



SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

The first Open Farm Day will be held on September 20

BY KELLI MILLER

GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

CHENANGO COUNTY — Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Chenango County invites all to the very first free Open Farm Day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., September 20, at various participating farm and business locations.

Open Farm Day was launched to celebrate the diversity and economic importance of area farms. Similar events have been successful in other counties, and local organizers wanted to create an opportunity for residents to connect with agriculture close to home.

Explore local agriculture and history, meet local farmers, enjoy time with animals, and discover fresh products grown right here in Chenango County.

“As the proud coordi-



nator of Open Farm Day, CCE Chenango is excited to be supporting several farm sites,” said Craig Brown, CCE Chenango County Executive Director.

“Our team will be handing out stamp cards with fun details about each farm’s activities,

business info, and a unique punch for every stop,” said Brown. “If visitors go to any two farms, they can visit our office at 99 North Broad Street to receive a free insulated goodie bag thanks to a generous \$500 donation from Chenango Farm



Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Chenango County invites all to the very first free Open Farm Day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., September 20, at various participating farm and business locations including: Wilcox Maple Products, LLC, Schmidt’s Scattered Maples, Berry Brae Farm, Kutik’s Everything Bees, The Beardslee Homestead’s Masseria, Chenango County Historical Society and Museum, and Cornell Cooperative Exchange Chenango County. (Photos by Kelli Miller)

Bureau.”

Brown noted CCE Chenango will also be one of the official stops, featuring info from Farm Bureau, USDA, Chenango County Soil & Water, and their own programs.

He said families can enjoy 4-H games and

activities, and they hope to welcome some animal visitors for hands-on fun.

“It’s a fantastic way to connect with their Agriculture Education Center and celebrate local farming, and every participating farm is enthusiastic and ready

to welcome the community with open arms,” added Brown.

Open Farm Day participants include: Wilcox Maple Products, LLC, Schmidt’s Scattered Maples, Berry Brae Farm, Kutik’s

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Volunteers unite for 12th annual Alvogen Day in Norwich

BY TYLER MURPHY

GAZETTE MANAGING EDITOR

NORWICH — Hundreds of Alvogen employees gathered in East Park on Friday morning to kick off the company’s 12th annual community service day, a tradition that sees employee cleaning up downtown Norwich.

Employees enjoyed a light breakfast before dividing into teams and dispersing throughout the city to complete dozens of improvement projects.

The event was coordinated in partnership with city departments and more than two dozen local organizations, including the Chenango SPCA and the Norwich



Alvogen volunteers working in the community to clear garbage, repair landscaping, wash windows, and even remove harmful debris including discarded needles. The work was supported by other community groups, the city DPW and Norwich Police Department. (Photos by Tyler Murphy)

Business Improvement District (BID).

“We do everything from landscaping to cleaning, painting lamp-posts, organizing, and

fixing sandboxes; we do a variety of projects,” said Alvogen spokesperson Luke Murphy. “It’s a day we look forward to every year and giv-

ing back right here in Norwich.”

Murphy said many team members shared a personal connection to the area and desire to

help improve their community. “I’m very fortunate to live in this community,” he said. “It’s always a community of giving and making sure

everyone is taken care of. I couldn’t imagine living any place else.”

The company’s service initiative is part of a larger global tradition observed across Alvogen’s locations in 35 countries.

The company, which employs approximately 2,300 people worldwide, has made civic engagement a core part of its corporate identity. Norwich Pharmaceuticals, Alvogen’s local subsidiary, has been a fixture in the city since its founding in 1887.

Volunteer teams took on tasks such as landscaping, painting, building repairs, park maintenance, and seasonal clean-up in preparation for upcoming fall and winter holidays.

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At the New York State Fair, Chenango County 4-H youth won in the individual dairy cattle showmanship classes and included, Grace Hodge (class 2) and Taylor Hodge (class 6) both placed first for their age groups. (Submitted photo)

Chenango County 4-H youth projects premiere at the New York State Fair

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

SYRACUSE — Last month, Chenango County 4-H youth brought their all to the New York State Fair, participating in shows and projects, and the results show with pride, ribbons, and new friendships.

“Chenango County 4-H youth had a fantastic showing at the 2025 New York State Fair,” said Chenango County Cooperative Extension Administrative Assistant Rhonda Turrell. “Our 4-H youth showed in Dairy Cows, Dairy Goats, Sheep, Horses, Poultry, Rabbits, and the Arts.”

“All of the participants did extremely well in their project areas,” Turrell said. “While some showed a little brighter in some areas, we are proud of all of them.”

“These youth work hard throughout the year preparing for the fair and all deserve our acknowledgment for a job well done,” she said.

4-H youth were also selected from the Chenango County Fair to have their art exhibits

on show at the New York State Fair and Turrell said they were excited to be chosen.

“This is a great opportunity to get outside judges to review their projects, helping them grow in their areas of interest,” she added.

Turrell said 4-H youth Maria Funk, Josie Pierce, and Amon Van Alst received ribbons of Special Recognition for their outstanding exhibits.

She noted most of the 4-H youth enjoy their experiences in growing, learning, and building lasting friendships and realize it’s not all about winning a ribbon.

“Not to say it isn’t wonderful receiving that blue ribbon or special award for your animal or project, but it is important that our youth know it goes beyond the end prize,” she said.

Turrell Congratulated all showmen and said they truly represented the values of the 4-H program and their families.

The New York State Fair Winners are:

In Sheep showmanship, Julianna Tomacho placed

3rd in the senior class. In the individual dairy cattle showmanship classes, Grace Hodge (class 2) and Taylor Hodge (class 6) both placed first for their age groups.

Placing second were Julianna Tomacho (class 8) and Cora Hodge (class 5) and placing third was Addison Dickey (class 6). Elizabeth Vincent (class 6) and her sister Macie Vincent (class 3) had strong showings, placing 5th and 7th.

Elizabeth Vincent competed in the 4-H Dairy Judging Contest and placed 6th out of 10 ranking. She will now represent New York State 4-H at the National 4-H Competition.

Taylor Hodge took 1st place in the Future Farmers of America Dairy Handlers competition and also received the Master Showman award.

The Hippology Judging Competition junior team took 5th place, while Sophie R., took 5th individual. The Region 4 senior team received 4th. Sophie R., took 10th individual in judging junior.

In Poultry, 4-H youth Trevor H. rounded up

more than a handful of ribbons with his skills in Champion Junior Showmanship, Reserve Master Showmanship, and Best of Show Reserve Champion.

Ava K., represented Chenango County at the Dog Show and did very well.

Turrell noted on October 1, the new 4-H year begins with re-enrollments for youth and volunteers, new 4-H enrollments, and fresh opportunities for 4-H youth to enjoy.

She said all of the things that take place in 4-H would not be possible if it weren’t for the awesome group of volunteers willing to give their time and resources for the youth in Chenango County.

Questions about 4-H enrollment contact can be emailed to Rhonda Turrell at rlt236@cornell.edu. Additional Chenango County 4-H information can be found on their Facebook page at Chenango County 4-H Youth Development.



During the New York State Fair last month, 4-H youth Trevor H. rounded up more than a handful of ribbons in the Poultry Show. He won Champion Junior Showmanship, Reserve Master Showmanship, and Best of Show Reserve Champion. (Submitted photo)



Chenango County 4-H youth Taylor Hodge took 1st place in the Future Farmers of America Dairy Handlers competition and also received the Master Showman award at the New York State Fair. (Submitted photo)



This year at the New York State Fair, Chenango County 4-H youth Julianna Tomacho placed 3rd in the Sheep Showman senior class. (Submitted photo)

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While rescuing neglected cats Norwich police discover nearly half a pound of meth

NORWICH – An animal abuse cruelty investigation by the City of Norwich Police Department led to the seizure of numerous cats, the discovery of just under a half a pound (.41) of meth, and multiple weapons inside a Norwich home on Friday.

On September 12 Norwich police detectives began investigating reports of possible animal abuse at 7 Park Street.

Norwich Police Deputy Chief Scott Burlison said during the investigation detectives obtained information and developed enough probable cause for a search warrant of the property.

When the warrant was executed he said Norwich



City of Norwich Police located approximately 186 grams of suspected methamphetamine, along with a digital scale, drug-packaging materials, and assorted paraphernalia during an animal abuse investigation. (Image from NPD)

officers located approximately 186 grams of suspected methamphetamine, along with a digital scale, drug-packaging materials, and assorted paraphernalia.

Investigators also seized a gun, metal knuckles, and several other dangerous weapons.

Veterinary staff from Pet Street Animal Hospital responded to evaluate the cats at the scene. The animals were later transported to the Chenango County SPCA for care, with the Delaware County Humane Society offer-

ing additional support if needed.

Following the search, City Code Enforcement officials condemned the residence due to unsafe conditions.

Detectives arrested and charged four Norwich residents in connection with the case:

Kathryn L. Schultz, 27, with 2nd- and 3rd-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, two counts of 4th-degree criminal possession of a weapon, 7th-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, and torturing and injuring animals.

Jordan D. Bates, 36, with 2nd- and 3rd-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, 3rd-degree criminal pos-

session of a weapon, 2nd-degree obstruction of governmental administration, and 7th-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance.

Hunter J. Bishop, 23, with two counts of 3rd-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

Marc A. Kimble, 47, with two counts of 3rd-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

“Our officers acted swiftly to protect the vulnerable and innocent animals in this case. The conditions within the residence were very substandard and when you add in the gun, weapons, and drugs, this residence posed a serious threat to our community as a whole,” said Burlison.

“This was a case where

members of the community worked together to achieve a common goal. Cooperation between everyone leads to safer neighborhoods and better outcomes for both our citizens and animals,” he said.

The defendants were arraigned at Chenango County Central Arraignment Court and all were remanded to the Chenango County Correctional Facility pending further proceedings.

All charges are allegations, and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

- Information from the Norwich Police Department

NYS Police arrest Newfield man indicted by jury in fentanyl related death of 4-year-old child

TOMPKINS COUNTY - A Newfield man has been arrested following a Tompkins County Grand Jury Indictment.

On September 8, 2025, Troopers arrested Justin M. Fenton, age 31 of Newfield, NY. He has been charged

with the following:

- Manslaughter in the second degree (Recklessly Causes Death), class “C” felony
- Criminally Negligent Homicide, class “E” felony
- Tampering with Physical Evidence, class

“E” felony

On June 30, 2024, New York State Police at Ithaca were dispatched by the Tompkins County 911 Center for a report of an unconscious 4-year-old child not breathing, suffering from cardiac arrest at a residence

on South Way in the town of Newfield. The child was transported to Cayuga Medical Center where he was later pronounced deceased.

After an autopsy, the toxicology report determined that the 4-year-old’s death was caused

by fentanyl toxicity. The ensuing investigation revealed that Fenton’s drug use at the time recklessly exposed the child to a lethal dose of fentanyl, causing his death.

On September 4, 2025, a Grand Jury indicted Fenton on the charges

and an arrest warrant was issued for his arrest.

Fenton was located on September 8 and transported to SP Ithaca where he was processed then turned over to the Tompkins County Jail.

- Information from NYSP

The first Open Farm Day will be held on September 20 -

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Everything Bees, The Beardslee Homestead’s Masseria, Chenango County Historical Society and Museum, and Cornell Cooperative Exchange Chenango County.

Wilcox Maple Products, located at 3597 County Road 32 in Oxford is a five generation dairy farm and in recent years, has expanded to maple production and more. They will offer a variety of products including pumpkins, gourds, squash, apples, maple syrup and samplings. Early visitors will receive a Wilcox Maple & More insulated cooler bag to take produce home. They will offer a meet and greet with a calf and laying hens.

Visit them online at www.facebook.com/people/Wilcox-Maple-Products-LLC.

Kutik’s Everything Bees, located at 3442 State Highway 12 in Oxford, is family owned and operated since 1978. It all began with just two hives and has grown into a migratory beekeeping business. Every winter, Bees travel to South Carolina,

returning to New York each Spring to pollinate apple orchards and later produce honey. The farm has been extracting and bottling honey since 1979.

Visit their website at kutiks.com.

Schmidt’s Scattered Maples, located at 150 Schmidt Road in Sherburne, was established in 1946 and is family run and owned. They milk 40 Holstein cows and registered Brown Swiss with a total of 80 head. On Open Farm Day, they will provide products and family activities. Meet Mark and Andrea Schmidt and their daughter Miranda.

Mark Schmidt said they are 3rd generation small family dairy farmers with an abundance of maple products to sample and sell.

They also offer USDA inspected Angus beef for sale and maple products which include syrup, coated peanuts, fresh ground coffee, cream, granulated sugar, barbecue sauce, and more.

Mark said they will also offer free hay rides to view cows grazing, a you-pick pumpkin patch and corn

stalks to bundle for fall decoration and don’t miss the Chenango County Dairy Court activities and free maple milk samples.

Visit their website at schmidtsscatteredmaples.company.site.

Berry Brae Farm, located at 1191 County Road 10 in Pharsalia, is a historic farm focused on sustainable practices. Kenny and Sarah Jensen look forward to sharing their grass root efforts and said their farm is also home based to ‘Meat the Need Initiative Chenango’, connecting local farms to local food access in partnership with Catskill Agrarian Alliance.

The farm offers quality Berkshire pork, Dorper Lamb, Heritage Breed Chickens, and Thanksgiving Turkey. Kenny Jensen said they also sell a line of lard based products including Ida Cleaner. Refreshments and snacks will be available.

Visit their website at berrybraefarm.com

The Beardslee Homestead’s Masseria, located at 101 State Route 80 in New Berlin, is on the National Register of

Historic Places. The 100 acre property is designed with families in mind and offers cooking and dessert classes, apple and grape picking, collecting eggs, making wine, baking pizza, hiking, and kayaking, fishing and canoeing along two miles of riverfront. They also host weddings and parties.

The Greco family owns the homestead and look forward to visitors experiencing life from another time.

Visit their website at thebeardsleehomestead.com

Chenango County Historical Society and Museum, located at 45 Rexford Street in Norwich, will provide family-friendly programs highlighting the history and heritage of agriculture in Chenango County said Chenango County Historical Society and Museum Executive Director Jessica Moquin.

Moquin noted the Loomis Barn, home of the “Bob Marshman Agriculture Education Center”, will be open for self guided tours with a variety of exhibits and artifacts illustrating the

progression of agriculture, the dairy industry, and local industrial heritage.

She said there will also be creative local agricultural inventions on display, curated by Deputy County Historian John Antonowicz. Museum Assistant Elizabeth Hathaway, staff and volunteers will be ready to support the daily events.

Lunch can be purchased from “Joe’s Food Shack” food truck. Live music will be performed by Realtime Dixieland Band performing from 10:30 a.m to 12:50 p.m.

Visit their website at chenangohistorical.org.

“The Chenango County Farm Bureau generously sponsored this year’s Open Farm Day, helping make the event possible,” said Rich Taber, CCE Ag Economic Development Specialist.

“As a new initiative, the goal was to establish a strong foundation for the event, with plans to build on this success through additional sponsorships in the coming years,” said Taber.

The event will offer a unique opportunity for

the public to learn more about local farms and the role they play in sustaining the county’s economy.

“For farmers, especially those who sell directly to consumers, Open Farm Day provides valuable exposure and the chance to boost sales through increased community engagement,” Taber added.

Chenango County Farm Bureau President Terry Ives said Craig Brown was one of the moving forces to make this reality happen and Rich Taber worked throughout the summer to coordinate and recruit participating farms.

In recent weeks, the entire CCE Chenango staff joined efforts to plan and execute the event and they are already planning for July 2026 Open Farm Day, with confidence additional farms and businesses will join.

Ives said he is hopeful Open Farm Day will continue for years to come.

Visit CCE Chenango County website at ccechenango.org.

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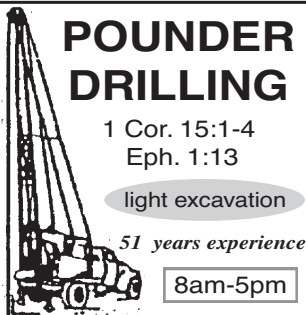
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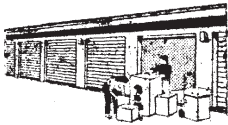
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The Early Files

by Peggy Finnegan

WEEK #38

THIRTY YEARS AGO

September 22, 1995

Everyone is most thankful for the rains of the past week.

According to Lauren Johnson the village is responsible for the upkeep of Millbrook Phase 1 and 2.

Plans are being made to renovate the covered bridge in Brookfield.

FORTY YEARS AGO

September 21, 1985

It's hard to believe that we've had frost four mornings in a row now.

The 2nd phase of the Millbrook project is underway.

James Benjamin had the misfortune to break her ankle.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

September 20, 1975

Martha DeForest sold her home and is living in the former Cobb home next door to the former DeForest home.

During the past two years, less than two weeks' supply of milk was available from government stocks at any time.

FOR SALE: 1966 Mustang in good condition. \$300

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 23, 1965

The first traces of autumn color are visible.

Richard Burroughs returned to Cornell

Veterinary College for his junior year.

Charles S. Horstman, Sr. died unexpectedly at his home.

Brent Daniels was host at a birthday party with guests Bobbie Greco, Donna & Ray Harrington, Scot & Jimmie Fairchild and Bobbie Jenks.

ROAST BEEF SUPPER: Guilford Methodist Church, adults \$1.75, children \$1.00

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

September 22, 1955

The Community House in Columbus was badly damaged by fire, discovered by Emery Weaver.

Winning an argument is a good way to lose a friend.

E.H. Fredrickson had the surprise of his life when he found a porcupine in his goat barn. With the aid of a broom and shovel he forced it outside, where it climbed an apple tree with quills clicking.

FOR SALE: 140 acres, excellent buildings, barn for 40 head, chicken house. Worth \$8,000, selling for \$4,500 on account of sickness.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO

September 20, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Simonds, formerly of Shawler Brook road,

have moved into the former Claud Smith house.

Staff Sgt. Leo Johnson is returning to the U.S. in the near future. He has been a prisoner of the Japanese since May, 1942.

Of 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were removed from the Pacific coast following Pearl Harbor, only 45,000 will returning with the lifting of the ban against resettlement.

Eighty years ago the greatest event in the history of Oneonta took place when the first regular train from Albany rolled in on the tracks of the Albany & Susquehanna, parent of the D&H line.

TOMATOES: \$1.50 a bu. Chester Davis

NINETY YEARS AGO

September 19, 1935

The frost was on the pumpkin today, but heavy fog prevented any damage.

Towering 80 feet above Hooker Mtn., Otsego's first fire tower is nearing completion.

Russell Quackenbush was ill with grippe the latter part of the week.

Alfred Munson mangled his hand in a buzz saw and was taken to the hospital at Cooperstown where it was necessary to amputate same.

Frank Taylor of Phoenicia has a cucumber patch of 14 acres that

yields 1,000 bushels a week.

The Peck school has a nice new flag, given by Miss Marin Gibson.

COFFEE, 3 lb. 41c; Flour \$1.19 for 24-1/2 lb.; Peaches \$1.89 bu.; Clams 10c doz. American Stores

100 YEARS AGO

September 29, 1925

Frost Friday morning.

Morris residents saw the lights of an airplane headed south, cause for excitement.

George Daggett caught three rats in a spring trap at the same time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jules Pease moved from the Linn factory house to over Lawrence's store in the Weeden Block.

J.D. Grover sold his house on Green street to Silas Button.

Harrison Camp drove home a new Overland Six sedan for Mrs. James Adams.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Arnold and Mr. and Mrs. George Shippey attended the Afton Fair. Mr. Arnold is 93 years of age and enjoyed the outing very much.

Anywhere in the world the chances are that the clothespins being used were made in America.

110 YEARS AGO

September 15, 1915

British losses in the war total 381,982 men killed, wounded or miss-

ing, including 16,438 officers.

Petrograd reports that Austro-German losses in the last two months are estimated at 465,000.

Mrs. Andrew Taylor, who had been suffering from a deranged mind, committed suicide by hanging with an ordinary clothesline doubled.

Rainy and thunderous as any weather in July could be.

While the boys were taking a bath, they noticed Lewis Harris was taken with a cramp.

Irving Whitmore was the lad with the presence of mind to know what needed doing and the ability to do it.

The storm blew down Lee Langworthy's silo, moved the horse barn from its foundation, blew out the windows in the barn and the fine fruit trees are destroyed. The next day he had a cow killed by lightning.

R.L. Sawyer went to So. New Berlin to get a road horse brought over from the Borden's at Norwich.

John Spurr was born in 1837, son of Franklin and Clarissa Spurr. He served in the 114th [listed also as 115th] Regiment until the close of the Civil War.

Congratulations extended to Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Lloyd on the arrival of a son.

DeLong and Risedorph have the contract for building Hubert Spurr's barn and hen house. They just finished shingling the house and barn for Basil Crandall.

The electrical storms last week raised hob with the telephone line. C.G. Hall's and Albert Spafford's phones were entirely out of commission for several days.

120 YEARS AGO

September 30, 1905

In 1845 there were two paper mills: one in McDonough and one in New Berlin.

They used \$3,420 worth of material with a value after manufacture of \$9,600.

Camp Bros. bought the Hawkins mill at Pecktown of Will Todd and are moving to New Berlin.

The lower grades at Oxford are not in session owing to an epidemic of diphtheria thought to have been caused by the flood.

The New Berlin steam laundry force was pleasantly entertained at L.S. Matteson's.

Nearly four weeks since the flood and not a movement made yet toward straightening the brook.



Eric Davis

Outdoor Chenango

Trapping season will be here before you know it and it is important to have your traps ready to go before you go out in October (or later) to set them. The process of cleaning, dyeing, and waxing traps can seem daunting but can be accomplished if you are prepared for all that it involves.

The first step is to inspect your traps for any problems. This could

Outdoor Chenango: Preparing your traps

be mechanical problems such as bent dogs or it could be visual problems like your trap tag missing or having the wrong information on it. As a reminder, in New York, your trap must have a tag that has either your name and address or your 12-digit NYSDEC ID number (which is on your license).

I have gone to the DEC number as I moved during and after college and got tired of removing tags with old addresses and putting new tags on. Fix any traps with problems before you boil them. This makes it so there is minimal handling of the traps once the preparation process has begun. Once each trap is ready, place a nail in the jaws of the trap unless they are rubber-coated jaws.

Fill a large pot about half to two-thirds full of

water leaving room in the pot for the water level to rise once traps are put into the pot. I like turkey fryer pots as I use a turkey fryer to heat the pots. I have seen others use small livestock watering tubs, beer kegs that are cut in half, and other various metal containers along this line. They are often used over a wood fire and are placed on stacked stone/brick or on metal stands. Add a degreaser to the water. Toilet cleaner is commonly used. This helps strip any old wax off from the traps or factory grease from new traps. Get the water to a boil and add traps to the pot. I wire the chain ends of 4 to 6 traps and use the turkey fryer hook to place the bundle of traps into the water. Let the traps sit in the water for about half an hour before removing them from the water.

Upon removing the traps, I hit them with a garden hose on the jet setting. This is because as the wax melts off the trap when heated, it will float on top of the water, so when you pull the traps out of the water, a thin layer of old wax will get on the traps. Repeat this process until you have boiled all your traps, adding water and cleaner as needed. I hang the traps on nails driven into a pallet that is stood up and leaned against a tree or post. This lets the traps drip dry and start to get a coat of surface rust.

After at least a week, fill your pot again with water and whatever dye you want to use. Logwood powder dye is easy to work with but other trappers use sumac fruit or black walnut hulls. Add your bundle of traps and follow the directions for how long to leave them in the dye before remov-

ing them. Repeat until all your traps have been dyed, adding water and dye when needed. Be prepared to wax your traps the same day or the next day. Some trappers like to add a couple pounds of wax to the dye water so that as they remove their traps, they get coated with wax.

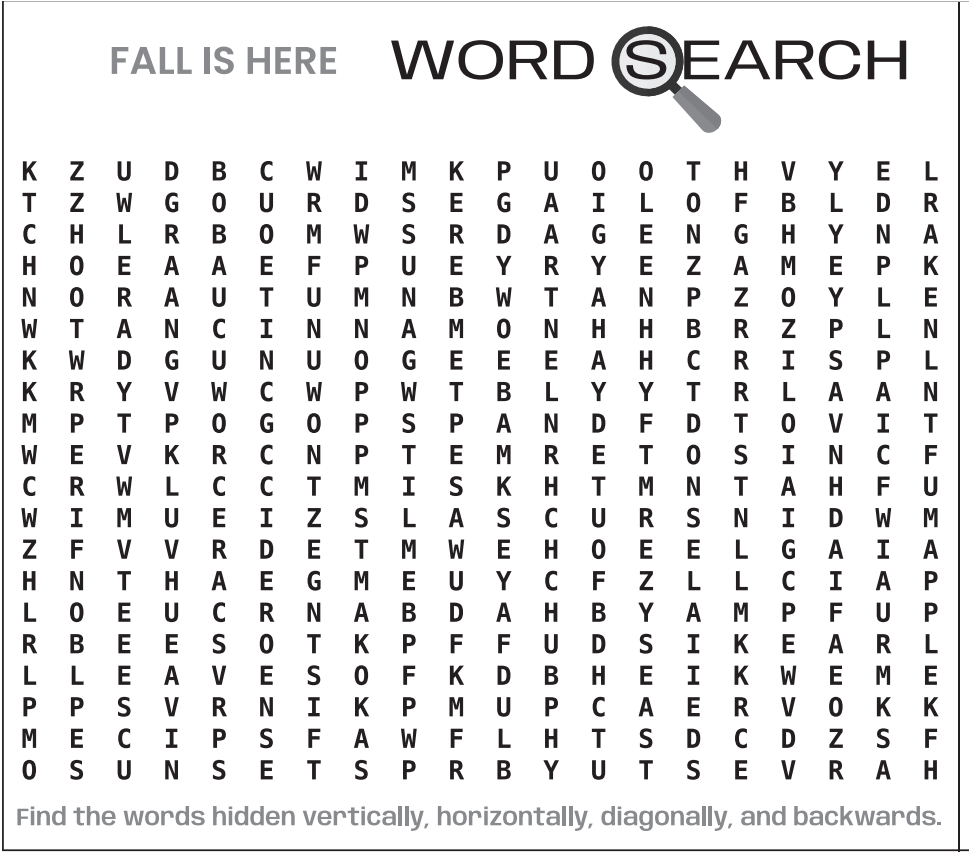
I keep a separate pot that is solely used for waxing traps. Heat the pot with wax in it until all the wax is melted and it looks like the oil in a deep fryer. Make sure your traps are dry and don't have a lot of water on them as the water will cause the hot wax to pop and gurgle like hot grease or oil. Slowly lower a bundle of traps into the wax. You will see a thick layer of wax build on each trap as the wax hardens onto the cooler surface of the trap. After a few minutes, you will notice the layer

of wax deteriorates as the trap heats up to the same temperature of the wax. Once this has occurred, remove the traps and hang them to dry, preferably out of direct sunlight.

Once all the traps have been waxed and are dry, remove them from their bundle, scrape the excess wax off the dog and pan latch, remove the nail from between the jaws, set the trap and test fire it. Make sure it fires as a reasonable pan level and under the right amount of pressure on the pan. If the trap passes this test, add a cable stake (if you use cable stakes) and place it into a plastic tote.

Remember, do not wax conibear or body-gripping traps. This makes them fire easier and can cause you a lot of pain if they accidentally fire when you are setting the trap.

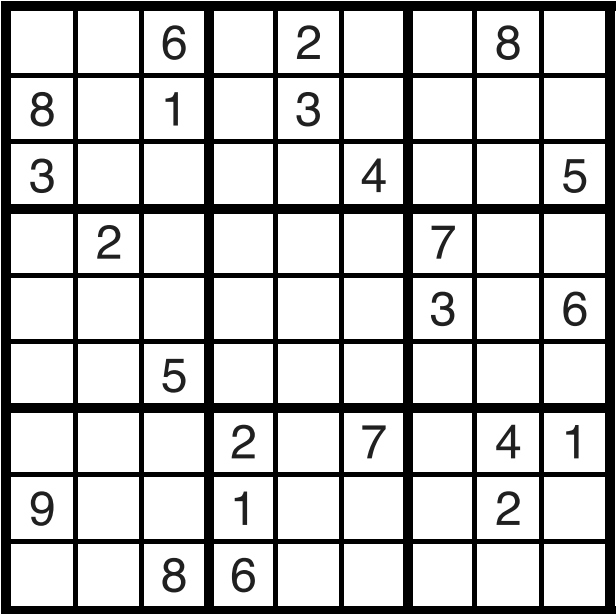
WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| ACORNS | CRISP | ORCHARD |
| APPLE | FESTIVAL | PUMPKIN |
| AUTUMN | FOLIAGE | RAKE |
| BONFIRE | GOURDS | SCARECROW |
| CHILLY | HARVEST | SEPTEMBER |
| CIDER | LEAVES | SPICE |
| CINNAMON | MAPLE | SUNSET |
| CORNUCOPIA | MAZE | SWEATER |

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



Level: Intermediate

WORD SCRAMBLE

BOCNRCC

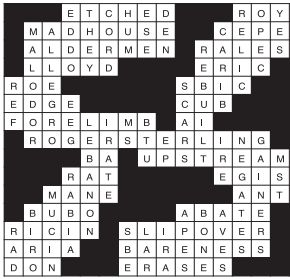
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Answer: Corncob

GUESS WHO?

Answer: Chase Stokes

Solutions:



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

1. Carved into
 7. ___ Rogers, cowboy
 10. Unruly locale
 12. Edible mushroom
 13. Influential noblemen
 14. Rattling breaths
 15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.
 16. Musician Clapton
 17. Small Eurasian deer
 18. Invests in little enterprises
 19. Perimeter
 21. Chicago ballplayer
 22. Animal body part
 27. It's everywhere these days
 28. Fictional ad exec
 33. Mr. T character Baracus
 34. Against the current
 36. Subway rodent
 37. Armor plate
 38. Hair on the head
 39. Strong insect
 40. Swollen lymph node
 41. A way to lessen
 44. Walter White poison
 45. Sleeveless garment
 48. Long accompanied song
 49. Without features
 50. Yankee great Mattingly
 51. Removes from record

CLUES DOWN

 1. Root of taro plant
 2. Those ones
 3. Appliances have one
 4. A way to sing
 5. Midway between east and southeast
 6. Animal dwelling
 7. An object that as survived from the past
 8. Oil cartel
 9. Affirmative
 10. Foul smell
 11. Brisk tempo
 12. S. American indigenous person
 14. Restored
 17. Official
 18. Skin lesions
 20. Electroencephalograph
 23. Middle Eastern country
 24. Extremely angry
 25. Title used before a woman's name
 26. British thermal unit
 29. By the way (abbr.)
 30. Anger
 31. Nullifies
 32. Ones who acquire
 35. Time zone
 36. Arabic name
 38. Protein in mucus
 40. Ballpoint pen
 41. Mimics
 42. Humans have a lot of it
 43. Expressions of good wishes
 44. Cool!
 45. One point east of due south
 46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
 47. A way to save for retirement

New Berlin Library Corner

New Berlin Library plans fall events

NEW BERLIN - The New Berlin Library has several events planned for the fall season. There is a child and an adult Halloween art class, Halloween decorating, the annual used book fundraiser, and an adult fall art class.

The Adult Halloween Art Class will take place on Monday, October 20 at 5 p.m. This class will be Snow White inspired poison apples. Realistic, full sized fake apples, hot glue, paint, and twine will be used to create apples that appear to be dripping with green poison with skeletal faces. This art class is sponsored by the New Berlin Art Forum. This class is free and open to the public but registration is required.

The Children's Halloween Art Class will take place on Wednesday, October 22 at 5 p.m. This class will be mini 3-D light up jack-o-lanterns. The bottom of clear 20 oz soda bottles, air dray foam clay, and LED flameless votive candles will be used to create the jack-o-lanterns. Cupcakes and apple cider will be served at this event. This art class is sponsored by the New Berlin Art Forum. This class is free and open to the public but registration is required.



The New Berlin Library is switching up how it decorates for Halloween. We are inviting the public to help decorate by making "book ghosts" to haunt the library shelves. The ghosts are made with cardboard sheets, old book pages, glue sticks, and black markers. After making a ghost you can place it in the library to join the haunting.

The annual New Berlin Library used book fundraiser will take place from September 17th until October 10th. The fundraiser will be held during normal library hours of operation. Freewill monetary donations for books, DVDs, puzzles, and CDs will be accepted by library staff at the library's circulation desk. The library



will have a wide selection of items that have not been included in previous year's fundraisers. There will be no price tags on any items. The items will be available in the library's lower-level museum and community room. There is a suggested donation of a dollar a bag. All proceeds from the book sale go to the New Berlin Library.

Unfortunately, due to the overwhelming donations of used books taken in throughout the year the New Berlin Library is unable to accept any more book donations until further notice. "We are very appreciative of all the books that the public donates to our library. We add what we can to the library's circulating collection and offer new and gen-

tly used books to other libraries in the Four County System. We are simply out of storage space for more donated books at this time," stated library director, Michelle Priola.

The New Berlin Library's next Board meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 24th at 6 p.m. These meeting as open to the public and board meeting are posted on the library website, <https://libraries.4cls.org/newberlin/>.

The Adult Fall Art Class is scheduled for November 12 at 5 p.m. This class is a hanging door sign. The sign is saying "Hello Fall" with a painting of two pumpkins. This class is free and open to the public but registration will be



required.

Some great new additions to the library include: The Secret of Secrets (DaVinci Code 6) by Dan Brown, I Who Have Never Known Man by Jacqueline Harpman, The Hallmarked Man (A Cormoran Strike Novel) by Robert Galbraith, Framed in Death (In Death 61) by J. D. Robb, Billion Dollar Ransom by James Patterson and Duane Swierczynski, Terminal Velocity (Tom Clancy A Jack Ryan Jr Novel) by M. P. Woodward, InvestiCators Case Files (InvestiGators Graphic Novel 9) by John Patrick Green, Hansel and Gretel by Stephen King and Maurice Sendak,

and Midnight on the Moon (Magic Tree House Graphic Novel) by Mary Pope Osborne.

The New Berlin Library is located at 15 South Main Street, New Berlin. The Library is open Monday and Wednesday 10AM-8PM; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10AM-5PM; and Saturdays 10AM-noon. The web address is libraries.4cls.org/newberlin/. Please contact us at 607.847.8564 or like and message our Facebook page New Berlin Library and Museum (www.facebook.com/newberlinlibrary.newberlinny) with any questions.

- Information from the New Berlin Library

SNB HORSESHOE CLUB:

Kelly's Flowers comes out on top in final week

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

SO. NEW BERLIN – The South New Berlin Horseshoe Club held its final week of the season on August 27, where Lee Coon and Jess Sherwood came out on top of the standings. Kelly's Flowers earned the victory with a final record of 42-22.

Potter's Tire (Billy Schermerhorn/John Edwards) finished in a close second with a record of 41-23 as Ryno Graphics (Ryan Lund/Bill Wetherbee) took third with a record of 38.5-25.5.

Aptitude Design Co.'s Tresta Raymond and Kate Lloyd came in

fourth place with a final record of 38-26 while the Stadium's Al Bush and Al Patten finished fifth at 37-27.

Lee Coon and Ron Anderson tied for the men's highest singles on the week with a 62 as Al Patten had a 61.

Coon also had the highest series for the men with a 177 over Anderson's 168 and Patten's 162.

Kate Lloyd and Jess Sherwood both had the highest game of a 56 for the women with Tresta Raymond finishing with a 39. Lloyd had the highest series with a 159 over Sherwood's 118 and Raymond's 98.

Kelly's Flowers swept the team leaderboards as

Williams Tire took both the high singles handicap game and series.

The South New Berlin Horseshoe Club will be celebrating their season banquet on September 28.

Full Standings as of August 27:

1. Kelly's Flowers (Lee Coon/Jess Sherwood): 42-22, 9268 pts
2. Potter's Tire (Billy Schermerhorn/John Edwards): 41-23 9182 pts
3. Ryno Graphics (Ryan Lund/Bill Wetherbee): 38.5-25.5, 9085 pts
4. Aptitude Design Co. (Tresta Raymond/Kate Lloyd): 38-26, 9210 pts
5. The Stadium (Al Bush/Al Patten): 37-27,

- 9171 pts
6. Magro's Pizzeria (Rob Rowlands/Lisa Rowlands): 35.5-28.5, 8984 pts
7. Rustic Ridge (Ron Anderson/George Hanslmaier): 35-29, 8993 pts
8. Old Skool Lawnmower Repair & Service (Larry Shaw/Darla Smith): 33.5-30.5, 8967 pts
9. Fun Lovers (Tim Lidell/Mike Grant): 33-31, 9036 pts
10. Webster Paving (Ed Webster/Bob Wells): 32-32, 8994 pts
11. Carpet Protectors (Brian Prentice/Josh Prentice): 31.5-32.5, 9027 pts
12. Rolling M Stables (Jim Moffitt/Melvin

- Harvey): 30-34, 8847 pts
 13. Williams Tire (Dave Robbins/Chris Davis): 26-26, 7528 pts
 14. Roger' Best Value Tire & Auto (Cindy Miller/Joe Miller): 25-39, 9158 pts
 15. Top Notch Timber (Keith Clark/Jim Bulger): 20-44, 8443 pts
- Men's High Singles:** Lee Coon & Ron Anderson 62
- Women's High Singles:** Kate Lloyd & Jess Sherwood 56
- Team High Singles:** Kelly's Flowers 113
- Team High Singles:** Potter's Tire 101
- Team High Singles:** Rustic Ridge 99
- Team High Singles:** 578

Handicap:

- Williams Tire 208
- Kelly's Flowers 205
- Ryno Graphics 202
- Men's High Series:** Lee Coon 177
- Ron Anderson 168
- Al Patten 162
- Women's High Series:** Kate Lloyd 159
- Jess Sherwood 118
- Tresta Raymond 98
- Team High Series:** Kelly's Flowers 295
- Potter's Tire 291
- Rustic Ridge 274
- Team High Series Handicap:** Williams Tire 596
- Old Skool Lawnmower Repair 588
- Aptitude Design Co. 578

Oxford and UV girls soccer end in a tie after two overtimes

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

NEW BERLIN – The Unadilla Valley Storm girls’ soccer team hosted the Oxford Blackhawks for their first MAC league contest of the 2025 season. It was also both team’s third game after competing in tournament play. It was a back and forth affair that left both teams scoreless after the first half, after the second half, and after two 10 minute

overtime periods. Both teams saw many scoring chances, but fell short. UV’s Noelle Fernandez-Naughton and Logan Lindholm saw three shots on goal while Myriah Taylor and Molly Gorrell each had two opportunities. UV’s goalkeeper Kora Johnson saw many shots come her way, making a total of 17 saves on the night. Oxford’s Paige Rickard and all-time leading goal scorer Kayla Knapp led the team with four shots



Oxford and UV girls’ soccer ends in scoreless tie after two overtimes. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

on goal. Peyton Cummings and Jayne Fleury saw a few great opportunities, along with Colette Kappauf, Ahnalee Kappauf and Jordan Palmer. Both defenses and goalkeepers stood their ground to prevent anyone from scoring in the 0-0 tie. UV (1-1-1) hosts their annual NY Pizzeria on Friday and Saturday while Oxford (2-0-1) hosts Delhi on Monday at 4:30 p.m.

B-G golf ties season-best score in win vs UV/GMU

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

BAINBRIDGE – The Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats golf team hosted UV/GMU on Wednesday afternoon at Sundown. The Bobcats picked up their second win of the season with a 239-294 victory. B-G Coach Darryl Decker noted that his team tied the season-best score through six matches played. Gavin Dicks led the Bobcats with a 44 as Mason Buchanan shot a 46. Braison Ives fol-

lowed with a 48 while Kate Baciuska finished with a 50 and Cole Fleming with a 51. Mason Acquisto finished as the sixth golfer with a 56*. UV/GMU’s Carter Simonds led the team with a 50 as Evan Hill shot a 53. MacKenzie Marron shot a 60 with Gavin Underwood finishing with a 63. Alivia Vitek and Blake Lawrence both shot 68s. B-G (2-4) hosts Oxford on Friday at 3:30 p.m. while UV/GMU (0-6) hosts Greene today at 4 p.m.

UV volleyball falls to Unatego

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

OTEGO – The Unadilla Valley Storm volleyball team traveled to Unatego on Tuesday evening, where they fell in all three sets (25-17, 25-13, and 25-14).

Jade Cook led the Storm with an ace, two assists, two kills, and two digs. Shyla Roberts added two aces and five digs while Layla Stevens had two kills and a block. UV (0-2) heads to Sidney on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

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Note: In 2024, the two transfer stations collected 13.4 tons of donated textiles, enough to help clothe an estimated 5,000 people around the world.





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THE 54th ANNUAL WHEEL DAYS

ROLL SEPT. 26TH– 28TH

Be a wheel watcher or a wheel turner when the 54th annual edition of Wheel Days rolls on to the Madison County Fairgrounds, September 26th-28th.

The wheels will start spinning Friday evening at 7pm with the Gas & Diesel Truck Pulls. Then the action continues Saturday at 5pm with the ever-popular Demolition Derby. The wheel excitement resumes Sunday at 10am with the Tractor Pulls and “Just Cruise-In” car show welcomes the polished wheels on all Classic, Custom, Antique, and Muscle vehicles to the fairgrounds. Enjoy live music with Daniel Frost, Solo Artist-80’s-90’s Country/ 50’s-60’s Rock at 12pm on the stage while feasting on a chicken barbeque.

Beside all this wheel excitement find treasurers at the craft vendors and flea markets. The kids will enjoy bouncing the day away in the bounce houses. Do not miss what may be your last chance of the season to enjoy delicious fair cuisine.

Come join the “WHEEL” FUN on the Madison County Fairgrounds located at 1968 Fairground Rd., Brookfield, NY 13314.

For more information visit www.madisoncountyfairny.com

WILLY’S FARM & CIDER MILL

Cake Contest! Saturday September 20th 2-3pm Cause we love cake! Judging at 2:30pm Eating and Enjoying your cakes at 3pm. 1st place \$50 prize, 2nd place a dozen donuts! Corn maze, pumpkin people, goats and some really beautiful scenery! Mom’s homemade apple pie and those famous, yummy apple cider donuts. Come on up, sit & relax. Hours Friday 12-5, Saturday 9-5, Sunday 11-5 (also open on 10/13). 349 Badeau Hill Road, Schenectady. Follow the red & white signs! Like us on Facebook.

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Christ Lutheran Church, 94 N. Broad St., Norwich. All-A-Non/-Adult Children of Alcoholics meeting.

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Date	Prize / Description	Date	Prize / Description
11-3 - RUGER 10/22 22LR (semi-auto license required)		11-20 - OVER/UNDER TAP SHOTGUN 20 GA	
11-4 - ERMOX 12 GA PUMP		11-21 - TAURUS Public Defender 45 LC/410 GA (pistol lic. required)	
11-5 - MOSSBERG 802 22 LR		11-22 - SAVAGE AXIS 2 223 REM	
11-6 - SILVER EAGLE 12 GA PUMP		11-23 - SMITH & WESSON Bodyguard 2.0 380 ACP (pistol lic. required)	
11-7 - SAVAGE AXIS 30-06		11-24 - OVER/UNDER TAP SHOTGUN 20 GA	
11-8 - REMINGTON 700 243 WIN		11-25 - REMINGTON 700 243 WIN	
11-9 - ERMOX 12 GA PUMP		11-26 - RUGER AMERICAN GEN 2 450 BUSHMASTER	
11-10 - OVER/UNDER TAP SHOTGUN 20 GA		11-27 - AR-15 ANDERSON LOWER with Bazooka Bunny Builders Kit	
11-11 - MOSSBERG 802 22 LR		11-28 - REMINGTON 870 12 GA with Cantilever Scope Mount	
11-12 - SAVAGE AXIS 6.5 CM COMPACT		11-29 - REMINGTON 870 12 GA with Cantilever Scope Mount	
11-13 - AXOR ARMS FOLDING 12 GA PUMP		11-30 - HOWA M 1500 SNOW EDITION 308 WIN	
11-14 - STEVENS 334 308 WIN		12-01 - ROSSI R 92 45 LC	
11-15 - RUGER 10/22 22 LR (semi-auto license required)		12-02 - ROSSI CIRCUIT JUDGE 45 LC/410 GA	
11-16 - STEVENS 320 SECURITY FIELD COMBO 12 GA			
11-17 - OVER/UNDER TAP SHOTGUN 20 GA			
11-18 - SAVAGE AXIS XP 270 WIN with SCOPE			
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HOLY CROSS CHURCH- 98 Main St., Morris NY. Sunday worship at 8:30 am. 607-263-5143. See us at rcda.org/-churches/holycross

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Otsego County Office for the Aging is pleased to be offering five upcoming Tai Chi for Arthritis series.

Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese practice that combines slow movements with deep breathing. Medical studies have shown that Tai Chi can reduce pain and increase flexibility for people with Arthritis as well as prevent falls for older adults.

This twice a week, eight-week course is available to people age 60 and older. There is no cost for the class, but voluntary, confidential contributions are welcome. Upcoming series include:

United Methodist Church located at 113 N. Main Street, Milford, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:00 am beginning September 16th

The Gathering Place 50+ Community Center located at 5506 State Hwy 7, Oneonta, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 – 1:30 pm beginning September 17th

Connections at Clark Sports Center, 124 County Hwy 52, Cooperstown, Mondays and Thursdays from 12:15 – 1:15pm beginning September 22nd

An Advanced Tai Chi series will begin on September 24th, to be held at the Meeting House at Pathfinder Village from 10:30-11:30am. Participants must have already completed the 8-week Basic series.

In addition, a Tai Chi series is being planned for the Morris area based on interest/demand. Dates and location to be determined. Anyone interested is asked to please call Office for the Aging to express interest.

Pre-registration is required and a commitment to a minimum of 11 of the 16 sessions is necessary. Please call the Office for the Aging at (607) 547-4232 to reserve your spot for any of the above classes.

Any community wishing to host Tai Chi for Arthritis classes is welcome to contact Office for the Aging to coordinate future series. ➡

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WHEEL DAYS

MADISON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
BROOKFIELD, NY

EVENTS SCHEDULE 2025

GATE Admission FREE

ALL GRANDSTAND SHOWS:
\$10 ADMISSION / Under 36" FREE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
7 PM: **Gas & Diesel Truck Pulls**
(Grandstand)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
5 PM: **Demolition Derby**
(Grandstand)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
10 AM: **Tractor Pull** (Grandstand)
10 AM: **Just Cruise-In Car Show**
12 PM: **Chicken BBQ**
12 PM: **Daniel Frost, Solo Artist - 80s-90s Country/50s-60s Rock** (Stage)

Get Your Wheels Heading to the Madison County Fairgrounds for "WHEEL DAYS" SEPTEMBER 26th-28th

BOUNCE HOUSES, CRAFTERS, FLEA MARKETS, FOOD & "WHEEL" FUN ALL WEEKEND LONG!

Entertainment lineup and prices are subject to change without prior notice. Although we try to assure accuracy, Madison Fair board cannot be held responsible for typographical or photo errors.

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Sunday Sept. 21 11AM-9PM

PULLS TO START AT 11 AM

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Registration start time is 9:00 am.
Drivers meeting at 10:45 am.

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6,500 Enhanced
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8,500 Wild Street Diesel
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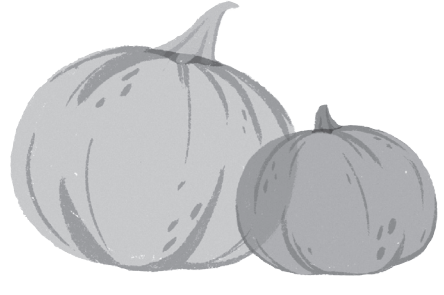
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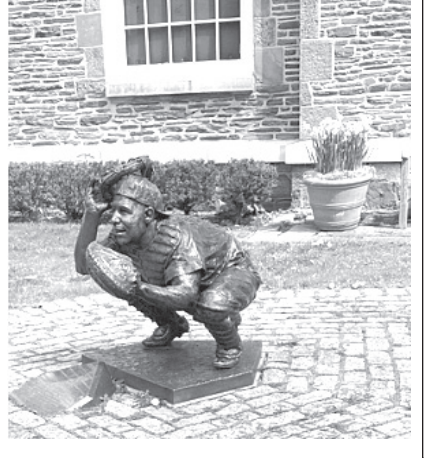
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Impact Project completes handicap ramp at The Place's new Bainbridge location



On August 27, the Impact Project completed building a handicap ramp at The Place's new Teen Center in St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bainbridge. The project was supported by St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, The Impact Project, PD's Handyman Services Central NY, Curtis Lumber Company, Sidney Federal Credit Union, Arrowhead Parable Christian Store, Norwich Tractor, and individuals who contributed time, materials, and funding. (Submitted photo)

BY SARAH GENTER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

BAINBRIDGE — The Place is working on a new Teen Center at 1 Church Street in Bainbridge, within the rectory of the St. Peter's Episcopal Church. On August 27, the Impact Project completed a handicap ramp at the new location to improve accessibility for all Chenango County youth.

"The Teen Center in Bainbridge is an expansion of our EPIC Teen Program designed to provide a safe, welcoming, and engaging space for local youth. It will offer teens a place to connect, learn, and grow outside of school hours—supporting their social, emotional, and developmental needs through structured programming and informal drop-in opportunities," explained The Place Executive Director Sharon Vesely.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Junior Warden Sue Shove said the church had space available in the rectory, that recently has only been used during emergencies such as floods. They are also no stranger to supporting the community; the church often works with the local food pantry and soup kitchen, and provides twice weekly meals through the Area Agency on Aging.

Additionally, the Chenango County Youth

Bureau had been looking to expand youth services in the southern part of the county, making the partnership with The Place an easy decision.

"[There was] a need for youth services in this area," said Shove. "We had Headstart at our church for many, many, many years, and when they moved to the school, just because it was more economical, then we had space and resources to work with that."

"We're excited that it's going to be there, and hope that the teens in the area will take advantage of it," she added.

During the development of the Teen Center, The Place and St. Peter's Episcopal Church applied to the Impact Project for assistance with building the handicap ramp.

Founded in 2004, the Impact Project is an independent non-profit organization that helps low-income families with major home repairs in Chenango and surrounding counties. Some of their common projects include replacing water heaters, repairing or replacing roofs, and installing handicap ramps and bathrooms.

Impact Project Founder and Director Jim Willard said their projects are usually funded through donations and grants, which is only able to be used on homes.

However, he said when The Place's appli-

cation came in, the Board of Directors was excited about the project and wanted to help. They were able to find special funding for the project, and completed construction of the ramp and landscaping in just 36 hours.

Willard said the need for the Impact Project's services has dramatically increased in recent years. The ramp at The Place's Teen Center was their 266th project since the organization's inception, and their 31st completed project this year.

Willard said their ability to complete this many projects is a testament to the support they receive from local businesses and organizations.

"There's so many great people out there. There truly are. And a project like this, and most of our projects are like this, they get done in a day or two or three, and it's just really a credit to those organizations and businesses and people that are volunteering," said Willard. "It's a total credit to all of the organizations and contractors and businesses that we partner with here in Chenango County, because they're the ones that are doing the work ... We can't do it without them."

In addition to contractors with PD's Handyman Services working on the ramp, Sidney Federal Credit Union provided a team of volunteers to



Contractors and volunteers were able to complete the ramp project at The Place's Teen Center in just 36 hours. (Submitted photo)



PD's Handyman Services working on the handicap ramp at the new Teen Center in St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bainbridge. (Submitted photo)

assist with general labor and landscaping, Curtis Lumber helped with materials, and Norwich Tractor donated the assistance of an employee and the use of a skid steer and auger.

Willard said it was an honor to complete such an important project, which he hopes will promote inclusivity for all teens in Chenango County.

"There's going to be a young adult that's physically challenged, whatever that looks like, whether that's in a wheelchair or a walker or whatever that is, and they're going to be able to walk up the sidewalk or in their wheelchair roll up the sidewalk and go up the ramp and partake in a program. It's huge," he said. "You go to a lot of places and there's not handicap accessibility. So you're looking at a young adult that's full of energy and ready to go somewhere, and they can't because there's not handicap accessibility. It's a big deal. That ramp is a very, very big deal."

"It's a little bit of a tear jerker. It's a happy moment," he added. "It's just an honor to be able to contribute in this way."

Vesely said the Teen Center will be open to all teens in Chenango County, and will offer

programs such as life skills workshops, creative arts, recreational activities, leadership development, and community service projects, mentoring, employment readiness support, and themed events that reflect teen interests and needs.

"The goal is to create a space where teens feel empowered, supported, and inspired," said Vesely. "We welcome youth from surrounding communities and hope to build strong regional connections through shared programming and outreach."

"We want families and teens to know that this center belongs to them—it's a space built with their voices and needs in mind. We're excited to grow alongside the youth we serve and invite the community to stay involved, volunteer, and help shape future programming."

Additionally, she said they hope to provide space for organizations in the Bainbridge area that do not have a main location, growing the center into a true Family Resource Center.

She said their goal is to open the center later this fall, with an official opening date to be announced soon.

Vesely thanked St.

Peter's Episcopal Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, The Impact Project, PD's Handyman Services Central NY, Curtis Lumber Company, Sidney Federal Credit Union, Arrowhead Parable Christian Store, Norwich Tractor, and individuals who contributed time, materials, and funding to this project.

"Their generosity reflects the community's commitment to youth empowerment and the accomplishments that can be made through collaboration," she said. "By strengthening youth and families, we strengthen our communities. The Teen Center is more than a building—it's a promise to invest in our young people's potential and to build a more connected, resilient future for Bainbridge and Chenango County."

For more information on The Place, visit ThePlaceNorwich.com or The Place Facebook page.

For more information on The Impact Project, visit ImpactProjectGreene.org or The Impact Project Facebook page.

For more information on St. Peter's Episcopal Church, visit StPetersBainbridge.com.

County considers when to hold public forum for \$35 million building project

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

NORWICH — During the recent Chenango County Board of Supervisors meeting, board members discussed the need for a timely public forum regarding the razing, rebuilding and possible refurbishment of the county office building.

After seven years of discussion, in 2024 a committee was formed to review a proposed \$35 million construction project and the costs involved.

Leaders cite the building's many modern deficiencies, asbestos in the current ceiling construction, uneven stairs, distances to bathrooms and only one elevator at one end of the building. The best solution is to invest long-term say supporters, and construct a new building or seriously refurbish and possibly rebuild part of the current building.

County officials said they have received many messages regarding the project and said they supported the feedback and the the idea for a public forum.

City of Norwich Supervisor Robert Jeffrey said many have asked him about "When" a public forum will take place. He said their voices should be heard and suggested the board consider holding one sooner, rather than later.

"This is affecting my town, my city," he said. "I think it would be good for us to start making a game plan and an action



During the recent Chenango County Board of Supervisors meeting, Smyrna Supervisor Michael Khoury listens to the board as they discuss holding a public forum regarding the razing, rebuilding and possible refurbishment of the county office building. (Photo by Tyler Murphy)

"I think what your situation here is, you want transparency and you want the public to be able to be heard."
- Smyrna Supervisor Michael Khoury

plan to have the forum."

Jeffrey also urged estimates for the building refurbishment be made easily available for public review.

Additional board members gave support and said the public must feel like they have input and there was an obvious need for an open forum to share information about building renovations.

Some board members expressed concern

about a delay in holding a forum until 2026. The discussion will most likely be a presentation of the new building.

Board of Supervisors Chair Jeffrey Blanchard said staffs were deep into budget processes currently, making organizing a forum complicated. He said he wasn't sure there was enough time to create a forum, until the focus on budgets was complete. He noted the board was working hard to stay under the tax cap. He suggested a possibility of a forum in the spring, 2026.

"I just don't see that we should be spending that kind of time on a forum right now," said Blanchard.

He said the county will have a new website soon, set up for questions and answers. He said it will help keep people current with the project.

"I think as we get our website out there, that will help with a lot of where we have been, how we are making decisions," said Blanchard. "It's our intent to have that be as accurate as possible."

He said during the last meeting with the construction manager, the engineers were updating the figures and they were in process of finishing them up. When they come out, it would be one of the things put on the website.

Blanchard is hopeful to have all of the information gathered to make decisions based on recommendations by the Buildings and Grounds and the Building Committee.

"This is the way we think we need to move forward and I threw out 'the spring' just giving ourselves time to do

that. But, I don't necessarily think it will take that long, we get a little bit slow in December, it might be in December, right after the budget," he said.

"One thing I can say though, is the 2026 budget it has no property tax monies going toward this building project," Blanchard added. "So it has no effect on what we do budget-wise this year."

Smyrna Supervisor Michael Khoury also wasn't seeing eye to eye on the process going forward or the website being a satisfying answer to the ongoing public concerns.

"An interactive website is ok. It's good," said Khoury. "But, I think what your situation here is, you want transparency and you want the public to be able to be heard."

He said given those two items, the wait shouldn't be longer than necessary and it would be better for everyone to meet and hear the from the public, as it is the public that will be paying for the building.

"We are spending \$1.75 million for design and have over \$3 million invested in preparing for something we may or may not do," Khoury continued. "When we voted on this, we were told there are off ramps. We can get off of this plank."

"And in order to do that, sometimes you need public input. So in this case, the sooner the better," he added. "The taxpayers are holding the bag on this one."

Blanchard said the money has not been spent yet and those amounts are a total through the entire construction.

He said they can take a different direction at any time and work can be stopped at anytime, allowing for payment of work completed to that point.

Khoury remained determined and said if there is an off-ramp option, they need to hear from the public sooner than later. Additional board members agreed.

The board mentioned various locations with speakers and ample seating and reiterated it's time to hear from the people, including those on the board.

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- The Gathering Place 50+ Community Center** located at 5506 State Hwy 7, Oneonta. Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 – 1:30pm beginning September 17th
- Connections at Clark Sports Center**, 124 County Hwy 52, Cooperstown. Mondays and Thursdays from 12:15 – 1:15pm beginning September 22nd

An Advanced Tai Chi series will begin on September 24th, to be held at the Meeting House at Pathfinder Village from 10:30-11:30am. Participants must have already completed the 8-week Basic series.

In addition, a Tai Chi series is being planned for the Morris area based on interest/demand. Dates and location to be determined. Anyone interested is asked to please call Office for the Aging to express interest.

Pre-registration is required and a commitment to a minimum of 11 of the 16 sessions is necessary. Please call the Office for the Aging at (607) 547-4232 to reserve your spot for any of the above classes. Any community wishing to host Tai Chi for Arthritis classes is welcome to contact Office for the Aging to coordinate future series.

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