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January is Learn to Ski or Snowboard Month

Learn to Love Winter: Holiday Valley offering half priced beginner packages all month long



By Brenda Perks

Humans were not meant to hibernate! There's no better reason to get up off the couch and out into the fresh air than learning to ski or snowboard. Oh wait ... how about a discount? All during the month of January, Holiday Valley is offering half priced learn-to-ski or snowboard packages for ages 12 and up. PLUS: any learn-to-ski/snowboard package participant will receive a "Rip 21" Card which gives you discounts on future lodging, lessons, rental equipment and lift tickets valid through December 2021.

Discover other winter-friendly events and activities at HV during the month of January, including Learn to Love Winter Day and 'Your Turn' Women's Ski Clinic. To top it off, the Holiday Valley Tubing Park is now open!

... page 09

DISC GOLF COURSE FUND TO BRING PANDEMIC-PROOF RECREATION TO OLEAN

The popularity of the sport of disc golf has exploded, especially over the summer months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the efforts of a few local disc golf enthusiasts, the recently established Gargoyle Park Public Disc Golf Course Fund at the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation will help bring the first public disc golf course to Cattaraugus County in Olean's Gargoyle Park. Richard Longer, a packaging engineer at Zippo and a local disc golf enthusiast, is among those leading the efforts to bring disc golf to the area ... page 14

Goodbye 2020: Year in Review

Certainly we are all ready to put 2020 behind us. A dumpster fire of a year it was, to say the least. Across the globe, communities went from thriving to shutdown. We've seen businesses close, we've watched the effects of political unrest, and we've lost some very special people over the course of the past year. But if there were ever a silver lining in 2020, it is the prospect of bringing community together, more than ever before. We've learned the importance of relationships, lending a helping hand, and living in the moment. Despite the catastrophe that 2020 has been labeled, there were actually some really great things that have happened.

... page 06

Winner: Forged In Fire

Springville native shines a national spotlight on his community with a recent win on the History Channel



By Caitlin Croft

Never in a million years did Walter Baranowski of Springville, NY think an obscure backyard hobby would land him on national television ... but national television is just where he found himself. As the most recent winner of the History Channel's Forged in Fire, he took the time to chat with ellicott-villeNOW about everything smithing.

"Smithing is a good outlet for expression, creativity, and also a good way to escape reality for awhile, and why wouldn't you want to do such a thing?" Baranowski remarked. Read our full interview with Walter, including how he got involved in the art and his experience on the show.

... page 17



NEW POTTERY STUDIO OPENS IN ELLICOTTVILLE

Ed Doherty's wheelthrown pottery is completely handmade without molds and includes tableware such as coffee cups and mugs, dinner plates, bowls, and crocks. Although Horn Hill Pottery opened to the public just two weeks ago, Doherty is hardly new to the art; 25 years of experience making pottery and working in clay has taken him and his family all over the world ... page 10

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NOW this ... by Anjanette



Pause and reflect.

Some will despise me for saying this, but I'm one of those people who love Monday mornings. I usually take a few minutes to analyze the last week, leave any shortcomings in the dust, and set new goals for the upcoming week. Regardless of how things end up, I figure, at least I start my Monday morning with a clean slate and make a valid attempt to stay focused.

With that being said, I also love the week between Christmas and New Years. Over the course of these days, I take a hard look at the year I'm leaving behind and do the same thing I do every Monday morning, but on a big-picture scale. When I rounded out my year last year, my boyfriend Jonathan and I learned that we would be welcoming our first child in August. So, like so many others, I thought, 2020 ... here we come!

But little did any of us know what 2020 really had in store. By March, COVID-19 was more than just daily news. Restrictions on day-to-day life became reality, whether we liked it or not. Ski season was cut short by several consecutive, earlier-than-usual thaws, restaurants were switching over to take-out only, and toilet paper was flying off the shelves. Along with the rest of America, our spare room became a home-office, and Zoom calls forced us to look somewhat professional from the waist up.

April lockdown in my home involved daily dog walks, occasional fishing, Easter dinner for two, and a binge-watch of The Tiger King in one sitting. To protect our unborn baby, I took social distancing to the next level, which led to a spring of solitude. The month's end marked my 35th birthday, a recommitment to my goals, and the first of many five-mile long hikes with Jonathan. There was no way I was letting 2020 defeat me.

The pools opening at Holiday Valley became a real treat for a pregnant woman who had been cooped up for a majority of the year. Although I was really showing by the Fourth of July, soaking up the sun with a virgin Strawberry Daiquiri poolside somehow felt like a vacation. Additionally, the real estate market shot through the roof when a few COVID-19 restrictions lifted. I showed my last home on August 7th, and welcomed our son Jackson on August 10th.

To celebrate Jackson's one-month birthday, we took our first family hike together. Around Thanksgiving, I prayed for cold weather as I attached my season pass to my ski bibs and haven't looked back. Although this year was far from ideal for so many of us - myself included - I was also blessed with a silver lining. But perhaps, you were, too?

MY 2020 TAKEAWAYS

In retrospect, this strange year allowed me and so many others who function at 100mph to really slow down – and I mean, slow down. I take a minute now to enjoy my morning coffee instead of rushing out the door. I give myself permission to relax when I have the opportunity to take a day off. I also learned that when you're sitting around and feeling bummed out – move. Literally move your body. Exercise has always been, but really became this year, a free anti-depressant. For 2021, I'm keeping it simple: live a healthy lifestyle, stay disciplined in all that I do, and be the best mother I can be.

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

It's easy to say that New Years is just another day, but now is a better time than ever to clean the slate. I asked a few of our community members what their thoughts on the coming year were, and what their resolutions might be ...

A testament to her can-do attitude, Beverly Valencic was on the slopes when she said, "I don't make New Years resolutions, because I choose a daily goal: to be aware of how my

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COMMUNITY LETTERS

BOB McCARTHY'S IRISH CHRISTMAS: A MAGICAL EVENING

This year's online fundraiser a great success, thanks to the generosity of the Ellicottville community

The Virtual Auction held the evening of Friday, Dec. 18th was certainly a fun time for all that participated. Bob's presence was obvious to all for Bob McCarthy's 15th annual Irish Christmas Re-imagined. The auction started promptly at 7:00pm, hosted by Brooks LeFeber of BrooksLeFeberAuctions.com with a review of the bids already made at the village businesses and online.

At a frantic pace, the bids started to soar and on all accounts was a fun way to conduct an auction. Current limitations did not hold back some, who made arrangements with friends so they could bid against each other in traditional fashion. A small group even gathered at The Silver Fox Steakhouse to ensure that they did not miss out on the great wines donated by owners Mike & Sally and paired with a McCarthy original birdhouse donated by Edna Northrup. Incredibly, bids started to skyrocket as the auction went on. An antique Charles Dickens book, "A Christmas Carol", sold for \$525.00, while Hugh Dunn's Live Edge Table brought in \$650.00 ... a bargain at that! The Great Wooden Bow Pie Boxes created by Ed Frederickson were once again hot items, with one selling for \$400.00. The Traditional Irish Whiskey Basket donated by Cynthia & Mike sold for \$500.00 to a very thirsty family.

It was obvious that many of our benefactors opened up their hearts and wallets to support Rotary's Santa's Workshop & the Santa Sheriff Program. The auction brought in just shy of \$7,000.00, surpassing expectations. Additionally, a number of generous people chose to donate directly to the Rotary for Santa's Workshop. These donations normally continue through the end of the year, so we anticipate being very close to equaling previous years' donations. In this crazy year, that is truly amazing.

This year's event could not have happened without Ed Frederickson, who once again used his creative genius and woodworking skills to put together an array of handmade gems in the Bob tradition for the auction. PaNDaGOAT Media/DesignPerks - Brenda Perks and Meaghan Lucarelli - did a great job on bringing the concept to life with great artwork and promotional material. Heather Sullivan of Heather J Sullivan Consulting worked her magic with the website and Facebook and kept the event and the rest of us on track. Brooks LeFeber hosting the auction made it both entertaining and successful.

As is always the case, our great local publications, The Villager and EllicottvilleNOW, went above and beyond promoting the event; we appreciate their unquestioned support, year after year.



A special thanks to Katy Arena who worked with Ellicottville's bakers (too many to thank) whose special desserts are done as a tribute to their friend Bob and this tradition. We do have to mention Chef Tom Kneeland who baked three outstanding desserts. We thank the many local businesses who hosted the auction items and promoted the event on our behalf.

When asked how this started, McCarthy would answer, "It started with a little magic." That magic came in the form of Ellicottville's residents, both permanent and part-timers who bid or donated to the cause. The real magic is that this event is helping a number of local families have a better Christmas through Santa's Workshop and the Santa Sheriff Program. Bob, we all miss you but we will continue your tradition of giving. The Rotary Club of Ellicottville wishes all of you a great holiday season. Thank you Ellicottville.

- The Rotary Club of Ellicottville

2020 RECAP FROM CCIDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COREY WIKTOR

Despite the pandemic, Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency continues its ongoing efforts to assist in various capital investment projects

This past year proved to be yet another busy, challenging (and scary) year, but in the end, let's hope 2020 ends with a ray of hope for us all with a New Year right around the corner, a prosperous 2021.

I am pleased to provide the community and our stakeholders with a year-in review of the activities of the County of Cattaraugus Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) and our ongoing efforts to enhance the economic prosperity of our County as a whole.

In 2020, CCIDA projects resulted in capital investments of approximately \$120 million dollars into the County. This is a significant accomplishment given the challenges of the pandemic. These projects also created and retained jobs and in fact, since 2013 the CCIDA has helped create 733 new jobs while retaining 3,997 jobs through our various incentives and programs.

The projects supported by the CCIDA have been diverse and spanning. We continue to work closely with local family-owned businesses such as Worthy Pharmacy & 3M Property Management, LLC. We once again demonstrated the value of utilizing our Adaptive Reuse Program through the \$11.7 million redevelopment of the Manny-Hanny Building by Savarino Companies out of Buffalo. Our tourism policy also assisted with several development projects in the millions of dollars at Holiday Valley.

We also unveiled a sales tax initiative for companies producing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Companies purchasing materials, supplies and equipment in order to manufacture medical and hospital devices, disinfectants and sanitizers, sterilizing and sanitizing equipment, medicines and pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter products are eligible for the sales tax exemption. We were pleased to support Essential American Products which invested \$1 million at its manufacturing facility in the town of Ellicottville.

The fact remains, while we may live and work in a small rural economy, we are part of the global economy. We know that there is no "silver bullet" when it comes to economic development. Processes will always have to be identified, refined and implemented to the best of our ability. It's a challenge we accept and continue to work to the best of our abilities each day.

What we have accomplished during a very difficult year could not have been achieved without the direction, guidance and support of our voluntary Board of Director members. An important partner in our efforts also includes the Cattaraugus County Legislature, their Leadership and also the Cattaraugus County Economic Development Department and Team. Thank you!

For instance, we worked collaboratively in navigating through the complexities of adopting a uniform tax policy for solar energy projects. Since adoption of this policy, the IDA has consulted several IDA's across the state on how we went about communicating and working with not only developers, but local taxing jurisdictions and landowners to adopt a policy that works. We can anticipate even more such projects in 2021 as upstate New York has become a focus of the renewable energy sector.

Due to the ever-changing landscape that we all faced in 2020 as a result of the Coronavirus, we were in frequent contact with our state and federal elected leaders, including being appointed to Congressman Tom Reed's Regional Economic Recovery Team. It was critically important that we speak with a unified voice in communicating to businesses across the county the various programs, services and grant opportunities available to them during these unprecedented times.

Even through the pandemic, we worked very hard to meet with as many local municipalities and taxing jurisdictions as we could. The Agency continues to strive to be in regular communications with our thirty-two towns, nine villages and two cites and thirteen school districts to make them aware of the IDA projects, programs and policies.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc at the Canadian border, but we have been able to stay engaged as a result of our board membership with the Can-Am Council which is comprised of representatives from member companies engaged in cross border commerce. The Council focuses on bi-national relationship-building, joint planning, border advocacy and business-to-business interaction. As we well know, the Canadian marketplace is critical to our county's economic growth.

"Cattaraugus County IDA" continued page 21





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YEAR IN REVIEW

GOODBYE 2020 ... CHEERS TO BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD

In a year consumed by a virus, we found strength in each other

By Brenda Perks















Certainly we are all ready to put 2020 behind us. A dumpster fire of a year it was, to say the least. Across the globe, communities went from thriving to shutdown. We've seen businesses close, we've watched the effects of political unrest, and we've lost some very special people over the course of the past year, many just in the past month.

But if there were ever a silver lining in 2020, it is the prospect of bringing community together, more than ever before. We've learned the importance of relationships, lending a helping hand, and living in the moment. Despite the catastrophe that 2020 has been labeled, there were actually some really great things that have happened. Here's a glimpse at just a few of them ...

JANUARY

A "normal" ski season saw the usual influx of fun-loving, snow-sliding visitors booking their winter vacations. It was your typical winter solstice here in ski country - crowded lift lines, packed bars, and a schedule filled to the brim with activities that we've all been accustomed to taking part in year after year: ringing in the New Year with the torchlight parade down Cindy's Run, the best regional Blues music during Ellicottville's Winter Blues Weekend, guided snowshoe tours, First Day hikes, and the hustle and bustle of shopping, dining and gathering with friends (with no limitations).

Holiday Valley started the season strong, and HoliMont introduced some new faces to the scene, including Travis Widger (ok, he's not new, but he received the new title of Snowsports Director), and Chris Perks, HoliMont's new terrain park designer/builder. Perhaps the most memorable highlight of January was "An Evening with Working Man's Dead" - a performance that brought all Grateful Dead fans together for an unforgettable night of Deadhead euphoria. Who knew the HoliMont Lodge could hold so many people?

FEBRUARY

For anyone who thinks winter is a quiet time for events, on the contrary! The AMSOIL Championship Snocross circuit returned to the Seneca Allegany Casino grounds for a weekend of action-packed snowmobile racing. The City Garage hosted their annual Telestock festival at Holiday Valley. (This day of Peace, Love and Telemark Skiing saw its largest participation turnout ever!) And Madigan's invited the masses to dress in their baddest one-piece ski suits and obnoxious neon for their Bad Ski Suit Party ... what else would you expect from a ski town?

MARCH

March came in like a lion with a showcase of snowboarders banding together to bank turns and raise money for a great organization. The 3rd annual Boardroom Banked at Holiday Valley welcomed over 100 competitors on a hand-tuned banked slalom course surrounded by stellar sunshine and a crowd of spectators. The event, organized by The Boardroom Snowboard Shop and dedicated to celebrating a collective love for snowboarding, raised enough money to fully cover the cost of a service dog for a local veteran through the event's partnership with the WNY Heroes program, "Pawsitive for Heroes".

Then it hit. The Coronavirus. As Ellicottville ramped up for its biggest party of the season - Mardi Gras - word came from our governor that we've been impacted. Everything shut down overnight. The annual Mardi Gras Parade was cancelled. Holiday Valley's Winter Carnival was cancelled. The remainder of ski season. Cancelled. What was expected to last two weeks turned into 4, which turned into several months - a gauntlet of lost income, lost lives, and the endless search for toilet paper. Every small business owner's worst nightmare transpired - every ounce of hard work and every hard earned dollar, stuffed into a dark hole. Covid would place almost every "non-essential" business in limbo. Many businesses still hang from a fine thread; a rollercoaster in constant motion.

But this is where we dig. This is where we come together and peel back the darkness to find that beam of light. In our small community, that beam of light began with Daff.

APRIL / MAY

We're used to a slow-down at the end of every ski season, but not like this one. The Village became a desolate place. No cars. No people. It was quiet ... until Laura Solly put a call-out to the community to create rainbows. In an effort to bring hope and connection in the midst of a pandemic, Solly collected colorful works of art - curbside - and hung them in her storefront window. Those creations brought many (covered) faces in view, and they certainly helped make our world a bit brighter.

The snowball effect to come together and help one another during a time of crisis grew strong. The Boardroom Snowboard Shop and Mud, Sweat n' Gears led local efforts to collect new and gently used goggles to donate to Goggles For Docs - a nationwide initiative to get eye protection into the hands of healthcare workers as they treated COVID-19 patients. Steelbound Brewery and Ellicottville Distillery both reorganized their opera-



















tions into hand sanitizer production facilities. Schools called in their cafeteria staff and bus drivers to cook, package and deliver breakfast and lunch to the doorsteps of district students.

But perhaps the biggest impact came from restaurant owner Nick Pitillo. Not one to accept defeat and unable to sit back and watch the devastation unfold, Pitillo launched StockTheFreezer.com, a food delivery service which provided customers and shut-ins a platform to order their favorite Villaggio/Osteria 166 meals, made fresh and frozen right away. The need for this new food delivery service allowed Pitillo to bring his crew back into the kitchen, and orders from all over Western New York kept his team on their feet. (What started as a way to help the community and healthcare workers has turned into a full business entrepreneurship that continues to run strong today.) The best part: stockthefreezer.com offers the option to "Donate a Meal" which in turn is given to those in need most notably our frontline workers. Within days of its initial launch, the Donate a Meal program received hundreds of donations, and to this day, that number continues to rise. (Ahem, over 30,000 meals have been donated so far, delivered personally by Pitillo and his team to individuals and organizations all over WNY including hospitals, community centers and food pantries, to name a few.

Pitillo's efforts attracted partnerships left and right, and when the Rotary Club of Ellicott-ville approached him to join forces, the pair went to work with a focus on the community's youth. Although schools were shutdown, cafeteria workers and bus drivers stayed busy providing district students with meals; the Rotary stepped in with additional funding to help Ellicottville district students and their families receive dinners prepared by local restaurants including Stock the Freezer, Dina's, and Katy's Cafe. In addition to assisting with school meals, the Rotary continued to be a significant contributor to the local food banks. With the banks operating at full capacity, they needed all the help they could get. The Rotary obliged.

JUNE / JULY

As businesses were given the green light to re-open, event organizers were anxious to find ways to bring some form of "normal" back to the streets. With safety precautions in place, the Stroll the Streets Series and weekly Farmers Market re-emerged. Families, masked up and socially distanced, enjoyed Friday evening entertainment along the village sidewalks, albeit on a much smaller scale. Live music, balloon twisting, ice cream cones and fresh produce stands were a warm welcome to get outdoors and take in the fresh air.

Other summertime events that marched on: The Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce brought back the Gazebo Series, which saw a great turnout each Thursday evening on the lawn in front of Town Hall. The Big Eddie Szpaicher Golf Tournament at Holiday Valley filled its limited capacity field, and although there was no after-party, no dinner and no hugs, the event still raised money for student scholarships. (Since the tournament's inception in 2012, the Szpaicher family has awarded over \$45,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors from Ellicottville Central School.)

Then there's Brad Poole. The CF Warrior took on an extraordinary challenge: running 266 miles in seven days to raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis. Hitting every town in Cattaraugus County, Poole's mission not only made an impact on CF research, it also made an impact on the local community. With a strong support system backing him (and the hottest days of summer at his doorstep), Poole completed his run on schedule, finishing the last stretch from Great Valley to Ellicottville.

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Bill Finnerty also created an opportunity to build awareness. Vowing to walk 100 miles with his St. Bernard, Finn, the pair celebrated their accomplishment with a belated Moth-

er's Day celebration for all at Finnerty's Tap Room - a fundraiser in memory of Bill's mom, who passed away from multiple system atrophy (MSA).

Doug and Gwen Bush of EnduranceFactor, who's Happy Half/5k in May was forced to run as a virtual event, worked closely with Holiday Valley to create 2020's first socially distanced and safe live event. Dubbed the Dirty Dozen, the 4 and 8-mile off-road run was organized in "waves" of runners over the course of the day, and was a major success, setting the stage for the Holiday Valley Mudslide Obstacle Race later in the month and EnduranceFactor's Halloween Half/5k in October.

By now, businesses and organizations across the area discovered creative ways to carry on with events and keep the public engaged. The EVGV Trail teamed up with Carson's Chicken BBQ to continue their fundraising efforts, offering delicious take-out dinners from an outdoor venue. The Ashford Station Bistro invited the public to cruise out to their location in West Valley for their weekly Cruise Night featuring live music and a revolving display of classic cars and hot rods. Griffis Sculpture Park brought back Night Lights, and Pumpkinville - unsure if they were going to open for the season - came through, bringing tradition back for thousands of visitors heading into Fall.

Perhaps the biggest step towards normalcy: school re-opened. Although far from normal-with students donning facemarks, clear plastic barriers around each elementary desk, and middle/high school students working on a hybrid platform - it was a reunion for many kids (and teachers, too!) who felt the heartbreak of the previous school year's abrupt ending.

John Burrell maintained his seat as Ellicottville's mayor during the Village's Mayoral Election, Holiday Valley got the bullwheel turning with Fall Foliage chairlift rides, and as part of the Town of Ellicottville's 200th birthday, the Bicentennial Committee celebrated a historic event with the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the first settler in Ellicottville.

NOVEMBER

The Ellicottville Skatepark Committee hosted SOUP-to-SKATE, which turned out to be a SOUP-er rad event. Originally scheduled for March but cancelled because, you know ... the committee was excited to be able to bring this event to life. Featuring one-of-a-kind ceramic bowls handmade by school students and signature soups from many local restaurants, the walk-through event brought in close to \$5,000 which when matched by The Skatepark Project/Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, will be applied towards the construction of a permanent concrete skatepark in Ellicottville's Village Park.

Heading into the holiday season, the Ellicottville Chamber hosted a virtual lighting ceremony of Ellicottville's ski tree and downtown village, and ski resorts across the U.S. released their COVID-19 ski season procedures, preparing for opening (once Mother Nature decides to cooperate). Knowing that this holiday will see higher numbers of individuals and families who's incomes have been affected by the pandemic, local efforts kicked into high gear to once again help provide for those in need.

DECEMBER

The day that everyone with a love of snow had been waiting for ... ski season. Holiday Valley officially opened for the 2020-21 season on Dec. 10th; HoliMont followed suit Dec. 19th. For anyone who enjoys the slopes, it is that moment while carving down the hill that all seems right with the world. It is an escape. It is freedom. It is happiness.

Happiness also came in the form of remembering one of Ellicottville's most beloved personalities. Bob McCarthy's Irish Christmas, a fundraiser for Santa's Workshop and the

"Year in Review" continued page 21

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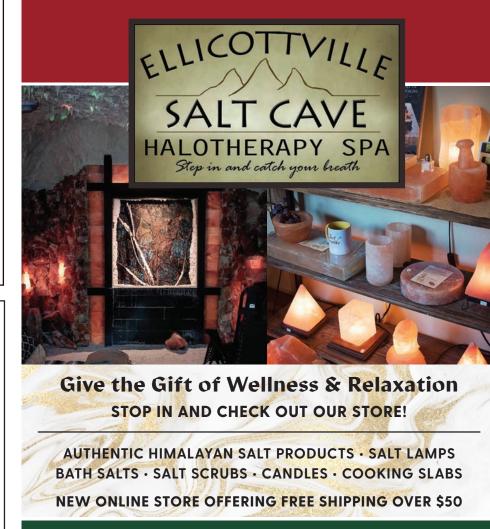


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BUSINESS

ACME BUSINESS RECEIVES GRANT

Storefront renovations part of Olean's Downtown Revitalization Initiative



Project rendering: Updates and repairs to the 100+ year old building and its facade will provide a modern look to compliment the business's services and Olean's business district.

OLEAN, NY - Acme Business is pleased to announce it has received a state-funded grant facilitated by the Olean Business Development Corporation (OBDC) to support the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. These funds assist area business owners with funding for renovation of commercial properties to improve the atmosphere of Olean's downtown areas

The Acme Business' revitalization project through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative will restore the 100+ year old building located at 313-317 West State Street in Olean, NY. The project includes the improvement of three storefronts in both design and signage with updates and repairs to the façade. These updates will modernize the storefront and provide structural repairs that are needed to sustain the older construction. The Acme Business revitalization project will create contracting jobs within the Olean community through local contracting firm, Loucks Construction, and support various local businesses with all products being purchased from area vendors.

Acme Business owner, Jim Finch, is pleased to have been awarded the grant to update the Olean location of his growing business. "We're all very excited to see the new face of Acme Business here in Olean," he said. "This project will give our 1950s storefront a modern look to go with our modern business solutions. As a growing local business, we're pleased to partner with the OBDC and with Ryan Loucks to get our project underway and continue to improve our Olean community."

This project will not only aid Acme Business, it will support the Olean community and surrounding areas.

The building project will provide a modern revival of a long-standing business in the Olean cityscape. The improved space will allow Acme Business to project the development externally that its business is experiencing in scope and client base, as it grows its cybersecurity and IT enterprise internally.

About Acme Business: Acme Business began as a Royal Typewriter dealership in 1965, however over the years has transformed into a modern company, offering modern solutions. Today, Acme provides a variety of business productivity solutions for IT/Networking Services, Managed Print, Managed Documents, Mailing Systems, Phone Systems, Telecom and VoIP, Cyber Security, and Camera Surveillance Systems.

PFEIFFER NATURE CENTER PHOTO CONTEST

PORTVILLE, NY - Pfeiffer Nature Center is excited to announce the return of their photo contest and show. The nature center invites photographers of all skill levels and ages to visit one or both of their properties to share their personal visual takeaways in a Photography Contest & Show scheduled for September 19, 2021. Yes, that's right ... 2021! The center is promoting this event in advance to give us all the opportunity to create photographs during any or all of the four seasons! Photos from either Pfeiffer properties - Lillibridge Property (1974 Lillibridge Road) and the Eshelman Property (1420 Yubadam Road) - are eligible for submission. Please visit www.pfeiffernaturecenter.org for details and a submission application. Photographs must be submitted by August 27, 2021.

HORN HILL POTTERY

Ellicottville studio opens its doors; brings families together through art



By Mary Heyl

While it's true that the pandemic has created significant obstacles to traveling, working, and learning, it has also created a significant change in pace in the most ordinary aspects of life. Those whose work or learning schedules wouldn't normally allow them to share meals are now able to come together. In the words of potter Ed Doherty (pictured above), "I really believe in the importance of slowing down and coming together at the table. Sharing food together forces people to be more vulnerable with each other while this most basic need is being met." Doherty's pottery is a celebration of this authenticity and is what fueled his family's journey to Ellicottville, where they have recently opened their pottery studio at 6806 Horn Hill Road.

Although Horn Hill Pottery opened to the public just two weeks ago, Doherty is hardly new to the art, as 25 years of experience making pottery and working in clay has taken him and his family all over the world. "I'm from Long Island, and my wife, Deanna, is from Buffalo," Doherty explained. "We met at SUNY Buffalo State, where I studied in the ceramics program ... I've always wanted to set up a studio - that was always a part of the master plan - but part of moving around was the experience and pursuing opportunities that presented themselves to continue to learn, study and produce."

The Dohertys spent a year and a half in Korea, where Ed had an exhibition and focused on sculpture. The family also lived in Las Vegas, Nevada and Cuba, New York, but most recently spent the past 12 years in India. Doherty explained, "In India, my wife and I both taught at the American International School; I was brought there to start a ceramics program. I also ran an organization that raised funds for supporting local craftsmen in the community and throughout India. A lot of the craftsmen are giving up and moving on to more lucrative jobs, so the traditions of craft in India are getting lost. A big part of what I did is ensure they were funded."

Making the decision to move back to the U.S. was not an easy one, as India was home for many years, especially for the Dohertys' two sons, who were one and three years old when the family moved there.

Doherty explained, "We love the area, and Ellicottville has always been on our radar. Part of our decision to buy a place here six years ago was to have our sons feel more connected to the U.S. We looked in Idaho, Indiana, and Arizona, but the community here is what pulled us back. Ellicottville has that village vibe: awesome, real people who support each other."

While the family decided to move to Ellicottville permanently last fall, it wasn't until June that the Dohertys were actually able to leave India, as all international flights out of India were canceled due to the pandemic. "It definitely was a process," said Doherty of the transition to the U.S. "In July, I started retrofitting and building out the studio space, which used to be a large out-building on the property just behind our house. I began insulating it, framing it, and installing windows. It definitely took time especially with COVID-19, but I'm really happy with how it's evolved."

The studio, which includes a showroom, is outfitted with the Dohertys' traditional Indian furniture that was once a part of their home. "Our story is mixed into the aesthetics of the space," Doherty explained. "What you see is something that has been a part of us and really important to us; when people come in, they have the opportunity to get a glimpse and it opens up great conversations."

"Horn Hill Pottery" continued page 14



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STAYING CONNECTED

WISDOM THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Sharing friendship and vitality with those who shape us and our community



By Trevor Brachmann

As we grow and our perspectives broaden, we are given countless opportunities to make the world better for ourselves and our communities. The ability to offer education, access or opportunity to younger individuals or those needing a hand. A chance to lend an ear or a shoulder to someone who is going through a hard time, or to be friendly to a lonely soul. Small gestures can be so impactful in helping keep a community whole and realized

Today it pays to be technologically focused and active, and to stay up to date on trends, tools and programs that can help you develop your skills with precision and push your career faster. While this is undeniable, let us also remember to acknowledge an incredible community asset that offers lifetimes of experience, years and years of learning what works and what does not, offers great direction for our path, and wisdom regarding our actions and character. This treasure is our elders and the wisdom they carry through experience.

When we can be patient enough to let the story unfold, their lessons are such powerful tools for passing wisdom and knowledge. And when delivered with a sense of humor or suspense, the stories can be greatly entertaining.

As we move into more Zoom meetings and globalized socialization, let's try to remember that our face-to-face interactions are so important, and that for many of our seniors, it is their normal and is so appreciated. Taking the trusted word from an individual who has experienced similar struggles, successes, and triumphs; one who has seen the ebb and flow of time, is invaluable

In a world in which families often will not have the time they would like to spend with their immediate family, we are seeing more of our seniors fall into care facilities. While it is a blessing in the current times to have such infrastructure, we also have people who are walking out of the more active days of their lives into an unfamiliar space that could easily prove uncomfortable, especially if one is struggling with their memory or cognitive abilities. It also appears that this placement and lack of familiarity to life as it was before the facility, increases the speed at which these mental faculties begin to sever. The cost of these facilities is high and requires many positions (medical, administrative, janitorial, etc.), so we continue to see elderly having to resort to such things as reverse mortgage to pay for such care, in a way to see themselves through the winter of their life without feeling as though they are holding down the family they have closest to them.

It would be nice to see a transition to more family and community oriented heartfelt care for one and all. While it seems we are a long way from comfortably caring for one another this way as a civilization, if we can remember the golden rule of treating one another as we would like to be treated, we can, as a whole, stay on an honorable path with a respectable seat for all members, regardless of age or walk of life.

In the coming years we could stand to stick together a little closer, and help one another along a bit more than we may previously have had to. Perhaps our Grandparents, Great Aunts and Uncles, and the other elders within our community have some stories for us of a time they stayed clear and focused on the light during dark and uncertain times, or of realizing their wealth during a trying time.

Like the sun for the next 6 months, let's try to bring just a moment more of brightness into the world around us each day.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Local businesses offer extra help for those who need a meal this holiday



By EllicottvvilleNOW

The thought of food delivers such a strong message. The smells, the taste, the flavor. Especially at this time of year. It's an every day preparation for so many, a table set and a meal that fills you up. But for some in our area, a stomach growls and the resources aren't available. Or affordable.

This is a story that has played out all across Western New York as the COVID-19 pandemic rolls along. Food insecurity. Defined as "a household's inability to provide enough food for every person to live an active, healthy life." (feedingamerica.org)

According to the feedingamerica.org website, Cattaraugus County's food insecurity rate was 12.8% in 2018. The 2020 projection has jumped to 17.3%.

Enter Nick Pitillo and Randy Kane. Most know Pitillo by now, owner of Villaggio in Ellicottville and Osteria 166 in Buffalo. Randy "Hummer" Kane, owner of Shults Automotive in Olean/Fredonia. Their kind hearts recently combined to help two groups in our area. Kane, in conjunction with Fredonia Chrysler Auto Dealership, dropped off a special delivery Monday - 150 dinners at the Fredonia Food Pantry, located inside the Fredonia Presbyterian Church. The United Church of Ellicottville Food Pantry also received 150 dinners, delivered by Pitillo, helping people in our area who aren't sure where their next meal may come from.

Kane provided the financial backing, and Pitillo provided the culinary work through his pandemic-born endeavor, Stock the Freezer.

Pitillo tells ellicottvilleNOW, "So many people, especially this year, are in need of help. It's just an honor to be able to do something like that and get it out there, and lend some help to people."

Kane explained, "A lot of people have lost their jobs or didn't work much this year. It just kind of made sense to give something back; it's good to know that somebody's going to get a nice meal for the holidays."

Here are some sobering facts, sourced from feedingamerica.org:

- Households with children are more likely to experience food insecurity.
- Before the coronavirus pandemic, more than 10 million children lived in foodinsecure households.
- Every community in the country is home to families who struggle with food insecurity, including rural and suburban communities.
- Many households that experience food insecurity do not qualify for federal nutrition programs and need to rely on their local food banks and other hunger relief organizations for support.

SALE OF EVL FACEMASKS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY – Everyone knows how big a heart Ellicottville has. During the month of December, the Chamber's Christmas in Ellicottville Committee decided to create and sell an EVL face covering. The Chamber purchased them and all of the proceeds were earmarked for the Ellicottville Food Pantry.

Last week, with the help of Peter Kreinheder from EBC, (and his really nice truck) he

"Food Pantry Donations" continued page 21

REGIONAL NEWS

Gargoyle Park Disc Golf Course Fund to Bring Pandemic-Proof Recreation to Olean



Rich Longer, leader of the Twin Tiers Disc Golf Association, playing the sport he loves.

OLEAN, NY - The popularity of the sport of disc golf has exploded, especially over the summer months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the efforts of a few local disc golf enthusiasts, the recently established Gargoyle Park Public Disc Golf Course Fund at the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation will help bring the first public disc golf course to Cattaraugus County in the city of Olean.

Richard Longer, a packaging engineer at Zippo and a local disc golf enthusiast, is among those leading the efforts to bring disc golf to the area.

"As it gradually becomes clear that merely being outside anywhere is the safest environment, disc golf has been exploding with a host of other outdoor activities," said Longer. "The Twin Tiers Disc Golf Club (Longer is a member) has partnered with the City of Olean to introduce free, social-distance-friendly, year-round recreation, in the form of a disc golf course at Gargoyle Park, a beautiful 49-acre gem in the heart of Olean and Allegany. Larger cities would be envious to have such a facility."

Longer, along with Kris Shewairy, City of Olean Youth and Recreation Program Coordinator, presented a plan to build a disc golf course in Gargoyle Park to the Olean City Council in November and immediately received the city's blessing to pursue the project and begin fundraising.

Dennis Casey led the way with a Gold Sponsorship by Casey, Halwig & Hartle Funeral Home. "It's a blast," said Casey who tried disc golf for the first time with his teenage son after his gym teacher introduced students this fall at Allegany Limestone High School.

"Who can play? The simple answer is, everyone can. You will find men, women and kids of virtually all ages playing," said Longer of the sport's accessibility. "A disc golf course serves a broader portion of the community than narrower interest activities with higher costs and fitness level requirements. Bottom line: disc golf is fun for everyone regardless of age, gender or economic status."

The Gargoyle Park Public Disc Golf Course Fund at CRCF will allow the public to support the project with tax-deductible contributions. Course Sponsors are recognized on tee signs and Gargoyle's kiosk welcome center. According to Longer, the Twin Tiers Disc Golf Association will soon begin contacting area businesses who may be interested in providing sponsorship donations for the course and supporting its construction.

That construction, though, will be light and will both preserve the natural landscape of Gargoyle Park, while reinvigorating the park that has sat mostly idle for a number of years.

"Disc golf is extremely sustainable because it fits within the existing flora and landscape. Fairways do not require additional maintenance, utilizing already mowed areas," said Longer.

The main cost of the course will come from the installment of the disc golf baskets, which act as the "hole" in traditional golf, and concrete, regulation tee pads, which will allow the course to host public tournaments for youth, amateurs and even traveling pros.

According to Disc Golfer Magazine, the disc golf community is one that is passionate about its sport. Enthusiasts and pros often travel from far away to play new courses, which bring visitors from near and far to the city, adding another spark to the local economy.

The course will also provide a location for youth and adult recreation leagues, a location

"Disc Golf Fund" continued page 21

NOW THIS... BY ANJANETTE

cont. from page 03

day 'plays out.' I will add that I admire Mother Nature each day, with her unique, daily, hour-to-hour, minute-to-minute characteristics."

EBC's Brewery Logistics Liaison Dan Minner says, "Hopefully we'll be seeing a lot more of our Canadian friends. I'm ready for 2020 to be over!"

Seasonal resident Flite Freimann states that for 2021, "I want to be healthier, lose my quarantine weight, and enjoy all the sights and history of the area that I wasn't able to see this year. There are so many things I didn't appreciate until they were closed. Western New York is rich with history and culture, and I plan on seeing as much as I can in 2021."

Debbie Fredrickson, Personal Trainer at Core Performance, isn't a resolutions girl. "All or nothing doesn't work. Just move forward, be a better person than you were yesterday, and reward yourself for progress."

Local Brittany McDowell would like to have a more focused daily routine. "I have a daily plan of attack for work, but not for my personal time. For example, I'm pretty bad about sleeping in until the last minute which starts my day out with the wrong energy. 2020 has been chaotic and stressful. For 2021 I'd like to wake up earlier and have time to stretch a little and enjoy my coffee."

NOW this: As we collectively and excitedly turn the page on 2020, I wish you all my very best for a happy and healthy new year. Even if this year was a disaster, there is no better time than now to pause, reflect, and take advantage of the opportunity for a fresh start!

-Anj

Anjanette Nicolazzo is a team writer for ellicottvilleNOW and a real estate agent with ERA Team VP. Originally from Kane, PA, she relocated in 2009 and made Ellicottville her home. When she isn't writing or selling property, you can find her on the slopes, showing her horse, or hiking with her dogs. She is passionate about the great outdoors and living a healthy lifestyle.

HORN HILL POTTERY

cont. from page 10





Doherty's wheelthrown pottery is completely handmade without molds and includes table-ware such as coffee cups and mugs, dinner plates, bowls, crocks, as well as large platters and bowls. He added, "Eventually, we want to have events here with demonstrations and encourage people to come out. I'm building a kiln right now and will be building two large kilns outside in the spring powered by wood fire."

Horn Hill Pottery is just a three-minute drive from the village and is open weekdays from 9:00am-1:00pm and 3:00-5:00pm and on Saturdays from 9:00am-5:00pm. For those who would prefer a private appointment outside of open hours, Doherty said they are welcome to contact the studio at 716-801-5625 or hornhillpottery@gmail.com.

For more information, visit Horn Hill's website and web shop at hornhillpottery.com or follow @hornhillpottery on Instagram for the latest news and photos from the studio.

Ellicottville Skatepark Project

Ellicottville, NY is a recipient of the "Built-to-Play" matching grant from The Skatepark Project and Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. They will match, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$250,000 for the construction of a permanent concrete skatepark. Fundraising runs through Nov. 30, 2021 with construction slated for spring 2022.

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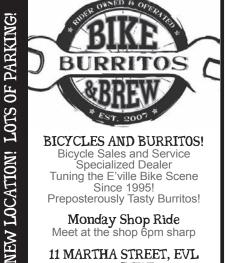
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The Biggest Hits of All Time

INTERVIEW

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: FORGED IN FIRE

Springville Native Walter Baranowski shines a light on his community with a win on the History Channel show

By Caitlin Croft







Never in a million years did Walter Baranowski of Springville, NY think an obscure backyard hobby would land him on national television ... but national television is just where he found himself. As the most recent winner of the History Channel's Forged in Fire, he took the time to chat with ellicottvilleNOW about everything smithing.

In a fit of internet research, I discovered smithing is considered something of an "Old World" skill in the modern era. Before the industrial revolution, "blacksmiths made an immense variety of common objects used in everyday life: nails, screws, bolts, and other fasteners; sickles, plowshares, axes, and other agricultural implements; hammers and other tools used by artisans; candlesticks and other household objects; swords, shields, and armour; wheel rims and other metal parts in wagons and carriages; fireplace fittings and implements; spikes, chains, and cables used on ships; and the ironwork, both functional and decorative, used in furniture and in the building trades." (www.britannica.com/topic/blacksmith)

Smiths were an integral part of society and were needed in the creation of nearly every household item you can think of. (I mean seriously, that list!) What fascinated me through my research was finding there is an artesian element to metal work that is not front of mind when you think of a modern day metal worker. In an ironic turn, it is technology in the form of reality television that is shining a light on this fascinating craft.

"Smithing is a good outlet for expression, creativity, and also a good way to escape reality for awhile, and why wouldn't you want to do such a thing?" Baranowski remarked.

He definitely isn't wrong. In modern America we seem to seek distraction from reality at any length. Baranowski had hemmed and hawed about entering forged in fire for awhile. "Honestly, 3 or even 4 years ago I probably had no business even trying," he said. A few folks encouraged him to enter, but it was an interview of another smith who competed on the show that was the true inspiration. "His name is Ray Kirk, a master bladesmith from Oklahoma. Although Ray didn't win, he said it wasn't about the money or the title. It was about promoting our craft."

Walter expanded on this notion. "Maybe some little kid who knows you, or doesn't, sees the show and you have a positive impact on them, either as a role model or window into the world of smithing. Really it could be anyone, doesn't matter the age ... that is what inspired me to enter."

As far as the show was concerned, the first and second rounds of the competition were incredibly stressful for Baranowski. "The anxiety of the clock, judges, and a camera following my every move. But, it was more the clock than anything that bothered me in particular."

Usually Baranowski is used to having as much time as he wanted in his shop. "I did do some timed runs at my home forge, and did well. But that's just it ... it was my home forge."

During the competition he was in an unfamiliar shop, with unfamiliar tools, doing an already difficult job.

In speaking to his skills that helped him deal with the camera and others on set, "I was able to tune most anything and anyone out; everyone was a mere ghost to me."

Trying to stay out of his own head and in the game was a challenge for him though. "The one thing I kept telling myself is, 'I know what I'm doing, make good decisions,' and I think it paid off."

Walking away as the victor, most would say those tactics more than paid off.

Getting into the history of how Baranowski became involved with knife smithing, we have to go back to his roots. "There were always pictures on the wall of my grandfather in the Philippines of him making knives. He was the local bladesmith on the island where my mother was from, a province of Northern Samar."

His father was a welder, and one of his great grandfathers was a fabricator in a wrought iron shop in Buffalo, NY that made a lot of the wrought iron finishings you see in downtown Buffalo. "So I guess you could say it's kinda natural [for me], or in my blood rather."

Baranowski started out with literally quite nothing. "My early knives were made from old wornout files that I pounded out on the backside of a vice or a heavy block of steel." He used a set of torches to heat the metal and claims to have known next to nothing, but would do it anyway as it felt natural to him. "I had no teacher, as I didn't know anyone around in those days who made knives." Unfortunately, his grandfather died the year before he was born and was not able to pass down the tradition directly. "Plus, even if he was around, he was another world away anyways," Baranowski added.

So the fire had been lit and he gained knowledge through books and some videos on youtube. The real teacher ended up being the blood, sweat, tears, and mistakes ... "The school of hard knocks can be the best teacher sometimes." (Wow, I think we all needed to hear that.)

There's a lot about making knives that inspires Baranowski - from the fact he is carrying on tradition as a 4th generation metal worker or being able to create an idea in his head, scratch it down on paper and recreate it in real life. "Probably at the top of my list is how people find value in my work," he told me. "That still amazes me, how someone, who I may have never met, finds value in something I've created from a mere idea in my mind ... that's just way cool."

When asking Baranowski what his favorite knife to make was, he couldn't pick one. The first is a Bowie knife. "I like large blades, and the Bowie is the iconic American knife that conjures up dreams of the wild west and the rough and tough men that carried them." Also he enjoys crafting a classic 4"-5" hunting knife. "Being an outdoors kinda guy, a good, thin, 4" inch hunting knife is an essential tool that I would not leave the house without." Barnowski told me it must also be sharp. "A sharp knife is actually safer than a dull knife." This is because a dull knife will cause you to have to work harder to achieve your task, thus giving you more opportunity to slip and cut yourself.

FAST FACTS

- Age: 33
- Location: Springville NY
- Family Life: Married for 11 years to his wonderful wife Samantha. "She's also my biggest supporter." They have 2 beautiful children, Sage (10) and Wyatt (7).
- Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, and trapping. "There's a surprise," Baranowski said with a chuckle.

Going on Forged in Fire was one of the greatest experiences of his life. Baranowski learned what he's capable of, and that he's got what it takes to work and perform under immense stress and pressure. "Being able to put Springville in the National spotlight and represent our area, well, it's hard to put into words really. Pride. Pride is the one word that says it all. I am proud of what I've accomplished thus far and proud to be able to represent Western New York."

His advice to anyone starting out: find a mentor, or find someone willing to take time to point you in the right direction and teach you a few things. "This is the age of information; there are plenty of online groups where there are always people willing to take the time to teach and explain anything."

At first, knife making was just a hobby for Baranowski, but as he progressed, more people wanted knives, and well ... the rest is history. "I officially started Baranowski Knife and Tool around February this year." (Yay, for a COVID win!)

If you're interested in acquiring any of Baranowski's work, you can find his business page on Facebook as Baranowski Knife and Tool, and on Instagram under the same name. "My backlog is growing for custom orders but I do make one-offs and post them to my page for sale from time to time." They do sell quickly, he warned me. For lack of sounding like

"Forged in Fire Winner" continued page 22

TRAVEL

WINTER IN THE WOODS

Head to the Allegheny National Forest Region for snowy owls and snowmobiling



SUBMITTED BY LINDA DEVLIN, ANF VISITORS BUREAU

As the temperature dips, bundle up and head outside. In the Allegheny National Forest Region of northwestern Pennsylvania, enjoy birdwatching, snowmobiling, cross-country and downhill skiing. Located minutes from the New York/Pennsylvania state line, drive south on Rt. 219 to Bradford, PA to begin your adventure.

For birdwatchers, catching site of a Snowy Owl is a memorable occasion. In their breeding season, Snowy Owls live and nest in the far north regions around the North Pole. In their non-breeding season, they occasionally migrate south to our part of Northern America. Male Snowy Owls are usually very white, females tend to have some dark brown or black markings on their feathers. Their feet are also covered with feathers, looking very much like fluffy slippers. When searching for a Snowy Owl, check out high points like telephone poles, fenceposts, and buildings as they like to perch on these high points. Hedwig, in the movie Harry Potter, was a Snowy Owl. Do not try to catch or harm this owl; their numbers have drastically declined in recent years and their species is close to being placed on the endangered species list. To find out more facts go to www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/ Snowy_Owl/. Snowy Owls have been spotted in the Allegheny National Forest Region near Kinzua Dam and around the Allegheny River in Eldred, Pennsylvania.

Beginning and advanced birders will enjoy participating in the Audubon's Great Annual Backyard Bird Count. This worldwide event will take place February 12th-15th. This is when people from around the world join to watch, learn about, and count birds. Fifteen minutes in your own backyard is the beginning length recommended. Counts over the entire four days are appreciated. To find out more go to www.birdcount.org/participate

Snowmobiling is another fun way to enjoy the region. New snowmobile trails and trail head parking have been created by the Willow Creek Snowmobile Club in partnership with public lands and private businesses. At the Pine Acres Country Club, 1401 W. Warren Road, Bradford, new trailer parking has been roped off in their parking lot. This free trailhead parking will have trail access to the new Heffner Trail which connects to 1A in the Allegheny National Forest. The club kindly requests everyone to "Stay on the Trail or Stay Home."

The Willows Restaurant, 2669 W. Washington Street, Bradford, allows trailers to park in their lot free of charge. This is the location closest to Allegany State Park, NY. The current PA restaurant mandated closure ends Jan. 4th, so please consider stopping in for lunch, dinner, or a drink if you park in their lot to show support of snowmobiling.

Westline Inn, 15 EL Drive, Westline, PA, allows trailer parking in their lot free of charge as well. This is a great location, as you can go in many directions from Westline. Ride to Kane, Warren, the ANF, or north to Allegany State Park, NY. Plan to stop for lunch, dinner, or a drink. (Please note the Westline Inn does not open until 3:00pm on Sundays.) Overnight lodging is available at the Westline Inn.

The Barrel House Restaurant, 8946 Rt. 6 (intersection of Rt. 6 & Rt. 219), Lantz Corners, PA allows people to park in their lot for \$10/day. You are required to go in and pay the \$10 when you get there, however, if you go back in and eat a meal, your \$10 will be subtracted from your bill. The Lantz Corners Getaway offers overnight lodging as well.

Please note the Bradford Ranger State, Rt. 59, Bradford, PA does not allow trailer or snowmobile parking.

For more information on the area, overnight lodging, or to request a free snowmobile map call 800-473-9370 go to www.visitANF.com

TOUR CHAUTAUQUA

Embrace the lake effect: Ride, ski, tube, bike, trek; rentals available



SUBMITTED BY CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

Proximity to Lake Erie and lake effect storms mean Chautauqua County is covered in a blanket of snow from December through March, usually averaging more than 200 inches annually! With the long winter and abundance of snow, Chautauqua County has become a destination for travelers interested in many types of winter activities.

For downhill and cross-country snow sports, head to Peek'n Peak Ski Resort and enjoy 26 slopes and trails, state-of-the-art snowmaking, eight chairlifts, five progressive terrain parks, and a renowned ski and snowboard school. There's even a tubing area with 14 lanes and a "Magic Carpet" lift that transforms into a nighttime Lunar Lights Snow Tubing experience. The thrilling and mesmerizing atmosphere features an ever-changing light show produced by thousands of LED lights and projection lights. The lights pulse, fade and change in coordination with an immersive sound system. On select dates, the massive sound and light program will be operated by a live DJ. Another great place to hit the slopes in Chautauqua County is Cockaigne Resort, offering 10 slopes and trails as well as a snowmobile adventure park.

EXPLORE WINTER SPORTS

Cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and fat-tire bikers will also find opportunities on the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region's multi-use trail systems including Long Point State Park on Chautauqua Lake, Lake Erie State Park, Boutwell Hill State Forest, the Eastside and Westside Overland Trails, Chautauqua Institution and the Jamestown Audubon Community Nature Center.

DISCOVER THE TRAILS

Winter is a great time to explore Chautauqua County on horsebac, too! Book a trail ride at Double D.A.B. Riding Stables. Winter horseback rides are also offered through the lower valley of Cockaigne Resort near Clear Creek. Or take in the picturesque winter wonderland view while enjoying a relaxing day of ice fishing on Chautauqua Lake.

Rental equipment information:

Rent Snowshoes:

- Evergreen Outfitters
- Peek'n Peak Resort (*To be used at Peek'n Peak only)

Rent Fat-Tire Bikes:

• Loud Performance Products

- Rent Cross-Country Skis:
 Jamestown Cycle Shop
 - Peek'n Peak Resort (*To be used at Peek'n Peak only)

Downhill Ski & Snowboard Rentals:

- Peek'n Peak Resort (*To be used at Peek'n Peak only)
- Jamestown Cycle Shop
 Cockaigne Resort (*To be used at Cockaigne only)

It's never too late to start: Those interested in learning to ski or snowboard can look no farther than Cockaigne Resort or Peek'n Peak Resort; both employ trained snow sports instructors who can take the intimidation factor out of this beloved winter pastime, no matter your age! Peek'n Peak's Snow Sports School specifically utilizes a proven five-step system

"Tour Chautauqua" continued page 21



6113 Route 219 S. Ellicottville, NY

716.699.5620







#SHOPLOCAL

HEALTH & FITNESS

Build Your "Ski" Strength

By Kim Duke, Certified Personal Trainer, Core Performance

Winter Solstice has come and gone, ushering in the official beginning of winter. And, if you're a snowsports enthusiast, this season means a lot to you. Whether you ski, snow-board or enjoy another winter outdoor activity, your body needs extra conditioning to keep it strong and injury resilient.

Trudging through snow, lugging equipment and racing downhill requires the use of many muscle groups. However, some muscles are used more than others. Those are the ones you want to concentrate on when it comes to your strength workouts.

1. Quadriceps. Probably the most used muscle is the quads. These muscles hold you in position and they also provide protection for your knees. Great exercises for the quads include squats and lunges.

2. Hamstrings and Glutes. When you are sliding downhill, you typically hold your body in a flexed position - meaning you're leaning forward from the hips. This requires great strength from your hamstrings and glutes as they help stabilize your body. Work your hams and glutes with deadlifts, step-ups and leg curls.

3. Inner and Outer Thighs. Your inner thighs work like crazy when you are one-

3. Inner and Outer Thighs. Your inner thighs work like crazy when you are one-on-one with the hill. Your outer thighs keep your body stable and help you steer. Work these muscles with side lunges, side step squats and leg lifts.

4. Calves. Because your knees are bent, your calves (specifically the soleus) help you stay upright so you don't fall over (your boots help too). You can work this muscle by doing standing calf raises or machine calf raises.

5. Abs and Back. Because you're in a flexed position, bent over, your back has to work like a maniac to hold your body in that position. Your abs help in that endeavor while also protecting your spine. Your lats get involved when you're pushing and pulling. Work these muscles with exercises like bicycles, woodchops, back extensions and dumbbell rows.

6. Arms. Along with your back, arms help push and pull. Work these with chest presses, pushups and triceps dips.

All of these exercises target strength, endurance, stability and overall fitness. Of course, you don't need to do them all in one workout, but keeping yourself in shape with short



15-20-minute workouts each day will do wonders to keep your body strong while making this season more enjoyable.

Don't forget to get plenty of stretching in as well - being flexible is another way to keep your body safe from injury.

Kim Duke is a certified personal trainer and owner of Core Performance Fitness and Training located at 55 Bristol Lane, Ellicottville, NY. Kim resides in Ellicottville where she raised her two sons, Zach and Nik. For more information about her studio visit her Facebook page or www.coreperformancefitness.com. Reach Kim at kduke65@gmail.com.

Emotional Wellness: Inner Peace and Strength. Anxiety Group Offered in Ellicottville

By Laura Widger, LCSW





Worry is everywhere ... near, far, and every place in between. All of us worry, especially during a worldwide pandemic. You are certainly not alone. Robert L. Leahy, PH.D, world renown anxiety and worry specialist reports, "38% of people worry every day, this percentage is representative before the coronavirus, of course. And many people describe themselves as chronic worriers - they say 'yes, I've been a worrier all my life.' 50% of the people in the United States have had serious struggles with depression, anxiety, or substance abuse at some time; again, this percentage is indicative before this pandemic. Depression, anxiety, and substance abuse have increased during the past 50 years."

The struggle of worry is one that urgently needs a solution.

With these staggering numbers, an opportunity has arisen in the heart of Ellicottville. Inner Peace and Strength, a new mental and emotional health enterprise, owned by yours truly, Laura Widger, LCSW will be offering a weekly therapeutic support group called "Learn to Soothe Your Anxiety." I have been working in the field of mental and emotional health within Cattaraugus County for 10+ years. Over the past 9 months, I have witnessed friends, family members, colleagues, clients, community members, etc. struggle with

ways to acknowledge, understand, soothe and then quiet those racing anxious thought patterns. With this said, I've decided to start and open up a support network for those who need connection with people who totally understand anxiety, as well as skills, methods, and means to harness in those fear based worries.

This therapeutic group will be offered every Tuesday night from 6:30-7:30pm beginning January 5,, 2021. This group is open and new members are welcome. Confidentiality and Covid measures are adhered to, with in-person and zoom options available. The United Church of Ellicottville has been an enormous advocate and support of this healing opportunity and has offered to support my efforts and community members in spearheading emotional wellness here in Ellicottville.

This therapeutic and support group will follow a "cognitive behavioral therapy model." Group members will learn: to identify and recognize how anxiety manifests itself within, to come to an understanding of anxiety's illogical thinking patterns, to gain an awareness of personal anxiety profiles, as well as the opportunity to be given and practice strategies to soothe anxieties, fears, and worries.

Taking a leap to join a healing network, such as what is offered in this group community, is certainly scary, nerve provoking, and representative of vulnerability. However, taking that first step to call and inquire about group is the hardest part. You will connect with like-minded people, you will learn ways to soothe your anxieties, and you will feel mentally and emotionally more grounded and strong.

In the words of Brene Brown, "Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity, and change. Vulnerability is the core, the heart, the center of meaningful human experience."

For more information about my upcoming support group or to sign up, please contact me directly, Laura Widger, at 716-222-3949.

Laura Widger is a NY State Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 15 years of experience in the field of emotional wellness and mental health. She currently works for CCA-Connecting Communities in Action and specializes in trauma healing with children and adults. She lives in Cattaraugus County with her husband, children, and German short haired dog. Laura personally and professionally strives to promote internal self leadership and the discovery of true genuineness and balance within.

CATTARAUGUS TOA

cont. from page 04

We continue to be active in business organizations such as the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Invest Buffalo Niagara (IBN) and the New York State Economic Development Council to name just a few. IBN coordinated visits to destinations in the county for site selectors from New York City. In fact, we submitted nine sites in the county to IBN over the past year as possible locations for those interested in bringing a business to western New York.

Our sister agency, the Cattaraugus Capital Resource Corporation (CCCRC) continues to meet with prospective not-for-profit organizations regarding our tax-exempt bond financing programs. We look forward to making some exciting announcements with the CCCRC in 2021 about some of these opportunities being pursued by the not-for-profit sector.

We are collaborating with Jamestown Community College to help create a certificate program for employment opportunities at commercial solar farms. We have conducted a few meetings with various developers in discussing workforce needs pertaining to the installation and maintenance of these renewable energy projects.

These are just some of the many initiatives and collaborations the CCIDA has undertaken over the last year. Despite the chaos and turmoil of 2020, Cattaraugus County - especially our business community - is poised to emerge stronger and even more resilient as we prepare to meet the challenges of 2021.

-Corey Wiktor, Executive Director Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA)

YEAR IN REVIEW

cont. from page 07

Santa Sheriff Program and hosted by the Rotary Club of Ellicottville, made its online auction debut, keeping in the spirit of giving. Other holiday-fueled donations were provided to Cornell Cooperative Extension through a wreath decorating contest and auction, and the United Church of Ellicottville Food Bank received a generous donation as a result of the sale of EVL facemasks, organized by the Ellicottville Chamber and sold at businesses around town. It doesn't appear that facemarks will be making an exit anytime soon; EVL masks are still available at Daff and Ava Grace Fashions.

2020 has been a year you may wish to forget, but undoubtedly one you will always remember. Despite the chaos and challenges, the hardships and losses, we march on. We have found strength in each other. And we will continue to pull from one another as we head into a new year. Cheers to 2021. This is our community. Strong as oak.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

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and Brian McFadden from the Chamber (above left, with volunteers from the Ellicottville Food Pantry) loaded up almost \$2,000 worth of products from Tops Market and delivered them to the food pantry. The folks at the pantry, working with Val Germain, provide an amazing service to the less fortunate and they can use all the help they can get around the holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who helped sell and those who purchased the face masks. If you have not gotten yours, they are available at Daff and Ava Grace Fashions in the village. If you'd like to help in our local area, please reach out to the The United Church of Ellicottville Food Pantry at 716-699-4003.

DISC GOLF FUND

cont. from page 14

for intramural collegiate disc golf and opportunities for Twin Tiers Disc Golf collaboration with agencies like the YMCA and Intandem, as disc golf is a sport that can be adapted for those with physical and intellectual handicap. Gargoyle is aided by its central location between Olean and Allegany and its proximity to St. Bonaventure University and Jamestown Community College.

"Gargoyle Park Disc Golf Course will introduce youth to a sport that lasts a lifetime," added Longer. "Among the thousands of amateur disc golf tournaments hosted each year, you will not find a more diverse group of competitors ranging from 8 to 75 years of age and everything in between."

The Twin Tiers Disc Golf Club hopes to begin installing the course as early as spring 2021, said Longer, beginning with a nine-hole layout followed quickly by the installation of the second nine holes necessary for regulation disc golf tournaments. CRCF Executive Director Karen Niemic Buchheit applauded the efforts of Longer and the Twin Tiers Disc Golf Association

"Like so many great things, this all began with a love for a cause and activity," said Buchheit. "To provide a new, exciting opportunity for recreation in the city and to revitalize one of its beautiful parks at the same time is a unique opportunity and one that I know the public will support."

Donations can be made to the Gargoyle Park Public Disc Golf Course Fund at CRCF, 301 North Union Street, Suite 203, Olean, NY 14760 or online at cattfoundation.org.

About CRCF: The Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation is the area's supportive, responsive and trusted community foundation. Established in 1994, CRCF is growing good by connecting donors to the causes they care about most in the region. Grants from the foundation support many areas, including education, scholarships, health care, the arts, community development, human service, and youth development. To learn more, call 716-301-CRCF (2723), email foundation@cattfoundation.org, or visit online at www.cattfoundation.org. CRCF is also on Facebook and Twitter (@CattFoundation).

TOUR CHAUTAUQUA

cont. from page 18







called Terrain Based Learning. By shaping snow features to naturally teach speed control and body position, traditional fears and anxieties sometimes felt by new enthusiasts are quelled. Take your snow sports skills to the next level at Cockaigne Resort. Consider joining the Monday Night Race League, where members are guaranteed at least 8 weeks of coach-guided race training focusing on skills development. Thursday evenings are for the Freestyle Let's Get Wild group. Learn freestyle techniques like grabs, airs, grinds, spins, plus general slope and terrain park etiquette. Snow Sport Lessons available.

CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS & CRAFT BEVERAGES

Nothing warms the heart like laughter. The intuitive technology powering the National Comedy Center in Lucille Ball's hometown, Jamestown, NY, takes guests on an interactive journey through comedy's history. Named by TIME magazine as one of its "World's Greatest Places" - and by People magazine as one of its "100 Reasons to Love America", the National Comedy Center is a destination. Perform Comedy Karaoke, challenge friends to a Laugh Battle and explore more than 50 interactive exhibits and special collections. Dual admission to the Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Museum is available.

Experience other cultural attractions like the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, Robert H. Jackson Center, or Fenton History Center. In Westfield, the hometown of Welch's, the Grape Discovery Center tells the story of the local grape industry through engaging exhibits and displays. Visitors have an opportunity to taste the flavor of the region by sampling local Lake Erie Wine Country wine and grape juice. Visit the museum store for grape-inspired art, artisanal food products, and local wine.

Tour Lake Erie Wine Country's 23 wineries, each offering a unique guest experience. The Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region is also home to several craft breweries and distilleries including Southern Tier Brewing Co., Big Inlet Brewing, Five & 20 Spirits & Brewing, plus more.

WINTER WEEKEND GETAWAYS

Chautauqua County is a great place for a relaxing getaway. With many local accommodations offering special packages, winter is one of the best times of year to visit. To learn more about all the adventures you can have in Chautauqua County and to request a free visitors guide, head to tourchautauqua.org

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

ROVER MAKEOVERS: Professional pet grooming. Owned and operated locally by mother and daughter, Teresa Mercer and Calla Wagner. Call 716-699-8345 for an appointment. 16 Elizabeth St., Ellicottville. "YOUR DOG IS OUR DOG." Pet collars and other accessories available for sale. Please wear a mask when entering.

MARTENS CLEANING SERVICE. Local, professional carpet cleaning, deep cleans, construction clean-up, grout and tile cleaning, residential and business cleaning. Call Christina Martens, 585-435-7158.

RENTALS

ERA TEAM VP REAL ESTATE & VACATION RENTALS offers over 200 privately owned and professionally managed vacation rental homes and condominiums in Ellicottville, Chautauqua Lake and Chautauqua Institution. View all of our rentals at MyTeamVP.com or call 800-344-2198 to speak with a seasoned reservationist.

PLACE YOUR AD: \$10 per issue, 40 words or less, 25¢ each additional word. 716-699-9816, info@ellicottvillenow.com, 9 W. Washington St. or place your ad directly on our website at ellicottvillenow.com.

EMPLOYMENT

KITCHEN STAFF: In need of dedicated, hard working employees for immediate start date. Job consists of maintaining cleanliness of a work station and being a part of the cook staff. We are seeking employees who take pride in what they do, enjoy interacting with people, are friendly and want to be a part of our family! Applications can be picked up at Tim & Bonnie's Pizzeria, 8 Bristol Lane, Ellicottville, NY or apply online at timandbonnies.com.

* * * * *

BLOOD DRIVE

A commnity Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 13th at St. John's Catholic Church-Bingham Hall, 5381 Depot Street, West Valley, NY from 1:00-6:00pm. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.red crossblood.org to schedule your appointment or to find an upcoming Blood Drive near you. All donors giving blood between Jan. 1st-31st will be entered for a chance to win a trip for 2 to Super Bowl LVI in LA! Details at rcblood.org/SuperBowl

* * * * *

OBITUARIES

Dana G. Fitzpatrick • March 24, 1930 - December 18, 2020



Dana G. Fitzpatrick, 90, of Ellicottville, NY passed away Friday, December 18, 2020 at Olean General Hospital. He was born on March 24, 1930 in Salamanca, son of the late William F. and Loretto (Kelly) Fitzpatrick.

He graduated from Ellicottville Central School in 1948 where he was Senior Class President and quarterback of the undefeated 1948 ECS football team. He went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Notre Dame and graduated in 1952. Following college, Mr. Fitzpatrick was commissioned as an Officer in the Navy and was stationed in Newport, RI from 1952-1954. On December 28, 1955, he married the former Bernice Siebart, who survives.

He served as President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of Fitzpatrick & Weller, Inc. capping a 66-year career by leading the company to celebrate its 125th year in 2020. Mr. Fitzpatrick was a former director of the following organizations: National Hardwood Lumber Association, Hardwood Manufacturers Association, and the American Forest and Paper Association. He served as Chairman of the American Hardwood Export Council and the National Forest Products Association. He was also past Director of the World Trade Center Buffalo-Niagara Chapter and the Cattaraugus County Bank, as well as a member of the Holiday Valley Board of Directors for 40 years.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was an active member of the Ellicottville community. He was an Ellicottville Central School board member for 20 years, a director of the Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce and the Elkdale Country Club, as well as a 70-year member of the Ellicottville

Ski Club. He was a member of the Holy Name of Mary RC Church. He loved Holiday Valley where he enjoyed skiing and golfing. He was also a huge Notre Dame sports fan. He especially loved his family, of whom he was very proud.

In addition to his loving wife of 65 years, Dana is survived by two sons: Daniel (Nancy) Fitzpatrick of Ellicottville, and Gregory (Ann Marie) Fitzpatrick of Ellicottville, as well as three daughters: Marcia (Jim Zaepfel) Fitzpatrick of Williamsville, Kerry (Michael) Allison of Mansfield, MA, and Dr. Sheila Fitzpatrick of Vail, CO. Also surviving is a sister, Kathleen Widger of Great Valley, and ten grandchildren: Maggie, Stephen (Natalee), Charles, Brendan, Kailey, Annie Meghan, Connor, Melanie, Dana, and Christina, as well as two great grandchildren: Carter and Henry and several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by an infant son, Steven Fitzpatrick, four brothers: Father Bede Fitzpatrick, Gerard "Jess" Fitzpatrick, Joseph Fitzpatrick, and William Fitzpatrick, as well as an infant twin, Daniel Fitzpatrick.

Private family services will be held with a Celebration of Life to be announced at a later

Burial with military honors will be held at Holy Cross Cemetery in Ellicottville.

Memorials may be made to the Ellicottville Memorial Library or the Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program, C/O Holiday Valley Resort, PO Box 370, Ellicottville, NY 14731.

Arrangements are under the direction of Mentley Funeral Home Inc., 411 Rock City St. in Little Valley.

Thomas C. Meehan December 4, 1955 - December 26, 2020

Thomas C. Meehan ,65, of Ellicottville, NY passed away Saturday December 26, 2020 at Olean General Hospital.

He was born December 4, 1955 in Daytona Beach, FL the son of the late Paul and Sara (Gray) Meehan. He was also predeceased by his stepfather David Right.

Mr. Meehan was a Vietnam Veteran having served in the US Marine Corp. He was employed at Lowes in Springville, NY and was a member of the Elks Club in Port Orange,FL.

Mr Meehan is survived by his loving companion of 25 years Glenda Wiechman of Ellicottville, NY and several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents he is predeceased by 2 sisters Paula Meehan and Kathy Flynn.

Private family service will be held.

Memorials may be made to any veterans charity of Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Arrangements are under the direction of Mentley Funeral Home Inc., 411 Rock City Street in Little Valley, NY.

FORGED IN FIRE WINNER

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a 90s infomercial, you better act fast and order today!

As if you needed another reason to like Baranowski, he took a portion of his winnings and donated it to cancer research. "Specifically, I donated to esophageal, breast, pancreatic, and huntington's disease research. Partly in memory of those who lost their battle and those still fighting and because I wanted to give back a little." The rest he said went back into the business in the form of tools. "This will help my process and grow the business."

Baranowski left me with so many nuggets of wisdom I didn't know any better way to close this article than like this ...

Walterisms:

- 1. "Never be afraid to make mistakes, rather embrace them, as there isn't much to learn from being perfect all the time."
- 2. "Never stop trying to become better, be your own worst critic, you never know where the path may lead."
- 3. "Always, always stay humble."

instalow

Follow us on Instagram @ellicottvillenow

Share your photos with us and see them in our InstaNOW Photo Gallery!

Upload your photos using #evlnow / tag us. It's THAT easy!

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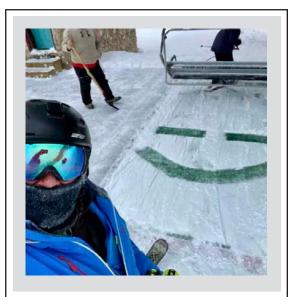
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□ Icove1: Wishing you the merriest of Christmases ever. From my dog Rocky to yours #evlnow #womansbestfriend #santababy



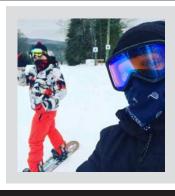
⊋chandler.nickel: Last night's tour was fun #evlnow #ski #telemarkskiing #spreadtelemark #winter



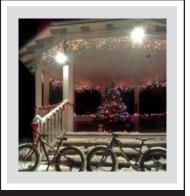
⊇rickmac6150: Smiling under the mask... just glad to be in my Happy Place #LiftieSnowArt #evlnow



○robert_kuechle: #evlnow @HoliMont #ellicottvilleny #skiing #snow #snowboarding #wnyphotographer #iloveny #winter #getoutside



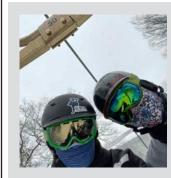
Qchazormond: It's good to be back. #evlnow #holimont



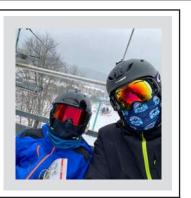
⊇therese6343: Fat Bike Christmas Lights Tour 2020 #elvnow



Qch_crofty: Day 1 #holimont #coachlife #evlnow



⊃jtdaw6: First run gold chair! #holidayvalley #evlnow



⊃mskruse2: Great day in @ellicottvillenow @holidayvalley



⇔timbit.the.cavachon: Dashing through the snow #evlnow



○bperksey: Girls Day. Demo Day. #holidayvalley #evlnow



Sbonabobvw: Merry Christmas from Horn Hill in EVL! #merrychristmas #ellicottvilleny #evlnow

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