. Our motto is: To help one child and one community at a time.

Merry Christmas from all of us at MVC Kiwanis.

If you would like to make a donation or become a member contact: Mohawk Valley Central Kiwanis, PO Box 231, Mohawk, NY 13407.



Erica Johnson, Family School Navigator and Gregory Riddle, MVC Kiwanis President. Photo courtesy of Mohawk Valley Central Kiwanis









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December 6, 2022 • B1

HOLIDAY HEADQUARTERS

Five ways to support small businesses this holiday shopping season

Small businesses long have been the heart and soul of local communities. There is something to be said about be-



ing on a first-name basis with a local restaurateur or another small business owner, as such familiarity often translates into exemplary service.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses account for 99.9 percent of companies in the country, due in large part to the broad definition of small businesses (those with fewer than 500 employees). However, the vast majority of businesses in the U.S. have a staff that's smaller than 20 workers, according to the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. These firms employ nearly 60 million workers, says the SBA.

Despite the prevalence of small businesses, fewer than 80 percent of entrepreneurial small business ventures make it beyond their first year, and only around half make it beyond five years.

Consumers who want to help their favorite small businesses survive can use the holiday season and beyond to set the course for success. Consumers can make a concerted effort to fuel this important cog in their local economic engines

• Shop local. The concept is simple but effective. Opting to shop in local stores over larger conglomerates and franchises can help small businesses take root. Before making holiday shopping lists, visit local stores and base gift ideas on items they have in stock. Chances are those gifts will be one-of-akind.

· Purchase gift cards/certificates. All businesses have slow periods, and post-holidays is often a time when sales stagnate. Gift cards may bring new customers into local businesses who might otherwise not have patronized them, potentially creating new repeat customers.

· Cater holiday meals and gatherings. The holiday season is chock-full of entertainment opportunities. Individuals can rely on nearby restaurants and other food and beverage businesses to cater holiday parties. Some businesses also may be willing to discount or donate food for nonprofit group activities, such as church holiday bazaars, school holiday concerts or fundraising fairs.

· Mention small businesses on social media. The holiday season breeds excitement. Therefore, when shoppers are in local stores, they can snap pictures of products and overflowing shopping bags and post them online while praising local businesses

• Think about subscription gifts. Enrollment in a health club or a massage therapy service are gifts that keep on giving for the recipient, but also help ensure consistent incoming cash for the business providing the service.

When shopping this holiday season, consumers can look to the small, local businesses in their communities that help make towns and cities unique.





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Great gifts for school-aged children

Successful shopping for adults on a holiday list often involves identifying a loved one's favorite hobby and then finding something that makes that hobby even more enjoyable. For example, a new e-reader can be just what the family bookworm needs to make reading even more immersive. School-aged children may not be so simple to shop for, as their interests are always evolving and they tend to outgrow toys as quickly as their growing bodies outgrow their clothes. No two kids are the same, but these gift ideas can appeal to school-aged youngsters at a time in their lives when their curiosity is always



With each passing year, the task of finding gifts for tweens and teenagers becomes that more challenging.

piqued.

• STEM gifts: Parents know that the term "STEM" is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. These academic disciplines have gained heightened importance over the last couple of decades and many toy manufacturers now make products that reinforce STEM lessons kids learn in the classroom in a fun way. STEM-based toys are available for kids of all ages, including children who are still in diapers.

• Nature-based gifts: Many parents do everything they can to reduce the amount of time their kids spend looking at screens, which is a tall order in the digital era. But various manufacturers produce toys designed to help kids be more physically active in the great outdoors. From age-appropriate binoculars that encourage kids to explore natural settings to birdhouses and fairy gardens kids can build and paint in their favorite colors, shoppers can choose from a host of nature-based gifts that encourage kids to get away from their screens and enjoy the great outdoors.

• Board games: Board games remain a wonderful way for kids to learn and have fun

doing it. Board games are made for kids of all ages, and they're not just fun, but also beneficial to early childhood development. For example, clinical psychologist Beatrice Tauber Prior, Psy.D. noted to the children's book publisher and distributor Scholastic that board games requiring strategy help the frontal lobes of the brain develop. Those lobes are responsible for planning, organizing and decision-making. Board games also provide opportunities for families to spend quality time together free from distractions.

• Cookbooks: Cookbooks are another great gift for school-aged youngsters, who can learn a lot from pitching in at dinnertime. Children who cook with their parents can learn valuable lessons about nutrition and measuring ingredients can reinforce lessons learned in the classroom. Shoppers can choose from any number of cookbooks designed for kids, and even children as young as two can pitch in when baking cookies or preparing family meals.

Shopping for school-aged children during the holiday season can be made easier with some suggestions that can reinforce classroom lessons while keeping the focus on fun.



Did you know?

Shopping is foremost on the minds of many people come the holiday season. When considering loved ones and acquaintances while making holiday shopping lists, tangible gifts, such as cloth-ing or items for the home, may be the first things that come to mind. However, experiential gifts also merit consideration. Experiential gifts are those that focus on experiences rather than items. These can include anything from a horseback riding adventure to a spa day to concert tickets to getting behind the wheel of a race car. Experiential gifts can be tailored

A fiery shrub

around Christmas time you'll see,

it looks like flowers

but is just leaves

on a small tree.

to people's interests. A 2014 study by researchers at San Francisco State University showed people tend to realize greater well-being from life experiences and consider them to be a better way to spend their money. Overall satisfac-

tion tends to be greater with gifted experiences than with material things. Furthermore, the Harris Group found that 72 percent of millennials actually want to spend more money on experiences rather than things.



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Santa's Christmas Ollage

Dec. 10 • 10AM-3PM LJ Hand Farm Center Fultonville

Breakfast With Santa

Dec. 10 • 8-10AM Canajoharie/Fort Plain Elks Lodge Nelliston Age 15 & Under FREE

Breakfast With The Grands

Dec. 10 • 9AM-12Noon Cobleskill Diner

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> Company Of Song Dec. 22 • 1:30PM Annual Holiday Performance Arkell Center, Canajoharie

Sanca's Mathows In Front of Blooming Lotus & Yoga Johnstown

How to make shopping more comfortable for customers

The holiday shopping season began around Thanksgiving and continues at a frenzied pace for about a month. Across the country, billions of dollars will be spent on gifts, entertaining and decor. Various businesses can increase their profits if they make an effort to make shopping more consumer friendly.

According to a survey from LivePerson, a global leader in conversational AI, two out of three consumers were planning to do most of their holiday shopping online due to the pandemic. Welcoming those shoppers back to stores may mean making some changes designed to make shopping more comfortable and convenient.

· Offer special shopping hours. The pandemic opened retailers' eyes to the needs of certain shopping demographics, including the elderly. Navigating packed stores can be stressful for people with mobility issues or special needs. Over the last several years, select Target stores have opened their doors a little earlier on certain days for individuals with autism, and also dimmed the lights and music to create a sensory-friendly environment. Other stores may want to follow suit, offering key shopping hours or days for those who can benefit from smaller crowds.

• Offer in-store and online capabilities. Though many consumers now feel better about shopping safely in stores, there are some who still may prefer the perks of curbside pickup or delivery capabilities. LivePerson's survey shed light on some common consumer concerns when shopping online, which included asking questions about products, finding products and services, and finding relevant promotions. Businesses can utilize conversational commerce experiences, including chat options, to enable customers to interact online with greater efficiency and convenience.

• Run a holiday giveaway. Attract customers and make the shopping experience more fun by using a social media platform to advertise a holiday giveaway. Customers who are spending a lot of money will appreciate getting something for free.

• Create a welcoming atmosphere. Here is where small businesses can really shine over larger corporations. The sights and the smells of the holidays are often magnified in cozy environments. Offer coffee or hot chocolate and gingerbread cookies to customers when they enter the store. Set up a soft sofa where shoppers can rest during shopping sprees.

• Offer generous return policies. Some gifts simply



will not be the right fit. Ensure that shoppers, whether they purchased online or in person, can return or exchange gifts with ease.

 Offer free gift-wrapping. Time-strapped shoppers will appreciate the efficiency of having gifts wrapped right on the spot. This is an ideal job for a teenager or an older worker looking to make some seasonal cash.

Small businesses can help solidify repeat customers by making the holiday shopping experience convenient, comfortable and friendly.









December 23 is the Last Chance to buy gift certificates before Christmas!

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HEADQUARTERS





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Toy Drive Palatine Bridge Dollar General (in partnership with St. Johnsville Benefit Club) Stuff the Bus for Veterans and their families Tues-Sun 3-8PM until December 9th AMVETS Post 2000 in Canajoharie *New Items Only* • 518-384-5592

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Herkimer County Office of the Aging

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mitten Tree

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It's the most wonderful (read: stressful) time of the year: A look at how Americans are feeling this holiday season

(BPT) - Are you excited about the holiday season or are you dreading it? While this time of year can be filled with cheer and joy, it can also be incredibly overwhelming. In fact, two in three Americans are stressed about this holiday season.

What exactly are they stressing about? Their budgets, according to the latest crowded transit (54%) as the things they dread the most.

"While the burden of gifting, budgeting, long lines and holiday traffic may take away some of your holiday cheer, Affirm can help bring it back. A valuable budgeting tool, paying with Affirm is one smart choice you can make this holiday season to stay in control of your finances," or awkward family dinner, compared to 51% of women. Gen Z & Millennials are

especially stressed, but they are focused on the future

75% of Gen Zers are stressed about the holidays, compared to 67% of Boomers and 65% of Millennials. But many are especially focused on improving their financial health: almost half of Gen Z (42%) and over a guarter of Millennials (28%)

say saving money is their #1 New Year's resolution. Results are based on a survey of 1,007 respondents conducted by Suzy on behalf of Affirm Nov. 2.



HEADQUARTERS

HOLIDAY



Are you excited about the holiday season or are you dreading it? Two in three Americans are stressed about this holiday season.

Consumer Spend Report from Affirm.

Affirm's survey found that nine in 10 Americans plan to shop for the holidays this year, yet one in three will do so without saving money beforehand. Read on for some other surprising results.

Buying gifts is stretching wallets - and patience

Budgeting and buying gifts for friends and family are at the very top of Americans' lists of concerns this holiday season. So, it's no surprise that Americans reported to be nearly just as stressed out about Black Friday and Cyber Monday (38%) as they are for Thanksgiving (43%).

Money isn't the only pain point when it comes to holiday shopping. Stressed gift shoppers pointed to waiting in long lines (68%) and getting stuck in traffic or said Ashmi Pancholi, Affirm's Trends Expert. **Americans are dodging**

their holiday obligations

Whether it's attending the mandatory office gift swap or a crowded road trip to Grandma's, it's no secret that holiday obligations can be anything but jolly. The result? One in five Americans admitted to getting out of their unwanted holiday plans.

Of the guilty ones, 36% have lied about their availability, 24% have faked an illness and 22% ghosted without any excuse. Nearly one in 10 have gone so far as to intentionally miss a flight.

Some people are even willing to spend money to get out of their holiday obligations. 70% of men would spend more than \$50 to avoid unwanted to-do's like the obligatory holiday party



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HUNTING

How to prepare for a child's first hunting trip

Millions of individuals across the globe are avid hunters. The passion many of those people have for hunting began on their first childhood hunting trip, and countless hunters fondly recall this milestone moment in their lives.

If there's a first time for everything, parents know that kids' initial forays into any activity comes with ups and downs. Hunting is no exception to that trend, but parents can consider these measures as they prepare their youngsters to go hunting for the first time.

• Emphasize the importance of safety. Safety is of the utmost importance on any hunting trip. Kids should be aware of all safety protocols pertaining to their guns and the hunting grounds. Hunter's education courses can teach kids about hunting safety, but parents can quiz youngsters in the days leading up to the trip to reinforce safety protocols.

• Explain how hunting trips typically

unfold. Giving kids an idea of how a hunting trip may unfold is another good idea. Explain the timing of the trip and why it's beginning when it is. Kids without such knowledge may be less enthusiastic about early morning hunting excursions if they don't understand why they need to get out of bed early on a day off. But they might be more excited if they recognize they're more likely to see wildlife and enjoy a successful trip if they're willing to sacrifice sleeping in.

• Bring some extra activities for kids to do. Screens are a no-no, as they could deter wildlife. But hunting requires patience, which is not exactly a virtue many youngsters possess. So bring some books along or encourage kids to keep a diary of their first trip, describing it in detail so they have something to look back on as they get older.

• Purchase comfortable hunting attire. Kids will likely be wearing new attire on their first trip, so parents should have them try the clothing on prior to the trip. When shopping for hunting clothing, make sure it meets all safety standards and is functional for hunters, but don't overlook comfort. Hunting involves a lot of waiting, and the trip will be more enjoyable for everyone if kids are comfortable throughout the slow periods.

• Recognize the day could be emotional. A child's first hunting trip can be an emotional roller coaster, as kids may feel excited, bored, nervous, sad, and even guilty at any point during the day. Parents must allow kids to express any of these emotions during the day and emphasize that it's alright to express their emotions.

A child's first hunting trip is a milestone moment. Parents can take steps leading up to the trip to ensure their children are ready for what's to come.









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Water as needed. Depending on grow-

ing conditions, that may be weekly or less

frequently. Some moth orchids come with

instructions to water using ice cubes. While

convenient, if the ice contacts the roots or fo-

A better method is to use room tempera-

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Growing orchids

by Deborah J. Benoit, Extension Master Gardener, UVM

Do you admire orchids from afar but haven't considered growing them or gifting them to a plant lover you know? Sure, they're a pretty plant, but orchids have a reputation as being difficult to grow.

When you think of orchids, do you picture a climate-controlled greenhouse devoted to a collection of beautiful but fussy plants? The truth is, orchids can be grown as easily as any other houseplant. All it takes is a little know-how and some TLC.

Most orchids require similar care, but there's one orchid you're likely to see more than the rest. Moth orchids are so common you can find them not only at your local nursery or florist, but also in department and grocery stores.

Orchids come in many shapes, sizes and colors that are hard to resist when in bloom. If you've given in to temptation and brought home an orchid in full bloom only to give up on the plant and its plain looking foliage when



Moth orchids, which come in a variety of flower colors, shapes and sizes, can be enjoyed for years to come if given the proper care. Photos by Deborah J. Benoit

Mrs. Claus to visit Basloe Library in Herkimer

The Basloe Library is bringing Christmas cheer to Herkimer with a special visit from Mrs. Claus. On Saturday Dec. 10, help Mrs. Claus celebrate Christmas with festive activities for the whole family. From 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., families can join a Christmas sing-along, listen to stories read by Mrs. Claus, make crafts, write letters to Santa and more. Bring a pantry item or personal hygiene item for the Stuff the Sleigh charity drive happening the whole month of December. All donated goods will be taken to the Herkimer Salvation Army. For more information, contact the library at 315.866.1733 or by email at herkimer@midyork.org. The library is located at 245 N. Main St. in Herkimer. the flowers have faded, you aren't alone.

Moth orchids aren't particularly expensive, so many people consider them a temporary houseplant, to be replaced once the flowers are gone. After all, that's what we do with cut flowers. But if you give them a chance, you can enjoy their flowers for years to come.

While your first inclination may be to select the plant with the most flowers, think again. Choose an orchid with many buds. Even small buds will develop into flowers, giving you an extended bloom time with flowering lasting weeks, sometimes months.

When the last of the flowers have finally faded, you may be tempted to cut the stem back, but wait. As long as the stem of a moth orchid is green, it may produce additional buds.

Once the stem begins to turn brown and die on its own, cut it back to where it meets the leaves so that the plant can use its resources to grow and rebloom. During this time, continue to care for the orchid as usual.

Like any houseplant, an orchid will thrive in conditions it favors. Moth orchids prefer temperatures between 65° - 75° F along with bright, indirect sunlight. A grow light also can be used. Orchids are potted in moss or bark rather than potting soil. If repotting, use a similar media.



liage, damage may occur.

filizing can burn leaves and roots. An orchid fertilizer can be used according to directions on the package. Alternatively, a urea-free houseplant fertilizer can be used either at half strength once a month when watering or at one-quarter strength each watering.

When your moth orchid is ready to rebloom, it will send up a green stalk that points upward and has a more pointed tip than the paler, rounded end roots. Soon you'll see buds develop and then the main event, flowers.

The next time you're tempted by the fancy floral display of an orchid, give it a chance. Bring it home. With a little TLC it will bloom again and again for years to come.



Moth orchids do best when placed in a location with bright, indirect sunlight and temperatures between 65° and 75°.





DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

DMV, GTSC remind motorists to prepare for winter driving

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) offer tips to help New Yorkers winterize their vehicles and to prepare to drive in more challenging weather conditions. The agencies also reminded motorists that they can install snow tires on their vehicles. State law allows the use of snow tires from Oct. 16 - April 30.

terize their vehicles and anticipate changing weather conditions," said Mark J.F. Schroeder, DMV commissioner and GTSC chair. "Motor ists can ensure their own safety and that of other by taking a few simple steps, especially driving slowly when conditions are adverse, making sure the vehicle and the headlights are clear and not covered with ice or snow and having ample windshield washer fluid."

"Now is a good time for motorists to win-

Before driving, GTSC recommends these



tips: • Check tire tread

Fill the gas tank

· Clear/clean all lights and windows

· Fill the windshield washer reservoir

· Remove all snow and ice including on top of the vehicle

· Ensure the vehicle's heater and defroster are working properly

· Make sure the recommended amount of antifreeze is in the radiator

· Get familiar with a new vehicle before driving in harsh weather conditions

When ready to drive, follow these tips: · Warm up the car so the defroster clears the windows





• Turn on headlights whenever windshield wipers are on. NYS law makes this mandatory. Do not exceed the speed limit and always adjust speed to the road conditions

• Leave plenty of room between vehicles

. Don't try to pass or weave in and out of traffic. All drivers must be prepared to react if other drivers start to slide.

· Do not drive during ice or snowstorms unless it is necessary

 When sleet, freezing rain or snow begin to fall, remember that bridges, ramps and overpasses will freeze first. Be aware that slippery spots may remain after snow is removed.

The National Highway Safety Administration also offers winter driving tips and suggests keeping these supplies in

the vehicle: · Snow shovel, broom and ice

scraper · Abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter, in case the vehicle gets stuck in the snow

 Jumper cables, flashlight and warning devices such as flares and emergency markers

Blankets

• A cell phone with charger, water, food and any necessary medicine (for longer trips or when driving in lightly populated areas)

Motorists are urged to check 511NY before traveling. The free travel information system is accessible 24 hours per day by calling 511 or visiting 511NY.org. The service provides real-time traffic conditions and links to information about air, rail and transit services.

The 511NY website features a winter travel advisory system, with real-time travel reports and a color-coded map indicating which state roads are snow-covered, ice-covered, wet, dry or closed to help drivers determine if travel is advisable. The system provides updated snow and ice conditions for interstates and other heavily traveled roads as reported by snowplow operators.

For more information about DMV, visit dmv.ny.gov, or follow DMV on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.





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"I still think I should see you more than twice a vear. After all, I am vour

SCRAMBLERS BUNCOE Fum MOSKE Appea PEDAL Breach LIPTS **TODAY'S WORD**

Time to warm up with hot chocolate by Susquehanna County Dairy Maid Lynsey Zawiski

Hi! My name is Lynsey Zawiski and I am a Susquehanna County Dairy Maid. Winter is coming and my favorite thing to do is go sledding with my friends and family. My mom always makes the best hot chocolate for us to warm up

with when we get done outside.

It's super easy and she makes it in the crock pot - plus it's full of great vitamins and nutrients because she uses real dairy products to make it. Here's how she does it: 1 1/2 cups chocolate

chips

1/4 cup cocoa powder 1/4 cup powdered sugar 14 ounces sweetened condensed milk

2 cups heavy cream 6 cups whole milk 1 tablespoon vanilla extract

Add the chocolate chips, cocoa powder, powdered sugar, sweetened



Susquehanna County Dairy Maid Lynsey Zawiski

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December 6, 2022 • B11

condensed milk, heavy cream, whole milk and vanilla to a large crock pot and whisk together.

Cook the mixture in the crock pot on low for two hours, stirring occasionally.

Leave in the crock pot on warm until you're ready to serve.

Teaching children money management

hen and where do children learn about money issues, such as financial responsibility, savings, budgeting, debt and credit? Perhaps a little in high school, but a majority of children learn money management skills - good or bad - at home. Parents need to be proactive about teaching their children about money, or the world of marketing and advertising will teach them - incorrectly.

A nationwide survey shows that for the first time since 1997, high school students are doing better when it comes to money smarts. However, roughly 65% of those students failed the exam used to measure financial knowledge (in 2006, 62% failed).

Results of the 2004 Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy Study:

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Z	8	٢	9	3	5	6	9	ħ
5	9	3	4	S	6	٢	Z	8

Yawer



58.3% said skills are
learned at home vs. 19.5%
who said they learn such
skills at school, and 17.6%
from experience
Questions about income

and spending were answered more correctly than questions about money management and saving • 11.4% of students use

their own credit card • 15.7% use their parents' card and 4.8% use both their own and their parents' • Over one-third (43.3%)

"We teach children to save their money. As an attempt to counteract thoughtless and selfish expenditure, that has value. But it is not positive; it does not lead the child into the safe and useful avenues of self-expression or self-expenditure. To teach a child to invest and use is better than to teach him to save." – Henry Ford, My Life and Work



of the students have an

ATM card • Nearly 78% of the students have a savings and/ or checking account with a bank

• The 22.1% of the students without any bank account scored lower than those who have a savings and/or checking account

Children in high school are fairly active with money, but not necessarily in a position to make the best decisions. Parents can teach children good money management before they leave home, no matter their age. The information above

was adapted from the Institute of Consumer Financial Education at financial-education-icfe.org/children_ and_money/index.asp.

Download the worksheet called "Teaching Children Money Habits for Life: How Are You Doing?" at tinyurl. com/4v7xdh3t.

The best education you can give your children about managing their money is at home. Be proactive when teaching your children about finances. Teach them the difference between needs and wants; how to prioritize purchases; the value of hard work; the importance of using credit wisely; the process of developing a budget; and how to save and invest money for the future.

Teaching children about financial issues and helping them develop good money management habits will help them take control of their finances and allow

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Plan to Visit the Most Talked About Christmas & Gift Shop in Central New York!

Lee's Shops at Wagner Square

I love looking at our guest book. Here's where our customers came from in the past few weeks: Gloversville, Duanesburg, Bethlehem Pennsylvania, Derwood Maryland, Amsterdam, Rochester, Glens Falls, Hammondsport New York, Sandy Point, Clifton Park, Johnstown, Troy, Wynantskill New York, Baton Rouge Louisiana, Clinton, Richfield Springs, Long Island, Northville, Lake George,
Hyannis Port Massachusetts, Rensselaer, Little Falls, Utica, Arlington Vermont, Chicago Illinois, Syracuse, and Columbia South America!

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"Wonderful Year Round, MAGICAL at Christmas Time!" ~ Sarah L., Little Falls NY

"It's my favorite shop for all occasions, but it's EXTRA SPECIAL at Christmas! Ligin my sisters and friends here 4 times a year. It's our new meeting spot!" ~ Judy A, Rotterdam NY

"My family loves this store! It's a place to go for the sights and sounds as much as for the shopping! We just love it here, even my husband wants to come when I tell him where I'm headed!" ~ Sandra W, Amsterdam, NY

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