

The Ballpark is Back



By Joanne E. McFadden

After its entire season was canceled last year due to COVID-19, the Amsterdam Mohawks is bringing baseball back to the city with a full season, including 24 home games. “Everybody’s itching to get out, so I know people are really excited,” said general manager Brian Spagnola.

With more people vaccinated and COVID levels dropping, the Amsterdam Mohawks, one of the teams of, is looking forward to a relatively normal season. At this time, the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League (PGCBL) of which the Mohawks are a part, does not require players to be vaccinated. However, just about all the players selected for this year’s team have been vaccinated. The remainder are scheduled for vaccinations soon, Spagnola said.

The team will play its first game against the Mohawk Valley Diamond Dawgs Veteran’s Memorial Park in Little Falls, New York on June 3, and then players return to Amsterdam for their first home game of the season on June 4, taking on the Albany Dutchmen at the Rao Family Stadium at Shuttleworth Park.

As far as COVID precautions go, management is waiting until the week before opening to finalize what measures it will put it place, largely because information and regulations change so rapidly. There is an option to have sections for vaccinated vs. unvaccinated spectators, but the team has yet to decide if that is what COVID it will institute for certain. Closer to the home opening, the team will determine what capacity it can have at the stadium and how it will structure the spacing out and distancing. “We’ll determine that the week before because I’m sure

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Hotel’s new chef returns to his roots



Thomas Moran, the new executive chef at the 1854 Pub & Eatery at the Hotel Broadalbin.

By Joanne E. McFadden

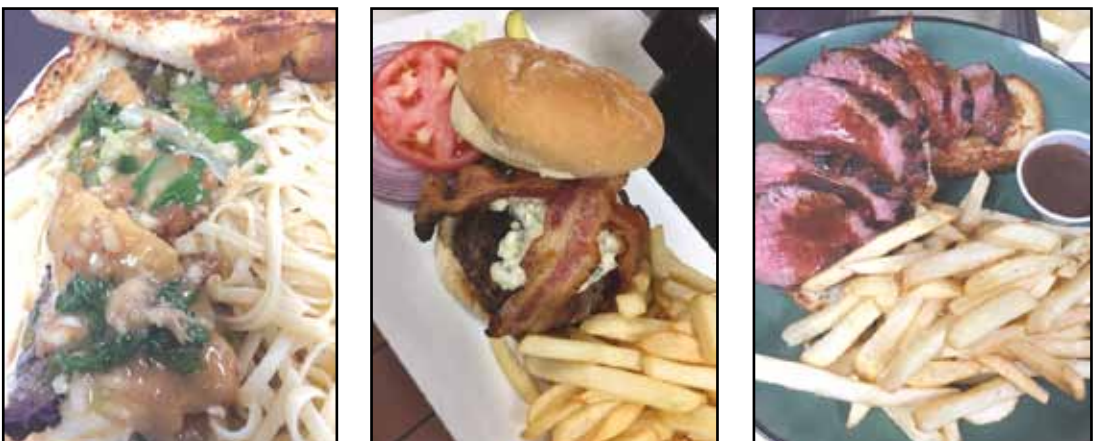
Thomas Moran, the new executive chef at the 1854 Pub & Eatery at the Hotel Broadalbin, had been wanting to move home for a while. After graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York in 1989, his career took him to Chicago, the West Indies, Connecticut, and then to several establishments in southern California. However, after three decades, he wanted to return to the area where he has seven brothers and sisters, including his identical twin.

When he and his wife came to a family reunion on the Great Sacandaga Lake two summers ago, he happened to drive past the Hotel Broadalbin. “What is this cool little place? he wondered. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Hilton in Little Tokyo, part of Los Angeles, where he was working, shut down. The restaurant reopened to feed

hundreds of medical personnel aboard the USNS Mercy, which docked in Los Angeles to provide relief for area hospitals by treating non-COVID patients. The restaurant closed up again when the ship departed in mid-May 2020.

Moran and his wife then decided to move back to New York. Still intrigued by the Hotel Broadalbin’s restaurant, Morgan began meeting with owners David and Zoe Thompson. The couple, who are both retired teachers from the Broadalbin-Perth Central School District, had operated the establishment mainly as a restaurant and bar since they purchased it in 2007, with a boarding house upstairs. “The upstairs needed work desperately, but we didn’t have enough equity in the building at that time to tackle that project,” David Thompson said.

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Some of the menu selections at 1854 Pub & Eatery at the Hotel Broadalbin.

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Chef, continued from page 1

The building was originally constructed in 1854 as a two-story brick building that served as a glove store. A second part, a clapboard clad frame block was added in 1881 when the store was converted into a hotel. The hotel was added to the National Register of Historic places in 2011.

That changed in 2019, and the couple redid all the upstairs rooms, putting in new bathrooms, plumbing, and wiring, as well as decorating the rooms with furniture that hails back to the latter half of the nineteenth century when the building was constructed. Now, the hotel has 12 guest rooms upstairs and is a prime venue for weddings.

"We talked about the tap room, and the guys [in a wedding party] having beers and the girls getting their nails done," Moran said.

When both parties decided

that Moran would be a good fit, the Thompsons asked him to come to the hotel to be its new chef a couple of months ago. "I said I would love to," Moran said. "I'd be honored to work here."

Now, Moran brings his experience and expertise back to Fulton County. "We're having so much fun," said Moran of the new offerings he is trying out. He can easily rattle off a dozen entrées that leave one's mouth watering, such as crabmeat stuffed haddock with roasted potatoes, marinated pork chops with garlic, ahi tuna tacos with a garlic-chili sauce with wonton wrappers as taco shells, his famous chicken teriyaki, beer brats, fish and chips, and chicken adobo with soy and garlic sauce. Moran bakes breads every day and serves all his sandwiches, such as the roast pork Cubano and his version of a Philly cheese steak sand-

wich, on homemade bread and focaccia.

The Thompsons and Moran want to develop the restaurant's menu to offer more dining room-style fare in addition to its traditional offerings and expand banquet and catering services as well. "It's classic pub meets upscale dining room," Moran said. Moran also wants to develop the 1854's taproom, too.

While Moran has helped to open seven new hotels in different parts of the world during his career, he is happy to be part of what he describes as "a great family operation" located near his own family.

"I'm so happy to be home and happy to have fallen into this wonderful spot and continue on with my craft," Moran said. "From my perspective, I'm just going to have fun with the culinary side of things, make some really good food that will contend with anybody in the state, and put a fun, casual spin on really great professional food."



Some of the menu selections at 1854 Pub & Eatery at the Hotel Broadalbin.

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Chamber welcomes cleaning company

By Joanne E. McFadden

Colleen Bellamy has been working in the cleaning industry since 2004. She started her latest venture, The Honestly Clean Company LLC, in 2012 and recently joined the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce. The onset of COVID has amplified the importance of her company's services.

Bellamy and her two full-time employees and one half-time employee clean homes in Fulton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Warren, and Albany counties.

They offer a wide range of cleaning options including regular biweekly or monthly cleanings, one-time cleanings, as needed cleanings, and spring cleanings. The company also offers move out cleaning for landlords and tenants and move in and move out cleaning for home buyers and sellers and real estate companies.

Ninety percent of her business is residential cleaning, but she also does some businesses. The Honestly Clean Company offers specialized service to each client. Rather than answer the question, "What do you offer?" Bellamy asks potential clients, "What do you need?" Then she tailors the work done in each home or business to that client's needs. "It's really important that we make each customer happy and contour and specialize their cleaning needs," she said.

She also notes that if a potential client has a request that is not suited to what her company provides, for example, power washing or basement cleanouts, she will refer that client to a firm that specializes in what they're seeking to have done. "If I don't feel we're a good fit, then I refer it out to somebody else," Bellamy said. I want people to get their money's worth."

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the



Colleen Bellamy of The Honestly Clean Company LLC.

importance of cleaning. In mid-March when the state went into lockdown, Bellamy had little business. However, a few months in when people began to settle into pandemic living, business skyrocketed. "I did all of my research to make sure we were doing everything properly, and I had to regain that trust," Bellamy said. "I had to make them feel comfortable that we were prepared and being safe and following all protocols."

With the pandemic, The Honestly Clean Company's revenue tripled. "June 2020 was the best month I've ever had," Bellamy said.

She looks forward to growing the awareness of what The Honestly Clean Company has to offer and providing service for additional clients.

West Motor Freight new to the chamber

By Joanne E. McFadden

Michael Abatecola has been working in transportation all of his adult life. In 2016, he started his own company in Amsterdam when he became an independent agent of West Motor Freight PA, part of The Evans Network of Companies.

"We move freight all over the lower 48," said Rachel Rose, a transportation agent for West Motor and Abatecola's fiancée.

Currently, the company has almost 50 independent truck drivers leased onto the company in addition to the four trucks in its own fleet. "My goal is to get to 200 owner-operators, and I would love to have 25 company trucks," Rose said. Abatecola drives one of those trucks, and he is actively looking for drivers for the three others.

West Motors drivers live all over the country and can



Michael Abatecola and Rachel Rose of West Motor Freight PA.

haul directly for any client. "I want to get our feelers out in our own backyard to move freight locally and get direct customers so people really know we're here," Rose said. "We have so much industry right here."

The company does truck the goods of local companies including Amsterdam

Dollar General, Fage, Target, and C.G. Roxane, but Rose wants to set up direct contracts with local businesses for West Motor's transportation services.

In addition to Rose, two other employees work in the company's Amsterdam offices. The most challenging aspect of the job is the lack of sleep, as Rose makes herself available 24/7 to all the company's drivers. "The phone rings throughout the night," she said.

However, working with the driver's is Rose's favorite part of her job. "I love the interaction with the drivers, helping them and talking to them every day," she said. "I really do think I have the cream of the crop of drivers."

Abatecola and Rose are poised for expansion. "We love what we do," Rose said.

Illustrations by Greg



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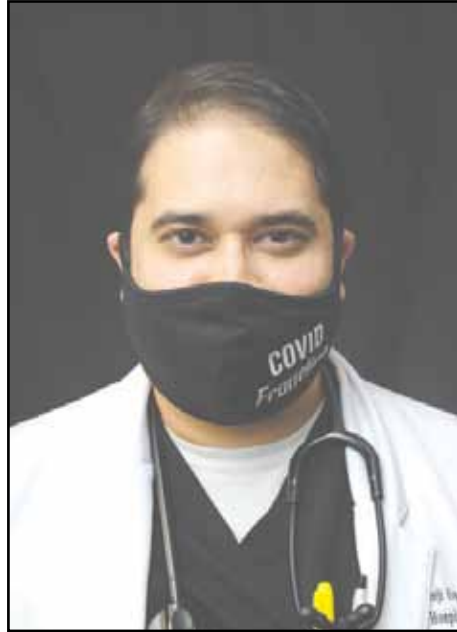
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Littauer Physician's Work with COVID Draws International Attention

Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home is proud to announce the Medical Director of the healthcare organization's Hospitalist program, Devjit Roy, MD, has an article accepted for publication with the prestigious British Medical Journal. Roy is one of the authors of the article. "We're extremely proud Dr. Roy received the recognition he deserves for his work," says Littauer's Chief Medical Officer Frederick Goldberg. "The research findings in *Treatment of unexplained coma and hypokinetic-rigid syndrome in a patient with COVID-19* provides greater understanding of COVID's complexity. His work may shape future treatments and clinical approaches for people with COVID."



Devjit Roy, MD

The study follows a patient suffering from severe complications of COVID. The patient experienced encephalopathy (damage or disease which affects the brain), hypokinetic rigid syndrome (the decreased and slowed movements similar to Parkinson's disease), and severe cognitive impairment.

"Some may call the patient's recovery a miracle," says Dr. Roy. "But, on the scientific level there's much

more at work. This specific patient in our study was suffering from, not only the negative effects of the virus, but from prolonged hospitalization and being on a ventilator. It was likely this patient was not going to make it."

We are learning, infection complications from COVID vary from person to person. Some positive with the disease feel little to no symptoms.

For others, it can ravage their health and respiratory system completely, requiring intubation and placement on a ventilator. Numerous symptoms of the disease suggest even long-term neurological involvement and complications. Proving more challenging, there is little to no literature to describe neurophysiological cognitive state and treatment of patients in the post-intensive care unit (ICU).

Moreover, the patient in Dr. Roy's study began experiencing depleted dopamine stores in the brain due to long-term use of anesthetics to keep the patient breathing on the ventilator, without the risk of erratic or inconsistent breathing patterns. This results in preserved consciousness, tremors, and intact eye movements.

"This patient was at risk of not making it," explained Dr. Roy. "We needed to act fast. So, we tried an approach that was scientifically supported, and it worked. It was very successful."

Dr. Roy and his care team immediately began treating the patient with Modafinil (used to treat narcolepsy) and Carbidopa-Levodopa (used to

treat Parkinson's disease). These medications have been shown to improve and accelerate functional recovery and sleep-wake cycles.

Within just a few days, the patient was awake, alert, and began showing increased movement of their body. After the first week of treatment, the patient was weaned from ventilator usage, able to communicate meaningfully, and demonstrated increased mobility. When the patient was medically stable for discharge and rehabilitation, the patient continued their medication regiment and showed overall signs of improvement. The patient was discharged home after a month of acute rehabilitation.

"This study is very meaningful to me," Dr. Roy adds. "Not much was known about COVID at the time – there still isn't," Dr. Roy adds. "Nobody would've imagined this crisis to happen when it did, and for it to have put such a strain on hospitals, our healthcare systems, and our country. But it did. Yet, we have responded in the best way possible – get more information, understand more about the virus, and find answers. And we are actively doing that."

Mohawks, continued from page 1

it's going to change again," Spagnola said.

Normally, players stay with host families during the season. With the uncertainty of COVID, that may or may not happen this year, and the team is still exploring options in regard to housing the players.

Those who attend games this season will likely get an early glimpse at some players who make it into the pros. Since moving to Amsterdam in 2003, the team has won its championship nine times, the latest win in 2019.

Mohawks players come from the same set of colleges each year. They are usually freshmen who want to get in some playing time before their college season starts. "Typically, what happens with players at that level is that they'll come here as freshmen, go to Cape Cod as sophomores, and then get drafted into professional baseball as a junior," Spagnola said. In an average year, 12 to 15 former Mohawks players are drafted. In 2019, out of the 40 former PGCBL players drafted, 23 had played for the Mohawks.

Currently, the team has a

slightly larger than usual roster with 38 players. "We did carry a few extra this year," Spagnola said. "You never know what happens with COVID."

Keith Griffin has coached the team to seven championship wins in the eleven seasons that he has been head coach. "We have a great coaching staff, and we get really good players, and the whole atmosphere actually lends itself to that," said Spagnola, noting that the college coaches want to send the team good players. "We have a coaching staff that they trust," he said.

The atmosphere Spagnola speaks of is the community aspect of the whole Amsterdam Mohawks experience, for players, staff, and the community ages three to 90. There is plenty of good baseball to take in, but it goes far beyond that. In addition to a place for enjoying the sport, the venue provides a great opportunity to spend time with family, friends and co-workers. The team is currently booking games for groups like it does in a normal season.

"We always say we don't

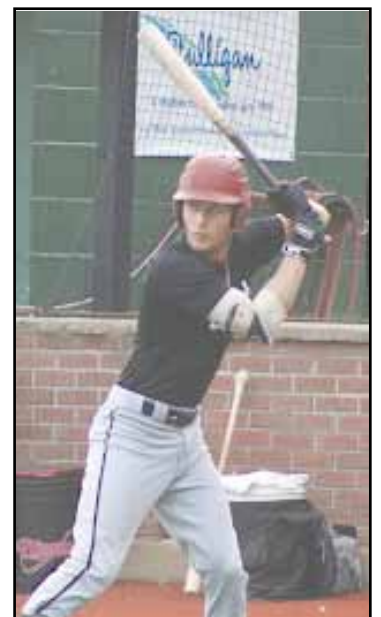


really sell baseball," Spagnola said. "People are there for a night out. We have a core group of season ticket holders, part of the community that loves the baseball and loves the team, but a good other part of our crowd is there for parties and picnics," he said, citing the four or more corporate outings scheduled at each home game. Local companies with employee numbers from 20 to 300 host corporate outings at the games. There is also a deck area where people can hang out with their friends and socialize while taking in

the game...or not.

The Mohawks are looking forward to getting the season under way after last year's baseball void. "We're planning on full steam ahead, and we'll certainly have some affordable local entertainment," Spagnola said. "We're soup-ing it up and getting everybody talking again." Players and fans are excited to be back at the baseball field.

"It's really just about the community," Spagnola said. "We think we've made ourselves a big part of the summer in this region."



New Providers Say, “We’ve Got This.”

While many hospitals struggled to find medical care providers, Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home acquired new, talented providers during the pandemic, acclimating them quickly to serve a critical role during a critical time. For the year 2020, the healthcare organization added 28 new providers to its medical staff, totaling more than 200 providers working with Nathan Littauer Hospital & Nursing Home. “The members of our community are deserving of great healthcare services,” says Littauer Vice President of Primary and Specialty Care, Patrice McMahon. “That’s why we’ve chosen some of the best providers our patients could ask for.”

Nathan Littauer Primary/Specialty Care welcomed the following providers to its medical staff in the year 2020:

James Alexander, MD, Radiology; Mohammad Al-Hasan, MD, Emergency Medicine; James Bai, MD, Radiology; Emmanuel Bapana, MD, Emergency Medicine; Medhat Barsoom, MD, Emergency Medicine; Kayla Bellinger, FNP, Family Practice; Jeremiah Benoit, MD, Internal Medicine; Susan Duross, NP, Palliative Care; Obafemi Giwa-Amu, MD, Family Practice; Kristi Hecker, FNP, Family Practice; Abigail Johnson, PA, Orthopedics; Monika

Kapusniak, CRNA, Anesthesiology; Stephen Little, DO, Anesthesiology; Sandeep Mangalmurti, MD, Cardiology; Trevor McGinley, MD, Emergency Medicine; Harish Moorjani, MD, Infectious Disease; Brittany Mulhall, NP, Cardiology; Elizabeth “Betty” O’Hagan, FNP, Family Practice; Sein Yone Pao, DO, Hospitalist; Ashlee Podolec, NP, Primary Care/OR; Betti Ressler, MD; Locums/Pediatrics; Ryan Richman, MD, Emergency Medicine; Devjit Roy, MD, Inpatient Specialist/Hospitalist; Thomas Rush, MD, Infectious Disease; Krista Sheils, FNP, Pediatrics; Alison Townsend, PA, Caroga Lake Primary Care; Melissa VanSlyke, ANP, Family Medicine; Omer Wali, MD, Hospitalist; and Timothy Waters, DO, Hospitalist.

“While our nation is experiencing a shortage of medical providers, we have enjoyed great success in attracting high-quality physicians and Advance Practice Professionals to our medical staff,” says Littauer’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Frederick Goldberg, “These skilled, compassionate and dedicated medical professionals make it possible for our community to have easy access on a daily basis to what they most need and deserve: pa-

tient-centered, high-quality healthcare close to home.”

In addition to welcoming new providers to the organization, Nathan Littauer Hospital is actively engaged in the early stages of a community and organizational pandemic recovery. The organization’s plan for recovery focuses on internal workforce development, increasing community vaccination rates, and general organizational growth.

New Littauer providers had a few things to say to the community members they serve:

“I am proud to be working with Nathan Littauer,” says Jeremiah Benoit, MD. “The past year has carried unique limitations and concerns, but we can continue working together to keep our community safe. Our Broadalbin Primary Care Center has been able to successfully stay open and accessible to our patients during the pandemic, and I’m adamant we will continue to do so. We have a great team of providers, nurses, and staff.”

“Being a healthcare provider during a pandemic presents unique challenges,” says Kayla Bellinger, FNP. “However, it has been reassuring to be part of a team that puts our community and the safety of our patients at the forefront. Most of us go into this

field to optimize the health of others and advocate for those who have difficulty doing so for themselves; this has not changed through the pandemic. More than ever, we are here to help our community navigate through a scary and confusing time. Our facilities are open, safe, and we are here for you.”

“We are very understanding of the general public’s thoughts about visiting their provider during a pandemic,” says Obafemi “Femi” Giwa-Amu, MD. “But, we want to reassure our community members that we strive to keep our patients safe. We have safe, effective infection control and preventative measures in place, and stringent guidelines to ensure that we are healthy before we even start our day. We have all been offered vaccines as an added layer of protection, for us, and for you! I urge you not to delay your routine appointments, and know that we are here to keep you healthy.”

Littauer’s providers explain, “We’ve got this,” to the people in the region. Now, Littauer providers are eager to help their patients prevent disease, and look forward to continuing a routine course of care. Nathan Littauer invites people back to their community hospital adding, “Health care should not be placed on-hold. We are here to help you heal.”

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Hill & Markes Hosted Successful Facility & Equipment Expo

Local company hosted expo highlighting innovative solutions

Hill & Markes, a 115-year-old wholesale distributor, hosted a successful Facility & Equipment Expo on Friday, May 14 at the Hill & Markes facility in Amsterdam, NY. Hill & Markes had to cut off registration prior to the event due to high customer engagement in the show! Returning face-to-face, the show featured industry leaders and cutting-edge technology that keeps facilities clean, safe, and healthy.

“Our expo was a huge success, the atmosphere, presentations, interaction, weather – just a tremendous day to welcome back our vendors and customers. We did it safely and it was well received by all,” said Joe Waite, Vice President of Sales at Hill & Markes.

The Facility & Equipment Expo was a fantastic opportunity for facility managers to take advantage of face-to-face interaction with manufactur-



ers for the first time in a long time. This expo will help facilities update and enhance their cleaning procedures to ensure safety and efficiency. Three presentations on the future of cleaning and restroom management from industry experts – Georgia Pacific, ISSA, and Kimberly-Clark were well attended. The Hill & Markes Equipment Service Team also


provided a variety of equipment demonstrations, including a Tennant robotic floor scrubber, throughout the day.

“The Hill & Markes Equipment Expo was a massive success as one of the first live events within our industry held in NY. Bringing industry experts together with Hill & Markes customers in person for the first time in nearly a year brought so much joy and comfort to the attendees that desire immediate solutions to the world we live in today,” said Brant Insero, ISSA Director of Education, Training, Certification & Standards. “There will undoubtedly be significant lasting value to the customers of Hill & Markes that attended the event. I sincerely hope that those individuals who couldn’t attend will join Hill & Markes for future events being led by their new Hill & Markes Institute!”

This event was in-person, outside, and tented with social distancing guidelines enforced. Key vendors including Tennant, Georgia Pacific, GOJO, Clorox, Rubbermaid and more attended!

Hill & Markes is a 115-year-old family-owned wholesale distributor servicing the state of New York with ice cream products, janitorial products, food service, PPE, and office supplies. The Hill & Markes family strongly believes in providing cutting edge solutions for customers and being a good corporate citizen.





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Membership News



Janet Davis
Director of Membership
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Welcome new members!

Great Sacandaga Retreat, LLC has Lake house rentals, Lake Bed and Breakfast and Adirondack Bed and Breakfast. They are located in Mayfield at 136 Bushnell Road. GPS does not recognize the location but Bushnell is horseshoe shaped and both entrances onto Bushnell can be accessed by route 30. The house is yellow with a wrap around porch. The Bed and Breakfast is always open as long as they have rooms booked. They Have 3 bedrooms that are Bed and Breakfast which breakfast is served. There is one apartment they rent out for guests that prefer extended stays. Raymond and Patti Maguire are very excited to be part

of this beautiful community. Welcome to the Chamber.
Kevlin Insurance is located at 152 W Main St Johnstown NY. Dan Kevlin specializes in delivering the optimal insurance policy for your specific needs. They offer a variety of policy types to help suit your specific situation and always are hand on, in person support whenever you need it. They are dedicated to helping you discover the lowest optimal insurance rates based on your individual criteria and help you in all ways possible. They offer a multitude of companies tailored to your specific needs ,such as Travelers, Fulmont Mutual, United National, Progressive and

more as well as a variety of different insurance types.
Cuba Havana is located at 1250 Riverfront Center Amsterdam NY. This has authentic Cuban food from popular sandwiches, to traditional Cuban breakfast. They have delicious food for you and your family to enjoy. Open 11AM-7PM Monday-Saturday.
Stop in and enjoy traditional Cuban Cuisine. Delivery and Take out available. Menu – cubahavanany.com Owner and Chef Alex Bazquez moved to Amsterdam in 2003. He is very excited to serve the community with authentic Cuban Food. Stop in and enjoy!

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The Honestly Clean Company
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Chamber Member Anniversaries

The following businesses realize the value of their Chamber investment and have renewed their membership in the months of April and May of this year. Please note these member businesses and the year they joined! Thank you to all our renewing Chamber members:

Less than 5 Years

- Stump City Brewing, LLC2017
- Meco’s Perfect Scoop2017
- HANYS Benefit Services2018
- Greater Johnstown Lions Club.....2019
- NextEra Energy Resources, LLC2019
- Inglenook Realty Inc.....2020
- P.O.M. Siding & Decks2020

5 to 9 Years

- Capstone Center for
Rehabilitation and Nursing2013
- Evolution Recycling.....2014
- Insight Payroll Solutions, Inc.....2014
- Versatile Wood Fabrication2014
- Falcon Roofing and Contracting LLC ...2014
- Gloversville Senior Center.....2014
- New Process Cleaners2014
- Accu-Contracting, Inc.....2014
- Lott Holdings2014
- Miller’s Ready Mix Concrete and Block ...2014
- Joanna Olson of
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services.....2014
- Beacon Insurance Agency Group, Inc. ...2014
- The Stockyard Public House.....2014
- The Wesson Group, LLC2014
- Mohawk Valley Collective, Inc.....2015
- Johnstown Historical Society2015

10 to 19 Years

- Town of Glen2002
- Brownell Lumber Company2003
- Junell Realty LLC/Virginia M.
Mackey Associate Broker2003
- Geesler’s.....2005
- Rolling Hills Country Club2005
- Sanders Motorsports, Inc.2005
- Schwartz Law Firm.....2005
- Security Supply Corporation.....2005
- School House Treasures2006
- Allan MacVean, CFP.....2007
- Deborah R. Hermance, DDS.....2007
- R & A Waite, Inc.2008
- Adirondack Septic Tank, Inc.....2009
- The Hearing Doctor2009
- Amsterdam Mohawks2009
- Fulton County Farm Bureau2010
- Dunkin’ Donuts2011

20 to 29 Years

- City of Amsterdam1997
- Roser Communications Network, Inc....1998
- Knights Inn.....1999
- Harold’s Restaurant and Lounge.....1999

30 to 39 Years

- House of Pizza1984
- Lapland Lake Nordic Vacation Center...1985

40 to 49 Years

- National Grid1974
- Cherry Valley Memorials, Inc.....1974
- Nathan Littauer
Hospital and Nursing Home.....1980

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Tourism News



Anne Boles
Director of
Tourism Development
tourism@fultonmontgomeryny.org

Fulton County Five – Local Hiking Challenge to Launch This Season, Local PTECH Student Designs Patch

The Fulton County Tourism Department announces a new tourism initiative, set to begin this summer. The “Fulton County Five” will be a 5-hike challenge for locals and tourists to participate in and enjoy the beauty of local hiking.

Hiking challenges are designed to give people an opportunity to visit new places and explore new trails. This challenge is on a beginner/intermediate level and would be challenging but completable. The five trails decided are:

Nine Corner Lake
Kane Mountain Fire Tower
Stewart and Indian Lake
Willie Marsh

Mud Lake (Mayfield)

From the tourism perspective, the goal would be for people to hike, dine, stay and hike again making it a multi-day trip. After completion, hikers would mail the tourism department a completion form (google form on website) and in return the hiker would be sent a certificate of completion and a patch.

This initiative was started as a conversation with Randy Gardinier, local hiking enthusiast. Gardinier has always enjoyed hiking and have done sections of the Northville-Placid trail as well as a few high peaks in the Adirondacks. In the spring of 2020, amid the pandemic, his cousin had



Patch winner Makiya Smith shows her certificate of congratulations to team.

shared with the Adirondack 50 Falls Challenge book, which leads participants to 50 waterfalls in all corners of the Adirondacks from roadside cascades to hikes more than 10 miles. Along with seeing new places, it provided good exercise, and he spent time, although often distanced, connecting with family, friends and loved ones in a way that has led us to looking to continue different challenges this year. Gardinier grew up in the area and has chaired the Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation for over 22 years. He has been a supporter of Fulton County and all it has to offer. Gardinier also said- “I realized how much I enjoyed these other places that were new to me and that a local challenge could be another way to showcase our area while garnering some tourism dollars along the way.”

Further conversation for inaugural challenge led to develop a partnership with Nicole Walrath, Director of Workforce Development and Jenna Patterson, Business and Education Partnership Coordinator with the Hamilton Fulton Montgomery Pathways in Technology Early College High School, where Walrath suggested working with Art Teacher, Melissa McGill, for patch design as a workplace challenge.

Walrath said “Workplace challenges are such a vital part of the PTECH program, and we cannot thank the Fulton County Tourism Department enough for the opportunity to let our talented students work on a real-world project.”

McGill’s two-dimensional design class took on the project and created designs that were professional and relevant to the project.

“The students did an incredible job with their designs,” Anne Boles, Director



The “Fulton County Five” patch designed by PTECH student Makiya Smith.

of Tourism Development said. “We showed them pictures of the hiking landscape in our presentation, and they took those pictures and presented designs that were appropriate and pertinent to Fulton County. I am in awe of their talent at such a young age. It has been a wonderful start to this project.”

It was a hard decision, but the winner of the patch design challenge was Makiya Smith, a PTECH (www.hfmboces.org/programs-services/ptech/) sophomore from Mayfield. While creating her design, she knew that she wanted a five-point shape to split in five for each trail. Smith used the pictures presented for inspiration, and highlighted the fire tower at Kane Mountain, the bridge at Willie Marsh, and the rocks at Nine Corner Lake.

Smith’s favorite way to create art is digitally, because when she makes a mistake, she can press the undo button, but on paper, erasing would cause a mark to be leftover on the paper. Her goals for artmaking in the future are to improve on her art style, color theory, proportion, and backgrounds. When asked who her favorite artist is, she states “I don’t really have a favorite artist, but if there was a favorite, I would have to say, Heartmush. Their art style is so cool and the colors they use in each artwork are stunning.”

Smith is a proud student of the PTECH program. She

says- “At PTECH, I get a college degree and experience in professionalism. PTECH also has project-based learning, where the projects have good messages. An example of this would be our last project, not our current one, where my partner and I made a Random Act of Kindness Calendar for April. We were tasked with the mission of creating something that would spread kindness.”

Smith’s future plans are to “easily take care of her parents

and help her family when they are in need.” She also plays the trombone in her spare time.

Teacher Melissa McGill adds “Working with the Fulton Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce has been a great opportunity for our PTECH students. The two-dimensional design class has created professional and eye-catching designs. Makiya continues to demonstrate her creativity, eye for design, and high level of craftsmanship in her work. I can’t wait to see what she does next! I am definitely going to participate in the hiking challenge. I have already completed one of the hikes!”

For more information on the Fulton County Five Hiking Challenge, please visit Fulton County Tourism website: www.44lakes.com.

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June 19th 11am-4pm

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Schedule of Events:

11am-1pm: Join us at the Great Sacandaga Brewing Company, 3647 NYS Route 30 in Broadalbin. DJ Keller from 102.7 EQX will be live on-air with live music and food on-site!

Great Sacandaga Brewing and Higher Ground Distilling will be featured here, along with Stump city beer and Rogers' Cider on tap!

2pm-4pm – DJ Keller from 102.7 EQX will be traveling to Rogers' Cideryard, 260 County Highway 131 in Gloversville. Rogers' and Stump City will feature their specialty beer, cider, and cocktails along with live music and food.

More information to be posted!
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Tourism News

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Visit our tourism event calendars for more information on these and other events happening in Fulton County,
www.44lakes.com/calendar
and Montgomery County,
www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com/events-calendar.

Disc Golf Course Grand Opening

Please join us as we celebrate the grand opening of the Disc Golf Course at the Thomas H. Burbine Memorial Forest. The course is the first in Montgomery County!

We will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, June 4 at 5 p.m.

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Business Education Partnership News

HFM Pathways in Technology Early College High School (HFM PTECH)

PTECH students revamp website for community agency



Nicole Walrath
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Jenna Patterson
Business and Education
Partnership Coordinator
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Thanks to two HFM PTECH students, the Fulmont Community Action Agency has launched an upgraded website that they hope will not only look more modern, but also better help their clients navigate their services.

Denis Wilson, the nonprofit's executive director and CEO, Wilson said the process of getting a new website began during the 2019-20 school year, when he reached out to PTECH about having students work on the project.

"We decided that our website was out of date, and we were thinking about who we could get to do it," Wilson said.

Wilson serves as the chairman of the Board of Directors for the Fulton Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, a close partner of the HFM PTECH program. He recalled that PTECH students had redesigned the Amsterdam Rotary Club's website a few years ago.

"The value for us was to get a new website, but the value for the students is to get the experience," Wilson said. "I think it's a two-way street; we get something that we need, and the students get something that they need, too."

Wilson presented the idea to former PTECH teacher Dylan Thomarie in the fall of 2019. "We took the opportunity and went with it," Thomarie said, adding that he ended up making the project a central part of his Gaming and Coding I coursework that year.

"The students had to learn everything from scratch," Thomarie said.

Once the freshmen students had coding basics down, they could focus more on designing the website. In the winter of 2020 the students, working in small groups, were asked to pitch their website concepts to representatives from the Fulmont Community Action Agency.

Thomarie described the presentations as a kind of "trial by fire" for some of the students, who quickly learned lessons in professionalism and having to think on their feet when clients ask a barrage of questions and critique their work.

"It also teaches students that they have to get over themselves because it matters more whether the client likes it," Thomarie said. "In the end, it's their choice because they're paying the bill."

Wilson agreed that the experience students get is not only technical, but actually working

with a business teaches professional skills.

After meeting with students a couple more times over the winter, Wilson and his colleagues narrowed the options and chose the site students Alex Cordone and Luke Page, now sophomores, designed and built.

"I think it was good to make a competition out of it," Thomarie said. "Students took it more seriously that way."

About designing the website, Page said: "When we first started, I think we were just trying to make the site a little better, but then we realized we could make it our own way and make it more modern than it was before."

Despite the changes the COVID-19 pandemic brought to the school year, Cordone and Page continued their work for the FCAA through the spring and presented their final work during the summer of 2020.

Although it's taken a number of months for all the final transitioning to the new site to be completed, it is now live.

"They did a fabulous job," Wilson said. "It worked out perfectly."

In addition to learning how to create a good website, Cordone said he gained a lot of other skills, too. "We learned a lot about deadlines and how to dress professionally and also what is sensible to put out there into the world," he said. "I definitely advanced a lot in that way."

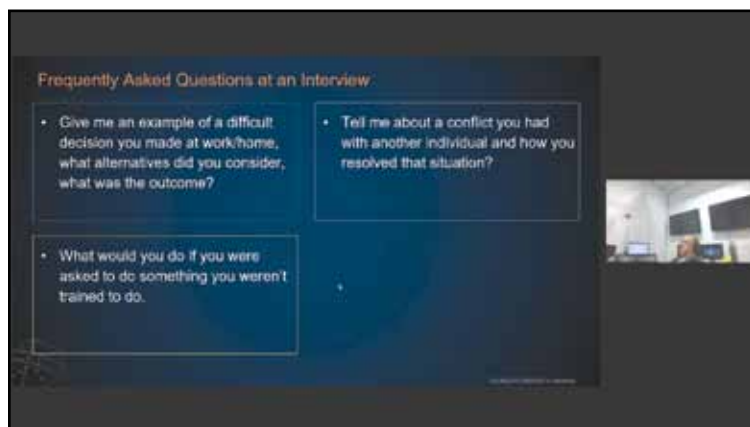
Page agreed that he also grew professionally from the experience. "With all the meetings that we've been having, it helps me to get used to speaking in front of people and to dress properly and professionally," he said.

Cordone said he thinks the work he did on this project connects well with his plans to pursue a career in cyber security and computer networking. "That field has a lot of professional situations, and this is definitely going to help me in that," he said.

Perhaps the most important lesson the students learned was about the importance of good communication, Thomarie pointed out, which resulted in a quality end-product. "To have the real-world experience is great, and it's something for them to have in their portfolio and on their resumes," he said.



In April, freshmen and sophomores at HFM PTECH hosted their last Workplace Wednesday of the year. Freshmen spoke with representatives from the Medical/Health Studies pathway. A special thank you to all of our guests, Lynette May of Paul Nigra Center/Lexington, Stephanie Bydairk of St Mary's Hospital, Bobbi Jo Haverly of Mountain Valley Hospice, Maureen Mosher and Laken Donnan of Nathan Littauer Hospital for attending.



Sophomores took part in the final Professional Skills 101 of the year with guests presenting on Tips for Acing a Job Interview. Thank you to Gail Breen of FMS Workforce Solutions, Elliott Haase of WB Games and Robert Secreti of GLOBALFOUNDRIES for sharing your knowledge with our students.

Business Education Partnership News

HFM Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Senator tours HFM Veterinary and Animal Science program



HFM Veterinary and Animal Science seniors Tiffany Hazzard, of Fort Plain, and Jordyn Wozniak, of Amsterdam, talk with Senator Michelle Hinchey.

New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey visited the Veterinary and Animal Science program at the HFM Career and Technical Center Thursday, May 6, discussing with students the hand-on experience they've gained in the program and their college and career plans.

Students told the senator that being in the same program with other students with similar interests – including the love of animals and a passion for science – has helped them define their future goals.

Both juniors and seniors were present in-person and online for Hinchey's visit. During their conversation, students listed a wide range of career possibilities they intend to pursue including becoming veterinarians, vet technicians and animal-assisted therapists. Some students plan to open their own businesses offering grooming, training and other services. Others plan to join the military or work for the state Environmental Conservation Department.

Wells senior Anna Lamphear says she wants to enter the Army and hopes the Vet and Animal Science program gives her a leg up in securing a position as a working dog handler.

Vet and Animal Science graduates also have many opportunities available

to them in the agriculture field with some planning to raise livestock or become large animal veterinarians.

Agriculture is a particular interest for Hinchey, who represents the 46th district that covers five counties including all of Montgomery County. Hinchey is also chair of the Senate's Agriculture Committee.

The senator and HFM Vet and Animal Instructor Victoria Subik agreed that many who work in agriculture are nearing retirement age. As a result, the agricultural field needs young people interested in making it a career. Subik teaches the program together with Instructor Meredith Tuppen and Teaching Assistant Lisa Zarecki.

During her discussion with the students, Hinchey also touched on a variety of topics including the state budget, the state's recently passed puppy mill legislation, efforts to train rural veterinarians, the expansion of agricultural markets and more.

Currently, all seniors at the Career and Technical Center are preparing to start their two-week internships working directly with local businesses. Vet and Animal Science students will head out to work at local veterinary clinics, animal shelters, groomers and more.



HFM Veterinary and Animal Science senior Anna Lamphear and junior Dalton Arenas, both of the Wells Central School District, speak with Senator Michelle Hinchey during the senator's visit to the HFM Career and Technical Center.

HFM school nurse named among top ten in greater Capital Region

Kim Bursese, who has served as an HFM BOCES school nurse for nearly 20 years in addition to a more than 30-year career in the military, has been selected as a top 10 winner in the Times Union's annual Salute to Nurses program.

Now in its eighth year, the Salute to Nurses initiative recognizes 10 area nurses for their exceptional service. In addition to the top 10, 15 nurses are also recognized as finalists. This year, Bursese was selected for the top honor from more than 700 nurses nominated.

A Registered Nurse, Bursese has served as the school nurse for the HFM BOCES main campus since 2002. She retired in June 2020, but was asked to return in September as HFM needed more staff to implement COVID-19 safety procedures when programs reopened for students this fall.

"Kim has always been an asset to our staff and students, she continuously goes above and beyond," HFM Career and Technical Center Principal Michael DiMezza said. "When I asked for her to come back after she retired to assist us in implementing our daily COVID procedures and protocols, she instantly said yes. I have been truly lucky to have worked with her. She is an incredible nurse and person."

"Kim is most deserving of the Salute to Nurses exceptional service recognition. Kim's primary concern has always been for the health and welfare of our school community. We have been blessed to have Kim as part of our HFM BOCES family, and I am truly honored to have worked with Kim over the years," HFM BOCES Assistant Superintendent for Student Programs Jay A. DeTraglia said.

"We are so grateful to Kim for answering our call for assistance during this pandemic," HFM BOCES District Superintendent David Ziskin said. "The honor is well deserved."

Bursese's nursing career began in the U.S. Air Force as an aeromedical evacuation technician before she was promoted to flight nurse. She retired from the Air National Guard as a lieutenant colonel after a 31-and-a-half-year military career that saw serve in four war zones including operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom



Kim Bursese

and Iraqi Freedom.

As a school nurse, Bursese cares for students and adults at the HFM main campus providing emergency and routine medical services and case management. She's also routinely worked closely with school counselors and other staff to ensure the physical and mental well being of students. During the pandemic, she helped make sure COVID-19 safety protocols were followed and assisted Beth Smith, the nurse hired to replace her following her retirement.

"She's the best mentor I've ever had," Smith said.

During her 19 years at BOCES, Bursese was also a nurse at the Fulton County Jail for 11 years and also has experience at St. Mary's Hospital, Arkell Hall, Lexington, Palatine Nursing Home and the former Amsterdam Memorial Hospital. Early in her civilian career, she also worked as a nurse and truancy officer for the Canajoharie school district.

While her nursing experience is diverse, Bursese said her career has always centered on one thing.

"It's all about patient care," she said. Bursese said would recommend nursing to young people considering it and advises them to get experience in a variety of medical settings.

"The nursing profession is a rewarding field," she said. "There are so many opportunities available in nursing. I highly recommend it."

Bursese was honored Friday, May 7 during a virtual event hosted by the *Times Union*.

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