



## Letters to the Editor

### Chopping Down the Wolf Tree, Part II

At the same time, there remains a wolf tree overshadowing much of our community.

Some force here keeps young men and women covered over as they pass through our schools and into adult life. A frustration grows across the generations in our community, even though the object of this frustration is ineffable and the local quality-of-life is much higher than that in many rural environments in the United States.

I detect a shadowy paternalism in our community. At first it seems like it comes from the government, but when I examine it more closely, it comes from a population not free to control its own destiny, owing to anxiety. I cannot determine if the source of our anxiety is a true state of distress, or if it is a figment of our collective imagination.

Irrespective of its origin, our collective anxiety suppresses our quality-of-life, and inhibits the children growing up in Schoharie County. Large amounts of social energy are taken up by the animus of daily life in the community. Every trip to the market is a display of bravado, every drive down the road is a test of nerves, every picture window is a curtain to close against the daylight of neighbors.

Some readers might say I paint too broad a brushstroke in my local analysis. I would respect their perspective, but I cannot deny the presence of a general anxiety, manifesting a profound frustration in many, throughout this community.

I recall, over twenty years ago, being told by well-meaning local residents that the Schoharie Valley and vicinity was anthropologically unique—still populated by the descendants of those who suffered the worst during Europe's internecine religious and political wars preceding the Treaty of Westphalia and its ensuing socioeconomic hierarchies cast from state religion. I was told the people who came here were molded by their past, and this history descended through to the present day in the form of cultural memory. I came to believe my community was a living magnet for people living in the pain of cultural memory. Long after the early arrival of Palatines and Frisians and Northern Europe's long-suffering yeomen, it attracted many over the years, myself included, who could not make sense of our pasts. I saw this community as being like a remote sweatlodge for people to walk out to when they could not see how they belonged in their world, positioned on a furrowed field readied by an ancient population arrived from a millennium of horror.

The problem is, the smoke from our metaphorical sweatlodge chokes out the people living here who either are not moved by, or are not even aware of, cultural memory. Life here is like a behavioral gulag to many of these people. They manifest the frustration of life here, mostly because they were taught to imitate the brooding projections of their community. They're moody because they were never taught not to be, and they were never shown or modeled adaptive lifeways that resolve the origin past and seek love going into the mortal future.

I seek my own recovery from cultural memory in the midst of my moody adopted hometown. My ancestor died of deprivation on a transatlantic ship en route to Quebec (Canada East), and was either buried at sea or at some lost location on the St. Lawrence shore. His sons worked their way down into New York. A later prodigy opened a saloon in Schenectady. His sons worked at General Electric. Several generations later, I am sitting near West Fulton pondering it all, haunted by dreams of my own early youth in a quickly lost world of factory workers and old Edwardian men in wool pants and a few

literal ghosts. I manifest my cultural memory with writing, my metaphorical neighbor does this with the catch of his robust pickup truck engine. Is either of us any less haunted than the other?

This is just about a jump point for the Gen-Z readers. If you go driving on a Saturday night, be safe and don't hit the wolf tree, as it likes to render a manslaughter conviction every now and then. To the more elder readers, we need to help one another chop that

tree down before it shrouds another generation in lost opportunities and the suppression of advanced social development. Telling younger people to "move" has its limits, as there are only so many spaces to move to on the surface of a sphere. We are 30-odd miles from the capital of the fourth largest state by population. It's not exactly Cutter Gap. What's wrong with this place here and now?

Robert Kerley  
Fulton

### College Degree?

Quickly before I begin...the Article by Dan O'Connell...God is spelled with a Capital G...all other false gods are spelled with a lower case. And with regard to abortion and ones own body". It is another body inside a body so you do not have the right to treat it like garbage. Mother is one body Baby inside is another separate body. one plus one equals TWO. Not such hard math is it?

As for the other letter, your comment that people are ignorant because as you say not everyone has a college degree from Columbia or Hofstra...where have you been? College degrees have been given out without a person even knowing how to read and write. College degrees meant something way back when people actually had to learn to get to the next level. Do you not understand that some of the most brilliant minds were from hard working people who did not have as much as a third grade level? The greatness of them was that they wanted to learn. You do not need a piece of paper to be intelligent. I agree, YOU do have a lot to learn.

Just a city girl who loves wildlife and nature should always be respected. City could stay as it is, leave our mountain alone. What one calls progress I call destruction.

Lucy Veneski  
Lexington

### Ill-Informed

I am responding to Jeff Pangman's ill-informed, disrespectful letter of November 12 when he drew "a line in the sand. I'll sew a yellow Star of David on my shirt." He was protesting the mandate to get the Covid-19 vaccine because he was a school bus driver due to the "so-called pandemic." Where to begin with Mr. Pangman's statement that "this is the hill I die on?"

Mr. Pangman has a right to protest whatever he wants. My father fought in

WWII for him to have that right. My grandfather fought in WWI for him to have that right. But he does not have the right to kill, injure, or harm the children in his care. As a bus driver that sits behind the wheel of a vehicle transporting children, I would like to think that he would stop at red lights, that if someone jumped in front of the bus he would apply the brakes, that if a child fell in the path of an oncoming car, he would do what he could to pull that child to safety. Mr. Pangman has that same responsibility to protect his charges from the chance that he could, unknowingly, be a carrier of the Covid virus. Or, for that matter, he could be at risk from an asymptomatic child giving it to him.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the week Mr. Pangman's letter was printed in the Mountain Eagle News, 122,229 children came down with Covid. Did they get it from other children? In some cases, probably. But for the most part, they got it from adults that chose not to be vaccinated. According to the CDC, during the "so-called pandemic," 700 children died from Covid. Of that number, not to mention the more than six million children that contracted Covid, many would have been spared from this disease if they were surrounded by adults that practiced preventative methods, including getting the vaccine, that many still avoid.

By invoking a reference to the yellow Star of David, Mr. Pangman would liken a vaccine mandate for bus drivers charged with children's safety to laws imposed in Nazi Germany. What an insult to those and the memory of those that were forced to wear that yellow star. By 1939, when that was instituted for every Jew that lived under German rule, Jews could no longer hold a civil job, could no longer go to school, could no longer own property, could no longer practice law or medicine or be nurses. They had to forfeit their assets to the Nazi regime, had to have a red-letter J for Jude (Jew) stamped on their passports though they were not allowed to travel, had to take the middle name Israel so there was no doubt they were Jews, and much more. Those that disobeyed were sent to concentration camps.

No, Mr. Pangman, this is not Nazi Germany. As of now, you have the right to dictate what goes into your body. You do not have the right to transmit a disease to children in your charge or jeopardize their safety. You are making that decision for yourself; the government is not imposing its will that you must be vaccinated. So, when you say, as you did in your letter, that "we are at war," consider who is at war and what the war is about. Over forty-five million Americans have contracted Covid, and we have suffered more than 730,000 deaths. Those are more deaths than the American patriots suffered during the Revolution and soldiers that died in WWI, WWII and the Vietnam War combined. I suggest our war is against an unseen enemy, a tiny organism that needs the cooperation of all citizens when it comes to fighting this battle. Fellow Americans, especially our children, are not your enemy.

Alan Winter  
West Kill

### Divisive Comments

I would like to address the divisive comments being expressed on the "Letters to the Editor" in the Mountain Eagle AND The Times

Journal..They are coming from the extremists on the left and right of both political parties. This is not helpful to a nation trying to survive a global pandemic AND a financial crisis.

I am middle of the road politically as are most americans. We in the middle are SICK AND TIRED of you partisan hacks putting party before country...For the record TRUMP LOST reelection but he was elected due to the desperate desire for real change. The pandemic and climate change is REAL but the "crisis" in race relations is overstated as is police responsibility.

The military is too big and consumes too much of the budget. We do have an empire and our flag is feared in many parts of the world. And THANK GOD it is feared. There are very bad actors in this world and that flag restrains them from untold worst actions. Everyone hated the Roman Empire who lived under its domination. But when the empire fell . Europe fell into a savage dark age. If America falls what do you think will take its place? Puppy dogs and kittens? No ...It will be a Chinese or Russian empire that will make you yearn for the good old days when America "ruled the world".

This nation can't get anything done because of you left and right extremists. We can't control our borders because of the democrats. We can't expand social welfare programs to help working americans because of republicans.

And neither party will balance the budget by RAISING TAXES so the debt keeps growing and growing.. The Democrats and Republicans want us at each other's throats. Politics has become pro wrestling...The only ones whose lives are improving are the oligarchs in multinational corporations and their counterparts in the government's military-industrial complex. .

Michael Albert Bowes  
Howes Cave

### No Heroes Required

Regarding the person who went to one school board meeting and believed that heroes were lacking, I must disagree.

School boards are necessary, sometimes contentious and sometimes boring. School board meetings don't require heroes.

For 6 months in 2019 I was a reporter for a Cobleskill newspaper. I covered Schoharie and Middleburgh school board meetings. Before that time I had never been to a school board meeting.

What I saw was governance at work, people grappling with budgets and finance, and honoring students and teachers.

School boards don't need to worry about Judeo-Christians or cancel culture or buzzwords. They do need to get real things done and they usually do.

Mike Gaertner  
Cobleskill

### "I CAN HELP"

Now that we are seeing the effects of Climate Change in New York with higher temperatures and rainfall levels, government is pressed to find ways to reduce its progression. We often feel helpless as we read the papers or watch the news on TV when steps by elected officials fall short of the challenges that we face. But closer to home, businesses and every day people can play a role.

A survey was taken asking people, "What are ways that you can help reduce Climate Change", and here are some of their responses.:

Inquire about community solar energy.  
Buy and use plastic prod-

ucts as a last resort.

Recycle cardboard, paper, plastics and glass.

Buy an electric vehicle if you can.

Compost food garbage if possible.

Hang wet laundry on a wooden clothes dryer, or clothes line on a sunny day.

Shut off lights and appliances when not in use

Limit buying new clothing and items that are not needed

Reduce ordering items on line, but if you do, recycle or re-use the cartons.

Limit use of transportation—get out and cycle or walk

Seniors remember how to live without many of our modern electric gadgets and appliances, and can share their skills in order to help conserve energy. Local shops can offer goods that don't require shipping. And sharing a ride will mean one less vehicle on the road. After all, whatever governments can do, it's up to every day people to prevent the worst effects of Climate Change. If you are concerned about government lagging behind, be sure to vote, and find new ways to lower your carbon footprint.

Gloria Zola-Mulloy,  
MSW, LCSW

### Hughes Energy, LLC Proposal

Described as an important renewable energy project, it is, in fact, an experimental pilot program with probable long-term consequences to the area. Rejected by other communities in the U.S. including several European locations, the Town of Roxbury Planning Board, in cooperation with the NYS DEC/DOT and NYC DEP studying this project, will be a contributing factor with site plan approval, using Grand Gorge as an unwilling sacrifice. Roxbury, potentially holds the fate of this little Hamlet and its borderline town of Prattsville, as well.

A request for a 90 day public hearing and comment was denied, and several adjoining townships affected by the back-to-back solid waste truck traffic into Grand Gorge, were denied public comment as "non-viable". The ramifications of this massive highly controversial project and rush to approve it seems questionable considering the effects of long term potential respiratory and cancer health risks are unknown.

The Hughes Energy, LLC proposed municipal solid waste-to-fuel project's monolithic processing plant will occupy 39 acres purchased in Grand Gorge, burning waste material from twelve counties, via large diesel trucks from areas as far away as the Hudson Valley and Albany, using propane gas to process 22 tons of solid waste per hour, 24/7, 6 days a week requiring 25,000 gallons of water daily (175,000 gal. weekly) from well sources, generating 4,800 gallons of industrial waste water to be disposed of daily, located less than 2,000 ft. from the Schoharie Reservoir, a source of drinking water for nine million New Yorkers.

Why does this matter? It will have an enormous impact on the entire regions ecosystem. PFAS, known as "forever chemicals" common in municipal waste, will create an extremely toxic environment for humans, drinking water, wildlife, fish, wetlands and streams in this vulnerable watershed area. Large odoriferous, noisy trucks will merge into five small two-lane, winding county routes, year round, to access the Grand Gorge facility, destroying road surfaces with considerable costs to local townships. Ironically, protected as a limited liability company,

also plan to apply for Payment in Lieu of Taxes which will eliminate or greatly reduce any tax benefits for the local community!

The Catskill Mountains, known as an all-season pristine air recreational area will also suffer economic loss. Ponder this, who will visit, vacation, build or purchase a home or business if this facility is approved!

Thank you for your great newspaper.

Lee Buchar  
Grand Gorge

### Dear DEC:

My name is Mirka della Cava. My family has been recreating in the Catskill area since the 1960s and, since 1980, we are owners of a residence and property in Grand Gorge. The property is designated agricultural and we provide hay for nearby family dairy farms. We are also beekeepers.

My primary concern is the unproven use of the waste processing technology (autoclave steam processing) at the proposed scale and thus the mostly unknown environmental impacts and effects.

Hughes Energy is hyping their proposed project for its environmental benefits and for its role in solving municipal solid waste (MSW) issues. It is worth noting that the locale surrounding the proposed site of the Hughes Energy project is rural, agricultural, recreational, sparsely populated and not in need of additional waste treatment services. Hughes is proposing to bring this facility to a pristine NYC watershed area with the goal of solving a problem that does not exist here. Rather, in aiming to solve a problem that is perhaps plaguing other communities, they are burdening ours with new and unknown impacts to our water, our air, our flora and fauna, our roads and our quality of life. In economics, these are called externalities and they are coming at a cost to us. Might this facility not be better sited in a location close to where the problems lie so those with the biggest MSW problems can most benefit from the solutions? By siting it in our community, Hughes is increasing the overall environmental impacts from the project by adding air and noise pollution along all the routes from the additional truck miles traveled, in addition to the embodied energy for the fuel required to travel these additional miles as well as the embodied energy for road maintenance materials and processes that will be required over miles and miles of narrow mountainous rural routes.

While Hughes sees the technology as a "green" solution, the impacts they cite from the processing itself and the mitigation strategies they propose to deal with them are still pure fiction. The process Hughes plans to use is untested and unproven and has never before been sited in the United States. The one such facility Hughes built in Ireland, they sold and ran from. The risks of such a project are high and the benefits are nil to our community that did not ask for, nor is in need of the MSW facility.

In consideration of the experimental nature of this project, I respectfully request that you:

- require Hughes to conduct a facsimile of the autoclave steam process at some other location using actual MSW and demonstrating the environmental impacts of such a technology. This would include soil, air and water testing of the impacted area.
- prepare a thorough examination of the auto-

Letters to the Editor  
Continue on D1



# TRICOUNTY NEWS

## A Section of the *Mountain Eagle*

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### Letters, Cont. from A4

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- require Hughes to conduct a facsimile of the autoclave steam process at some other location using actual MSW and demonstrating the environmental impacts of such a technology. This

would include soil, air and water testing of the impacted area.

- prepare a thorough examination of the autoclave steam technology being used to process the MSW, including a thorough understanding of the chemical reactions and gases that will be created from all the various waste streams arriving at the facility and how the "fully enclosed" facility will be mitigating against the release of any toxic outputs from those processes to our air, our water, and our soils. All in consideration of the requirements associated with the site being in the NYC watershed and within very close proximity of a creek.

- identify the exact level of resource inputs (local water supply, wastewater treatment, etc.) required to run the proposed facility at low, medium and high capacity levels; the costs associated with providing these inputs; and who is fiscally responsible for them. All in consideration of the requirements associated with the site being in the NYC watershed and within very close proximity of a creek.

- require Hughes to submit a plan for how they will guarantee that the MSW that will be processed at their facility will be limited to those waste categories for which the impacts will be known. Unexpected waste products, including hazardous elements, can contaminate the streams going into the processing plant and have disastrous environmental effects.

- prepare a thorough review of the transportation impacts from the proposed project. This would include detailed mapping of all possible routes that would be used to get from the sources of waste to the proposed facility. The mapping would include the type, age, condition and maintenance plans and capabilities, including maintenance costs, for each road type being impacted. An analysis of the number and type of vehicles that will be required to transport the MSW, where they are coming from, the number of vehicle miles traveled for each vehicle, the fuel type being used, the pollution and particulate matter produced for each mile traveled including the embodied energy for the fuels consumed and other road expansion and/or repair materials and processes. These analyses should be conducted for a minimum of three scenarios (low, medium, high) to reflect conditions associated with the facility running at various levels of capacity.

As Hughes Energy presents itself as a company promoting "environmentally-friendly" projects, I expect they would willingly engage in these studies and practices and be eager to share life-cycle and impact analyses in order to maintain

their "green" image. And should the studies reveal that the environmental impacts are too great and conclude that the proposed site is ill suited for this project, that Hughes Energy would withdraw their project proposal.

Thank you for your consideration and for assisting us in mitigating against the wide range of impacts that are likely to come from this high risk, experimental project.

Mirka della Cava

### A View of History

This is not a Christmas message but the words are relevant. "I never inquire what is going on in Constantinople; I content myself with sending there for sale the produce of the garden I cultivate." You must have a vast and magnificent estate?" said Candide to the Turk. "I have only twenty acres," replied the Turk. "I cultivate them with my children, and work keeps at bay three great evils: boredom, vice, and need. Said Pangloss, "Man was not born for idleness." "Let us work without theorizing," said Martin; "Tis the only way to make life endurable."

"Tis well said," replied Candide. "But we must cultivate our gardens." Candide – Voltaire.

Walt Janczak  
Sloansville

### Supprting the Chamber

Since the early 1960s, the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce has been the county's tourism promotion agency. At the November 23 meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, members voted 14-3 to remove that function from the chamber and "temporarily" turn promoting tourism over to the Delaware County Economic Development department, which has minimal experience with tourism.

One reason given was an audit of the Chamber's tourism funds, but that was not a primary reason—the primary reason was political. Middletown Town Supervisor Patrick Davis said that his reason was "personal" because chamber board president Todd Pascarella ran against him. Chamber Program Manager Lillian Browne-Burdick also ran for Walton Supervisor against Joseph Cetta, who said he was voting no because he didn't like the recent management of the Chamber. In addition, the Chamber's support of legal cannabis sales led Harpersfield Supervisor James Eisel to claim that the Chamber has become too "political."

In fact, what is too "political" is the Supervisors' blatant retribution to the chamber members' running against incumbent (Republican) officials. Chamber members have the right to run for office, just like any citizen of Delaware County. The Chamber has the right to have an opinion and promote a legal business. The county's action regarding the Chamber is the latest in a long history of pure political retribution and abuse of power by county supervisors in the Republican Party. It sets a precedent that candidates for public office may not belong to public service organizations or contradict the current board, which is absurd and will prevent community-minded individuals from running.

THE CATSKILL GEOLOGISTS BY ROBERT AND JOHANNA TITUS

### The Himalayas or the Andes?

We scientists have well-earned reputations for getting things right. We have figured out so much about nature over the course of the last three centuries. You could be forgiven if you thought we were a lot better, in our researches, than we actually are. The fact is that we do make a lot of mistakes. Science is a process that struggles toward the truth, and that can often be a very long struggle. Along the way there are usually several competing solutions to the problems that we seek to solve. We have a formal term for such competing solutions; we call them hypotheses. Let's talk about some good examples of these in this week's column. That's going to take us to the edge of the Catskill Front, AKA the Wall of Manitou. Let's go to the Mountain House Hotel ledge and look east. Most people enjoy the view of the distant Taconic Mountains. But we geologists look out there and then up. We are looking into the distant past and seeing the ancient mountains that once rose up into the sky out there. The question is how far up do we look?

You see the Taconic Mountains, and the Berkshires that lie beyond them to their



east, are the remnants of great mountains that, long ago, towered into the sky above. Today's Taconics and the Berkshires are what geologists call erosional remnants. The mountains that preceded them are called the Acadians. All the rest of those Acadians Mountains slowly weathered from rock to "dust" and then that dust eroded away. The mountains left behind are little more than hills. They are certainly the most handsome of hills but hardly compare to the true grandeur that was once there. But again, the question is just how high up into the olden sky did those Acadian Mountains rise.

There are two competing hypotheses. The first of these compares the old Acadians with today's Andes. This modern mountain range rises about 15,000 feet into the sky. Those mountains are the product of the collision of South

American crust with the Pacific Ocean's crust. A continent colliding with an ocean makes for good but not truly great mountains. The second hypothesis sees the Acadians as being nearly twice as tall; it compares them with today's Himalayas. Those rise up to nearly 30,000 feet in elevation. They are the products of the collision of two continental land masses: India and Asia.

So, which hypothesis wins? Sorry, we are not sure; we have known geologists that were on opposite sides of the issue. And they were good geologists who could make good, strong arguments. Who are we to say? But we do like the Himalaya hypothesis; it makes for better popular science writing!

Contact the authors at [randjtitus@prodigy.net](mailto:randjtitus@prodigy.net). Join their facebook page "The Catskill Geologist." Read their blogs at [thecatskillgeologist.com](http://thecatskillgeologist.com).

example: impaired driving, "I only had a couple of beers." The movie "Jaws" is a perfect example of governments and society turning a blind eye, or pretending not to see the consequences of a serious problem. The mayor and the Amity Island board, are so concerned with the hamlet's tourism revenue that the mayor keeps the beaches open, putting his citizens at risk because of a dangerous shark in the surrounding waters.

In the film the marine biologist said "what we are dealing with here is a perfect engine, an eating machine. It's really a miracle of evolution. All this machine does is swim and eat and make little sharks, and that's all." Meaning, the shark was not the problem, but letting people go swimming, anyway, was.

As residents of rural small towns and villages we are parents, grandparents and neighbors. Are we willing to look the other way, in order to "gain economic benefits," without accepting that these "benefits" will have immediate and long term generational consequences? We only need to look to other states that have legalized recreational cannabis with dispensaries that carry high potency edibles and concentrates, to learn of the health and safety problems that arise with these businesses.

The NYS 2018 Assessment of the Potential Impact of Regulated Marijuana, utilize research and other

States' data that have recreational cannabis stores to identify problems and make recommendations for solutions. Problems that they identify from other states who have cannabis stores include: creating a perception that high potency cannabis (THC) is harmless and normal; addiction and abuse and long term use causing physical and mental problems for youth and adults; and cannabis impaired driving.

Their recommendations to prevent or solve these important issues are to promote public education, health education campaigns for the public and doctors, and harm reduction treatment (an attempt to reduce the negative effects of substances by controlling the amounts or frequency of use). Although the NYS Assessment identifies several of the problems, their recommendations deny the seriousness of the problems by simplifying them.

Altria, the world's largest tobacco company and owner of Philip Morris and Marlboro cigarettes, spent \$1.8 billion for a 45% stake (and an additional \$1.05 billion for a 55% stake) in Cronos Group, one of the first major multinational cannabis firms based in Canada. Corporate lobbyists are paying to influence decisions on cannabis commercialization to influence federal, state and local governments.

Although NYS will receive revenue from NYS counties cannabis taxes, most states make only half of their projected revenue. As in the

### Denial

When we practice denial we already know the outcome that we want. We justify it by not looking at it honestly with all the consequences. We can hurt ourselves and people we love when we are not accepting the truth, and often this can impact others in society for

  
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LEGAL ADVERTISING

196  
Town Clerk  
Dennise Yeary (R) 253  
Member of Council  
Daniel L Endress (D)  
127  
(Vote for Two)  
Thomas M Vroman (R)  
218  
Superintendent of Highways  
Scott J Lenci (R) 216  
Town of Hancock  
Supervisor  
Jerry Vernold (R) 373  
Member of Council  
Timothy A Newman (R)  
369  
(Vote for Two)  
Paul A Vetrone (R) 346  
Town of Harpersfield  
Member of Council  
Matthew J Taylor (R)  
201  
(Vote for Two)  
Lisa M Driscoll (R)  
177  
Member of Council  
Yr Vac  
Erik R Reeve (R) 219  
Assessor  
Rudolph A Tomkins (R)  
213  
Town of Kortright  
Supervisor  
George E Haynes Jr.  
(R) 243  
Duane Martin (I)  
143  
Town Clerk/Collector  
Kristin A Craft (R) 327  
Town Justice  
Yvonne J Pagillo (R)  
311  
Member of Council  
Jeffrey Haynes (R) 287  
(Vote for Two)  
Chad Boest (R) 272  
Superintendent of Highways  
William R Burdick (R)  
321  
Town of Masonville  
Supervisor  
Betty Scott (R) 238  
Town Clerk/Collector  
Linda Bourn (R) 251  
Town Justice  
Judy Jackson (R) 257  
Member of Council  
Steven T Roff (R) 233  
(Vote for Two)  
Karleen DuMond (R)  
222  
Superintendent of Highways  
Charles L Smith II (R)  
116  
Rodney Wagner  
(Write-In) 160  
Town of Meredith  
Supervisor  
James G Ellis (R) 312  
Town Justice  
William J Field (R)  
325  
Member of Council  
John H Janiszewski (D)  
(I) 241  
(Vote for Two)  
Michael T Morganfruh  
(R) (I) 196  
David J Brigs (R)  
282  
Superintendent of Highways  
Jason Noble (R) 344  
Town of Middletown  
Supervisor  
Todd Pascarella (D) (I)  
518  
Patrick Davis (R)  
(I) 563  
Town Justice

John R Fairbairn III (D)  
781  
Member of Council  
Robin Williams (D) (I)  
522  
(Vote for Two)  
Chris Dabritz (D) (I)  
708  
Colleen P Martin (I)  
408  
Assessor  
Paula DeSimone (D) (I)  
419  
Joseph E Todd Jr (R)  
628  
Town of Roxbury  
Supervisor  
Allen R Hinkley (R) (I)  
529  
Town Justice  
Jerald M Stein (I) 236  
Ricky O'Donnell  
Gabriel (I) 227  
William M Walcutt  
(I) 147  
Member of Council  
Kenneth F Davie (D)  
440  
(Vote for Two)  
Deanna L Osborn (D)  
431  
Joseph R Resch  
III (R) 306  
Tax Collector  
Bonnie E Walker (D)  
556  
Town of Sidney  
Supervisor  
Eric Wilson (Write-In)  
313  
Kevin Greene (Write-In)  
191  
Town Justice  
Gregory P McCann Jr  
(R) 658  
Member of Council  
William V Heath (D)  
394  
(Vote for Two)  
Beatrice S Bishop (D)  
(I) 305  
Franklin R Selleck (R)  
(I) 600  
Member of Council  
William Hunt Jr (R)  
666  
Town of Stamford  
Supervisor  
John S Kosier (C) 205  
Member of Council  
Daniel P Deyenroth (R)  
262  
(Vote for Two)  
David E Post (R) 246  
Assessor  
Charles H Ferris (R)  
275  
Town of Tompkins  
Supervisor  
William Layton (D)  
153  
Town Clerk/Collector  
Melissa A Layton (D) 87  
Michelle L Phoenix  
(R) 146  
Member of Council  
rian Albanese (R) 194  
(Vote for Two)  
Timothy P LaTourette  
(R) 176  
uperintendent of Highways  
Ronald L VanValkenburg  
(R) 206  
Town of Walton  
Supervisor  
Lillian J Browne-Burdick (D) 281  
Joseph M Cetta (R)  
973  
Member of Council  
Luis Rod Betancourt (R)  
940  
(Vote for Two)  
Kevin S Armstrong (R)

1,004  
Superintendent of Highways  
Jeffrey J Offnick (R) (I)  
1,114  
STATE PROPOSALS  
Proposition 1:  
Amending the Apportionment and Redistricting Process. Yes 3,122  
No 6,604  
Proposition 2: Right to Clean Air, Clean Water, and a Healthful Environment. Yes 5,335  
No 4,444  
Proposition 3: Eliminating Ten-Day Advance Voter Registration Requirement. Yes 2,898  
No 7,071  
Proposition 4: Authorizing No-Excuse Absentee Ballot Voting. Yes 3,191  
No 6,754  
Proposition 5: Increasing the Jurisdiction of New York City Civil Court. Yes 4,498  
No 4,997  
TOWN PROPOSAL  
Town of Colchester  
Proposition 6: Shall proposed Local Law No 2 of the year 2021, "A Local Law Increasing the Term of Office of The Town Superintendent of Highways from Two Years to Four Years Be Approved?" Yes 169  
No 250  
(D)

Democratic (R) Republican (C) Conservative (W) Working Families (I) Independent  
WE, the undersigned, have compared the foregoing with the original statements remaining on file in the Delaware County Election Office and certify that the same is a true and correct transcript.  
Judith L Garrison Maria E. Kelso, Delaware County Commissioners of Elections Delhi, New York

**Public Notice**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Schoharie County Board of Supervisors will be holding a special Board of Supervisors meeting on December 9, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers, 284 Main Street, Schoharie, NY 12157. Purpose of meeting is to adopt resolutions pertaining to the 2022 Budget and any other business that comes before the Board of Supervisors.

**Public Notice**  
The Town of Conesville has an opening for a Motor Equipment Operator. Major functions of the position will include recurring manual work involving responsibility for the safe and efficient operation of various types of motor equipment and associated mechanical attachments. General instructions are received regarding routine work and detailed instructions are received regarding new or unusual assignments. Does

related work as required.  
Typical work included but not limited to operations of a dump truck, flatbed truck or similar type truck or single axis motor vehicle in connection with the removal of snow and transportation of various materials, tools, equipment, and supplies;  
Operates a loader or other general road construction equipment;  
Operates related minor equipment as workload demands;  
Performs preventive maintenance and general cleaning on assigned automotive equipment;  
Performs manual labor, such as loading trucks, digging ditches, flushing and cleaning culverts, shoveling snow, and road maintenance work.  
Full performance knowledge, skills, abilities and personal characteristics: Good knowledge of the operation and maintenance of dump trucks, snow routine road construction equipment, and various other types of motor equipment and related attachment; good knowledge of traffic and other regulations governing the use of motor equipment and of the hazards and safety precautions involved in its operation; ability to perform routine maintenance, make emergency repairs and assist in general repair of the equipment; ability to understand and follow simple oral and written directions; willingness to respond to emergencies; dependability; good physical condition.

**Public Notice**  
Residents are reminded pursuant to 1219 subdivision 7 of the vehicle and traffic law, that it is against the law to plow snow across a public road or leave snow piles on or near the side of the road as this can create a hazard to both vehicles and snow plow equipment. Residents are also reminded pursuant to 1660 subdivision 8 of the vehicle and traffic law and the Town of Jefferson local law I of 1997, the town superintendent of highways is authorized to remove and store at the owners expense any vehicles parked or abandoned on town highways during snow storms or other public emergencies or found unattended where such a vehicle constitutes an obstruction and/or for the removal of snow. The town will not be held responsible for any damage occurred during

\*The removal or storage of said vehicle.  
The town is not liable for damage to mailboxes in highway  
\*Right-of-way caused by snow removal or road repair.

Starting Compensation: \$16.00 per hour (\$16.32 starting January 1, 2022), 75% town contribution to health insurance, State mandated town contribution to New York State Retirement Plan. Full-time employees will receive a \$2,000 signing bonus if still employed by the Town of Conesville for one year. Interested candidates may request an application for employment from the Conesville Town Clerk at Conesville Town Hall, 1306 State Route 990V, Gilboa, NY 12076 during regular business hours.

**Public Notice**  
Please be advised that the Schoharie Town/Village Court will be accepting resumes for a Court Clerk. Re-

Colorado experience, for every dollar the state made, they spent \$4.50 to mitigate the problems from marijuana. Promises by other states, that taxes from marijuana would go to assist African American neighborhoods, schools, marijuana treatment and prevention education, are only occasionally kept. Taxes collected often go into the general fund to offset costs and budgets, not related to cannabis issues.

Cities, Towns, and Villages will be left with a pittance or crumbs from taxes, to address the social and economic costs of cleaning up the health, safety, and crime problems that already occurred in other states and will occur in NYS with the advent of recreational cannabis stores and lounges.

Opt Out of marijuana stores and bars before December 31, 2021. Attend Roxbury Public Hearing on opting out on December 13 at 6:30PM.

Renee' Barchitta, MPA  
Roxbury

Re: Hughes Energy

We are writing to you as fellow Catskills business owners. We have very serious concerns about the waste-processing plant proposed by Hughes Energy LLC in Roxbury Township in Delaware County. Despite being described by Hughes Energy as a green project, this may not be the type of project that will help us sustain our environment and develop our businesses productively.

This garbage plant, using an unproven steam autoclave process on a huge scale, would require four 30,000 gallon propane tanks to process putrid solid waste and turn it into fuel pellets to be shipped overseas. According to the Hughes proposal, the garbage plant would operate 23 hours a day, 6 days a week, and would transport 175,000 tons of garbage a year into our area. That would mean approximately 100 garbage truck trips a day traveling in all conditions on our two-lane country roads, going through Roxbury, Prattsville, Margaretville, Andes, Bovina, Grand Gorge, Stamford, Woodstock, Phoenicia, Big Indian, Windham, and more. These diesel trucks will travel on Routes 23, 30, 28, 42, and the traffic arteries of rural small towns throughout the Northern Catskills.

In addition to the diesel truck traffic, our other concerns are:

- Accidents: Constant traffic from 18-wheeler trucks traveling two-lane rural roads increases risks of vehicular and pedestrian accidents. Our already overburdened Volunteer Fire Departments would be first responders for any industrial accidents at the plant.
- Unproven Technology: The autoclave technology Hughes proposes to use is experimental, has been rejected by several communities in the U.S., and failed in European locations.

- Size, Scale, Location: At 115,000 sq ft (2x the size of a football field) and 7 stories high, (the equivalent of 2 utility poles), it is completely out of sync with the rural area and is very close to the Schoharie River and Reservoir in the Catskill watershed.
- Greenwashing: Biofuel pellets produced by this process cannot be called a renewable energy solution given the amount of fossil fuel required for the trucking and autoclave steam process. Moreover, these pellets are destined to be shipped overseas, not even used locally.
- Jobs: The majority of jobs for the facility would be temporary construction jobs, with a much smaller number of permanent jobs for specialized engineers and laborers.
- Taxes: Hughes plans to apply for a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) exemption, which may make such benefits negligible.

Our communities comprise an area that is deeply rural, supplies drinking water to NYC, and is in the midst of thousands of acres of state and DEP-preserved forest and wetlands. This proposal has the potential to change the quality of life for many people and communities in the Catskills Region with little benefit to them, and the potential for serious environmental harm. In the long run, unspoiled nature is the resource and attraction that brings jobs, employment, and a solid tax base to this beautiful area—not garbage.

Thanks, and feel free to share this message.  
Doug McLaurine and Robin Factor; Roxbury General

Supers Should Consider Tax Income Levels

It has been nearly 20 years since the Board of Supervisors increased the annual income levels for the county's senior citizens to qualify for a reduction in their county tax burden.

Seniors can reduce a portion of what they pay for county taxes, based on their income. Currently, there are seven earnings brackets, starting at \$15,000 per year. These increase incrementally to the maximum annual income of \$20,700. Based on income, property tax breaks range from 50 percent to five percent, depending on the bracket, i.e. those earning the least each year receive the greatest tax reduction.

The last time those earning limits were increased was in January 2003 (Local Law No. 2).

(There are similar income-based tax breaks offered in each town, village, and school district; it is likely those income levels should be reviewed and adjusted as well. Seniors should check with their local officials on details.)

Sadly, well-paying pensions are becoming a thing of the past, and many in the county's large population of 65-plus citizens are living solely on their monthly Social Security checks.

SSI recipients will see the largest cost-of-living-adjustment next year that they have in decades, up an estimated 6.5 percent. Immediately, that gain is eaten up by the projected double-digit increase in Medicare, and inflation.

This COLA increase will push many senior citizens out of the income bracket that qualifies them for a tax relief. Seniors just can't catch a break.

An adjustment in the income levels for seniors' tax reductions is long past due. I have written each member of the Board of Supervisors, as well as the directors of the Real Property Tax Office and Office for the Aging to ask their support. The text of that letter is below.

I am writing to ask your support and request that the Board of Supervisors increase the annual income limit for residents over age 65 to qualify for a deduction in the county's real property tax burden.

Eligible senior residents qualify for the tax deduction if their income is below the current \$20,700 per year. My understanding is that the last time the limit was increased was in January 2003 (Local Law #2), even as Social Security incomes continue to increase, albeit at percentages of about two percent for the last several years.

You perhaps have heard this year's SS income is increasing more substantially, for the first time in many years, projected at about 6.5 percent. This will put many seniors over the county's current \$20,700 per year income limit.

An increase of a corresponding 6.5 percent would increase the county's income restriction to \$22,068. However, as it has been nearly 20 years at the current level, perhaps a more substantial increase—to between \$27,000 and \$30,000 per year—is warranted.

I know you recognize senior citizens as a significant percentage of the county's population and dedicated voters. An increase in the income level for the tax break is long past due, warranted, and would be greatly appreciated.

Dana Cudmore  
Seward

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Edited by Timothy Parker

- ACROSS**
- Animal with a striped rear
  - Insect feeler
  - Sorrowful sigh
  - Pneumonia type
  - Malaria symptom
  - Passed-down knowledge
  - Lady between Hillary and Michelle
  - Better safe \_\_\_ sorry
  - Sleeping?
  - Reo, for one
  - Partner of only
  - Pride or lust, say
  - James Cameron film
  - In on the latest trends
  - Little row
  - Hopeful singer's tape
  - Hearty draughts
  - Cenozoic and Big Band
  - Textile fiber
  - Secondhand store section
  - All finished, as dinner
  - Thailand's former name
  - Words with "record" or "trap"
  - More than dislike
  - Ski lift
  - Cover with turf
  - Play friskily
  - Pen point
  - Monetary unit of Romania
  - "Stairway to Heaven," e.g.
  - Choir recess
  - To the sheltered side
  - Vietnam capital
  - They shall inherit the earth
  - Minimal amount
  - Dazzling display
  - "So what \_\_\_ is new?"
  - Musical notation
  - "I like your \_\_\_!"

- DOWN**
- Paella cooker
  - "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" e.g.
  - Lie adjacent to
  - The City of Light
  - Natives of Umm Qasr
  - Hors d'oeuvre selection
  - Turkish honorific (var.)
  - Oahu gala
  - Group of five
  - Beginning for "carte" or "king"
  - Surgeries that affect mental ability
  - Venue for big crowds
  - Commemorative meal
  - Remove, as a tent anchor
  - Difficult to miss
  - New Delhi nannies
  - One of the wealthy
  - Russian gold medalist Kulik
  - Places to live the high life?
  - Hawk among gods
  - Implicitly understood
  - It's better than a bargain
  - Thickish piece
  - Really enthusiastic about
  - Mild exclamation of surprise
  - Bit of nuttiness
  - Dweller on the Arabian Sea
  - Cream-filled dessert
  - Entrepreneur's dream
  - It's attractive to a moth
  - Parry
  - Flower base
  - Shaving cream ingredient
  - Mends, as bones
  - Act the usher
  - "For Your Eyes \_\_\_"
  - Furnace fodder
  - Windy day toy
  - \_\_\_ out (just manage)

**OLD SCHOOL** By Gary Cooper

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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64			65		66				67			
68					69				70			
71					72				73			