



Hometown Holidays

DECEMBER 14, 2023

AN EVENING SUN PUBLICATION

Bandera Family and Community Alliance to serve Christmas dinner in Chenango County

By Sarah Genter
Sun Staff Writer
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CHENANGO COUNTY — The Bandera Family and Community Alliance will be returning to the Norwich area this year to provide free meals on Christmas day.

While they've served the meals for the past five years in Norwich, this year the effort has expanded to include locations in Oxford and Sidney.

"We want to reach as many people as we can," said Bandera Family Representative Bill Bandera. "We supply everything to Oxford from Norwich and then they're open just on that Christmas day and they get the whole shebang."

"We have the ability to do that and expand so that people in the Oxford area that might want to get together — and fellowship, which is really our main reason to do this — have a hot meal. They can join instead of having to drive, if they can't drive that far. It just makes it available for them instead of having it be delivered. That's why we do it."



Volunteers with the Bandera Family and Community Alliance preparing food for free meals in a past year. This year dine-in, take out, and deliveries will be available in Norwich, Oxford, and Sidney from noon to 2 p.m. on Christmas day. (Submitted photo)

Meals will be available for dine-in, take out from noon to 2 p.m. at the Norwich American Legion, the Oxford American Legion, and the Sidney American Legion. No pre-ordering is required; individuals can simply show up and enjoy a hot meal.

Deliveries will also be available for all three locations from noon to 2 p.m. To order a delivery, call the United Way Hotline at 211 by 5 p.m. on December 21.

This year's menu

includes turkey, ham, stuffing, yams, mashed potatoes, corn, gravy, cookies and desserts, cranberry sauce, apple sauce, coffee, and tea.

Last year the organization provided around 900 meals in Norwich, and this year they anticipate serving approximately 1,500 meals between the three locations. Any leftovers are given to a food pantry in Oxford and the Norwich, Oxford, and Sidney American Legions.

Bandera said the ability to provide so many free

meals is made possible by volunteers that help out each year, as well as individuals, organizations, and businesses who provide in-kind or monetary donations.

In past years, he said donations have been provided by the R.C. Smith Foundation and the Mead Foundation. Walmart, Price Chopper, and Weiss have donated gift cards and food items. They have even helped provide some of the turkeys each year; Bandera said they'll be roasting 42 to cover all

three locations.

Chobani is donating 1,500 servings of yogurt, Byrne Dairy has donated milk, and Gilligan's Island of Sherburne has supported the Bandera Family and Community Alliance each year with donations of ice cream.

Additionally, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, St. Bartholomew's Parish Hall, and the Norwich American Legion donate the use of their kitchens each year.

"They're very helpful and they've been with us all six years," Bandera said. "We have just enough numbers that having an extra kitchen or two is very helpful, especially on Christmas morning."

The hundreds of free meals could also not be possible without the help of volunteers who donate their time for five days to prep, cook, and serve the food.

Bandera said the efforts in Norwich are coordinated by volunteers Hope Woodcock-Ross and Pam Bandera, formerly Pam Mealey, who have been with the organization since the free meals began

in Norwich six years ago.

"The communities are amazing. The people step up every year, and it just can't be done if the communities don't help out. We get some really good volunteers," said Bandera. "Every year it comes together in an amazing way. It's a great story every year because from the outside it may look like it's being duplicated every year, which in one form it is; we're duplicating the meal. But the way in which it comes about and is funded and the positions are filled is always a different story every year."

Individuals who would like to donate or sign up to volunteer can do so online at BanderaChristmas.com. Bandera said they will be contacted and given a schedule of available dates and times at each location.

For more information on the Bandera Family and Community Alliance, visit BanderaChristmas.com or the Bandera Family and Community Alliance Facebook page.

Toys for Tots collects donations for Chenango County's children

CHENANGO COUNTY — The Chenango County chapter of Toys for Tots has been collecting donations of toys for local families.

Unwrapped toys were collected in donation boxes at several businesses and organizations throughout the county, and at the annual Nina's Pizzeria and Colonia Theater Toys for Tots fundraiser.

The event was held December 6 at the Colonia Theater. Nina's Pizzeria provided a spaghetti dinner and an evening screening of Tim Burton's "The Nightmare



Leatherstocking Corvette Club Officer at Large Dick Fleming, Chenango County Toys for Tots Coordinator Terry Potter, and Leatherstocking Corvette Club Secretary Sharon Fleming. For the past 20 years, members of the Leatherstocking Corvette Club have collected and donated a box full of toys to Toys for Tots. (Submitted photo)



Santa's Igloo hours

NORWICH — Santa's Igloo in downtown Norwich is open for the season from December 2 through 23. Santa will be in town and available for pictures from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.



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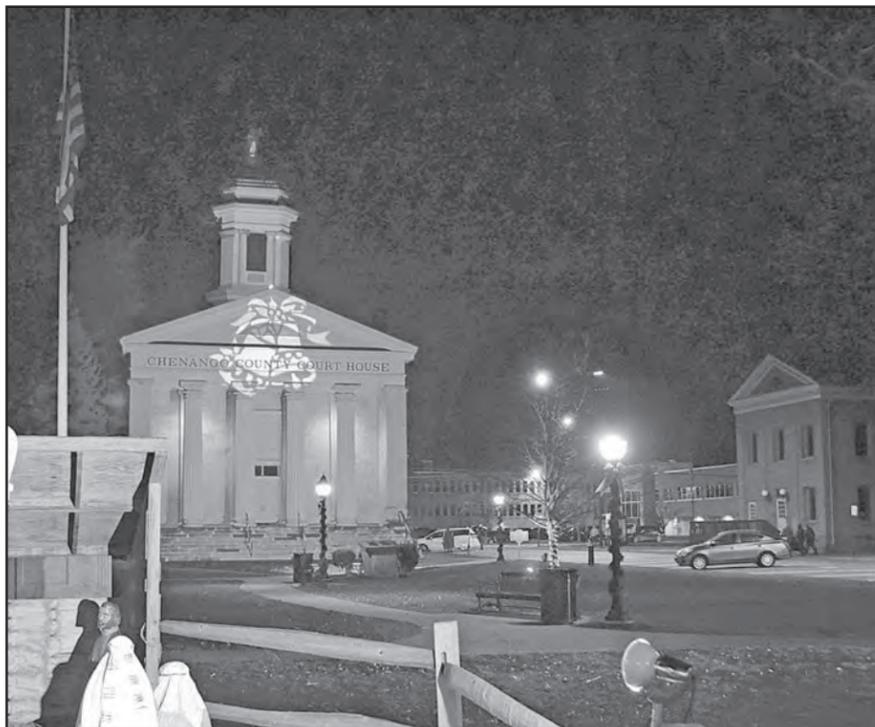
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MRC

A small town with a big heart



One of the highlights of working for the The Evening Sun is the opportunity to help and learn about the organizations in Chenango County.

During the holiday season we especially hope to bring attention to the work these community groups are doing and get them the recognition they deserve. Small towns share a warm atmosphere and we want to promote an involved and friendly community.

The daily newspaper does its best to take part in the true meaning of the holidays. Each year our writers take part in a variety of volunteer work and cover local holiday events. It helps remind us that the true spirit of this season is about compassion for others.

Since we live in a small town, dona-

tions of good will, volunteering, or any charity work, will likely have a direct positive effect on someone you know.

This is our fourth annual Hometown Holidays edition and we hope the section reminds our readers of the friendly community in Chenango County, and how our close connections are one of our best strengths.

Thank you to all of those involved with these organizations and for helping our community when we needed it most.

Many give so freely with their time, it is an example we all should follow during the holidays and all throughout the year.

Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season, and a Happy New Year.

— The Evening Sun staff

Toys for Tots collects donations for Chenango County's children -

Continued from Page 1 →

Before Christmas."

Also during the fundraiser, local residents Mindy and Tracy Chawgo once held a "Stuff the Bus" in front of the Colonia, where each year they try to fill their repurposed school bus with donated toys.

Chenango County Toys for Tots Coordinator Terry Potter said toys can be donated at collection boxes until December 15, when they will be picked up to be sorted and distributed. This year's toy distribution will run from December 15 to 23 at St. Bart's Parish Hall.

"Any of the toys collected here stay here in Chenango County," Potter said.

He said while the community has always been good at identifying what's needed, some items Toys for Tots is always looking for are toys and supplies for infants and toddlers, which always go quickly at the annual distribution.

"They're pretty in tune with what our needs are. We're usually able to get a wide variety of toys that are able to help the families," said Potter. "But I'd say the newborns and toddlers are pretty much in demand."

"We ask people if they don't get through the first time, please be patient. Everyone involved, we're all volunteers and we try to do the best that we can," said Potter. "We have volunteers who are answering the phone throughout the day, and will schedule days and times for the families to come in and to pick up."

Potter said each year they are usually able to help more than 1,200 children thanks to the generosity of the community and dedication of volunteers.

"There's no way we could do it without the volunteers and the community support, the business support, and the donations that we receive," he said. "It's a

collective effort for sure."

In addition to the efforts of the annual fundraiser, several other local businesses and organizations are supporting Toys for Tots.

The Leatherstocking Corvette Club had donated a box of toys to the organization for the 20th year in a row. Club Secretary Sharon Fleming said two members originally got the group to start donating to Toys for Tots.

"We had two members that were state troopers, and at that time that was what the state troopers did, the marines and everything," she explained. "So they got us connected and of course they left, they moved away from the area, and we just continued it. Everybody enjoys giving to it."

The Leatherstocking Corvette Club also donates to food pantries every year, choosing three in municipalities where their members live. This year they donated \$300 to food pantries in Oneonta, Edmeston, and

New Berlin.

"Toys for Tots appreciates the generosity of organizations like the Corvette Club that continue to donate toys to the children right here in Chenango County whose families need a little extra support during the Christmas season," said Potter.

The City of Norwich Police Department also contributed by helping transport donations that came in on the Toys for Tots train in Bainbridge earlier this month, and the Chenango County Highway Department gathered donations at their annual toy drive.

To support the Chenango County Toys for Tots, make a donation at one of the collection boxes around the county, or visit Norwich-NY.ToysforTots.org to donate online.

More information on Toys for Tots can be found at ToysforTots.org.

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Village Voices concert will be livestreamed after running out of seating room at St. Andrew's. (Submitted photo)

New Berlin hosting Sound of Christmas music concert

By Kelli Miller
Sun Staff Writer
kmiller@evesun.com

New Berlin - The New Berlin Cultural Center recently posted free tickets for an upcoming Christmas Concert, The Sound of Christmas by the group: The Village Voices. Seats for the concert at St. Andrews Episcopal Church filled quickly, so organizers are offering to broadcast the show virtually.

Village of New Berlin Mayor Peter Lennon said the event was very popular

and would take place on Sunday, December 17.

Lennon said, "The free concert is completely booked, however, arrangements are being made to enable patrons to enjoy the concert via Live-stream."

He thanked everyone for their support and said the center recently procured equipment that will enable a truly special virtual show.

"A link for access will be posted on my Facebook page as soon as I receive it," he said.

The "Village Voices" include Meredith Baio,

Don Brown, Tony Canuel, Sheri Christian, Danielle Crozier, Jeff Keller, Isabel Mendoza, and Micaelina Velardi.

According to their website the New Berlin Cultural Center was created with the objective of embracing the community by sharing and teaching arts and crafts and through the use of classes, events, festivals and workshops.

For further Village of New Berlin Christmas Concert information, go to Peter Lennon Facebook page or email cultural.sta@gmail.com

Enjoy the winter season at Rogers Center

By Sarah Genter
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SHERBURNE — Chenango County residents can enjoy the season of winter at Friends of Rogers Environmental Education Center this December with crafts, hikes, and games.

Friends of Rogers Youth Programs Coordinator Jenni Larchar also leads the weekly Storytime and Hike for kids each Wednesday. Children and their families enjoy reading books, singing, and exploring nature at Rogers Center.

The program is held rain or shine, unless conditions are unsafe, every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. In December, Storytime and Hike will be held on December 6, 13, and 20.

Do you know your bird trivia? How about botany? The names of famous naturalists? Stretch your mind and celebrate your inner nature nerd at

Rogers Centers Solstice Nature Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on Thursday, December 21.

On December 21, local naturalists and outdoor enthusiasts can celebrate the Winter Solstice at Rogers Center's fourth trivia night of the year. Rathbone said they hold trivia nights on the two solstices and two equinoxes each year. Usually trivia nights are held outdoors at the fire pit, but Rathbone said it will be too cold and too dark in December, so they will be holding trivia indoors at 7 p.m.

Individuals can participate alone or as part of a team. The game consists of six rounds with five questions each, and a final wagering round. The team or individual that ends the game with the most points wins.

"These are nature trivia questions. So some are history, some are about people who are famous in the field, and some

are things like, 'how many legs does a millipede have?'" Rathbone explained.

Winners will receive a small prize. Rathbone said there will also be seasonally-appropriate snacks available for participants.

Call (607) 674-4733 or email ellen@friendsof-rogers.org for information about the event or to register.

There are many ways to learn about and explore nature year-round at Rogers Center. Visit their new website at FriendsOfRogers.org or the Friends of Rogers Environmental Education Center, Inc. Facebook page for more information.

The mission of the Friends of Rogers is to provide outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire, and motivate people of all ages to enjoy, understand, appreciate, and protect our natural environment.



A recent Monday Morning Ramble hike took participants to the Great Swamp Conservancy in Canastota. In December, Monday Morning Rambles led by Friends of Rogers Environmental Educator Ellen Rathbone will be held at 10 a.m. on December 4, 11, and 18. (Photo from the Friends of Rogers Facebook page)



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Chenango County Historical Society programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Chenango County Historical Society



I'll Be Home For Christmas

Words by
KIM GANNON

Music by
WALTER KENT

Slowly, with expression

mf

I'll Be Home For Christmas. You can
Christ be Home For Christmas. You can
plan love on light me. Please have snow and
mis- tle- toe And pre- sents on the tree.
gleams. I'll Be Home For Christ
mas. If on- ly in my dreams.
rit. e dim.

Chords: C, Cd1m, Dm7, G7, Dm7, G7, C, Gm6, To Coda A7, Dm, Gm6, Dm, Gm, Dd1m, A7, Dm, Fm6, G7, C, G, Am, Am7, D7, Am7, D7-9, G7, D.C. at Coda Dm7, G7, Dm, Coda, Dm, F6, Fm6, C, G+, Gm6, A7, Dm, Dm7, Fm6, G7, C, F6, C.

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Spirit of Christmas comes to New Berlin December 16

By Sarah Genter
Sun Staff Writer
news@evesun.com

NEW BERLIN — The Spirit of Christmas food and toy drive will be coming to the Chobani Community Center, located at 82 South Main Street in New Berlin, on Saturday, December 16.

The Spirit of Christmas is an annual event that benefits families in the Unadilla Valley district, which encompasses New Berlin, Pittsfield, Columbus, and South Edmeston.

“This is a collaboration between the churches and community volunteers, and we’ve been doing this for several years now,” said Spirit of Christmas Coordinator Terry Potter. “It’s a good service to the community.”

Applications to receive a Spirit of Christmas basket can be found all over the New Berlin area, including Service Pharmacy, Curtis Lumber, the Village of New Berlin



Families in need in the Unadilla Valley district can apply to receive a basket of food and toys at Spirit of Christmas on Saturday, December 16. (Sun file photo)

office, New Berlin and South New Berlin libraries, NBT Bank, Stewart’s in New Berlin, New Berlin First United Methodist Church, St. Andrew’s in New Berlin, St. Matthew’s in South New Berlin, St. Teresa’s, and Holmesville Baptist Church in South New Berlin, NY Pizzeria, the New Berlin and South New Berlin Dollar

Generals, Head Start in New Berlin, Opportunities for Chenango, Golden Artist Colors, and the UV Food Bank.

After applications are completed, they can be returned to any of the locations listed above. Potter said volunteers will reach out to applicants to schedule a time for pickup on December 16, which

usually runs from 8 a.m. to noon.

Applications are due by Monday, December 11. Potter said the application will include areas where families can mark whether they need food, toys, or both, and if they are requesting toys, they can add their child’s age and interests.

“Some families are only

going to need food and then for some families with the children they do food and toys. So not everybody gets food and toys, there’s community assistance with the food,” Potter explained. “On the forms there’s an area that they can request the food basket, request toys, and also there’s a place on the form where they can put their child’s age on there and maybe some of their interests and things like that just to kind of give us an idea.”

Potter said the success of the Spirit of Christmas is largely due to the community, which provides donations and volunteers. He said oftentimes businesses such as NBT Bank, Golden Artist Colors, Service Pharmacy, and Preferred Mutual will do internal food and toy drives to help, and individuals often sign on to volunteer, many of which are students and seniors.

“We have volunteers that will help put together the boxes and help orga-

nize the things so that on Saturday things run smooth,” said Potter. “It’s definitely a community effort.”

Those who would like to donate to the Spirit of Christmas can drop off donations at NBT Bank in New Berlin. In addition to collecting toys and food, Potter said each year the Spirit of Christmas focuses on a particular item to add to the baskets; this year they are collecting socks of all sizes and styles.

Thanks to the community effort of donors and volunteers, he said the Spirit of Christmas is able to help around 60 families each year. Any items that are left over at the end of the event are donated to other local organizations.

“If there’s any items that are left over we donate them to the local food banks or to Catholic Charities,” said Potter. “We will donate anything that’s left to organizations in the community to help serve the families.”

Chenango County Food Pantries

Afton
Afton Inter-Church Food Pantry - Afton United Methodist Church, Spring Street, Wednesday 5-7 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bainbridge
Bainbridge Food Pantry - United Methodist Church, 27 N. Main St., Bainbridge, enter from parking lot at back of church, Monday and Thursday 8-10 a.m., serving families from the BG school district or areas with no food pantry, emergencies only call 607-967-7383

Earlville
Earlville Food Cupboard- First Baptist Church, 9 W. Main St., Earlville, Open Tuesday 5-6 p.m. open to S-E School District residents, 315-691-4321 or 315-691-4301

Greene
Greene Area Food Pantry - Berean Bible Church, 109 County Rd. 2, Greene, door in new wing, open to residents of Greene that meet income guidelines, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Saturdays of the month form 11 a.m.-noon, 607-656-9606

Guilford
Guilford Our Daily Bread Food Pantry - United Methodist Church, 1277 Main St., Guilford, open to residents of Guilford, East

Guilford, Rockdale and Mt. Upton every 2 weeks with driver’s license and utility, Tuesday 9 a.m.-noon, Thursday 1-3 p.m., must call ahead, 607-226-2515

McDonough
Community Ecumenical Pantry, 1147 County Road 5, McDonough, first Wednesday of the month from 3-5 p.m. and third Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m., 607-647-5659

Mt. Upton/ New Berlin
United Methodist Church - 1741 NY Rt. 8, Mt. Upton, Saturday 11-1 p.m., 765-8536
Southtown Food Pantry - 3294 South New Berlin, Mon. 1-6 p.m., call for appointment or during emergency, 859-2240, 859-2418
St. Andrew Episcopal - 40 S. Main Street, New Berlin, Monday 3-6 p.m., 965-6419

Norwich
New Beginnings Church, 15 Silver Street, Norwich, by appointment, 607-336-3503
Emmanuel Episcopal - 37 Main St., Norwich, once a month with proof of address, call ahead, 336-3503
Catholic Charities, Roots and Wings - 105 Lelanis Way, Norwich, once a month, open to resident of the City of Norwich with proof address, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., 607-336-7897

Oxford
United Church of Oxford, 16 Fort Hill Park, Oxford, Tuesday 8:30-11 a.m., must call ahead, 607-843-5195

Sherburne
God’s Bread 2 - United Methodist Church, 11 Chapel St., Sherburne, Friday 10 a.m. - noon, call ahead, 607-674-9673 or 674-6243
Sherburne Community Food Pantry - St. Malachy, 31 E. State St., Sherburne, Tuesday 3:30-5:30 p.m., must have proof of Sherburne residency, 607-316-8303 or 607-674-9625

Smyrna
God’s Bread 1 - Smyrna United Methodist Church, 3 East Main Street, Smyrna, every other Tuesday from 8-11 a.m. and 3:30 to 5 p.m., 607-627-6623 or 607-627-6631.

Community Meals
Bainbridge Soup Kitchen - Bainbridge First United Methodist Church, 27 N. Main Street, Bainbridge, Saturday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 967-2782, 237-9299
Norwich Community Soup Kitchen - St. Bartholomew Parish Center, 81 E. Broad St., Norwich, Tuesday 5:30 p.m. from September-May, 336-3513 or 334-3305
Oxford Taste ’n See Kitchen - St. Paul Episcopal Parish Center, 32 Main St., Oxford, Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

one sitting, closed June-August, 843-7045 or meal site at 607-226-3201

Sherburne Community Lunch - The Welcome Center, 12 Knapp Street, Sherburne, second

Saturday of the month from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 674-9727

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Chenango Bird Club plans Annual Christmas Bird Count

CHENANGO COUNTY — The Chenango Bird Club will be met on Wednesday at the Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne to finalize plans for the 2023 Sherburne Christmas Bird Count. It will be held on Saturday, December 16.

Newcomers are welcome.

This is the 124th year of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. You can learn more about the Christmas Bird Count here: www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count.

The Chenango Bird Club has participated since the late 1970s. The count area is a circle with the center being the traffic light in Sherburne and a radius of 7.5 miles as the crow (or blue jay or chickadee) flies. Each team of birders takes a pie shaped segment of that circle and counts the bird species and individuals that they see or hear that day.

We ask that people who live in the count area to make sure their feeders are filled if they are visible from the road, and be aware that we may be stopping in front of your house and looking toward

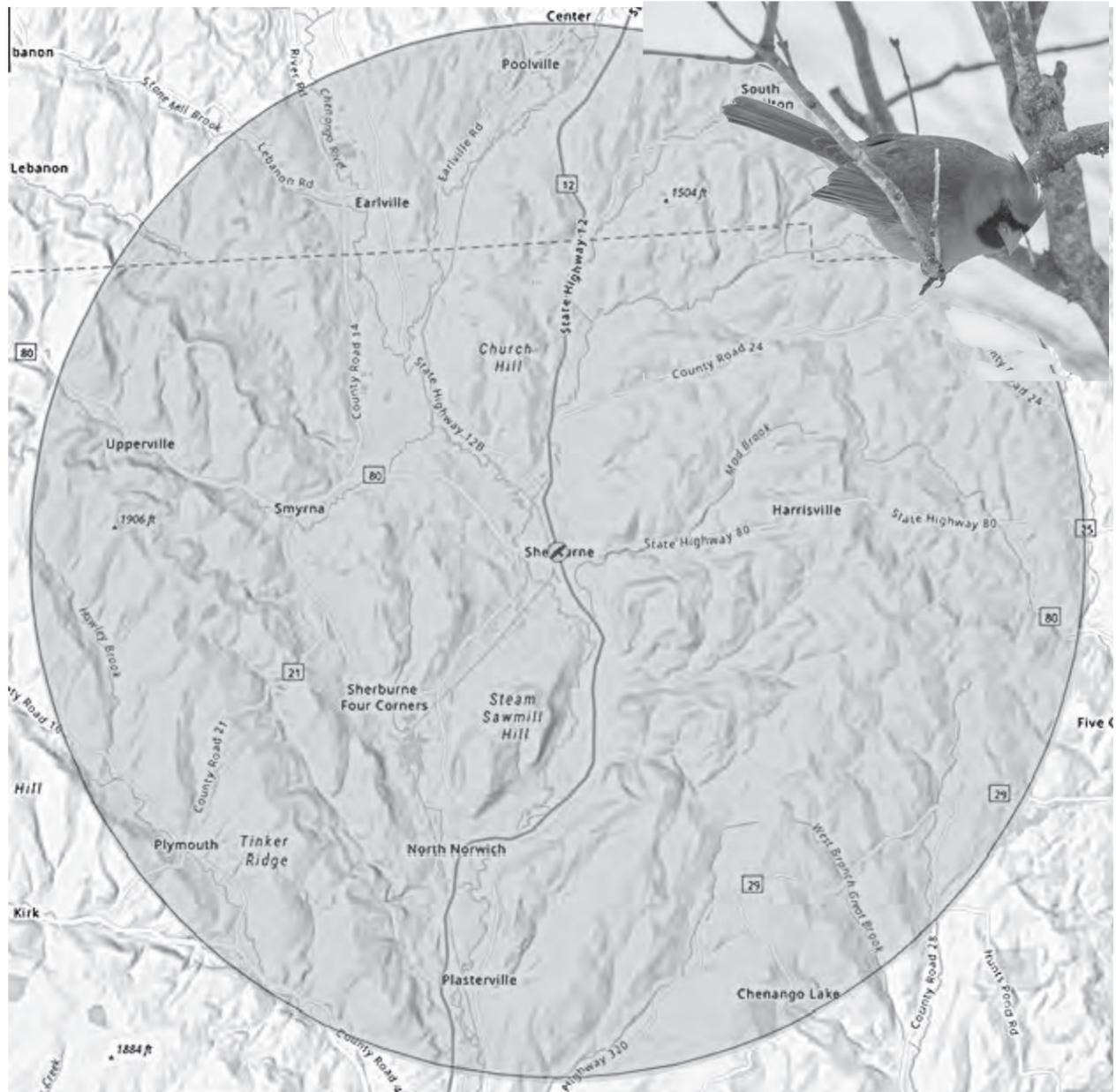
your feeders with binoculars. If you are driving the roads in the area on December 16 please be patient with us since we may be driving slowly and stopping frequently.

New participants are welcome to join one of the count teams. People may also participate if they live in the count circle and feed the birds by counting the birds at their feeders. Attend our meeting on December 13 to learn more, or contact our circle compiler, Mike DeWispelaere at dewisp-mj@frontiernet.net.

Meetings are normally held the second Wednesday of the months of April through December at 6:30 p.m. at the Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne (2721 NY-80), inside the Visitor's Center. Meetings start with a brief business meeting and are followed by a bird walk or various presentations of interest to both birders and general nature enthusiasts.

For more information contact John Knapp at 607-372-1242 or jknapp56@yahoo.com.

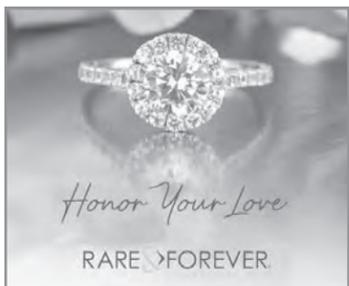
-Information provided by the Chenango Bird Club



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Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

Words by Sammy Cahn
Music by Jule Styne

Verse Moderately Fast

1. Oh, the weath - er out - side is fright - ful but the fire is so de -
light - ful. And since we've no place to go, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! 2. It

does-n't show signs of stop - ping, and I brought some corn for pop - ping. The
fire is slow - ly dy - ing And my dear, we're still good - bye - ing. But as
lights are turned way down low, } let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! When we
long as you love me so, }

fin - al - ly kiss good - night, how I'll hate go - ing out in the storm. But if
you'll real-ly hold me tight, all the way home I'll be warm. 3. The snow!

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At the light in Downtown Oxford



NBT Bank employees who helped make the NBT Holiday Spectacular night so special. (Submitted photo)



Community members at the NBT Holiday Spectacular. The donation bins were full by the end of the night. (Submitted photo)

NBT Bank holds Holiday Spectacular

By Sophia Root
Commerce Chenango

NORWICH - This week, Commerce Chenango would like recognize the NBT Bank Holiday Spectacular, hosted by Commerce Chenango and NBT Bank at their headquarters in Norwich on December 5.

This event was success-

ful in spreading holiday cheer and gathering the community in celebration. This was achieved by networking, entertainment, and most importantly, the facilitation of donations to charity. Attendees were encouraged to bring unopened toys for Toys for Tots and nonperishable food items for Roots and Wings. A raffle was held to engage

the attendees and prizes were given out.

By the end of the night, the donation baskets were full, and so were the hearts of the attendees. The holiday spirit was in the air, surrounded by the sounds of local artist Mark Sherwood. The event was catered by the Blue Star Café, who provided delicious food.

Remarks were made

by NBT Bank President and CEO John Watt about the power of community followed by a speech from Multi-Site Branch Manager Jackie Brun Schmid, who also pulled the raffle tickets. Commerce Chenango President and CEO Salvatore Testani also spoke at the event. Testani said: "It was so wonderful to see so many

people from throughout Chenango County come out and celebrate our community." Testani was amazed by the generosity and attendance from the community members who attended.

This event was part of Commerce Chenango's Business After-Hours series, events showcasing Commerce Chenango members to the commu-

nity and offering opportunities for connection. Commerce Chenango would like to thank everyone who attended the event and donated, NBT Bank for hosting that night, Mark Sherwood for providing entertainment and the Blue Star Café for supplying the food for the evening.

Great Gift to enjoy Great Pizza and Italian Food!

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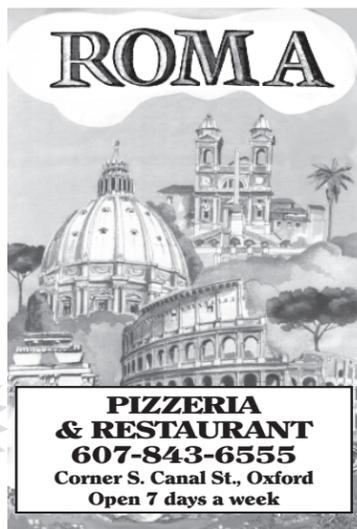
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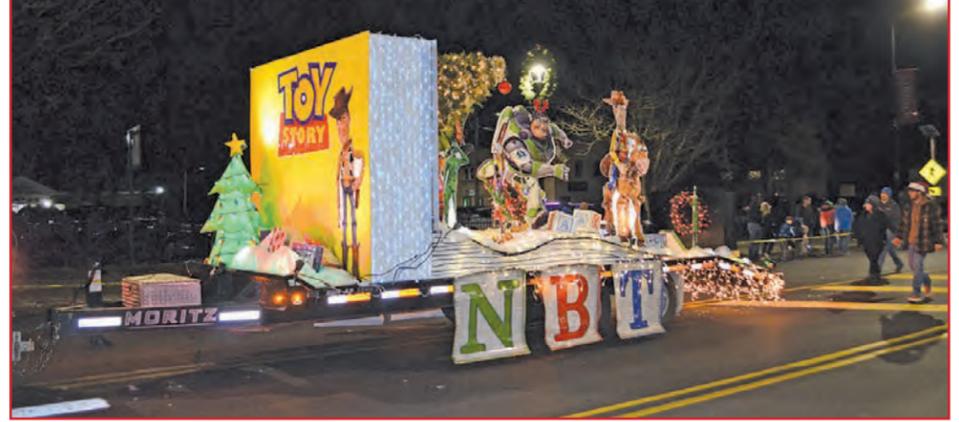
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Norwich Parade of Lights



NORWICH – The 27th annual Parade of Lights kicked off the winter holiday season on Saturday, Nov. 25, with thousands of spectators lining the streets of downtown Norwich. Following the parade, families visited with Santa’s for photos, and received a case of free yogurt, courtesy of Chobani. The Parade of Lights was made possible by Chobani, who is funding the event, as well as support from the Norwich Family YMCA and Rentals To Go. The parade currently had more than 70 entries, including local families, businesses, organizations, nonprofits, churches, schools, clubs, public safety organizations, and more. (Photos by Tyler Murphy)



2023 Parade of Lights results

GROUP AWARD:

First Place: Donna Frech School Of Dance; Second Place: Galena Growlers Composite Mountain Bike Team; Third Place: Norwich Marching Band

FLOATS:

First Place: Buckleys Excavating & Landscaping LLC; Second Place: Fab 5; Third Place: Norwich Pharmaceuticals - Alvogen Company

NON-PROFIT AWARD:

First Place: City Church; Second Place: Calvary Baptist Church Awana Kids; Third Place: Liberty Resources Help Restore Hope Center

MOST CREATIVE:

NBT Bank

BIG RIG AWARD

First Place: Charles J. Husted Inc.; Second Place: Don Snow Trucking Inc.; Third Place: GoldStar

MOST DECORATED VEHICLE:

Unadilla Valley CSD Transportation Dept

FIRETRUCKS AWARD

First Place: Norwic FD Ladder #237; Second Place: South New Berlin #313; Third Place: Pharsalia #331

FRUITCAKE AWARD:

Gutter Experts

OVERALL:

Rentals To Go



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'Twas The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, When all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugarplums

danced in their heads. And Mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, Gave a luster of midday to objects below,

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! On Cupid! On, Donner and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now, dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky, So up to the housetop the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas, too.

And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of

each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, As he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes how they twinkled! His dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry.

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,

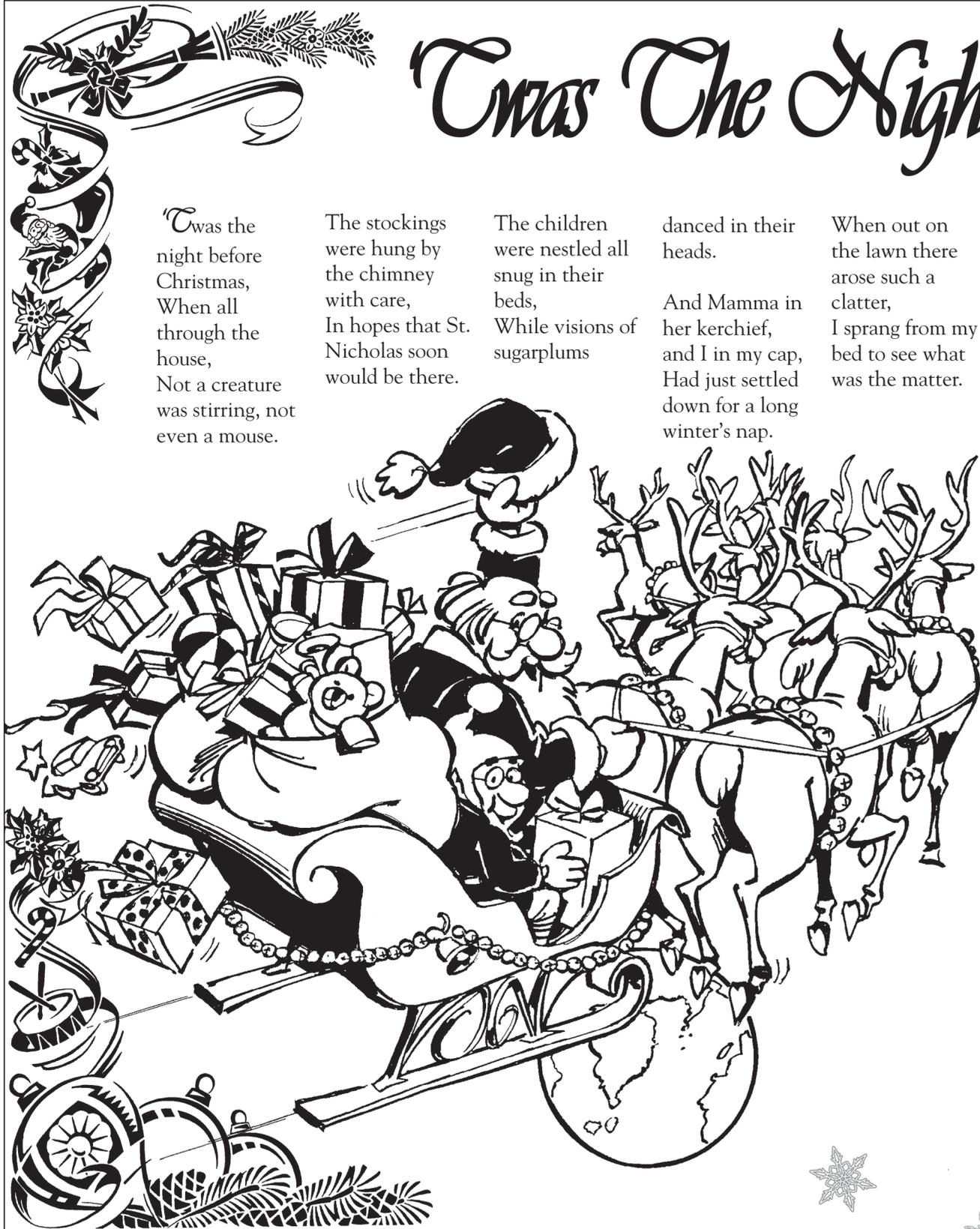
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow. The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly, that shook, when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself. A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."



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Holiday Breakfast with Santa at the Oxford American Legion

By Jeanie Petersen
Sun Correspondent
news@evesun.com

OXFORD – The dining hall at the Fort Hill American Legion has been bedecked by the Auxiliary Unit 376.

Please come in on a Sunday morning and enjoy a tasty, all-you-can-eat breakfast in this festive décor; it will be extra special as there will be very important guest visitors from the North Pole.

The Christmas tree is up and sparkling. Garlands and wreaths and other holiday décor will serve as a perfect backdrop for special visitors: Santa and Mrs. Claus, along with a couple of their elves, who are coming to the Post home on Sunday, December 17, at 8:30 a.m. Little ones can have an up-close moment with Santa to reveal their secret wishes for presents that they would like to see under the tree. Parents should be prepared with their cameras for this memorable photo opportunity.

ALA Unit 376 president Louise Spicer said, “Mr. and Mrs. Claus are coming to town with a couple of elves; kids bring your



Santa Claus is coming to American Legion Post 376 on Sunday, Dec. 17, for a Community Breakfast from 8:30 – 11 am. Parents bring your cameras and your appetites. (Photo by Jeanie Petersen)

lists, Santa will check it twice...”

The whole family will enjoy this all-you-can-eat breakfast served from 7:30 until 11:00 a.m. You can get: pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, home fries, French toast, OJ and tea/coffee/hot chocolate. In addition, the third Sunday Special is sausage gravy and biscuits. Real maple syrup is available upon request. Breakfast

cost is: Adults \$9; Sr Citizens and Firemen \$8; Children 6 to 12 years \$7; Ages 2 to 5 years \$2. Children under 2 yrs, volunteers, and reorders are FREE! (\$10 for take-outs.)

Post 376 is collecting non-perishable food donations both upstairs and down at the bar. If you can, please contribute.

Upcoming on Friday,

Dec. 22, 7 – 10 pm, is the 2nd annual Ugly Sweater Contest. There will be prizes and the jukebox will be free, but this event is for the grown-ups only.

The Oxford American Legion Post #376, is located at 17 S. Washington Avenue. For inquiries, contact Post 376 at (607) 843-8166. Online: OxfordLegion.com and Oxford-ALA.Chenango.org



Norwich Legion donates candy and snacks to troops for holidays

NORWICH – Members of Lt. Warren E. Eaton DSC American Legion Post 189 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 189 recently collected 65 pounds of candy and snack items to be distributed to military troops serving our country at bases around the world. Hoping to brighten the holidays for those troops away from family and friends, the items were shipped to the non-profit organization Military Connections. This volunteer organization sends Care Packages of donated items to Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen stationed overseas. Over 2000 Care Packages are sent year round providing a great morale booster for the troops. Legion member, Navy Veteran Joe Sugar recalls the excitement generated when packages from home arrived. He said, “The packages were always welcomed, shared and traded. I was popular when a package from home arrived!” (Information from the American Legion Post 189)

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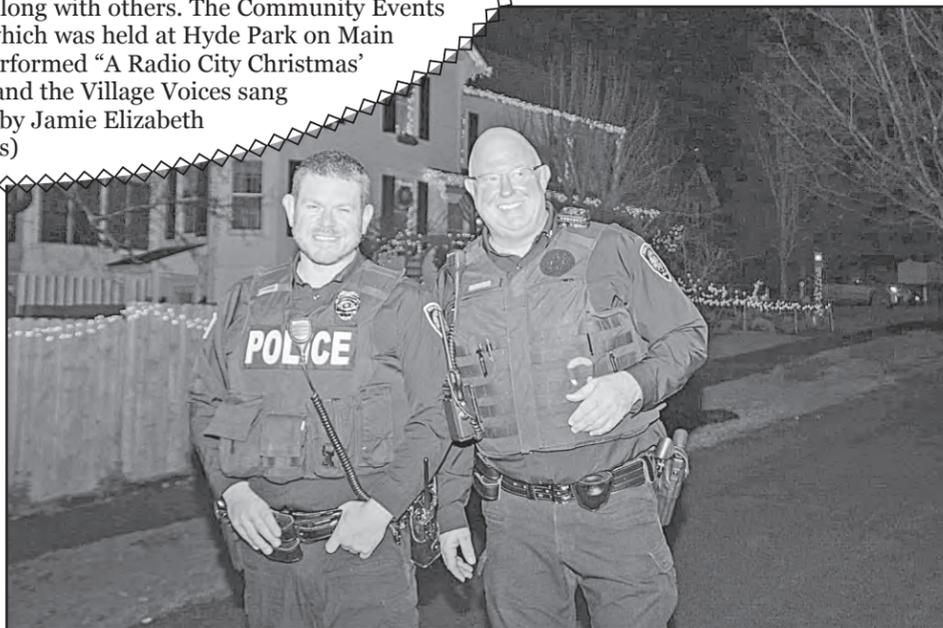
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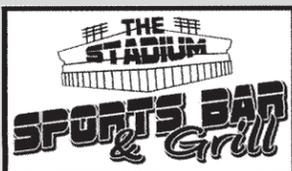
* Price reflects \$25 discount. To qualify you must be a new customer or inactive for 30 days.



New Berlin welcomes season with community tree lighting

NEW BERLIN – On Saturday, December 2, hundreds of residents gathered in downtown New Berlin to celebrate the lighting of the village’s Christmas tree. New Berlin Mayor Peter Lennon welcomed families along with NY Assemblyman Joseph Angelino. The event is supported by the churches of New Berlin, Preferred Mutual, Chobani, Nook Coffee, the Norwich BID, and the New Berlin police and fire departments, along with others. The Community Events Committee organized the tree lighting, which was held at Hyde Park on Main Street. The Otsego School of Dance performed “A Radio City Christmas” and Broadway star Jeff Keller and the Village Voices sang holiday songs. (Photos by Jamie Elizabeth Barnes)





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Santa at his igloo in Norwich to take photos with Chenango County pets. (Photo from the Norwich BID Facebook page)

Santa posed in his igloo for pictures with pets

By Sarah Genter
Sun Staff Writer
news@evesun.com

NORWICH — Santa Claus came to town and visited with the furry family members at Santa's Igloo in Norwich on December 6 and 9.

The event is a new addition to the Business Improvement District's repertoire. It was held for the first time last year. Norwich Business

Improvement District (BID) Board Member Mindy said it was a hit with Chenango County residents.

Although Santa saw lots of dogs and cats, other animals such as goats, do sometime show up for the event. Some animal arrived dressed up for the occasion.

The BID collected good-will donations at the event to benefit the Chenango SPCA.

Movies that are perfect for families this holiday season

Various traditions take center stage during the holiday season. One of those traditions may be sitting down and enjoying any of a number of timeless Christmas movies or even newer holiday films that are quickly becoming favorites.

Film fans have their own ideas about the best films to watch during the holidays, but the following movies are some kids and adults can enjoy together.

- "The Polar Express" (2004): A young boy enjoys a magical adventure to the North Pole aboard the Polar Express train. He learns about the true spirit of the holidays and the value of bravery and friendship along the way.

- "The Muppet

Christmas Carol" (1992): Charles Dickens' classic story about a bitter miser might be a little frightening for young children to enjoy in its more theatrical offerings. However, when the Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale, the story becomes much more family-friendly.

- "A Boy Called Christmas" (2021): Based on the book by Matt Haig, this movie is a reimagined take on Father Christmas. It focuses on Nikolas as he goes on an adventure to find a magical town called Elfhelm.

- "Jack Frost" (1998): When a father dies in a car accident, he comes back to life as a snowman in his son's front yard. Jack learns to keep his promises and make things right

with his son — things he wasn't capable of doing as a human.

- "Christmas with the Kranks" (2004): The Kranks decide to forgo their annual Christmas party and plan a vacation since their daughter will be out of town. But when said daughter decides to come home after all, chaos sets in as the couple tries to figure out how to put together an extravaganza at the last minute.

- "Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas" (1997): The Beast does not favor the holiday season, so Belle must change his mind on the matter in this animated Disney offering.

- "Elf" (2003): As a youngster, Buddy was magically transported to the North Pole and raised

by Santa's elves. As an adult, he's determined to find his real dad in New York City and uncover a way to fit in.

- "Santa Hunters" (2014): A young boy teams up with his sibling and cousins to try to capture new footage of Santa in action and prove that the man in red truly exists.

- "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" (2018): This is a newer take on the classic Nutcracker tale. This adventure sees Clara defending the Land of Sweets from the evil Mother Ginger.

Holiday films enhance the celebratory nature of the season. Certain movies are tailor-made for families to watch together during this special time of year.



This Year Buy a Gift That Keeps On Giving...

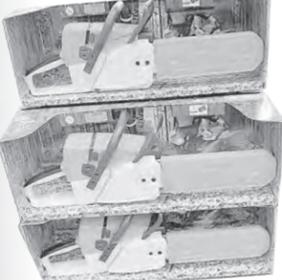


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Holiday harmony in Butternuts

Town of Butternuts highway department crewman Chet Stachura mounts a holiday wreath on a light pole in the village of Gilbertsville. The town department offered to assist the village of Gilbertsville in this year's effort due to the retirement of Dick Gilbert, longtime village public works employee. The Village Improvement Society of Gilbertsville provides the wreaths and decorates them with ribbons and lights before they are hung. (Submitted photo)

It's unlikely that anyone aspires to be a last-minute holiday shopper. Putting off holiday shopping until the last minute can make for a stressful home stretch to the season, and there's no guarantee store shelves won't already be picked clean or that gifts purchased online will arrive on time.

Despite how unappealing last-minute shopping can be, it's still a fact of life for millions of holiday shoppers. As the clock winds down this holiday season, shoppers can look to these ideas for inspiration.

- **Gift cards:** Gift cards may never earn a distinction as the most sentimental item to give a loved one during the holiday season, but they are surprisingly sought-after. In fact, a survey from the National Retail Federation found that 54 percent of participants identified gift cards as the most-wanted gift of the 2022 holiday season. Chain retailers, small businesses and restaurants are among the many establishments that sell gift cards, so shoppers are bound to find a card to please anyone on their shopping list.

- **Food/beverage:** The holiday season is a popu-

Inspiring ideas for last-minute holiday shoppers



As the clock winds down this holiday season, shoppers can look to these ideas for inspiration. (File photo)

lar time to indulge in some great food and wash it down with a favorite wine or another adult beverage. That makes food and beverages a great holiday gift. Shoppers can take a loved one out to a favorite restaurant, prepare a homemade treat or purchase a favorite dish from a local specialty grocery store or eatery. Pair the food with an appropriate beverage and this accessible last-minute gift idea is sure to be a hit.

- **Tickets:** Tickets to a movie, sporting event, live theater performance, or

concert are another gift idea that likely won't be gobbled up by early bird shoppers. People of all ages enjoy experiences, and a 2022 survey from the travel booking platform GetYourGuide found that 50 percent of survey respondents indicated they would enjoy tickets to a concert or show.

- **Books:** Books make an ideal holiday gift for everyone from young kids to grandparents. Traditional print books are small enough that they can likely arrive on time even if they're purchased just a

few days before Christmas. E-book sellers enable gift givers to pick the perfect time to notify loved ones they have received an electronic book. Audiobooks, which can be downloaded to a smartphone or given as a CD, make an ideal gift for loved ones who spend a lot of time behind the wheel.

Last-minute holiday shopping can be stressful. However, various sought-after items can be secured at the last minute, ensuring gift givers' loved ones have a happy holiday season.

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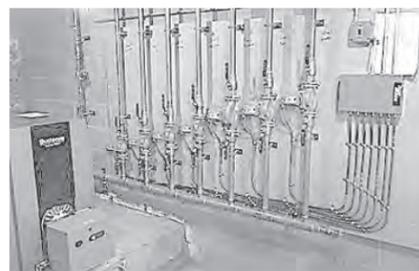


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 K V K D A E D B U F W T C W N B I R R R
 Y R G G N W G N U T S D Y O F O G T I F
 D O W N H I L L A U D H W G A R M U F W
 G T C I I H F W G L T A O G U T A L T I
 O H S T U I Y Y N E R S W V F W O C V N
 U D C A H G K W W M C E T T E N C I S T
 O F O K I C U S T U N H D U K L O G L E
 U H M S T S V H F M F S E N B T E B Y R
 W K V C V V M L I Y N G R C O E V B K D
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 C M E T K R T F W V M G B Y F U R N O S
 D F C R R C N L T W N F R O S T Y H C H
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 A K E G O K N O G K K M I M M H E D E U
 R S L M B U N D L E D N E Y G C M H Y F
 Y M F D H T E D W T Y F F U L F A D D H
 C C C M I D A U F A L B E C V D R A O B
 V F T R K S N E T T I M Y O K L O C H U

WORDS

- BOARD
- BUNDLED
- CHILLY
- COAT
- DOWNHILL
- DRIFT
- FLUFFY
- FLURRIES
- FROSTBITE
- FROSTY
- GUSTS
- HOCKEY
- ICE
- MITTENS
- SCARF
- SHOVEL
- SKATING
- SKIING
- SLED
- SNOW
- TUBE
- WARMTH
- WINTER
- WONDERLAND

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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(A smaller version of the word search grid is shown here with some words circled, including Frostbite, Frosty, and Tinsel.)

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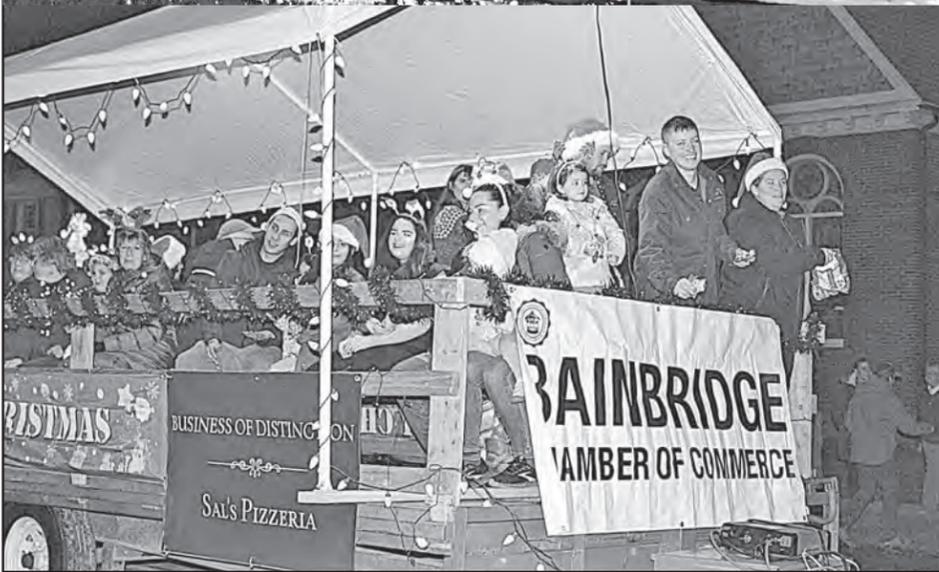
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Top Left: The Paynes crane float at the Bainbridge Christmas Parade. Bottom left: The Chamber of Commerce Float at the Bainbridge Christmas Parade. Right: The Gifford Dental Float at the Bainbridge Christmas Parade. (Photos by Owen Freidenstein)



Bainbridge holds annual Christmas Parade

BAINBRIDGE – The ninth annual Bainbridge Christmas Parade was blessed with a mild and snow-less night Saturday, Dec. 9 evening along Main Street.

An estimated 1000-plus crowd of all ages turned out to enjoy what has become a new annual tradition of floats, big trucks, fire trucks, cranes, cars, horses, golf carts and yes, even some walkers.

Folks lined both sides of North and South Main Street all way from Freiot to the Village Green park to see some incredible floats and even more incredible large equipment (would you believe 60 ton Paynes cranes?) decorated with lights, characters, and even a few people, too.

The parade line was lead

by the newest Bainbridge Rescue Pumper unit number 124, followed by the Mayor and Assemblyman Joe Angelino, and then more fire department units from Bainbridge, Afton and Coventry.

In addition to the big fire department trucks, the biggest pieces of equipment came from Austin Farms, BlueOx Energy and Paynes Cranes. Someone at BlueOx put a lot of elbow grease into polishing the tanker truck. It was fabulous!

Floats of all kinds included the Baptist Church, Gifford Family Dental, Henry's Drive-In, the Bainbridge Lion's Club, Payne's Cranes, and the sponsor of the event, the Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce, which carried families of business

of the year Heller's Farm CSA, business of distinction Sal's Pizza and citizen of the year Dolores Nabinger.

Rotary exchange students marched with flags of their countries. Santa and Mrs. Clause closed the parade in a decorated trailer towed by the Bainbridge Fire Department utility pickup truck. There were many more marchers than this writer could identify, including some beautiful draft horses, golf carts and racing cars, so please forgive if we haven't mentioned you but know that everyone really enjoyed the parade. The Chamber thanks all the participants and appreciates their creativity!

- By Philip Wade

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Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season filled with peace and love.
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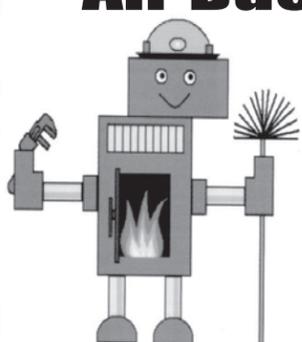
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mf $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ **Ab** 4fr. **Db** **F7** **Bb**

We wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas, We wish you a Mer-ry

mf

Eb **Eb7** **C** **Fm** **Ab** 4fr. **Db** **Bbm** **Eb7** **Ab** *Fine* 4fr.

Christ-mas, We wish you a Mer-ry Christ-mas and a Hap-py New Year!

mp **Ab** 4fr. **Eb** **Bb7** **Eb**

Good ti - dings to you wher - ev - er you are; Good

mp

Ab 4fr. **Db** **Eb7** **Ab** 4fr. *f* **D.S. al Fine**

ti - dings for Christ - mas and a Hap - py New Year! We

f **D.S. al Fine**

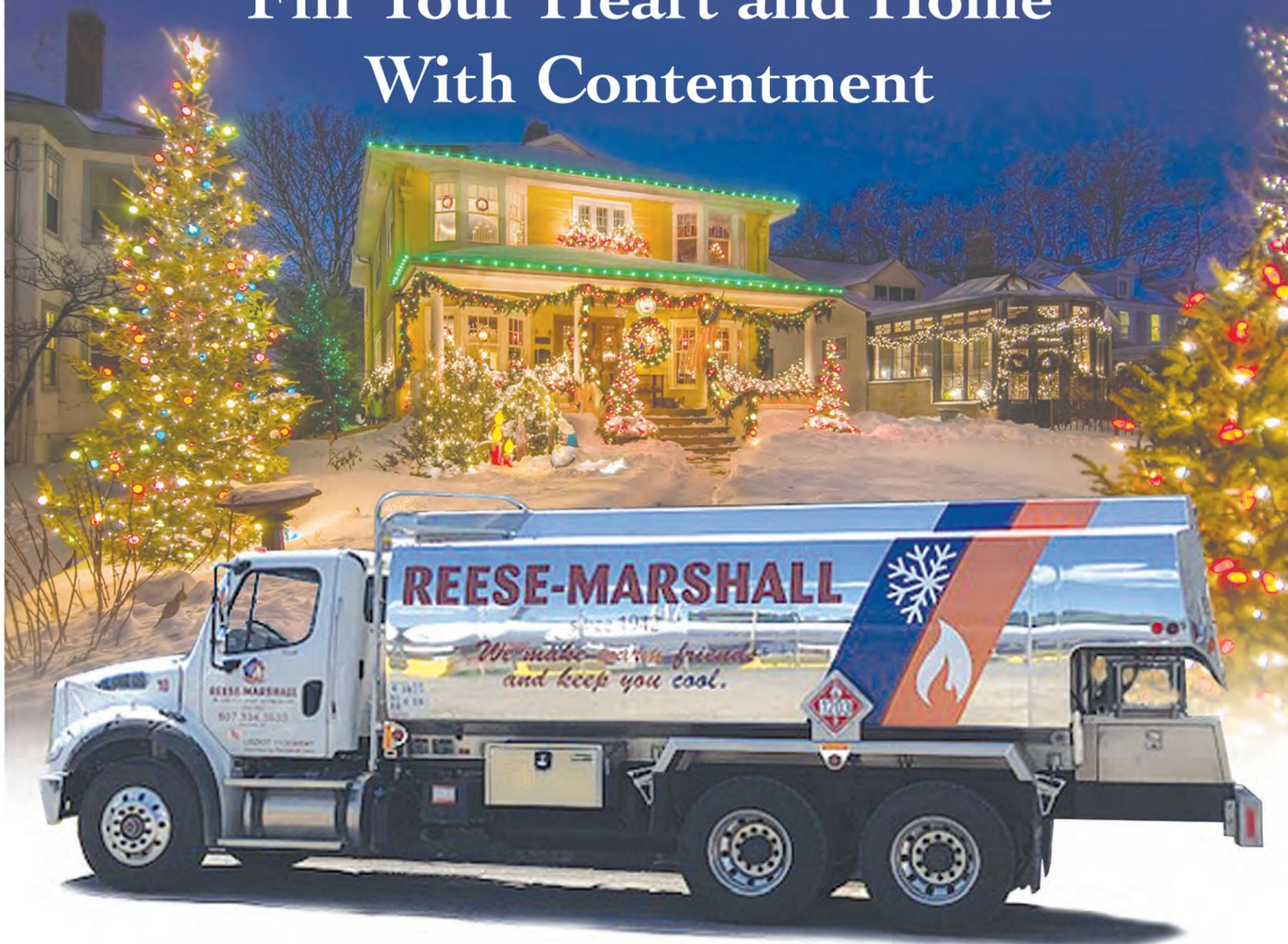
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*We wish you and yours every happiness
this holiday season and always.*

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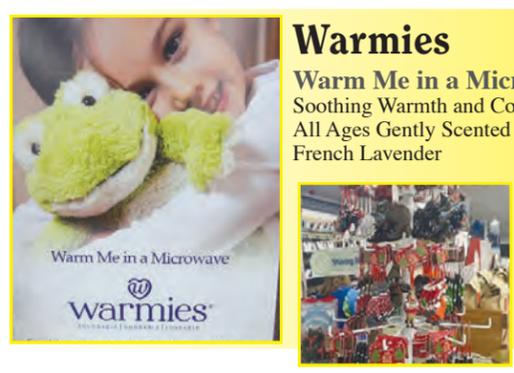
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