



FEBRUARY 26, 2026



Final hearings for the New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) rate case have begun. The companies requested a 35 percent increase, equaling about \$464.4 million, and asked for a return on equity of 10 percent for the rate year, resulting in a \$32 million increase in electric service revenue. (Photo by Cindy Tiley)

Public Service Commission nears decision on NYSEG and RG&E rate increase, hearings underway

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

C H E N A N G O COUNTY — After many months of discovery requests, public hearings, and testimonies, the final hearings for the New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) rate case have begun.

The companies requested a 35 percent increase, equaling about \$464.4 million, and asked for a return on equity of 10 percent for the rate year, resulting in a \$32 million increase in electric service revenue.

The rate request will be determined by the Public Service Commission (PSC) with

the final outcome after four weeks of hearings with parties cross examining each other to ultimately lead to the final decision on delivery rate increases requested by the companies.

City of Norwich Assemblyman Joseph Angelino said the PSC is the same organization that places all types of mandates on power

companies and added, he hopes for change.

“The PSC mandates on power companies is a long list; miles of power line upgrades and vegetation management to increase reliability, paying people for renewable energy credits, connecting solar and wind projects to their grid, storm

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Gilbertsville Fire Department Eagle Fire Engine & Hose Company hold elections and share updates

GILBERTSVILLE - The Gilbertsville Fire Department recently submitted their annual reports and held annual elections.

The fire department responded to a total of 46 tone calls in 2025 and department members logged over 1500 work-hours. The calls consisted of fires, MVA's, trees down, wires down, auto alarms, CO alarms and mutual aid.

Department election results are as follows: Chief, David Robinson; 1st Assistant Chief, Mike Tiffany; 2nd Assistant Chief, Nate Tiffany; Captain, Kyle Short; 1st Lieutenant Joe Card, 2nd Lieutenant George Polyzos; President, Joel Perkosky; Vice President, Dave Haynes; Treasurer, Scot Lueck; Secretary, Dawn Wheeler; Captain of Fire Police, Dawn Wheeler; Chaplain, Reverend Randy Palada. Board of Trustees: Jim Pochy, Jim VanDusen, and Joel Perkosky. Emergency Squad

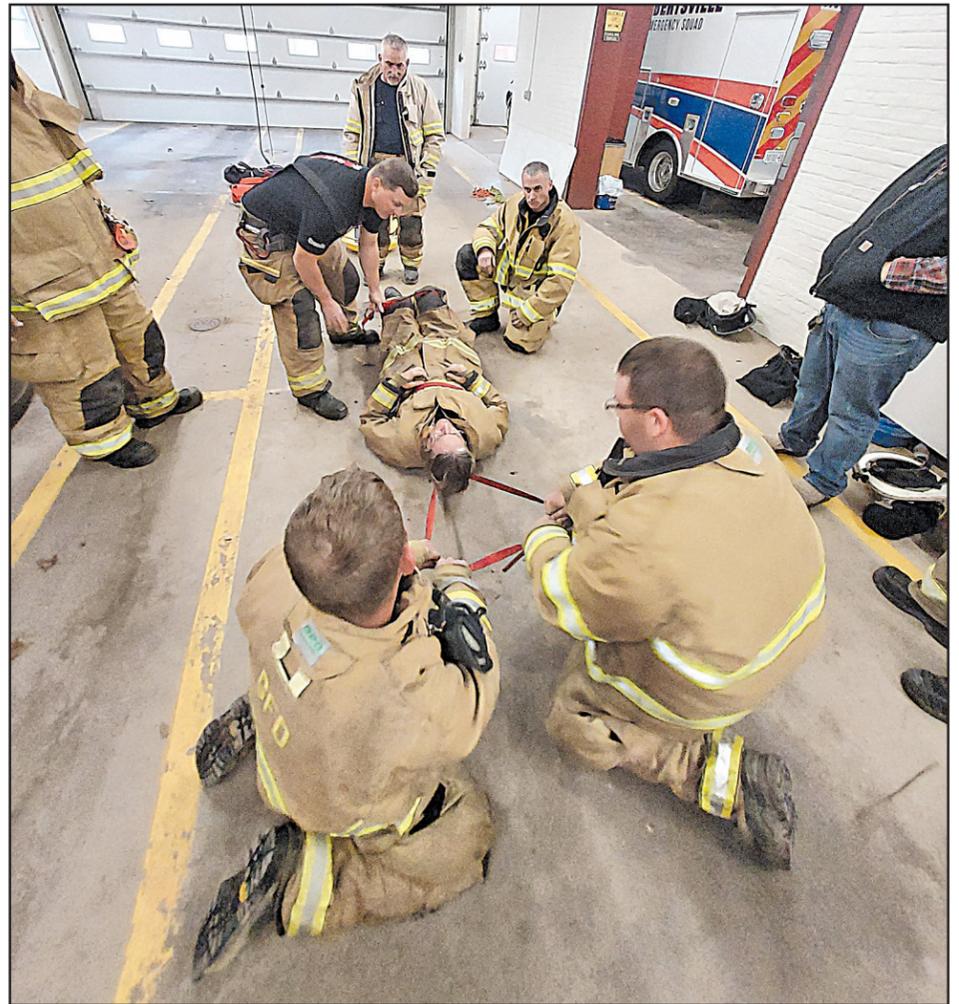


The Gilbertsville Fire Department recently held a training session at the department. The Gilbertsville Fire Department also recently shared yearly reports and held annual elections. (Photos from facebook.com/GilbertsvilleVolunteerFire)

captain Steve Gayle reports that the squad responded to 110 calls in 2025 with a total of 219 work-hours and 1,464 miles. Squad election results are as follows: Captain: Steve Gayle, Lieutenant Training Officer: Joel Perkosky,

Lieutenant Equipment Officer: Scot Lueck, Board of Directors Representative: Steve Gayle, Treasurer: Joel Perkosky, Secretary: Deanna Perkosky.

The Gilbertsville Fire Department and Emergency Squad



would like to thank the community for another year of donations from district residents. These donations are extremely beneficial to assist with maintenance and upgrades of our equipment.

The Eagle Engine and Hose Company is no different from other volunteer fire departments in that it can always use new members. If you are interested in helping your local volunteer fire

department, contact any department member for information or stop by during our weekly Thursday drill night.

- Information from Gilbertsville Fire Dept.

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Open Farm Day, Dairy Day and Legislative Ag Tours combine for one day event

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

CHENANGO COUNTY — Recently, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) held a luncheon to organize for the upcoming Open Farm Day. The event was a success with a few new farmers signing up. Additional meetings throughout the day brought collaborative ideas to intertwine annual agriculture events.

CCE Ag Economic Development Specialist Rich Taber was very thankful for the support and looks forward to a bigger and better Open Farm Day in July.

“Thank you so much to all who participated in our CCE Chenango Open Farm Day luncheon last week,” said Taber. “We accomplished a lot and shared many useful ideas.”

Taber said new farmers have been added to the roster, along with a few of last year’s farm participants and they hope to double the participants from last year, with possibly 10 to 12



During the recent Cornell Cooperative Extension Open Farm Day luncheon, a few additional farmers signed on and collaborative efforts brought ideas for a successful ag day of events to be held July 18, 2026. (Submitted photo)

farms in total.

He explained Open Farm Day is a signature event of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and said their Chenango association is proud to offer farms and the public the opportunity to participate this year on July 18th.

The main objectives of Open Farm Day are to introduce new customers to high-quality products grown in Chenango County and generate

sales for local farms, along with educating the public about agriculture by showcasing local farming enterprises, highlighting local food, responsible animal husbandry, production techniques, and offering farm tours or rides. Further information, addresses and maps to participating farms will be available closer to the event.

“It is our goal to make this event bigger and

better in 2026,” he said.

Taber also thanked Commerce Chenango for hosting the event and providing the lunch for everyone.

Taber noted, in a related development later that afternoon, the Chenango County Dairy Day committee met and decided to hold their annual event on the same day as Open Farm Day, at the Chenango County Fairgrounds. He said that location will

serve as “headquarters” for the Open Farm Day as well.

Adding to the event-filled day, The County Planning Department will hold its annual county legislative agricultural tour, which has always been a separate event.

“The event is designed to showcase Chenango County Ag farms and businesses to as many New York State legislators as possible,” said Taber. “Typically, they stop at three different farms/businesses during the day.”

“With all of these combined efforts, this July 18 event should be a powerful and impactful event for the farms and ag businesses of Chenango County,” Taber said.

“Months of planning and coordinating go into making Open Farm Day a success, so that visitors have an engaging and educational experience while supporting local agriculture,” Taber continued.

“Farm products can be sold to the public, and farms and agro-busi-

nesses are encouraged to market their operations.”

“Some of this year’s farms will again be Berry Brae Farm from out in Pharsalia, the Schmidt’s Dairy and maple farm in Sherburne, and the Chenango County Historical Society,” he said.

Taber encourages other farms and businesses that might be a good fit for the Open Farm Day to participate.

To ensure the success of Open Farm Day, CCE Chenango has developed participation requirements. Please read and consider the policies carefully to determine if participating in Open Farm Day is a good fit for your operation.

The event application deadline is March 31. The application, guidelines and rules can be found at <http://ccechenango.org/events/2025/09/20/open-farm-day>.

For additional information, call 607-334-5841; ext 21, or email, rbt44@cornell.edu.

State mandated building code change has public hearing set for March 9, despite concerns

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

NORWICH — At the recent meeting, county officials stressed concerns over a state required changes to codes and government requirements that could impact local contractors and property owners.

The Chenango County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing for proposed “Local Law No. 1 of 2026: A Local Law Providing for the Administration and

Enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code; The Uniform Code and the State Energy Construction Code; The Energy Code.”

The extensive proposal is filled with streamlined building codes, extra project sign offs, mandated installation of residential sprinkler systems, and more. All buildings, structures, and premises, regardless of occupancy, will be subject to the provisions of this local law.

The Public Hearing will be held at 10:40 a.m., Monday, March 9, in the Supervisors’ Chambers, in the County Office Building, located at 5 Court Street in Norwich.

At the recent county board meeting, county officials stressed concerns over small contractors already struggling to meet codes and government requirements, along with additional obstacles of homeownership.

Chenango County

Board Chairman Jeffrey Blanchard said the strict codes could thwart future projects and believes requirements for specific engineers should be on an individual basis.

Blanchard feels the codes are too stringent, but said they are already written, adding, “There just needs to be a balance.”

“There are certain buildings that may not need an engineer to sign off on some things,” Blanchard said. “If we get codes so strict, it could impede building projects, and that’s not a good thing.”

Public Health Director and Building Inspector Isaiah Sutton noted New York State updates their codes every few years and said it does become law.

Sutton sits on a number of state professional organizations and said he has tried to speak out against the law, making a point that these changes are not ideal for the type of construction and buildings wanted in rural areas.

“My understanding is that we are required to enforce the new code and we cannot adopt our own less stringent standards,” said Sutton.

“This code will apply to every community in New York State that does not have a more stringent code approved,” Sutton continued. “This will become the minimum standard for buildings in every community.”

“To continue to administer code enforcement, we do need to adopt these,” he added.

Guilford Board Supervisor Gilda Ward said the additional code requirements for a second sign off from a licensed engineer or architect, could lead to extra expenses.

“I’m also concerned about the energy code and the required electrification for buildings up to seven stories,” Ward said. “I think it would be devastating to our people and our buildings, I hope we all can stand up against these rules and regulations.”

Smyrna Board Supervisor Michael Khoury presented his concerns addressing a lack of homes throughout the county and additional costs for even small projects to be ineffectual.

Khoury said estimated additional costs for new residential construction can be from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and having a second sign off with an engineering stamp will bring further costs to any small project.

“If you want to incentivize people to fix, renovate, and repair empty homes and buildings, this is counterproductive,” he said.

Khoury encouraged people to send a letter of protest. Letters can be sent to the clerk of the board addressed to the Chenango County Building at 5 Court Street, Norwich, NY, 13815.

To review the proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, visit the county website at Chenangocountyny.gov/459/Board-Meeting-Minutes.

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United Way funds 35 area programs

BY JESSICA BENSON
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

C H E N A N G O COUNTY – In January, the United Way of Mid Rural New York wrapped up a successful 2025 campaign, exceeding their fundraising goal. United Way President and CEO Elizabeth Monaco explained that the organization started the 2025 Campaign with a goal to raise \$562,900. At the conclusion of the campaign, they had raised \$590,543, exceeding the goal by almost \$30,000. “We are so proud of the generosity of our local donors and so pleased that we exceeded our overall goal this year so that we were able to put more money back into our four counties for 2026,” Monaco said.

The United Way of Mid Rural New York serves the counties of Chenango, Madison,

Delaware and Otsego. Donations from each county are totaled up and those dollars stay within the county where they were raised. “Keeping dollars local is what United Way is all about,” Monaco explained.

Prior to 2025, it had been several years since the United Way reached their fundraising goal. The 2026 campaign presented challenges in the community. This year’s campaign was a huge success and Monaco explained she believed this was due in part to the struggles people knew the community was facing. “This is such a huge accomplishment, said Monaco. “Despite the challenges of the economy and inflation, we’ve had several new donors this year and folks gave even more generously than they have in years past. This year’s campaign results



United Way of Mid Rural New York, Inc.

will make a real difference for the families of this community.”

Because of the fall United Way campaign, 21 programs in Chenango County will receive funding in 2026 totaling \$263,485. In Madison County, 12 programs will receive funding totaling \$71,861. In Otsego County, 11 programs will receive funding totaling \$43,666. And in Delaware County, 9 programs will receive funding totaling \$17,713. All these programs are in their second year of a two-year compet-

itive funding cycle at the United Way. Every program that receives United Way funding must be delivering community outcomes in one of the four focus areas. The United Way’s goal is to focus on programs that promote youth opportunities, access to healthcare, community resiliency and financial security. Programs will be able to apply/reapply for funds for the 2027/28 funding cycle beginning this summer.

While the United Way has not yet announced the individual programs

that will be receiving funding in 2026, they have previously funded Chenango County programs that included: Family Planning’s Access to Healthcare program, the YMCA’s Camp Thompson, the Chenango Child Advocacy Center through the Crime Victims Assistance Center, Connection to Care through the Rural Health Network of South Central New York, the American Red Cross’ Disaster Cycle Services, the Prescription Assistance Program through Chenango Health Network, Roots and Wings by Catholic Charities of Chenango County and Youth Philanthropy Council through The Place, among many others. A full list of the programs funded in 2025 can be found at <https://www.uwmrny.org/four-coun->

ty-funded-partners.

Monaco explained that the United Way Programs are scored every six months by a panel of volunteers to be sure agencies are accountable for the results they are delivering in the community.

In addition to the 35 programs receiving support across the United Way of Mid Rural New York’s four-county footprint, coalitions and partnerships like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the 2-1-1 Information and Referral Hotline, the CASH Coalition, the Regional Dental Task Force and the Regional Micro Loan Program also are supported by the United Way’s annual campaign.

A complete list of this year’s programs and funding amounts for each county will be announced in March.

Public Service Commission nears decision on NYSEG and RG&E rate increase, hearings underway -

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hardening, burying lines when possible, and more,” said Angelino.

He said NYSEG has no choice but to comply, and when NYSEG goes to the PSC asking for a rate increase, NYSEG can show how much all of these mandates cost them, with PSC usually approving the rate increase.

“I don’t like the process, and hope the rate increase, if granted, will be lower than requested,” Angelino said.

“But having the PSC making expensive mandates, and also responsible for approving rate increases is a bad combination,” he added.

Angelino spoke on customers shouldering the costs for those that can’t afford to pay.

“Many people don’t know that a portion of their power bill delivery charges also includes a percentage to pay for delivery to other people’s homes who can’t afford to pay their bill,” Angelino continued. “This is a forced charity mandated by the PSC.”

“Again, something that needs to change,” he said. “We are getting to the point where everyone needs help paying

for their electric and gas bill.”

Angelino said he is not a member of the Assembly Energy Committee, and noted those members have precedence over non-committee members but if his work schedule allows, he hopes to go to the hearings.

He also noted there will be elected members in attendance from both political parties.

During a recent press conference, Representative Josh Riley (NY-19) launched the Congressional Lowering Utility Bills Caucus, a group of lawmakers dedicated to finding legislative solutions to the ongoing energy affordability crisis.

He said after speaking with many folks across the state, he found too many working families are challenged with the decision to keep the lights on, pay their mortgage or buy groceries.

Riley said this concern was unacceptable and decided to launch the caucus to provide a forum for members of Congress to work on legislation to take on the utility monopolies and lower customer bills.

NYSEG and RG&E New

York Communications Director Shelby Cohen said a variety of NYSEG employees will testify in panels on various portions of the proposed plan.

“Administrative law judges and staff from the Department of Public Service and parties to the rate case will also participate,” said Cohen.

“Filing periodic rate cases is the normal process for how rates are decided,” she said.

Cohen noted the increases they initially proposed last summer was the first step in an 11-month process that includes negotiations with multiple stakeholders and added, the numbers proposed are subject to change.

She explained this winter heating season has seen unprecedented supply charges from unregulated energy generators at a time when customers are using more energy due to cold temperatures.

“This supply, along with state programs, fees, and taxes, make up about 60 percent of the NYSEG bill,” Cohen added. “The remaining 40 percent is what our rate case will affect.”

Cohen said it’s what funds the lines, substa-

tions, poles, and people that deliver the energy to customers’ homes.

“Supply is a pass-through cost on NYSEG bills, but the market-based price is not controlled by NYSEG, nor does NYSEG mark-up or profit in any way from these charges,” said Cohen.

She said supply prices have doubled since 2020, far outpacing inflation, and are not regulated like NYSEG’s delivery rates are. NYSEG has not raised its rates this winter.

“In extreme cold, like we saw for a prolonged amount of time this winter, customers’ furnaces have to work harder to maintain a comfortable temperature in their homes and hot water heaters work harder, too,” Cohen continued. “When you use more energy at a higher supply rate, bills will reflect that.”

“If customers think they will have trouble paying their bill, we encourage them to call our contact center, as we have a variety of programs and assistance that can help,” she added.

Cohen pointed to their Powering NY plan outlines. She said the

proposal includes infrastructure investments to support economic growth and reliability for Upstate New York energy customers and upgrades to Customer Service systems and processes, while complying with NYS laws and policy mandates, covering legacy costs associated with storm restoration and customer arrears, and modernizing the grid for increased capacity and resiliency.

“With thousands of miles of wire, aging and maxed out substations, and wooden poles over 40 years old throughout their service territory,” Cohen continued, “NYSEG’s plan seeks to modernize aging infrastructure so that customers see improved reliability, efficiency, and resiliency in an era of more extreme weather.”

Cohen said the modernization was begun with the Companies’ 2023 rate plan, but there is more work to be done.

She also said it would cost millions per mile to bury the lines and not to mention digging up customers lawns and driveways in neighborhoods would be disruptive.

Although the public comment hearings

offered remote viewing, administrative law judges banned remote viewing.

In July, 2025, New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) requested a delivery rate increase, just two weeks after responding to a third party audit with 128 recommendations for improved quality service, detailed cost transparency, customer operations, and more.

As of 2024, NYSEG payments in arrears totaled \$103 million with RG&E totaling \$100 million. The company states when account balances remain unpaid, they recoup those costs from all customers.

NYSEG and RG&E are an owned subsidiary of AVANGRID, Inc. AVANGRID is a sustainable energy company that operates as part of the Spanish utility firm Iberdrola, S.A. It serves over 1.1 million electric customers and 271,000 natural gas customers across upstate New York.

For more NYSEG information, visit their website at nyseg.com/support or call 1-800-572-1111.

Commerce Chenango takes step forward to open Early Childhood Education Center

REBECCA LAIBOWITZ
GAZETTE WRITER

NORWICH - In 2025 the City of Norwich was awarded \$1million from a Restore New York Community grant to develop an early learning center in the Commerce Chenango building to be opened in Fall 2026.

Since the initial grant was awarded, the City of Norwich resolved a loan to CCIDA to expand and improve daycare availability to the workers of Chenango County through investment in their property. The initiative is a collaborative effort between the City of Norwich, Commerce Chenango, the Chenango County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA), and youth service organization The Place. The facility is said to be approved for 52 children under the age of 3, and geared toward enhancing early childhood development. Officials are optimistic it will be open this October.

"Having childcare available downtown is a win for business owners, community, employers, and is nothing but positive," said City of Norwich Mayor Robert Jeffrey.

The \$1 million dollar grant was awarded to the city who then entered contracts with the CCIDA. Once the paperwork is completed the CCIDA will then be administered the grant via reimbursements.

As the CCIDA pays bills associated with the project, they will be submit for reimbursement through the available funds. As Chenango County is classified as an "economically challenged county" they are able to apply for reimbursement at 50 percent of the projects completion. The CCIDA has hired Principle Design Engineering in Norwich for designing the child care center and to help manage the project and request for proposals (RFPs).

"We feel very good about being open on October 1st," said Sal Testani President of the CCIDA. "The RFPs went out February 2nd and we'll have a response on the 27. We will be selecting contractors



View of street front of the Commerce Chenango Building at 19 E Main St, Norwich NY, 13815. The Early Childhood Education Center is planned to be developed on the first floor. (Photo by Rebecca Laibowitz)

on March 18 at the IDA meeting."

Major construction is expected to be finished around Sept 1 for the facility to open the following month. A building committee was formed with members of the IDA, City of Norwich, and The Place, who meet monthly to keep the project on track.

The childcare center will be in the same building as Commerce Chenango which is owned by the CCIDA. The Place, a youth service organization who will oversee the running of the center, is receiving in-kind support from all parties involved.

As the CCIDA and chamber of commerce will continue to be responsible for building maintenance and other costs they would pay regardless of the first floor occupants, The Place will not be burdened with certain costs other than those associated with running the center.

This type of in-kind support necessitates collaboration between county, city, private enterprise and non profits, if proven successful here in Norwich it may be replicated in other nearby communities when other partners are found.

"From the IDA's perspective, we chose to partner with the Place based on their knowledge and expertise to run the child care facility. The IDA doesn't expect to have governance over how the care center is run," said Testani. The

mayor, Jeffrey, further highlighted how, "The Place is a logical choice, they are already in tune with what the youth of our community need," he said.

Barriers to employment and improved offerings

"Right now, in Chenango County, if you wanted to work here and find childcare for your infant or toddler there is no full time provider in the county," said Testani.

His sentiment was echoed by the mayor who said, "This is a gigantic leg up because regionally childcare has been a challenge, not just in rural areas like Chenango but even nearby metropolitan areas like Syracuse. Having reliable childcare is a necessity, it also allows for reactivation of another side of the workforce. Instead of having a parent stay home, they're able to generate additional household income".

"It's going to support all employers in Chenango County, not just downtown," said Jeffrey when asked about how the center would support downtown employers.

"A big thing is job retention in our area, because now you're not worried about losing job talent to go take care of children, certainly there are people that choose to do that, but for those that want to continue their career and need childcare having it here is tremendous for job retention for our

employers," he said.

Having reliable access to childcare nearby is an advantage to working parents and their employers. It may also serve as deciding factor for young families seeking to move to and/or seek work in a particular area. This early childhood education center, specifically for children ages 0-3 will provide the necessary support to new parents and young families at critical points in their careers and child's life strengthening the community in multiple aspects.

"The ability to have a childcare center is a tremendous advantage to our community and county. It makes our area a much more attractive place to live and raise a family," said Jeffrey.

"This [childcare center] will provide a recruiting tool for our employers like NBT and Unison. In addition it provides the children of our county with an educational advantage as they enter into the school system so it will pay long term dividends," said Testani. "Being able to offer this to young families who want to stay and/or relocate here provides us with a competitive advantage."

This project is one of several initiatives to revitalize Norwich and a prime example of New York State recognizing and contributing to the progress being made in Chenango County.

"It's just another instance of the state recognizing the progress

and momentum that we have here in Chenango County," said Testani. "the state believes in another effort to help Chenango on the path to revitalization."

Licensing and certifications required

The Place's involvement in the center stems from their partnership with Commerce Chenango, and the City of Norwich.

"This collaboration between The Place, Commerce Chenango, the IDA, and the City of Norwich is a testament to the collaborative nature of our community, coming together help our community grow stronger," said Sharon Vesely, Executive Director of The Place.

The Place is in the process of attaining all licensing and certifications required for the facility and have not encountered any hurdles on their end up to this point.

"The Place has a long standing positive working relationship with our licensing agency, the Office of Children and Family Services, local Department of Social Services, and local public health offices," said Vesely who expressed that the licensing would not be challenging to attain.

The early childhood education facility will be licensed for 52 children under the age of 3. Plans for the early childhood education center include a gross motor activity room, outdoor play area, with various teacher and child led activities for appropriate stages of development.

"Our area is a childcare desert, meaning there is more children in need of care than spots available. This space for 52 children is just a drop," adding that "home daycare providers work hard to fill this gap but more help is needed for our community's youngest members," Vesely explained.

To care for this number of children and run the facility appropriately 12-17 staff members are needed. The Place will be partnering with local community organizations to fill these staffing needs, such as DCMO Boces and SUNY Morrisville. The Place

is actively looking to recruit a director for the facility.

"To fill leadership positions, these individuals need to meet licensing requirements," said Vesely.

Adding that acceptable candidates might possess an associates or bachelors degree in childhood development or related field, early childhood education certifications, and years of experience supervising a classroom.

When asked if the target to open this fall is achievable Vesely said, "Optimistically the facility will open in fall 2026, definitely by the end of 2026, there are a lot of moving parts to renovating a building for an early childhood education facility, getting approved and licensed."

What the future holds

"Imagine 50 kids walking around in the middle of downtown, 50 parents dropping them off there in the morning, and picking them up in the afternoon. Its the type of thing you would expect to see in a vibrant healthy community," said Testani, president of the CCIDA.

This effort to open an early childhood education center appears to be on track in all possible ways. The in-kind partnership between the CCIDA, Commerce Chenango, and The Place has been mutually beneficial with all parties optimistic about a fall opening. The CCIDA will be reviewing construction bids in the next month and The Place will secure all licensing and staff for the center through their connections.

This project is made possible by the \$1million Restore NY Communities grant, but it is the collaboration of these dedicated organizations that are making the early childhood education center a reality for the community. More updates to come as construction begins.

"This has been a major initiative of ours since I started here three years ago. This truly will provide our children with the same advantages that they have in major cities, so I'm excited," said Testani.

The Early Files *by Peggy Finnegan*

WEEK #9

THIRTY YEARS AGO

February 29, 1996

Sunday was a quiet day. The wind was howling and the weather nasty and cold.

Judge rules in favor of the Dell'olios in lawsuit

These rural transit busses paid for with similar "free money" are the reason gasoline prices are so high. Rene Elliott

FORTY YEARS AGO

February 26, 1986

And still it snows. Temperature 20 degrees. The home of Harold Stone in Holmesville burned. Heavy smoke closed Route 8 for nearly eight hours.

Chris Belden celebrated his third birthday with a party at McDonalds.

Hawley A. Bagg ran Riverbend Golf Course as well as the Bagg Dairy milk route, The Laundry Bagg laundromat and a backhoe and septic business.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

February 25, 1976

Signs of spring: maple trees are being tapped and geese are heading north.

One of the worst tragedies to strike our community was the auto accident that took the lives of Harry Bolek, Allen Lindsay and Donald Lawrence. John Jackson is in intensive care at CMH.

Ray Barber saw a woodchuck on the Bevans farm.

It is impossible to legislate good hunting ethics. It is up to the sportsmen themselves to clean up the rotten apples who cause the problems.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 4, 1966

Several inches of snow blanket the countryside. The deep fall of Jan. 30 vanished during the big thaw.

The house on the Kellogg property on lower Lake street was burned by the fire department. Dr. F.D. Brown plans to build there in the spring.

New York spends \$869 per pupil, highest in the nation. [\$33,347 per pupil in 2026, still the highest].

The last Red Astrachen apple tree fell in the Camp orchard during the storm.

The owner of an animal act booked at ECS died of poisoning from the heater in his van. Two of his dogs also died.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

March 2, 1956

Dry roads are safer. Dry drivers are the safest.

Ella Bell found an egg that measures 8-1/2" in diameter, 9-1/2" long that weighs half a pound.

Mrs. Philo Hunt is ill with a severe attack of sinus.

Howard Davis, who has been ill with pneumonia, is better. Deland George and Bill Mayne are helping with chores.

During the wind storm, half the roof of the barn and silo on the Harry Gott farm were destroyed.

Nails were so precious that they were used as money by colonists.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO

February 27, 1946

Farmers anticipate a short maple season, as frost is not far enough

into the ground to assure a long run.

A telephone was installed in the home of Philo Hunt.

A new and powerful weapon against mastitis has been found in the much-publicized drug, penicillin.

FOR SALE: The house on the James Hazard lot on Jaquith Ave. Am cutting off front three rooms, will sell to anyone who will move it before May 15.

NINETY YEARS AGO

February 26, 1936

The stork visited the home of Chris Sorenson, found the house on fire, and waited until Mrs. Sorenson was moved to a neighbor's house before delivering a 7-1/2 lb. boy.

Found guilty of robbery, Joseph Young and Charles Maddock, both 19, were sentenced to Elmira reformatory.

A newborn woodchuck is the size of a man's thumb.

V.T. Foster and Clinton Button helped Clarence Cronk shovel out to the road so he could get through with the milk truck. The new road cuts off two houses, and the distance is not far, but is big in drifts.

Women own 65% of the nation's savings, 40% of real estate, and 80% of life insurance policies. Men must recognize this and see that their daughters receive educations along financial lines.

HUNDRED YEARS AGO

February 26, 1926

Again the death angel has entered our midst and taken a neighbor

as Ann Atherton Tryon died in the same room of the old homestead in which she was born.

Teachers and scholars are enjoying a month's vacation.

Delevan Phillips is very low.

Uncle Ab says plant a barn for your grandson. Two acres of white pine set now will build a fine barn in 50 years.

Don't judge a man by his clothing, the most expensive collar sometimes adorns a worthless dog.

An old-fashioned dance will be held in the opera house to benefit the library.

Ford prices have again been cut. They'll soon be so cheap a thief won't steal one unless the tank is full of gas.

Anyone passing Hyde Park will notice a stir in and about the old house. Camp Fire Girls, with eager and important faces, may be seen moving about as they work to make it a place for meetings and club activities.

Nowadays the up-to-date farmer raises his own feedstuffs and foodstuffs. It's the Fordstuffs

that have strapped him.

WANTED A HOME: A nice shepherd dog wearing a 1926 license.

110 YEARS AGO

February 25, 1916

Boston women strenuously object to a proposed bill to limit women's licenses to the driving of 30 HP automobiles. Perhaps these antis may find convincing evidence that women are "people" and need individual representation.

Jay Sholes is one of the sick. Dr. Hammond attends him.

An excess of smoke in the hotel kitchen [West Ed] led to an investigation of the cause, and it was discovered that a mouse nest built against the stove pipe had ignited, doing considerable damage to the second story floor.

Will and Albert Spafford were in Morris, returning home in that 19th blizzard.

Linn Wilson will work on the Borden Farm for another year and live in one of the tenant houses.

Having subdued one uncalled for fright over

the itch, which threatened to get us but which we didn't get, Mrs. Rogers reopened school.

Mrs. Harriet Johnson is in very poor health and mostly confined to the bed. Mrs. Eardley Johnson has been quite sick with shingles in her face and eyes. Mrs. E.A. Mumbalo is caring for them.

Mrs. LouElla Collier is sewing this week for Mrs. Frank Sutton.

The So. Edmeston whistle was plainly heard on Pittsfield hills at 3 a.m. and the reflection of the fire showed over the hills for many miles.

The Leap Year party given by the girls at the opera house was well attended and very pleasant, besides being a success financially. The young ladies allowed none of the gentlemen present to become wall-flowers.

We have decided to contribute ten purebred Holsteins to the dispersal sale of the Backus herd in Dakin's. C.L. Banks & Son

2026 Future Educator Scholarship available from Retired Educators of New York Chenango

CHENANGO COUNTY - Retired Educators New York (RENY) Chenango announces that a \$1,000 Future Public Educator Scholarship opportunity is now available. Contact

your high school administrator, school counselor, or email maryann.luciano@gmail.org for the application instructions and rubric used to grade the applications. Applications are due by

email on April 17, 2026 to be announced the first week of May, Teacher Appreciation Week.

— Information from
Mary Ann Luciano
Ed.D., RENY Chenango
President

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Support New York 'Give FFA Day,' during National FFA Week February 21 to 28

BY KELLI MILLER
GAZETTE STAFF WRITER

C H E N A N G O COUNTY – Recently, the Chenango County Board of Supervisors proclaimed February 21 through 28, as National Future Farmers of America (FFA) week and supporters of agricultural education across the country are invited to join the 11th annual Give FFA Day on February 26, 2026.

The 24 hour national campaign, held in conjunction with National FFA Week encourages donors to direct their gifts to the FFA state of their choice, ensuring that contributions directly benefit local members.

During the board meeting, recognition was given to the agricultural education in support of creating a strong foundation for youth of America and the future of food, fiber, and natural resources.

The proclamation noted their motto "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve" gives direction and purpose to students for success in the agricultural education.

New York FFA membership now exceeds 13,500 students and the need for strong financial support has never been greater. Give FFA Day provides an opportunity for New York to join with other state associations nationwide in rallying support for agricultural education.

"On Give FFA Day, every FFA association and foundation in the country stands unit-



Recently, Chenango County students enjoyed lunch at the District 4 FFA contests in Unadilla. February 21 through 28 is National Future Farmers of America (FFA) week and supporters of agricultural education across the country are invited to join the 11th annual Give FFA Day on February 26, 2026. (Submitted Photo)

ed, proclaiming, "If you believe in the power of FFA, if you were an FFA member, if you value FFA norms and traditions, then make a gift today to celebrate FFA nationwide," said Todd Lighthall, Executive Director of the New York FFA Leadership Training Foundation.

Make a gift to New York FFA on February 26, 2026 at: giveffaday.ffa.org/campaigns/new-york-ffa

Checks may also be mailed to: NY FFA Foundation 9340 Long Pond Rd Croghan, NY 13327.

"It's not the size of the gift that matters, it's the act of giving," said Lighthall. "The act says to every current FFA member, 'I am still showing up for FFA and the future of agriculture in my state' and he added, "I Hope you will."

Otselic Valley FFA President Skyler Graham said their chapter has met with community and state representatives to put what they've

learned into practice.

"Today FFA not only emphasizes agriculture, but also teaches leadership, responsibility, and competence," said Graham.

He said skills extend far beyond the classroom.

"Through competitions and events, students gain experience in public speaking, interviews, and communication," Graham said.

"FFA week is not only important to remind the public about the importance of farming, but also to show appreciation for this industry," he added. "So, we would like to thank you for having FFA week."

Otselic Valley FFA Media Manager Macenzie Clemens said they have two fundraiser pancake breakfasts in March and also noted she and Skyler will be advancing to sub-state on March 14, for extemporaneous speaking and going to the State Convention in May.

Amber Thibodeau,

Volunteer Chair of the New York FFA Campaign, noted the rapid growth of the initiative and said New York successfully launched its first major Give FFA Day campaign in 2023 and witnessed the power of networking through a social media campaign.

"Facebook and Instagram helped us reconnect with alumni and reach a broader audience of support-

ers," said Thibodeau. "In 2025, supporters contributed \$143,000 to New York FFA members, ranking first among all state associations in both donors and dollars raised."

She said the 2026 campaign is poised to become the most impactful Give FFA Day in New York's history with eight generous donors pledging \$64,000 in matching funds to recognize

the campaign's potential and help expand opportunities for FFA members.

The New York FFA Foundation extends its gratitude to the 2026 matching donors: Art Berkey; Ric & Karen Coombe; Don & Janet Jenny; Sam Shapiro; Richard & Joyce Church; Spencer & Judy Gridley; Lowell Sanders; and Dr. David Kohl.

The New York FFA Leadership Training Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to securing sustainable, long-term funding to prepare FFA members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

The Foundation engages alumni, donors, and sponsors throughout the year to strengthen opportunities for New York's FFA members.

Learn more at www.nyffafoundation.org.

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B-G girls fall short to Delhi in final minutes of MAC Championship game

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

GREENE— The Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats squared off against a tough Delhi Bulldogs team in the 2026 MAC girls' basketball championship game, played at Greene High School on Saturday afternoon. Delhi went on a 9-0 run to start the fourth quarter, after B-G's Emma Kinter tied the game at 29 at the end of the third quarter with a three.

The Bulldogs won its

first MAC championship game with a close 43-38 victory, where they outscored B-G 14-9 in the fourth quarter. B-G's only two losses on the season come from Delhi.

Delhi girls and boys swept the MAC championship game victories.

Jayslin Henderson led the Bobcats with 13 points, putting up six of those 13 in the final eight minutes of the game. She also finished with seven rebounds.

Emma Kinter, who hit a big three to tie the game at the end of the

third quarter, finished with nine points all in the third quarter. She also went three-for-four at the free-throw line.

Marissa Mayo added six points and had a team-high 12 rebounds as Kamry Patten hit a crucial three in the fourth quarter and finished with four points, along with Tori Suda.

Peyton Umbra finished with two points in the loss.

B-G heads to Sectionals, where the Bobcats host Greene on Tuesday at 6 p.m.



B-G's Emma Kinter tries to get past the Delhi defender in the second half of the MAC Championship game. Kinter hit a big three at the buzzer to tie the game at 29 all at the end of the third quarter. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



Congratulations to the 2025-26 MAC girls' basketball league first team all-stars. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)



Congratulations to the 2025-26 MAC girls' basketball league second team all-stars. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

The MAC girls' basketball 2025-26 all-stars

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

GREENE— At halftime of the Delhi-Unatego/Franklin boys' MAC Championship game, the 2025-26 MAC league

girls' basketball all-stars were announced. Congratulations to all players and coaches on a great season.

MVP:

Nayla Miley (Sidney)

1st Team:

Grace Walley (W/D)

Danielle Ennist (Delhi)

Tyler Abts (Delhi)

Lexi Davis (Delhi)

Marissa Mayo (B-G)

Jayslin Henderson (B-G)

Paige Rickard (Oxford)

Raelynn Parks (Unatego)

2nd Team:

Chloe van der Sommen (Sidney)

Bella Conroy (Sidney)

Harly Birdsall (Unatego)

Kennedy Williams (W/D)

Emma Kinter (B-G)

Mia Yahner (Greene)

Hailey Butler (Greene)

Honorable Mention:

Olivia Esolen (Deposit-Hancock)

Adriana Hartman (Harpersville)

Myriah Taylor (UV)

Rylee Rupakus (Afton)

Coach of the Year:

Todd Bruce (Delhi)

Sportsmanship:

Unadilla Valley



Congratulations to the 2025-26 MAC boys' basketball league All-stars with the first team in the front row and second team and honorable mention in the back. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

The MAC boys' basketball 2025-26 all-stars

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

GREENE— At halftime of the Delhi/Bainbridge-Guilford girls' MAC Championship game, the 2025-26 MAC league boys' basketball all-stars were announced. Congratulations to all players and coaches on a great season.

MVP:

Xander Johnson (Unatego/Franklin)

1st Team:

Jayden Deleon (Harpersville/Afton)

Benny Schabel (Delhi)

Lucas Nealis (Delhi)

Teddy Kelsh (Delhi)

Micah Simmons (Deposit-Hancock)

Gordon Smith (Oxford)

2nd Team:

Tyler Reed (W/D)

London Gardner (W/D)

Grady Loeffler (Sidney)

Brock Birdsall (U/F)

Nic Dodzweit (Oxford)

Denzel Peter (UV)

Jacoby Mapes (D-H)

Honorable Mention:

Aidan Haynes (B-G)

Colin Dailey (B-G)

Ethan Hall (W/D)

Keegan Waltz (Greene)

Eli Eggleston (Greene)

Richard Hunter (Oxford)

Rashad Kiel (U/F)

Jack Langstaff (Sidney)

Coach of the Year:

Travis Woods (U/F)

Sportsmanship:

Greene

Local athletes heat up the Track at Section IV Winter State Qualifiers

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

ITHACA— The Section IV Winter Track State Qualifiers meet was held at Ithaca College on Friday afternoon, where following the meet, several local athletes advanced to states. Congratulations to Norwich's Kaden Downey on becoming a Section IV champion in the weight throw. Congratulations to Oxford-Greene's Keegan Waltz on becoming a Section IV champion in the boys' 300 meter dash.

Full results can be found on NY.milesplit.com.

BGAH:

Girls' Track:

Eighth grader Madisyn Larsen qualified for the Section IV intersectional relay team in the 600 meter run with a third place finish with a time of 1:46.69. Jenna Wilson finished 15th in the same event with a time of 1:57.76.

Larsen, Maddie Ingham, Isabel Suda, and Laila Williams advance to states after a third place finish in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 4:24.22.

Kathleen Charette, Brenna George, Emma Snow, Appalonia Bushaw came in 12th in the girls' 4x200 meter relay with a time of 2:02.93.

Madi Beardslee, Macey LaFever, Jenna Wilson, and Sophia Suda finished 13th in the girls' 4x800 meter relay with a time of 13:11.34.

Maddie Ingham came in sixth place in the 1000 meter run with a time of 3:16.74 as Tabitha Charette finished seventh in the 1500 meter Race Walk with a time

of 9:22.18 with teammate Solara Spinella in ninth (10:24.12). Brenna George finished 23rd in the 55 meter dash with a time of 8.12 seconds.

Girls' Fielding:

Appalonia Bushaw heads to states as she finished second in the girls' long jump with a jump of 17 feet, one and 3/4 inches as Kathleen Charette came in 12th with a jump of 13 feet, 11 and a half inches.

Bushaw also took fifth in the high jump, where she cleared four feet, 11 inches.

Marissa Mayo finished sixth in the girls' shot put, where she threw for 30 feet, six and a quarter inches as Tori Suda followed with a seventh place finish with a throw of 30 feet, four and a half inches.

Abbagayle Fitzgerald came in 12th place with a throw of 26 feet, five and a half inches.

Suda finished sixth in the weight throw with a throw of 31 feet, two and 3/4 inches with Emilie Hopkins in 14th place with a throw of 18 feet, three inches.

Brooklenn Hall finished 14th in the girls' triple jump with a jump of 28 feet, 11 and 3/4 inches.

Boys' Track:

Harpo Hardt took second in the 55 meter hurdles with a time of 7.79 seconds to advance to States.

Owen Degan, Sean Fowler, Ethan Beardslee, and Jackari Garipoli narrowly missed advancing to states but crushed their previous school record by 14 seconds with a fifth place finish in the 4x800 meter relay with a time of 8:43.24.

Davis Barnard, Marcus Chavis, Keegan Milk, and Rj Dalmida finished



The Bainbridge-Guilford/Afton/Harpursville indoor track team had seven athletes qualify for States! Back row: Appalonia Bushaw, Harpo Hardt, Isaiah Hampton. Front row: Madisyn Larsen, Isabel Suda, Maddie Ingham, and Laila Williams. (Photo from Coach Mayo)

in 13th place in the boys' 4x200 meter relay with a time of 1:47.83.

Rowan Beasinger finished 15th in the 3200 meter run with a time of 11:32.36.

Boys' Fielding:

Isaiah Hampton advances to States after a third place finish in the high jump, where he cleared six feet.

Hampton also qualified for States in the long jump, also finishing third. He jumped 21 feet, six and 3/4 inches.

Harpo Hardt came in fourth place in the triple jump with a jump of 42 feet, two and a half inches.

Ryan Larsen finished 11th in the boys' shot put with a throw of 40 feet, five inches.

Larsen also came in 11th place in the weight throw with a throw of 42 feet, two and a quarter inches.

UV:



Congratulations to Norwich's Kaden Downey on becoming a 2026 Section IV Winter Track Weight Throw Champion. (Submitted photo)

Sophia Bell finished 12th in the 55 meter hurdles with a time of 10.23 seconds as Andrea Favinger came in 14th in the 1500 meter run with a time of 5:32.33.

Girls' Track:

Margaret Kemnah, Madison Dix, Molly Gorrell, and Natalya Schrag earned one point for sixth place in the 4x800 meter relay with a time of 11:06.81.

Noelle Fernandez-Naughton, Madison Dix, Molly Gorrell, and Natalya Schrag also came in sixth in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 4:33.01.

Madison Anderson, Meadow Bert, Cheyenne McMahon, and Sophia Bell finished 14th in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 2:09.49.

Schrag and Kemnah both ran the 1000 meters, where Schrag earned a 10th place finish with a time of 3:25.72 and Kemnah came in 17th place with a time of 3:37.78.

Madison Dix competed in the 600 meter run, where she finished 11th with a time of 1:54.40.

1500, where she finished in 15th place with a time of 5:39.29.

Ava Cirigliano took sixth in the 300 meter dash with a time of 43.71 seconds.

Girls' Fielding:

Malea Sutton finished ninth in the pole vault, where she cleared six feet, six inches.

Reagan Decker competed in all three jumps, where she earned a 10th place finish in the high jump, clearing four feet, five inches. She finished eighth in the long jump with a jump of 14 feet, eight and 3/4 inches.

Decker finished 15th in the triple jump with a jump of 28 feet, nine and half inches with Tristan Monroe behind her in 16th place with a jump of 28 feet, one inch.

Boys' Track:

Cameron Carnachan, Malik Eccleston, Connor Marshall, and Nic Sutton led the Norwich boys with a sixth place finish in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 1:42.13.

Nic Sutton came away with an eighth place finish in the 1000 meter run with a time of 2:46.90 as Connor Marshall finished eighth in the 55 meter hurdles with a time of 8.78 seconds.

Boys' Fielding:

Kaden Downey became a Section IV Winter Track Weight Throw Champion! Downey finished with a top throw of 64 feet, eight and a half inches. Liam White came in ninth place with a throw of 45 feet, two and 3/4 inches.

Connor Marshall finished 11th in the boys' high jump, where he cleared five feet, six inches.

Great job, everyone and best of luck to those who advance to States!

S-E girls fall to Cazenovia in first round of Sectionals

BY MORGAN GOLLIVER
GAZETTE SPORTS EDITOR

CAZENOVIA— The Sherburne-Earlville Timberwolves girls' basketball team traveled to Cazenovia on Thursday night as the 13th seed in the Section III, Class B tournament.

S-E fell 58-25 to the fourth seeded Lakers.

Morgan Mikalunas led the Timberwolves with 18 points in the loss.

S-E finished the 2025-26 season with an 11-10 record. Best of luck to senior Savanna Hook.



The Sherburne-Earlville Timberwolves girls' basketball team traveled to take on Cazenovia in the first round of sectionals on Thursday night. S-E fell 58-25. The Lady Timberwolves finished the 2025-26 season with an 11-10 record. (Photo by Morgan Golliver)

Unatego Central School celebrates career exploration and leadership during FBLA week

UNATEGO - Unatego Central School celebrated FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Week, a five-day celebration focused on career exploration, leadership development, community service, and school spirit.

The week provided students with meaningful opportunities to connect with professionals across a variety of industries while engaging in activities designed to foster teamwork and leadership.

The week began with Medical Monday, featuring guest speaker Connie Remillard, RN, who shared insights into the nursing profession, career pathways in healthcare, and the skills necessary for success in the field. She was introduced by her son, Unatego FBLA chapter member Tyler Zachow, who also spoke about his experience serving as a Resident Assistant. In conjunction with



The week concluded with Future Leaders Friday, featuring entrepreneur Graham Wooden, Director of By Any Means NY and Strength and Conditioning Coach for women's basketball at SUNY Oneonta. (Submitted photo)

Medical Monday, FBLA members organized a Red Cross Blood Drive. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the drive will impact more than 63 patients. Students also engaged in a basketball foul-shooting competition during lunch.

Culinary Tuesday welcomed Chef LeMarr Clarke, who spoke about his journey in the culinary industry and the perseverance required to build a successful career.

Students were treated to chips and salsa generously provided by local business owner Mike Gavin of Macho Tacos, with service coordinated by DCMO BOCES Human & Retail students. The day also featured spirited lunchtime competitions, including dodgeball.

On Newsflash Wednesday, Valerie Alder, Publisher of The Daily Star, and Lauren Takores, Assistant

Editor, shared their experiences in journalism and discussed the evolving media landscape, including the importance of credibility in an era of misinformation. Students gained valuable insight into careers in communications and media literacy. Students also had competitive volleyball games during lunch.

Thankful Thursday focused on public service and first responders. Unadilla Fire Chief Tyler Post spoke about the volunteer fire service pathway and his primary career in the telecommunications industry as Regional Manager for Charter Communications.

Students also heard from high school volunteers currently serving in the fire department. Lunchtime activities included a "Fireman's Hot Shot" relay race, where students competed while wearing turnout gear, adding both humor and hands-on appreciation for the demands of the profession.

The week concluded with Future Leaders Friday, featuring entrepreneur Graham Wooden, Director of By Any Means NY and Strength and Conditioning Coach for women's basketball at SUNY Oneonta. Wooden shared his career journey, discussed the realities of business own-

ership, and encouraged students to focus on purpose, curiosity, and relationships as pillars of success.

Throughout the week, students participated in class competitions that built school spirit, including basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, relay races, a Rock-Paper-Scissors tournament, entrepreneurial-themed challenge "Rolling in the Dough," and a culminating Pep Rally, which featured a Quiz Bowl highlighting career knowledge gained throughout the week, minute-to-win-it games, and a hula hoop championship. Members of the Unatego FBLA chapter and their advisor, business teacher Terri Jackson, organized and led the week's activities.

FBLA Week at Unatego successfully showcased the importance of leadership, service, career readiness, and community partnerships. The event brought together students, faculty, local professionals, and community members in a shared effort to inspire the next generation of leaders.

- Information from the Unatego Central School

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The DCMO BOCES Harrold Campus SkillsUSA Chapter hosts "Stuff-A-Bear" event

NORWICH - The DCMO BOCES Harrold Campus SkillsUSA Chapter held a "Stuff-A-Bear" event last week. Chapter officers decided to donate some of the stuffed animals made to the Trinity O'Connor Foundation, which in turn donates them to the Ronald McDonald House. DCMO BOCES employee Dan O'Connor's daughter Trinity passed away from childhood cancer, and her family set up the foundation to build awareness and offer support for children and families battling cancer. SkillsUSA PM Chapter President Pierce Haney (Unatego CSD) and AM Chapter President Lily Tracy (Sidney CSD) are pictured with Dan O'Connor and some of the donated animals. (Photo from DCMO BOCES)

Outdoor Chenango: The Outdoors Spark



Eric Davis

Outdoor Chenango

Just over two years ago, I was a few minutes early to a seminar about R3 and Outreach at the NWTf convention in Nashville when I picked a seat and sat down. As more people started to come in and pick seats, a gentleman in a US Forest Service uniform sat down two seats away.

I looked over, he read my name badge and asked where in New York I lived. I first asked if he knew much about upstate and where things were, before explaining

where Chenango County is. Then I followed up with the fact that I grew up in by Watkins Glen and I fished with my grandfather for trout that were stocked in the ponds on the Finger Lakes National Forest, the only national forest in NY, when I was young. It sparked a conversation with him as he was from South Carolina and was familiar with stocking catfish in ponds in the south on national forests and only knew that they would stock trout in northern ponds where trout could survive.

We kept talking and I brought up that the NYS Chapter of NWTf has spent a good amount of our Superfund habitat money on projects on the Finger Lakes National Forest since I became a board member in 2016.

As the seminar began, they welcomed the first speaker of the day, the

US Forest Service biologist sitting to my left. As he went through his presentation on how NWTf chapters can partner with the Forest Service to hold events, he brought up the conversation we had just had and used me as an example when it came to doing a fishing event. It was unexpected to be used in the presentation as an example, but it got me to reminisce about those times I went fishing with my grandfather at the national forest as well as many other instances.

One vivid memory from fishing at the national forest was the year my cousin Lauren joined us. We walked to the pond from the parking area and got our lines in the water. We were fishing with Powerbait dough on a hook below a bobber. Lauren and I decided we were hungry and started to snack on the Salt and Vinegar

chips our grandfather had brought with us. As we sat there munching away, our grandfather asked us, "Hey, where's your bobbers?" We looked out and realized fish were on both of our lines. So, we quickly put the chips aside and reeled in our fish. We kept fishing and caught our limit of trout. I have a picture of me sitting in my grandpa's kitchen with a pile of trout on newspaper on the kitchen table.

As for fishing at other places, my grandfather had a boat that he kept parked in our yard because we lived closer to the lake. This made it so that he didn't have to drive with it trailered to his SUV for as far. So, I would go out on the boat with him almost every Saturday in the summer. Usually we trolled, but one week the guys at the bait shop said lake trout were up shallow and guys were catch-

ing them on live sawbellies (alewives). So, my grandfather bought some sawbellies before we hit the lake. My dad was not a fisherman, but he enjoyed driving the boat and he was with us that day.

We headed out and anchored the boat near Hector Falls. My grandfather rigged up a sawbelly on an English double hook on my rod before letting my send it overboard. After a while, I got a bite, and it was a big one! I fought the fish for a few minutes and as it was getting closer to the surface my grandfather told my dad to grab the net. As the fish was only a few feet down, my line broke and we all sulked in disappointment at losing the fish.

My dad turned around and began walking the net to the back of the boat when my grandfather exclaimed, "Mike, come

here quick! It's right here!" My dad whipped around and quickly scooped up an exhausted lake trout from beside the boat. The fish was tired from the fight and was just floating there after the line broke. When we pulled the fish from the net, the sawbelly was hooked perfectly in its mouth with a couple feet of line still attached. That lake trout was my personal best at that point and might still be. When we were done fishing, we stopped at the bait shop to show off my catch. The owner came out to the parking lot with a Polaroid camera, took my picture, and then hung it on the corkboard inside the door with the other recent trophies.

My grandfather passed away in January 2018. While he's gone, I will always remember those fishing trips we took and how he sparked my love for the outdoors.

Discover the history of the Masonville Branch Library

DELAWARE COUNTY - Did you know that there is a special place in the gently rolling hills of Delaware County just waiting to be discovered. Did you know that the attractive little building that sets back from the road at 15565 NYS Rt. 8 is one of the best kept secrets in Delaware County?

This is the Masonville Branch Library on NYS Rt. 8 as you are coming into the hamlet of Masonville from Sidney.

In "A History of the Masonville Public Library" by Grace Terwilliger Grace writes that in 1924 Masonville was without a library, the nearest lending library six miles away over a dirt road. Several people in town had a dream of a public library and then in 1924 a new young minister, Rev. J.T.M. Wilson came to town. Wilson had some experience with library work and with his guidance committees were formed and plans took define shape. The first library was set up in the front room of the parsonage. Community members donated books and volunteers ran the library. As the library grew it became evident that a paid librarian was needed for the many hours for the running of the library. A larger space was also needed and a room upstairs in one

of the stores was refurbished. As the library grew it eventually outgrew the room above the store. About the same time a small building near the center of town became vacant and for sale. One of the library directors purchased the building and the library found a new home on the first floor. In 1945, after school centralization between Masonville, Sidney Center and Sidney; Masonville Public Library was invited to become a branch of the Sidney Library Association.

In 1997 the Masonville Library began seeking a new building to call home as its current residence had deteriorated beyond what was considered reasonable condition for a public building. Fast forward to August 1999 and we find a brand-new building located on Rt. 8 built by the Jack Butts family on land owned by Jane Butts being dedicated as the brand new Masonville Branch Library.

It is this charming, bright and airy library with a wide range of adult, young adult and children's books, as well as books on CD and DVDS and two public access computers. The best part is that the library is so much more than the four walls that contain the building. As a Branch of the

Sidney Memorial Public Library it is also part of the Four County Library System and receives a delivery from the Four County delivery van every Friday. Anyone can access the online card catalog and reserve books, DVDs and other items from any of the 42 other member libraries and have these items delivered to the Masonville Branch library for your convenience.

There are other resources available with your library card as well. Did you know that as a library card holder you have access to an extensive Research Center? The Four County Library System provides access to a collection of high-quality, accurate, electronic resources? Some of these databases are made possible through NOVELny, the New York Online Virtual Library, a public information network for New Yorkers. Others are provided by the Four County Library System and there are also resources available through the Sidney Library. Whether you are a scholar, a family researcher, or a parent helping your child with a research project, the Research Center has a database for you. All free and available at home or your local library, our fleet of resources offers everything from

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Annual Lot Owners Meeting of the Burlington Flats Cemetery Association
Wed., March 18 at 6:00 pm
Burlington Municipal Building
ALL LOT OWNERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND

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SUNDAY NIGHTS 5:30pm Christ Lutheran Church, 94 N. Broad St., Norwich. All-A-Non-Adult Children of Alcoholics meeting.

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NOTICE FOR SEALED BIDS
The Burlington Flats Cemetery Association is seeking sealed bids for General Cemetery maintenance and duties. Bids are for the April 1, 2026, through October 31, 2026, season.
Duties included but not limited to are, mowing and trimming the cemetery grounds. Leaf removal at the end of the season. Supervising the opening of graves for burial or cremation. Locating and prepping the site before and after the service. Should be available to accept the burial remains and accept all necessary paperwork at the time of the service. Preparing foundations for Memorial marker placement. General cleaning up of wasted flowers and containers.
Bidders will need to own and maintain their own equipment. The Cemetery Association does not provide any tools or equipment.
Bidders should submit proof of Liability Insurance with a minimum limit of \$300,000.00.
Businesses submitting a bid should also provide proof of NYS approved workers compensation insurance. Self-employed bidders are encouraged to have personal health insurance. The Cemetery Association shall not be held responsible for any injury to any person completing the required duties.
Send completed bids to the Burlington Flats Cemetery Association, PO Box 53, Burlington Flats NY 13315. All bids shall be received on or prior to March 11, 2026. Any questions you may call 315-729-5537.

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New Berlin Library Corner

New Berlin Library invites community to egg hunt and spring party

NEW BERLIN - Families are invited to hop on over to the New Berlin Library for a festive Egg Hunt and spring party on Saturday, March 28, beginning at 1 p.m.

The event will take place inside the library and promises an afternoon filled with fun activities for children and families. Young participants will search for colorful eggs hidden throughout the main floor of the library.

At this year's egg hunt children will be given colorful totes, bunny ears, and printed instructions upon arrival at the egg hunt. The instructions will outline how many eggs and other items each child will be allowed to find as well as listing the other party activities. In addition to the egg hunt, there will be a balloon twister creating balloon animals, flowers and

swords. There will be games, prizes, snacks, and a craft activity. Organizers say the event is designed to bring families together while encouraging a love of the library as well as community involvement.

The egg hunt is sponsored by the New Berlin Art Forum. "We are pleased to once again be partnering with New Berlin Art Forum. The Art Forum is a wonderful community-minded organization. Their support allows the New Berlin Library to offer many free events to our community," said a library director Michelle Priola. "We're excited to welcome everyone for an afternoon of fun. Library events like this help create lasting memories and strengthen our connection with local families."

The Egg Hunt is open to the public but registration is required to



The New Berlin Library will host a festive Egg Hunt and spring party at 1 p.m., on Saturday, March 28. (Submitted photo)

attend the event. Call, message, or stop into the library to register. The child's name, age, and a contact number required to register.

For more information, community members can contact the library directly at 607.847.8564

or visit the library during regular business hours.

The New Berlin Library is holding a jellybean guessing contest. The public is invited to guess how many jellybeans are in a jar. The person who guesses the closest wins the jar of

jellybeans and a goodie filled basket. If more than one person guesses correctly, the winner will be randomly drawn between the correct answers. The winner will be announced on Friday, March 27.

All items in this prize basket were donated to the New Berlin Library. This contest is free and open to the public.

New Berlin Library Board will be meeting on March 25 at 6 p.m. These meetings are open to the public. Minutes are posted on the New Berlin Library website.

Some great new additions to the library include: The Devil's Bible (A Cotton Malone Novel) by Steve Berry, The Business of Being A Writer Second Edition by Jane Friedman, Agents of S.U.I.T. Sew Much Trouble by John Patrick Green, Meg and Greg: Moose on the Loose by Elspeth Rae

and Rowena Rae, This Book is full of Monsters by Guido van Genechten, This Book Just ate My Dog by Richard Byrne, See You Later, Alligator by Sally Hopgood, Don't Wake the Dragon by Bianca Schulze, Plant the Tiny Seed by Christie Matheson, and I Say OOH You Say AAH by John Kane.

The New Berlin Library is located at 15 South Main Street, New Berlin.

The Library is open Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon. The web address is <http://libraries.4cls.org/newberlin/>. Please contact us at 607-847-8564 or like and message our Facebook page New Berlin Library and Museum.

- Information from the New Berlin Library

Historians believe that the first log cabins were built about 5,000 years ago by Bronze Age people living in Northern Europe. Log cabins were often the first homes constructed by early settlers in Europe and North America. Today, log cabins symbolize a simpler time and continue to be one of the most recognizable types of homes.

Get in the Groove
Log-cabin builders cut notches near the ends of each log. The notches create an interlocking system that makes the log cabin a strong, stable structure. People from different countries often used different types of notches to construct their log cabins.

This Old House
In 1638, one of the first log cabins in North America was built by Swedish and Finnish immigrants along the Delaware River. The Nothnagle Log House, built about 1640, is one of the oldest surviving log houses in North America.

Shortcuts

by jeff harris

Building Up To

LOG CABINS

This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Abe Lincoln Log.

Fourscore and seven rings ago...

What did the tree say after it was cut down? I'm stumped.

Seven U.S. presidents claim to have been born in log cabins.

Word Search
Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

CHINKING	NOTCH	ROCK
SETTLER	HOUSE	TWIG
STRONG	CABIN	NAIL
MORTAR	DOOR	BOB
CEMENT	CHOP	CUT
WALLS	MOSS	LOG

COYOTE COYOTES
DONUTE HEARAIN
ARCHMPIEOCGET
RTEETHNCANNPO
EANNKWBIROOD
LTTASKIKMORHN
TIMRUNGOOTCO
THATOIWALLSBT
EARNHMAYOLOSC
SEACHAPGOBBOH

Cabin Fever

Can you spot all six differences between these two scenes?

GAME ANSWERS: 1. Bird is missing. 2. Chimney is shorter. 3. Cloud is missing. 4. Tree is shorter. 5. Stone is missing. 6. Flower is missing. 7. Tree is shorter. 8. Flower is missing.

Word Search

Unlike most houses, log cabins do not require nails, mortar or cement. A family could construct a log cabin in about a week or two using only an axe or saw.

How did settlers get on the internet? They logged on.

How does a cabin sleep? Like a log.

In medieval Europe, log cabins were often considered to be temporary structures. When needed, the cabin could be disassembled, log by log, and reassembled at another location.

The thick walls of a log cabin offered great insulation from the cold and could not be penetrated by bullets or arrows.

The spaces between the logs of a log cabin were filled with small objects like wood chips, rocks, twigs, dried moss or corn cobs that were packed together with mud or clay. This entire process is called "chinking."

Most log cabins had only one or two small windows. The windows did not have glass, but were instead covered with greased paper or animal skins.