

Social Media Campaign Shoots Down Planned HFD Coyote Hunt

by Sally Zegers

A coyote hunt planned as a fundraiser for the Hancock Fire Department (HFD) drew the attention of animal rights groups across the country, resulting in an organized social media pressure campaign that culminated in the cancellation of the hunt.

The hunt, the second annual, was scheduled for January 17-19. It was open to both PA and NY hunters, and featured prizes for the heaviest coyote brought in, as follows.

1st place heaviest coyote-\$600
2nd place heaviest coyote-\$400
3rd place heaviest coyote-\$200
Youth 1st place heaviest coyote (ages 12-15)-\$200
Youth 2nd place heaviest coyote (age 12-15)-\$100

It is estimated that there are between 20,000 and 30,000 coyotes in the state. According to NYUpstate.com, New York's coyote hunting season is the longest hunting season in the state, beginning October 1 and lasting until March 26. Coyotes can be hunted day or night; can be shot or arrowed; can be taken over bait or by using dogs and there is no daily take limit.

The HFD advertised the hunt on its Facebook page. Activists from animal rights groups across the country such as Vermont, Massachusetts and Texas and even Australia began e-mailing the fire company's page during the past few weeks, and sent hundreds of e-mails to the Facebook page, decrying the planned hunt.

They reportedly had a petition against the hunt, saying in part: "It is very inhumane, evil & immoral to treat these beautiful creatures like they are disposable. Coyotes play an intricate part in the ecosystem. This is despicable. Animal (of ANY kind) killing contests are outdated and outrageous. We ask everyone involved to research the science behind coyotes and consider the cruelty they are inflicting on the complex and devoted coyote packs. There is a ripple down affect into the eco system when these precious souls are killed by humans. This effects (sic) everyone & every living breathing being. This must be stopped."

Change.org claimed that the petition had 11,000 signatures (later said to be 20,000). One group seeking an end to all wildlife hunting across NY State, contacted the Hancock Herald. The online comments became increasingly personal and derogatory, directed at anyone who supported hunting.

Village Clerk Phyllis Falsetta said that she received approxi-

mately 20 e-mails in opposition to the hunt at the Clerk's online address. Town Supervisor Jerry Vernold received "20 or so" e-mails at his official address.

They also inundated the office computer of Hancock Mayor Carolann McGrath with e-mails on Friday, December 27, complaining about the planned hunt. Mayor McGrath said she was bombarded with 75 to 100 e-mail messages, beginning early in the morning. "I didn't know



anything about the hunt," she told the Herald. She said she thought that the hunt "must be something bad," or illegal, because so many people were opposed to it, and sent an e-mail urging the fire company to cancel the hunt. She was informed that the hunt was not operated by the Fire Company itself, but rather the non profit 501(c)3 Hancock Fire Department Inc. This is a separate entity that is not under the control of the Village - and which is beyond her oversight.

At that point, the Mayor read up on New York State hunting seasons, and found out that the hunt was legal and permitted under State laws. "After that, I had no problem with it," she said, saying she had no control over the matter, and that it was the business of the firefighters. "Had I known about it in advance, I would have handled it completely differently," she said. "I would have told them (protestors) that it was legal under state law."

The Fire Company announced the cancellation the hunt on its Official page on December 30, citing an "executive order" to do so from the Mayor, as well as "aggressive behavior" and "threats against our personal safety" by opponents of the hunt.

A portion of their announcement read: "Let us be clear, we do not tolerate nor condone the aggressive behavior that has been showed to our membership and our organization. We thank our residents that have supported us during this endeavor, and who continue to support us.

"Due to the concerns for the safety of the residents that we protect and the concerns for the safety of our membership, we must cancel the tournament."

According to Lieutenant Blaise Bojo, HFD Public Information Officer, the Facebook page administrators include the top four or five officers in the department, and statements made on the official page are reached by consensus of the group.

Lieutenant Bojo tells the Herald that the e-mail from the Mayor was not "technically an executive order," but as Mayor she has "control over the fire department side" including buying equipment, so the company felt it was something they needed to heed. He declined to release the mayor's e-mail to The Herald.

He also said that the firefighters had received "actual" threats from the group, but said he did not want to go into detail, but rather allow the controversy to fade away. He did say that the members of the fire company were surprised by the attention and the reaction.

The cancellation of the hunt resulted in over 1,000 e-mails to the HFD Facebook page from local residents. Most were angry about what they saw as capitulation to outsiders who, at best, do not understand the local area and at worst, are working to end hunting altogether. These entries also became hostile and derogatory to those on the other side of the issue.

By December 31, the HFD asked "everyone to refrain from commenting on our post about canceling the coyote tournament. We do not condone violence or harassment toward anyone." Lt. Bojo noted that Facebook no longer allows the comment section to be

turned off, although individual e-mails can be deleted.

HFD Fire Chief Rolland "Boomer" Bojo, Jr. put the following statement on the official Facebook page:

I have remained quiet over the past few weeks but I feel compelled to say a few words. Let me start by saying I am not looking for a pat on the back or a Thank You for your Service. I will also not respond to any comments. I am not sure a lot of people understand what being a volunteer fire dept member means in Hancock. It means a 100 plus year tradition of providing protection to those who live, visit or travel in our area. It means spending sleepless nights trying to save someone's house or cutting their kid out of a car wrapped around a telephone pole. It means doing CPR on your childhood friend and thinking how you are going to tell his mother he did not make it. It means sending your own children into a burning building and saying a prayer under your breath that they will be safe. We do all of this for one reason we care and I must say I believe we do a pretty damn good job of it. The past few weeks have been hell on our members and their families. It has distracted us from not only fire department related things but also from our jobs (yes the ones that actually pay our bills). As we enter a new year I ask just two things. 1. Please all sides step back and take a deep breath. 2. Take a moment to help someone who may be in need of help.

Rolland "Boomer" Bojo
Chief

After all the hullabaloo, a small hunting club decided to take it up a notch. The Whitney Point Coon Hunters Club in Broome County announced it will be holding a coyote hunting tournament on Jan. 18-19, the same dates that the Hancock Fire Department in Delaware County had scheduled theirs before announcing this week it was being canceled.

"And we won't be shut down," said Brian Brown, of Greene, a spokesman for the Coon Hunter's group. "All the antis are dancing around, throwing a party, thinking they won."

Brown said registration for his group's hunt will be \$25 per hunter, due no later than Jan. 17.

Look Back At 2019

2019 was a remarkable year, with the arrest of a local man for a homicide in Lakewood, Pa., numerous emu sightings, storms, a runaway cow and a local hero's return to Hancock. This is the second part of a two part retrospective.

July

The HCS Class of 2019, 25 in all, graduated on June 28. Incumbent Town Highway Superintendent Neil Emerich won his primary. Music at Fishes eddy announced its planned lineup of classical concerts.

The New York Legislature approved the sale of the Hancock golf course. The bill then had to go to the Governor for his signature. Stop Chop and Roll sushi restaurant in Lake Como was featured. Preston Township discussed an ATV club on the former O&W RR bed, with most local residents along the trail opposed to the idea.

Respected resident and former florist Hilda Hartz died on July 9 at the age of 102. Work continued on the conversion of the former Larimer and Norton ash bolt sawmill into a gas station and convenience store. Buckingham Township again fielded complaints from neighbors of Camp Lavi, which leases its property to a third party group that holds a loud and much hated music festival each year.

The Village tabled a proposal that would have reappraised the Village at a cost of \$24,000. An article detailed the efforts of New York State to fight Chronic Wasting Disease in deer - which is actually a scary form of mad cow disease. The details of the proposed HCS capital project were discussed.

Gary and Sue Miller of Hancock were honored for their decades of work fostering and adopting children, with over 100 in total over the years. State Senator Fred Akshar hosted the large family at the Hancock House. It was announced that the Route 97 bridge over Basket Creek would be renamed in honor of Allan Milk, who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1966.

Deaths: Jean Carpenter, William Ellicks, Sr., Faye Felter, James Smith, Eleanor Hempstead, George Anderson, Kathryn Kellam, Hilda Hartz, Daniel Steelman, Cindy Messinger, Velma Buchanan, Anthony Worobey, Carla Morgan

August

The cost of a school lunch at HCS increased by five cents. Mayor Carolann McGrath told the Herald that exterminators had removed approximately 30 dead rats from the former Getty Station, and the company believed that many more had died within the wall

and under the foundation, making the building unsanitary. Village officials were working with the owner to have the building razed.

Preston and Buckingham Townships again heard that energy producers had interest in using the former O&W as an energy corridor, with the latest iteration being a proposal for high tension powerlines made by Scott Linde.

Members of the local Garden Club restored the Welcome To Hancock sign on the railroad tracks, with new stonework and plantings. The Town Board held off on having the golf course appraised until the approval to sell it had been signed by the Governor - who apparently had better things to do.

Anna Kellam and Crystal Smith were indicted by a County Grand Jury for selling prescription drugs in Hancock. The Village again tabled a controversial noise ordinance change, with Trustees fearing that the change, which would have eliminated any ordinance during the daylight hours, would lead to no control at all over barking dogs and noisy gatherings.

Hancock Fire Department members rescued a ten year old boy who fell from Jensen's Ledges while hiking with his family. A fall the previous year had proven fatal to another hiker. The Town of Hancock Ambulance Corps began raising funds for a new ambulance, with a n anonymous donor matching up to \$30,000 in donations.

Deaths: William "Penny" Wright, Jack Francisco, William Hughs, Barbara Faigle, Mary Lou Hunter, John Fuller, Deborah Burleson

September

Wellington Lester, well known educator and community leader, died on August 27, at the age of 95, survived by his wife, Helen. FERC overruled NYS on the Constitution Pipeline, finding that the state had waived its water review by taking too much time.

A joint fire district between the Village and Town of Hancock was discussed, with the possibility that a taxable district might be formed to provide for fire protection. Scott Linde told Preston and Buckingham Townships that they would receive \$30 per foot for a powerline project,

(continued on page 6)

HUNTING PASTA.

In place of the coyote tournament, the Hancock Fire Department will hold a spaghetti supper and raffle at the Firemen's Club Rooms on Sunday, January 19, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free will offering for the spaghetti supper. Basket Raffles, gun raffle, 50/50 and door prizes.

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Chase Away The Winter Blues With A Puzzle Contest

Puzzle lovers: come to the Louise Adelia Read Memorial Library at 104 Read St. in Hancock on Wednesday, January 29 at 6PM for their 1st Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament.

This will be a timed contest where each team will receive an identical mystery puzzle sealed in the box.

The first team to complete the puzzle (or team with the fewest pieces remaining after 2 hours) will win a trophy. The fee is \$25.00 per team of up to 4 adults (anyone 12 or older)

The fee covers the cost of puzzle, trophy and refreshments. The tournament is limited to 10 teams, on a first come basis.

Entries must be received by Wednesday, January 22.

Please contact the library for more information (607)637-2519.

Alfred "Skip" DaBrescia Dies; Services Friday

Alfred "Skip" DaBrescia, 91, of Hancock, died on Sunday, January 5, 2020 at Elizabeth Church Manor, Binghamton.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, January 9, from 6PM-8PM at the Henderson-Biedekapp Funeral Chapel, Hancock. A funeral mass will be held on Friday, January 10, 2020 at 11AM at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Hancock. Interment will be in St. Paul's Cemetery, Hancock.

A full obituary will be in next week's paper.

After School Activity Center Weekly Calendar

Cooking - Quesadillas using the griddle

Talent Show Practice

5-9 Bowling League

Karaoke

Making Pet toys

Friday Fun Day January 10th
Trip to Delhi Heart of the Catskills Humane Society

Bus will return at 7:15

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Changes Made In NY Wage Law

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has announced that the State Department of Labor is issuing an order eliminating the sub-minimum wage for 'miscellaneous' industries statewide.

The order impacts over 70,000 tipped employees and will end confusion and outright wage theft that evidence shows robs them of tipped income they rightfully earned. Workers who will be impacted by the new measure include: nail salon workers, hairdressers, aestheticians, car wash workers, valet parking attendants, doorpersons, tow truck drivers, dog groomers and tour guides.

The elimination of the tip wage for miscellaneous industries will be phased in over a one-year period, an aggressive timetable that will provide employees relief while also giving businesses time to adjust to these changes as to not inadvertently incur job loss.

The schedule includes:

On June 30, 2020, the difference between the minimum wage and current tip wages will be cut in half.

On December 31, 2020 the tip wage will be completely eliminated and workers in these effected industries will be making the normal minimum wage.

Trivia Contest Set In Hancock

A trivia contest will be sponsored by the Hancock Area chamber of commerce and the Hancock House Hotel on January 22. See the Hancock House Hotel Ad on page 8.

More details will be made available as they are received.



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One Hundred Years Ago

From a 1919 Issue of
The Hancock Herald

Poor Imitator of Notorious Highwayman Jesse James
Cortland Taxi Driver Beaten and Drugged, Auto and Money Stolen, Young Highwayman Captured at Hancock

The most exciting and bold attempt at daylight automobile stealing and robbery that has yet occurred along this section of the State Road, came to grief at Hancock Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock.

Right before Christmas Eve on Tuesday afternoon Austin McGranaghan, Chief of Police received a telephone call to look out for young man coming this way with a Dodge touring car. Promptly the Chief set out to intercept the young bandit. He and his men stationed themselves long the State Road just West of Sands Creek Bridge, while the Chief blocked the road in the village with a wagon and two autos.

The car was stopped by Dewey Kirkpatrick and Officer Winne, just west of the village. The driver confessed to stealing the car near Cortland. The story of the thief reads like a motion picture scenario.

The first scene is at Cortland NY where Frederick C. Elkridge age 29, a returned soldier, runs a taxi automobile, a Dodge touring car, which he owns. The villain of the play approached Elkridge near a street corner and engaged Elkridge to take him to Marathon. The price agreed upon was twelve dollars. Ditmar carried with him a large old-fashioned satchel. He stepped into the machine and they started out, both riding in the front seats, but when out of the town Ditmar said because of the rain he would get into the back seat, where unnoticed he made a bludgeon of a big heavy pliers

covered and wound with cloth. With brutal design he then at a point about seven miles from Cortland struck the driver a couple of hard blows on the head, rendering him semi-unconscious. He then, under threat and at the point of a revolver. Then he bound his feet, suing copper wire that he found in the car.

After blindfolding the helpless man he stuffed a rag in his mouth and then proceeded to give Eldridge ether from an envelope. Elkridge fought all he could be to no avail. Then Ditmar got in the front seat and drove to Binghamton where he got gas and oil while Eldridge lay helpless stupefied and unconscious in the back of the car with his face down.

Ditmar was going to head for NY to sell the car.

At a lonely section of road on Tuscarora hill, as Elkridge was beginning to make a desperate attempt to holler and free himself, Ditmar stopped opened the door and Elkridge rolled out. They had a rough and tumble fight in the road and mud. Here again threatening Eldridge at the point of a revolver and promising to partly free and leave him if he promised not to tell. Ditmar jumped into the car and went on to Deposit, where he bought more gas and oil. He had already robbed Eldridge of about \$17, over looking \$80 in his shirt pocket.

And now folks you'll have to wait for the next installment in next week's paper in 2020.

What will Elkridge do now? Will he walk or hail another car down. How fast will Ditmars leave Deposit for Hancock on his way to New York City?

Don't forget to buy the Herald for next weeks continuation of "The Poor Imitator of Jesses James."

Talk Of The Town

By Jill Gorton

It has been a week of turmoil if you are a Hancock Fire Department member. What seemed to be a fund raiser turned into a confrontation between activists and local department members. Not looking to get into a distracting back and forth with anyone, the department will host a traditional spaghetti dinner and asks that you donate or participate in the event to raise needed funds to better equip the department. Everyone around the world loves coyotes it seems. Who knew?

In local happenings we noticed the Camptons/ Troutbrook Studios/ Monk Designs had a nicely done area that is a welcome sight as you come into town from the East. It appears there is some work going on at Teddy's at the other end of town so we hope for an attractive welcome from that end of town as well.

The big question is, when is the new gas station opening? We see some activity around the pumps and I want to see

what it is like inside. Hats off to Russell and Lynn Bass who continue to invest in our community. We really appreciate it, even if we don't always say so. There is a Facebook page to follow with opening updates. I have it on my saved pages.

Who is next? There is always room for an entrepreneur. The building where the guide shop was looks interesting and I understand that Jackie and Jason Albaum are hosting vendors. Do you need a kiosk? Soap? Leather? Crafts? See what's happening. Spring is just around the corner. Start a business or expand an existing

Send news and photos to
hancockherald@hancock.net

Just Because You're Offended Doesn't Mean You're Right...

Through The Years

Fifty Years Ago

From an issue of
The Hancock Herald
Dated January 8, 1970

Property owners in the Town of Hancock will be paying approximately 90 cents a thousand more in taxes this year than they did in 1969 according to figures released by Town Supervisor L.T. McGranaghan. Village property owners will be assessed \$3.874 per thousand for the Town Tax, plus a County Tax of \$6.979 for a total of \$10.853. Cadosia, Fishs Eddy, and East Branch property owners will be required to pay that amount plus. Their tax will include Highway, Health and Sanitation. In addition the Cadosia residents will pay for lighting; East Branch for fire and light, and Fishs Eddy for lights. Mrs. Barbara McGraw, Tax Collector, is currently receipting for taxes at the Town Clerk's office for the month of January. After January 31, she will be at her home in Route 97, French Woods.

Egbert Ives of Centerville, East Branch has been granted a license by the NYS Liquor Control Board to operate a restaurant on Route 30 to be known as the Alibi Inn. His wife is associated with him in the business which was opened to the public on New Year's Eve. The Inn is located across Route 30 from the home of Mr. Ives'

Twenty Five Years Ago

From an issue of
The Hancock Herald
Dated January 11, 1995

The Hancock Telephone Company will not purchase the Deposit Telephone Company, as originally announced. Hancock Telephone Company head Robert Wrighter Sr. would not go into details, but told the Herald that "the deal was dead." Officers at the Deposit company reportedly will be selling to another company and have actively been seeking another buyer since September of 1993.

The year 1994 will be remembered for a brutal winter reminiscent of the "old days", bringing roof collapses, school delays, and record low temperatures before swinging into record high temperatures in

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Basset Ives approximately two miles from the Route 17 intersection at East Branch. The establishment will be open 7 days a week.

The Hancock Board of Trade has announced the winners of the home Christmas decoration contest. First place was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Rocco Vital of Cadosia; second place winner was Mr. and Mrs. Tony DaBrescia; third place was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Drumm. Honorable mentions were given to the Rodney Thomas and Reno Charles home, Carl Krause residence, Cecil Spencer home, and the Harold Reynolds residence. Judging took place on December 21 and 22. Prizes ranging from \$15 to \$5 will be mailed out to the winners.

Dr. and Mrs. Osias Villaflor were pleasantly surprised Saturday evening when several friends and neighbors assembled at their new home in Pennsylvania Avenue to honor and welcome them at a "house warming party". The affair was arranged by Mr. and Mrs. John Mason of Leonard Street. A son, Thomas Herbert Jr., was born Friday, January 2, 1970 to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Newman (Anita Evanitsky) of Hancock.

A son, Ricky Scott, was born Sunday, January 4, 1970 to

June. There was an unusual voting tie in Hancock, a beautiful new plaza for HCS, and the opening of new businesses in the area fostered hope for better days to come.

Maurice Hinchey, recently re-elected to represent the 26th Congressional District, which includes Hancock, entered a plea of nolo contendere, or no contest, to charges of carrying a gun at the National Airport in Washington, D.C. Charges will be dismissed after a one year period.

Hancock Mayor Robert Drumm has announced plans to seek another term of office saying he will "throw his hat in the ring". Drumm, a Republican, will be seeking his party's nomination at the Republican Caucus on Thursday, January 12. The Village election will be held on Tuesday, March 21.

Life On The Mountain

By Judith Present

200 years after the Salem Witch Trials another panic struck New England: the fear of vampires. During the 19th century, the spread of TB or consumption claimed the lives of entire families in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont and other parts of the Northeast.

Between 1786, when health officials first began recording mortality rates they found that

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and three percent of New England's population had died from TB. The death toll was not only terrifying; it was also a horrific way to die. "Consumptives lost weight, coughed up blood, their skin turned ashen and sometimes died a slow death.

New Englanders didn't deny the reality of consumption; yet this was all before the germ theory, so physicians were unable to explain how certain infectious diseases were spread. Hopeless villagers believed that some of those who perished from consumption preyed upon their living family members. To prevent an ongoing vampire attack and the disease from spreading, panicked citizens dug up bodies and performed various rituals, including burning internal organs.

One such exhumation took place in March 1892 at the Chestnut Hill cemetery in Exeter, Rhode Island. Local people brought shovels and picks and, together, exhumed the corpses of Mary Brown and her daughters, 20-year-old Mary Olive and 19-year-old Mercy Lena. Each of the women had grown sickly, wasting away and eventually succumbing to this mysterious affliction. Doctors thought they knew the cause of death, but the concerned citizens had this other theory about vampires.

George Brown was among those who believed something

Mr. and Mrs. David Herzog (Josephine Whitmore) of Hancock.

Twins, a son Joseph, and a daughter, Jennifer, were born Saturday, December 27, 1969 in Sidney to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Harageones (Alice Schriver). Joseph and Jennifer join 14 other children at home. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schriver of Cadosia are the maternal grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Cobb (Norma May) of Hancock, are the parents of a son born Saturday, December 27, 1969 in Delaware Valley Hospital, Walton.

A son, James Alton, was born to Gerald and Sandra (Curtis) Neild on Sunday, December 28, 1969 in Barnes Memorial Hospital, Susquehanna. The new little Mister joins a brother Gerald and sister Julie.

Contrary to common belief malaria is not restricted to man and tropical climates. Conservation Department searches report that species of these blood parasites, not transmissible to man, are common in birds here. It is yet unclear if malaria is important as a limiting factor on bird populations.

A daughter, Cynthia Marie, was born Saturday, January 3, 1970, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Greene (Mary Possemato) of Lakewood.

A daughter, Shanna Elizabeth, was born Saturday, January 3, 1970, to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond H. Collier (Sheila Lantry) of Hancock.

New York State Troopers arrested a 36 year old Hancock man on Friday, December 30, charging him with endangering the welfare of a child and second degree harassment. He was charged with pushing his daughter up against a door, calling her names and smashing the telephone to prevent her from calling for help. He was remanded to the Delaware County Jail on \$1,000 bail.

A daughter, Kayla, was born to Daniel and Julie (Tourtelot) Bennett of Starlight, on January 1, at Wayne Memorial Hospital. She is the first baby born of the New Year in the Honesdale Hospital. Paternal grandparents are Lloyd and Shirley Bennett of Lake Como.

Kenneth John Bowersox, Apex Road, died unexpected-

A daughter, Michele Lee, was born Saturday, January 3, 1970, to Mr. and Mrs. Robley Vosburgh (Jean Wilson) of Deposit.

Edward Yankowski, 44, a native of Peas Eddy Road, Hancock, died Saturday, January 3, 1970, in Long Island at Terrace Heights Hospital, where he had been a surgical patient for one week.

Mrs. Nora Ellen Lewis, 86, Thompson, Pa., died Wednesday, December 31, 1969, following an illness.

Irvin "Dutch" Kerschner, 76, Preston Park, Pa., died Saturday, December 26, 1969, following an illness.

William Tuttle, 71, Deposit, Scott, Township, Pa., was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital in Susquehanna on Saturday, January 3, 1970, following a brief illness.

It has been over three years since an Erie-Lackawanna Railroad passenger train passed through Hancock and Monday, January 5, marked the end of all passenger service on the line between Hoboken, NJ, and Chicago, Ill. For the past three years anyone in the area wishing to travel by train had to go to Binghamton where an east-bound and a westbound train departed during the middle of the night. The railroad's going out of long distance passenger business on Monday marked the end of 121 years of service to travelers throughout the country.

ly on Wednesday, December 28, 1994, at his home. He was 57.

Catherine M. Adams, Preston Park, died Sunday, January 1, 1995, at Marian Community Hospital in Carbondale. She was 81.

Roland W. Nethercott, 73, Starrucca, died Thursday, January 5, 1995 at the Barnes Kasson Hospital in Susquehanna.

Diana Nichols, daughter of former Hancock police chief Hank Nichols, has become Oneonta's only female cop. In an interview in the Oneonta Star, she says Oneonta officials will have to order a special bullet proof vest and boots since the department does not have any small enough to fit her. Miss Nichols is 23 years old and grew up in Oneonta and Cooperstown.

"more" might be lurking on his farm. Shortly after Mercy Lena passed away, his son Edwin fell ill too. Desperate to save the last of his kin, George gave the townspeople permission to dig up the bodies of his wife and daughters.

Once unearthed, the crowd discovered that the corpses of Mary and Mary Olive had rotted away. Mercy's body, on the other hand, was "oddly well preserved" despite lying in a crypt for several months. It looked as if her hair and nails had grown, and, when pierced, her delicate skin still contained drops of blood. For those who had gathered, these telltale signs confirmed their suspicions. Mercy was a vampire!

A village doctor witnessed the makeshift graveside autopsy and reiterated the sus-

pected cause of death. He explained how the cold New England weather would have kept her body preserved. The townspeople wouldn't listen. Panicked, they removed Mercy's heart and burned it on a nearby rock. It is believed that, in ritualistic fashion, Brown's son Edwin then consumed the ashes. Unfortunately, it did nothing to slow the progression of his illness and he died a few months later.

The Brown exhumations in Rhode Island, known then as "The Vampire Capital of America," was just one among tens of similar exhumations throughout New England at the time. Henry David Thoreau even mentions one in his 1859 journal.

We have come a long way since then, but have we?

BUMPER STICKER AMERICA

0 Days Without Sarcasm

The Letters To The Editor Section is presented as a public service to our readers. Letters printed in this section reflect the view of the writer only. Letters should contain the signature of the writer, along with a telephone number at which the writer may be reached. Letters should be limited to 350 words. They may be edited for length or content, or not published at all, at the sole discretion of the Publisher.

All columns on this page are the opinion of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Hancock Herald.

Obituaries

Ada Knight

Ada Marguerite Knight, 90, of Hancock, NY, went home to be with her Lord Jesus on Friday, December 27, 2019, at Chestnut Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Oneonta.

She was the daughter of Frank W. and Dorothy M. (Oestrich) Ray. Ada was born in Fernwood, NY, on January 26, 1929. After graduating as salutatorian from Delaware Valley Central School in Callicoon, in 1946, she worked for the New York Telephone Company in Liberty. She married Richard Myron Knight II in 1951. He predeceased her in 2002. They lived briefly on farms in Stockport, PA, and East Branch, before settling on a dairy farm in Rock Valley. They moved to the French Woods area in 1981.

She returned to work at Bard Parker in Hancock and for the United States Postal Service as a rural carrier in Long Eddy and Hancock before retiring in 1992. Ada was very active in the Home Bureau and the Methodist Church women's groups and as a lay speaker and Sunday school teacher. She also enjoyed her family, her flower gardening, reading, and music.

Surviving are 4 children, Kyle (Walter) Haynes, South Glens Falls, NY, Harry Knight, Hancock, Laura Knight, Albany, and Mary (Joseph) Brower, South New Berlin; seven grandchildren, Alyssa (Simon) Haynes Keeling, Andrew (Jaime) Haynes, Abby Knight, Joseph Brower Jr., Traci (Craig) Brower Wendler, Margaret Brower, and Natasha Brower. She is also survived by her sister, Iris (Robert) Smith, Yuma, AZ, and many nieces and nephews.

Ada was predeceased by her parents, two brothers, Willard (Irene) Ray, Calvin (Hazel) Ray, and two sisters, Helen (Stanley) Baudendistel, and Rachael (Herb) Mendenhall.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Ada's memory to a favorite charity of one's choice.

Calling hours were held on Saturday, January 4, 2020 from 11AM-1PM followed by a funeral service at 1PM all at the Henderson-Biedekapp Funeral Chapel, Hancock. A luncheon will follow at the Emory United Methodist Church, Hancock. Private burial will be at a later date in Stockport Cemetery, Stockport, PA.

Arrangements by Henderson-Biedekapp Funeral Chapel, Hancock.

After School Activities Center Open

After-School Activities Center is located at Hancock Elementary School/Hancock Middle School, Every Monday- Thursday 2:30 PM until 5:30 PM.

Every Friday is FUN DAY FRIDAY with a FUN Field Trip or Activity. Self-transport home on Fridays pick up times will vary! Children may attend from 2- 5 days each week and be picked up earlier than 5:30 each day with prior written notice.

If you would like to join the FUN call Tina Appley at 607-637-1388.

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DCHA Offers To Help Chase Winter Blahs

Chase away the winter blahs!

Visit the Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA) on Saturday afternoon, January 18 for an afternoon of sundry and delectable delights. At 2 pm members of the museum staff will begin reading from a variety of historic diaries and narratives – all drawn from the museum's collections. While guests relax and listen to the readings, enjoy an array of sumptuous desserts. Tea and coffee will also be served.

Excerpts that will be presented include those from the diaries of James Dezell (Franklin/Treadwell), Miles Heine (Meredith), Katherine Scudder (Halcottsville) and Maude Sturgess (Hobart). Additional journals, newspaper articles and letters will introduce audience members to the lives of Caroline Van Derwerken (Sidney) and John and Mary Sherwood (Delhi).

2020 marks DCHA's 75th Anniversary – our "Diamond Jubilee." To celebrate this auspicious occasion, we will also read excerpts from diaries, letters, etc. that shine the light on DCHA's history.

WARNING: This event is not recommended for those embarking on a New Year's weight loss regimen! However, it is recommended for those looking to spend an afternoon having fun while learning more about our ancestors who once lived in Delaware County. To enjoy this delectable and – dare we say it, decadent – afternoon, please reserve your space by January 17. Cost: \$10.00 per person.

Call DCHA at 607-746-3849 or e-mail dcha@delhi.net to reserve or for more information.

January 18 Lunch at Cold Spring Chapel

Yes, it is 2020 and we begin the new year at the Chapel Community Kitchen with a traditional roast pork dinner. On the menu with the roast pork are: homemade gravy, mashed potatoes, homemade spaetzle, rutabaga, red cabbage, and applesauce with homemade bread. Cupcakes will be our featured dessert for this New Year's Dinner.

Let's begin 2020 with a resolution to enjoy more friendship, more fellowship, and great food in a spirit of togetherness that has so long been a hallmark of Cold Spring Chapel.

The kitchen is located in fellowship hall of Cold Spring Chapel. It is located at the crossroads of Upper Woods Road and Great Bend Turnpike (371W), Lebanon Township, Wayne County, Pennsylvania. The luncheon begins at 11:30 am till 1:30 pm and is free of charge. All are welcome to attend.

For more information on events at Cold Spring Chapel, check us out on Facebook.

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Online Site To Take Your Reports Of Social Security Related Scams

Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, and Gail S. Ennis, the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration, announce the launch of a dedicated online form at <https://oig.ssa.gov> to receive reports from the public of Social Security-related scams. These scams—in which fraudulent callers mislead victims into making cash or gift card payments to avoid arrest for purported Social Security number problems—skyrocketed over the past year to become the #1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission and the Social Security Administration.

To combat these scams, Social Security and the OIG will use the new online form to capture data that will be analyzed for trends and commonalities. The OIG will use the data to identify investigative leads, which could help identify criminal entities or individuals participating in or facilitating the scams. Ultimately, these efforts are expected to disrupt the scammers, help reduce this type of fraud, and reduce the number of victims.

"We are taking action to raise awareness and prevent scammers from harming Americans," Commissioner Saul said. "I am deeply troubled that our country has not been able to stop these crooks from deceiving some of the most vulnerable members of our society."

Commissioner Saul and Inspector General Ennis encourage the public to use the new online form to report Social Security phone scams including robocalls and live callers, as well as email, text, and in-person scams. The form allows people to create a unique

Personal Identification Number (PIN), so if OIG contacts a person about their report, they will know the call is legitimate.

"Awareness is our best hope to thwart the scammers," said Inspector General Ennis. "Tell your friends and family about them and report them to us when you receive them, but most importantly, just hang up and ignore the calls."

Social Security employees do occasionally contact people—generally those who have ongoing business with the agency—by telephone for business purposes. However, Social Security employees will never threaten a person, or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money. In those cases, the call is fraudulent and people should just hang up.

Generally, the agency mainly calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, someone who is already receiving payments and requires an update to their record, or a person who has requested a phone call from the agency. If a person is not in one of these situations, they normally would not receive a call from the agency.

Social Security will not:

Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended.

Contact you to demand an immediate payment.

Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a pre-paid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash.

Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe.

Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money.

If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, in most cases Social Security will mail a letter. If a person needs to submit payments to Social Security, the agency will send a letter with instructions and payment options. People should never provide information or payment over the phone or Internet unless they are certain of who is receiving it.

The Social Security OIG will also continue to take reports of fraud, waste, and abuse in Social Security's programs and operations. A separate online form for those reports remains available at their website.

To get more Social Security news, follow the Press Office on Twitter @SSAPress.

Political Campaign 101 Course Offered

Planning to run for public office or to support a campaign?

Hear practical information on how to commence your candidacy and run an effective campaign!

Campaign School is a regional event cosponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lackawanna County, the Political Science Department of the University of Scranton, and WNEP-TV.

The material presented will be applicable to anyone considering a run for public office in Pennsylvania, whether gearing up for a PA House/Senate race in 2020 or county/local race in 2021.

Men and women are encouraged to attend.

Sessions will cover the practicalities of completing a petition, organizing a campaign, getting your message across, raising money, and using various forms

of media. The program will wrap up with a panel to share lessons learned from political life.

DATE: Saturday, January 25, 2020. Snow date Saturday, February 1

TIME: Doors open and continental breakfast 8:00 a.m. Program hard start at 8:20. Program concludes at 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The University of Scranton, Brennan Hall 5th Floor. Brennan Hall is located on the east side of the 300 block of Madison Ave. For GPS, 316 Madison Ave, Scranton. On-street parking is available on Madison or Linden. A parking garage can be entered from Madison Ave., from which you exit on the side opposite the side where you entered with your vehicle, to an alley to Brennan Hall.

MARCH FOR LIFE - ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE FOR ADULTS AND FAMILIES

Those wishing to attend the March for Life on Thursday, January 23, will be picked up in front of Father Rausch Hall. Parking is permitted behind the hall for anyone who needs to leave their vehicle while in Washington. The bus will be stopping in Hancock on Thursday night, January 23, at 11:30 p.m., before heading down to Washington, D.C. The bus will return around 11:00 p.m. the night of January 24. Tickets are \$35.00 each for anyone boarding in Hancock.

Come March for Life for those who cannot.

Reserve your seat so as not to be disappointed by calling Cathy at 607-727-4755 or Kelly at 607-637-2571. All minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

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HCEF Scholarships Available For Hancock Central Students

Scholarship applications are now available for Hancock Central School Graduates and Former Graduates through the Hancock Community Education Foundation. Applications are now available at the high school guidance office or can be printed from our website. www.hancockeducationfoundation.org under forms. The following criteria must be met each year for a student to qualify for consideration of a grant. If you have any questions please call the foundation office at 607-637-5262.

The following criteria must be met each year for a student to qualify for consideration of a grant from the Hancock Community Education Foundation.

1. The student must complete a minimum of 20 hours volunteer service for the Hancock Community Education Foundation during his/her senior

year. Students will be required to volunteer at our after school programs and/or fundraising events.

2. The student must have a minimum 75 GPA in his or her senior year of high school.

3. The student must be approved for admission to an accredited four-year college, two-year community college or technical school with a minimum two year curriculum.

4. The student must apply for government financial aid, be evaluated and approved for an aid package. Please attach FASFA Forms for proof of government loans

5. The student must apply for scholarship aid from the school he or she is planning to attend and must agree to accept an aide package or work program or both offered by the school.

6. The student must seek financial aid and or grants from a minimum of three other avail-

able sources and provide documentation as part of his or her application.

7. The student must fill out a Hancock Community Education Foundation application form with all of the required information.

8. The Board of Directors will have sole responsibility for deciding the merits of each application and the aid to be granted, if any, after review of government, school, loans, work programs and other grants already received.

9. All grants will be approved for one year only. The students must reapply for aid from the Foundation at the end of each school year. Completed applications must be sent to the High School Guidance Office by the application due date. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.

10. When aid is approved it will be paid directly to the institution involved by submission of tuition bills to the Foundation controller.

11. The student must maintain a 2.5 grade point average; submit a report of grades and a copy of the tuition bill for each semester.

12. The student must continue to meet the character and citizenship requirements of the school in attendance in order to receive aid.

13. The student must write a thank you note to the Foundation prior to submitting a tuition bill.

NY National Guard Offered Honors At Over 11,000 Military Funerals in 2019

LATHAM, NY (12/28/2019) (read Media)-- The New York Army and Air National Guard expects to provide military honors at the burials of 11,045 veterans during 2019, according to records from their Honor Guard teams across the state.

In 2018 the New York Army and Air National Guard provided military burial honors 11,326 times and in 2017 a total of 11,170 military interment ceremonies were conducted.

Most of these services involved two National Guard Soldiers or Airmen presenting an American flag to the veteran's family and sounding taps on an electronic bugle.

New York Army National Guard teams located across the state are expected to conduct 8,622 funerals by the end of the year, according to Peter J. Moran, the New York State coordinator for the military funeral honors program. As of Dec. 27, 2019 the Army National Guard Honor Guard Soldiers had conducted 8,456 missions.

The New York Air National Guard's Honor Guard services are provided by Airmen assigned to the five Air Guard wings located across the state and the Eastern Air Defense Sector in Rome, N.Y.

Air Guard honor guards reported having conducted 2,403 funerals as of Dec. 19, 2019 with another 25 expected by the end of 2019.

Since 2000, federal law has mandated that any military veteran who did not receive a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces is eligible for military honors at his or her funeral.

The law mandates that all former service members' funerals must include the folding and presenting of an American flag to the veterans survivors and the playing of taps. The honor guard's normally use an electronic bugle-a bugle with a sound system and speaker inside-to provide this other service.

The New York Army National Guard provides services for Army veterans while the New York Air National Guard handles the funeral for those who have served in the Air Force.

Among the burials conducted by the New York Army National Guard in 2019 was the October 12 interment of Sgt. Francis S. Currey, a World War II veteran who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of the Bulge.

Currey, a resident of Selkirk, NY, was one of the last three living Medal of Honor recipi-

ents from World War II when he died. He was a native of Sullivan County.

The New York Army National Guard also provided honors for a one-time Army private Needham Mayes whose family appealed to the Secretary of the Army to have a 1956 dishonorable discharge revised so he could be buried in a veterans cemetery with military honors. Ruling that Mayes, an African-American Soldier who went on to distinguish himself in civilian life, the secretary changed the discharge.

On Dec. 2019, an Honor Guard team provided full honors for Mayes, a New York City resident who died at the age of 85 on Veterans Day, 2019.

The New York Army National Guard runs a centralized military funeral honors program with eight area offices located across the state.

The three offices covering New York City and Long island handled 5,041 funerals in 2019, according to Moran. The Buffalo office conducted 953 services in 2019, while the Albany-area Honor Guard team conducted 849.

The Honor Guard's Rochester Office conducted 742 funerals, while 554 were conducted in the Syracuse area and 317 services were staffed

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The Kilmer Building
31 Lewis St., Suite 404, Binghamton, NY 13901
722-0999

Police Notes

On December 31, 2019 Delaware County Sheriff Deputies arrested 67-year-old Thomas Lima of Franklin, New York on an Arrest Warrant issued by the Town of Delhi Court for the charges of Criminal Mischief fourth degree, Trespass, and Harassment in the second degree following a report of an ongoing harassment by Lima in the Town of Franklin. Lima was arranged at the Town of Delhi Court and was released on his own recognizance. Lima is scheduled to appear at the Town of Franklin Court at a later date to answer the said charges.

On December 31, 2019 at about 10:56 PM, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies arrested 20-year-old Michael J. Bryden, of Delhi, on four counts of Petit Larceny and four counts of Criminal Mischief- fourth following an investigation into multiple reports of stolen catalytic converters in the Towns of Delhi and Franklin. Bryden was released on appearance tickets and is scheduled to appear in the Town of Delhi and Town of Franklin Courts at a later date to answer the charges.



Wayne Memorial Welcomes First Baby 2020

(Honesdale, PA, January 3, 2020)... "A great and emotional experience" is how Sammi Green and Ryan Conklin described the birth of their son Jaxon, the very first baby born at Wayne Memorial Hospital in 2020. Little Jaxon arrived via a scheduled cesarean section on January 2nd at 8:05 a.m. Delivered by Eric Rittenhouse, MD from the Women's Health Center, Honesdale, baby Jaxon weighed in at 7 lbs, 14.6 oz. The New Beginnings Birthing Suites staff presented the Clifford couple with a basket of goodies, including blankets, onesies, a stuffed animal, a crocheted hat and body lotion for Mom. "The staff was fabulous and very supportive," said dad Ryan. Donna Cortright, RN, was their primary care nurse for the delivery. Jaxon has two step-brothers. Photo 1. to right: Ryan Conklin, Sammi Green and Jaxon, Dr. Rittenhouse and Stephanie Gravell, LPN.

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We look forward to seeing everyone!

Classifieds

Rates: \$4.50 for the first 25 words, 5 cents a word for every word over 25. "Card of Thanks" and "In Memoriam" same price. Poetry or photos with classifieds: Additional \$2 charge.

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1/15p2x

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35wdc7/24ffc

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2/19p11x



Jacob Dobromirescu kicking out to Wyatt Jacobs against Frankfort-Schuyler

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16)	17)	18)	19)	20)
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Year In Review...

(continued from page 1)

asking Supervisors to sign a preliminary option agreement giving the company time to line up financing. It was revealed that Preston had turned down the offer without a public meeting, so the project was not dead yet, with a public meeting to be set. Residents at Read Senior Housing was temporarily evacuated after a spill of chemicals, which were not named in the information released to the Herald.

The Village heard a presentation from Town Assessor Jim Basile on his proposal to reassign the Village for \$24,000. They again tabled that decision. Lawsuits alleging abuse were filed against the closed Family Foundation School after an extension of the statute of limitations.

The Kaplan family donated an old fire truck back to the HFD, which will have the vehicle restored and used in parades. Buckingham Township began mulling new gathering ordinances to replace the one they jettisoned in 2018. Friends of the Upper Delaware obtained stream clean up grants of \$750,000.

Deaths: Martin Keesler, Rev. Dr. George Goodwin, Wellington Lester, Vance Tuttle, Lauren Wormuth, Joanne Brodsky, Kurt Niles, Ransdell Pierson, Duane Giles, Donald Holton, Elizabeth Gross, Chauncey DuMond, Michelle Callan

October

The Hancock Community Education Foundation appointed Mrs. Dawn Joyce as President of the Foundation. Fishs Eddy resident Elizabeth Rosengrant was killed in a one car crash on September 24. The D-H Eagles won their Homecoming Football game 47-14. Brenna Gleim was named HCS Homecoming Queen for 2019.

Senator Chuck Schumer visited Sidney to announce support to push for a major flood warning system for Delaware

County. Water releases from the Cannonsville Reservoir were halted while rescuers saved an immature bald eagle. After its capture, the planned releases went on as scheduled. Congressman Antonio Delgado announced \$1.2 million for conservation projects along the river. Voters were notified of an \$8 million capital project at Hancock Central Schhol, with a vote set for December 5.

The Town of Sanford mullied an ordinance to cover windmills, as a contentious battle raged over a controversial windmill farm planned for the area. A squirrel cut power to Peas Eddy Road area, and paid the ultimate price for it. Grace Mead of Starrucca, PA., was crowned Homecoming Queen in Honesdale High School.

Buckingham Supervisors agreed to send the proposed option agreement for the powerlines on O&W RR bed to their solicitor for his opinion. Hancock held its annual Harvest Festival and Tractor Parade on Columbus Day Weekend.

Deaths: Ann Vail, Frederica Friday, Elizabeth Rosengrant, Dorothy Esolen, Kevin Ostrander, Gladys Sprague, Deborah Dunlap, Eileen Seconde, Earl John Schoonmaker

November

A statue of baseball player and Hancock native Honest Eddie Murphy, purchased by Judge Herbert Buckley, was unveiled at the Town Square on November 1 in an impressive ceremony featuring the grandson of the famous player, and his family. Speeches were given, and a reception held afterwards at the Hancock House Hotel, all to honor the man who refused to part in the 1919 Black Sox scandal in which a team "threw" the World Series.

A powerful rainstorm knocked down utility poles and cut power across the area. The Camptons Kitchen and Gallery held its grand opening. All in-

cumbents were returned to office at election time, after an independent third party run for Town Council by Blaise Bojo fell short.

Preston Township held a public hearing and formally rejected the power line proposal for the railroad bed. Businessman Scott Linde said he would approach local landowners to create an alternate route to NYS, which pays higher prices for energy produced from sustainable sources. Fire destroyed a rental home in Fishs Eddy. The Upper Delaware council moved to update its emergency response guide following the train derailment that sent boxcars into the Delaware River.

Ethan Hunt, Avery Ostrander and Michael Makowski, Jr. were inducted into the Hancock Chapter of the National Honor Society. Runner Kelsey Young took the Section IV Class D title and qualified for the state championships.

The beautiful and historic East Branch United Methodist was destroyed in a spectacular fire on November 11, leaving a hole in the heart of the community.

Deaths: Beverly Reiser, Betty Jane Robinson, Carolyn Darling, Dr. Virgil Triff, Miriam Frisch

December

Local area law enforcement officers announced their opposition to the bail reforms scheduled to take place in NY, citing new restrictions on taking accused people into custody. George and Ann Elwood celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Red Kill Mountain Homestead Farms held a soft opening at their site near East Branch. The company makes apple products, using the old heirloom apples on their property, as former farms are returned to the production of food.

The annual Christmas lights parade and festivities were held on bitterly cold night at the town square. Festivities drew hundreds to the park.

A former writer for the online site Infowars admitted he helped make up stories about the Muslim community of Islamburg, sparking many threats and planned attacks against the community. Newly appointed code Enforcement Officer Bill Gotthardt shadowed the outgoing CEO in order to learn the ropes. The Hancock Fire Department held a mini rodeo after a Belted Galloway beef cow got off a transport truck and ended up running around the Village, before swimming the East Branch several times. Less amusing were break ins at the Mirabito Station and the Hancock Post Office. Nothing was taken at the Post office, but the thief or thieves got away with two cash registers at the convenience store.

Aidan Sensiba of Long Eddy returned home after doing important research work in Japan. The NYS Board on energy overruled the Town of Sanford and approved a giant windmill farm in the area outside Deposit. Neighboring residents had bitterly opposed the project. Work was ongoing to repair a bridge on Faulkner Road damaged by flooding over a year earlier.

Deaths: Sharon Pritchard, Wendy Riblett-Shelton, Betina Linke, Robert Peters

Infantry In Desperate "Other Battle Of the Bulge" Now Part of NY National Guard

TROY, NY (01/02/2020) (read-Media)-- TROY, N.Y. -- In the earliest days of 1945 the infantrymen of the 42nd Infantry Division, now a part of the New York Army National Guard, were locked in desperate combat against German tanks and paratroopers during Hitler's final offensive in Western Europe.

Operation Nordwind, sometimes called "the other Battle of the Bulge" kicked off on New Year's Eve 1944 in the Alsace region of France. The American and French armies fought desperately to halt the attack and hold onto the city of Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace.

Three regiments of 42nd Infantry Division Soldiers, who had been hurried to France without the rest of their divisional support units, had arrived in Strasbourg, France just before Christmas 1944. They expected to spend time in a quiet sector to learn the ropes of combat.

They could not have been more wrong.

The 42nd Infantry Division had been made up of National Guard troops during World War I and nicknamed "the Rainbow Division" because it contained elements from 26 states.

In World War II the division was reactivated but filled with draftee Soldiers. With a desperate need for infantry troops in Europe the Soldiers of the 222nd, 232nd, and 242nd Infantry Regiments had been pulled out of training in the United States and shipped to southern France.

The three regiments were named Task Force Linden, because they were commanded by the division's deputy commander Brig. Gen. Henning Linden. They were committed to battle without the artillery, armor, engineers and logistics support the rest of the division would normally provide.

The attack came as a shock to the newly arrived infantrymen, explained Capt. William Corson in a letter to a 42nd Division reunion gathering in 1995. Corson commanded Company A in the 1st Battalion, 242nd Infantry.

"The green, inexperienced troops would occupy a small town named Hatten since the Germans had nothing more than small patrols in the area. At least that was the information given at a briefing, but someone forgot to tell the enemy," he wrote.

German paratroops and panzer forces with tanks and self-propelled guns crossed the Rhine River 12 miles north of Strasbourg and clashed with the thinly stretched Rainbow Division infantry at Gamsheim on January 5.

For the next three weeks, the three regiments defended, retreated, counterattacked and finally stopped the Germans.

The first week of was a frenzied effort to halt the German advance, with companies and battalions moved around the front like firefighters plugging gaps, Corson said. The fighting was so desperate that the 42nd Division even threw individual rifle companies into the fight whenever they became available.

"Officers knew little more than the GI," Corson said. "One morning my company moved to a barren, frozen hillside with orders to dig defensive positions covering an area about three times larger than we were capable of adequately defending. After four hours of chipping away at the frozen ground, we were told that this position would not be defended, so we moved to another frozen spot about ten miles away and started digging again."

At Gamsheim the odds were too great for the American infantry. The majority of its defenders from the 232nd Infantry Regiment were captured or killed.

In a failed January 5-7 counterattack at Gamsheim, units from all three regiments were combined in a patchwork force that was ultimately repulsed.

Dan Bearse, a rifleman with the 242nd Infantry in the counterattack, recounted the events in an oral history.

"They had tanks and heavy artillery, endless infantry troops," Bearse recalled. "We were outnumbered two or three to one. So we were quickly repulsed. Lost lots of people, killed, wounded and captured. And we were thrown back immediately," he said of the January 6 battle. "We were badly mauled and it was very demoralizing. That was our baptism of fire. And it was a loser."

At Hatten, on January 10, 1945 the 242nd Infantry Regiment and a battalion from the 79th Division tried to stop the German tanks and paratroopers again. The defenders were overrun.

Captain Corson was wounded and captured with dozens of his Soldiers.

But one Soldier from the 242nd Infantry, Master Sgt. Vito Bertoldo decided to stay. Bertoldo, who was attached from Corson's Company A to the battalion headquarters, volunteered to hold off the Germans while other Soldiers retreated.

Bertoldo drove back repeated German attacks for 48 hours. He was exposed to enemy machine gun, small arms and even tank fire.

Moving among buildings in Hatten to fire his machine gun, at one point Bertoldo strapped it to a table for stability. He fired on approaching German tanks and panzer grenadiers, repeatedly defeating the German attacks and killing 40 of the enemy. For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

"On the close approach of enemy soldiers, he left the protection of the building he defended and set up his gun in the street," his Medal of Honor citation states. "There to remain for almost 12 hours driving back attacks while in full view of his adversaries and completely exposed to 88-millimeter, machine gun and small arms fire."

"All I did was try to protect some other American Soldiers from being killed," Bertoldo would tell newspapers back home after the war. "At no time did I have in mind that I was trying to win something."

The 1st Battalion, 242nd Infantry paid a heavy price for its defense of Hatten. At the beginning of the battle there were 33 officers and 748 enlisted men in the battalion. Three days later there were 11 officers and 253 enlisted men reporting for duty.

The Germans launched their final assault just seven miles from the fight at Hatten on January 24, looking to cut American supply lines back to

Strasbourg in the town of Haguenau.

They attacked straight into the 42nd Division.

Troops of the 222nd Infantry were dug in inside the nearby Ohlgen Forest, with thick foliage and dense fog concealing both American and German positions.

The regiment had two battalions in the defense, covering a frontage of 7,500 yards, three times the normal frontage for a regiment in defense, according to the "42nd Rainbow" Infantry Division Combat History of WWII."

Facing the Americans were elements of a German tank division, a paratroop division and an infantry division.

During the fighting, 1st Lt. Carlyle Woelfer, commanding Company K in the 3rd Battalion, 222nd Infantry, captured a German officer with maps detailing the German attack. The officer and another prisoner were put on an M8 Greyhound armored car for transport to the rear. But the German officer signaled for other Germans to come to their aid.

Three Germans moved on the vehicle, killing one American Soldier, but were then killed in turn by Woelfer.

The back and forth fighting continued through the rest of the night as the 222nd fought to contain the German breakthrough towards Haguenau. The regiment earned a Presidential Unit Citation for its actions.

The 232nd Regiment was brought up from reserve to help in the defense. The defense had held as reinforcements from the divisions which had been fighting in the Battle of the Bulge arrived to push the Germans back.

By mid-February 1945 the rest of the 42nd Infantry Division arrived in France and the infantry regiments were rebuilt. The division then went on the attack against German units that had been severely ground down by the Nordwind attack.

For the Rainbow Division, their attack would lead into Germany and capture the cities of Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Furth, Nuremberg, Dachau and Munich before the war ended in May of 1945.

The present day Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division headquarters are currently preparing to deploy to Kuwait in 2020. During the 75th anniversary of World War II the Division of Military and Naval Affairs will be highlighting the division's advance into Germany in 1945.

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D-H Girls' Varsity Team with Championship trophy at Bainbridge - Front Row (left to right): Sara Spence, Avery Ostrander, McKenzie Mead, Madison Dawson, and Sierra Francisco; Back Row: Coach Scott Young, Haleigh Weyrauch, Ella Simmons, Ariel Kellam, Kelsey Young, Laycee Drake, Kaitlyn Macumber, and Coach Todd Hertzog. Photo courtesy of Mary Ryan

Lady Eagles Win Kazalski Tournament D/H 59 Tioga 45

*Drake named MVP of Tournament
Kellam All Tournament Team*

Laycee Drake led the hungry Eagles in an impressive opening quarter in the championship game of the Christmas Tournament with 10 points in the first quarter of play. She scored and then stole the pass from Tioga numerous times, as they tried to inbound after a score.

The Tioga coach was forced to call an early time out and make adjustments for Drake's quick defensive moves. She tallied 10 in the first 8 minutes and Ariel Kellam had five as Madison Dawson added four. After one quarter, the Eagles were up 19-11.

The second quarter was more Eagles dominance as Drake had 8 with Kellam adding 7. Sierra Francisco, Madison Dawson and Ella Simmons scored as well. At the half, the Eagles were up 31 - 20.

Tioga hung with the Eagles in the third quarter with each team garnering 12. Drake and Kellam had 6 each. The Eagles had stretched the lead to 25 when Tioga went to the three to make the game interesting again in the fourth. It was too little too late as the Eagles were able to withstand the threat and "managed to get everyone some quality time on the floor," stated Coach Hert-

zog. The coaches were very pleased with the performance of the team and were looking forward to a repeat performance against Tioga when they realized that the next home game would have Tioga visiting Hancock on Friday, January 3.

Final scoring had Drake at 26 with Kellam at 19. Francisco had 2 and Kaitlyn MacCumber had 1. Dawson wound up with 5 and Ella Simmons had 6.



ELLA SIMMONS scores from the baseline on December 27 vs. Tioga. Photo courtesy of Terry Ryan



LAYCEE DRAKE steals the inbound Tioga pass and takes it to the hoop to score for the last of multiple times. Photo courtesy of Terry Ryan



MADISON DAWSON (center-right) steals the ball from Tioga player on January 3. Photo courtesy of Terry Ryan



ARIEL KELLAM (left) is chosen for the All Tournament and Laycee Drake is named Tournament MVP. Photo courtesy of Mary Ryan

D-H Beats Tioga At Home

D/H 63 Tioga 35

The Eagles continued to get off to a fast start as the coaches had hoped and this time there was a slightly different look, as the game in the paint took on more significance. Ella Simmons and Kelsey Young each played an important role in the inside game that is important to the overall success of a good

team. Simmons had 12 (offensive rebounds in general) and Young had 11 in a good all around effort to give the Eagles four players in double digits when Drake scored 15 and Kellam added 14 to the mix.

"The Eagles jumped out to a 10-0 lead in the first 2 minutes of the game, prompting a time out by the Tioga coach. The Eagles played an intense defense and with a balanced attack they were a force on the court. The Eagles maintained a

comfortable lead throughout the game," commented Coach Hertzog.

McKenzie Mead had 1 and Kaitlyn Macumber had 6 points with Madison Dawson adding 4 to complete the scoring for the Eagles.

The JV team was also successful and avenged a previous loss to Tioga.

Elinsky Wrestling Tournament Results

Team Scores:

Shaker - 208 points
Oxford-Greene - 181.5

Newark Valley - 143
Owego Free Academy - 120
Sidney - 111
Coming - 107
Deposit-Hancock - 104
Vernon-Verona-Sherrill - 89

Maine Endwell - 80.5
Lansing - 76
Northeast Bradford - 69
Rondout Valley - 32
Ellenville - 17.5



145# - Castin Ostrander (D-H) won by fall (1:21) over TJ Serkiz (Maine Endwell)



120#; Hunter Couse (D-H) won by fall (0:57) over Caleb Ingalls (Vernon-Verona-Sherrill)



152#; Joey Rumola (D-H) won by fall (3:20) over Noak Ghisolfi (Ellenville)



170#; Jesse O'Donnell (D-H) won by major decision (13-4) over Lucas Skojec (Maine-Endwell)



Logan Barnes (D-H) won by fall (1:14) over Alex Bolin (Rondout Valley) Wrestling Photos by Dwayne Lobdell



182#; Ben Parkison (D-H) won by decision (18-16) over Caleb Georgia (Lansing)



Above: 220 pound Evan Kenyon (D-H) upsetting #2 seed John Robyck (Elmira) in semi-final round in Windsor tournament by decision (8-4). Evan was the only place winner for D-H by finishing in 6th place. D-H finished 31st out of 34 teams competing in a very tough tournament which is the oldest and one of the toughest annual tournaments in NYS. Others competing for D-H were Kyle Mead (99), Hunter Couse (120), Castin Ostrander (145), Joey Rumola (152), Connor O'Boyle (152), Jesse O'Donnell (170), Ben Parkison (182), Logan Barnes (195).

HCS BOWLING NEWS

by Coach Bill Gleim
Wildcat Bowling Team Mid-Season Report

Girls:

Halfway through the high school bowling season, the Hancock Girls bowling team as once again asserted its dominance over the MAC League.

The girls have only lost 2 games all season while posting 22 wins. They have both the high team game, 980 and high series 2698.

The varsity roster includes Mickayla Norton, Regan Worzel, Senior Lana Evanitsky, McKenzie Worzel, Julie Roloson, Ellen Mastronardi, Emmi Rubera, and Senior and Team Captain Brenna Gleim.

4 of the top 8 averages in the league so far this year belong to Wildcat Bowlers. McKenzie is averaging 167 with a high game of 222 and a 566 series. Mickayla is also at 167 her high game is 199 with a 517 series. 5th high average belongs to Lana whose high game of 212 and series of 585 as helped her in establishing a

173 average. After smashing every MAC league record last year Brenna has once again come out of the first half with a league leading 201 average. Her 228 high game and 632 series aren't the spectacular numbers she had last year but her consistency has been her strength, which has kept her atop the league and among the elite of all of Section IV.

This team will only continue to get better and spectacular numbers are sure to come.

Boys:

The boys also continue to carry over last season's success. Also, in first with a 20-4 record they will have to stay on top of their game this year there are several good teams trying to chase them down. Their 3028 triple, is best in the league and their 1079 scratch game is second.

With no seniors the roster includes Tyler Allen, Ronnie Ellis, Shane McAndrew, Peyton Johnson, Nick Hazen and Anton Leonard. Tyler Allen is averaging 187, tenth in the league, with highs of 237,620. Rising Star Peyton is seventh in the league at 192, with

highs of 227, 618. Anton Leonard has high average in the league with a 209, his 689 series is top score as well and his 258 single is second high in the league. Shane shot a league second best 678 series with a 246 game to help the team keep its hold on first place in a tough match at Unadilla Valley.

Nick Hazen has been solid all year with highs of 237,598.

Ronnie's high game of 225 shows the depth of this six man roster of which any member would be a starter on any team in the league.

The Wildcats have a home Match on January 9 at 3:30 at Fox Bowling. Come out and support the team!!!

High Scores: Jeremy Barnes 613, 224, 235; Andy Bullis 658, 227, 223, 208; Jessica Bush 213; Shawn Card 654, 218, 264; Carl Davis 230; Lenn Davis 707, 242, 276; Mike Dufton 214; Janet M. Ellis 199; Scott Ellis 214; Linda Ferris 182; Paul Fritz 200; Gino Jones 213; Dennis Leonard 214; Brianna Meres 546, 193, 184; Rick Mills 615, 236; Tia Robinson 185; Jen Smith 545, 190, 185; Bob Whitcomb 204; Jay Wormuth 200, 200.

Siegler 201; Scott Wormuth 204, 201.

Independent 12/30/19

Double D Ranch 4-0, Mad Log Ale Farm 4-0, Evanitsky Logging 3-1, Fox Bowl #2 2-2, Scott's Auto Body 2-2, Buddenhagen Ford 2-2, Fox Bowling Center 2-2, Price Graphics 1-3, CL Repair 0-4, BYE 0-4.

High Scores: Doc Bolduc 236; Papa John Brienza 221; Al Bullis Sr. 208; Andrew S. Bullis 614, 225, 212; Shane Dirig 643, 210, 219, 214; Brandon Drumm 278; Mike Dufton 202; Randy L. Evanitsky Jr. 622, 203, 223; Bill Gleim 203; Ben Green 221; Pete Green 649, 225, 235; Rob Johnson 203, 211; Mitch Persbacker 627, 230, 227; Jason Scofield 214, 222; Paul J. Siegler 201; Scott Wormuth 204, 201.

Fox Youth Mixed 12/28/19

Ethan Dennis 100; Landon Fuller 133, 121; Luke Prescott 410, 146, 113, 151.

Bowling Results

Thursday Night 3 1/2/20

Jenson Logging 14-2, Conklin Logging 12-4, Cornwell Construction 12-4, Dirig's Hammer 10-6, S&S Auto 10-6, Fox Bowling Center 8-8, S and S 1 6-10, Patche's Place 4-12, Conklin Construction 2-14, BYE 2-14.

High Scores: Dale Conklin 224; Ray Cornwell 621, 234, 202; Jake Curtis 211; Shane Dirig 631, 207, 225; Bill Gleim 663, 234, 219, 210; Gino Jones 606 225; Dan Keesler 225; Rick Mills 204; Dick Price 206; Mike Robinson 214, 201; Natasha Viera 504, 227; Dan Wormuth 662, 235, 245.

Sunday Mixed 12/29/19

Brian and Dick 70-18, A&A Pin Crushers 52-36, Good-O-

Boyz 50-38, Paul and Ginny 50-38, Marino's Store 44-44, Team DUH 36-52, Wilbur and Bowk 28-60, Lenore and Reva 14-74.

High Scores: Marty Haeusler 201; Don Marino 668, 237, 225, 206.

Friday Couples 12/27/19

Card Logging 16-0, Deposit Sanitary 14-2, Moo's Drop Inn 14-2, MicBree's 10-6, Team Brandon 10-6, I'm Lovin' It 8-8, Two Sisters Emporium 8-8, Dirig Construction 8-8, Bass and Sons Logging 6-10, Goin' Postal 6-10, Conklin Logging 4-12, Fox Bowling Center 4-12, Fox Logging 4-12, BYE 0-16.

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D-H Boys Take Two Basketball Tournaments

by Coach Ben Diemer

The Deposit/Hancock varsity boys had successful break winning both tournaments that they attended.

The first tournament was the Ray Clement Holiday Classic in Morris. The Eagles first round game was against the host team Morris Mustangs. The first quarter featured the defenses of both teams with D/H narrowly taking a 9-8 lead at the end of the quarter. The Eagles picked things up in the second scoring 14 while continuing to hold the Mustangs to 8 and took a 23-16 lead into the half. Both teams picked up the scoring pace in the third and the Eagles expanded their lead to 46-33 heading into the final period. In the fourth quarter, D/H faltered as Morris effectively used the foul method to lengthen the game. D/H struggled from the line while Morris was able to convert 3 point baskets at their end trimming the D/H lead to only 3 in a matter of minutes. In the final minutes of the game, the Eagles were able to convert scoring opportunities and held on to win 61-57. Caleb Walker led the Eagles with 17 points. Jacob Dobromirescu added 15 points, and Christian Sokol chipped in 10 points.

In the championship game, the Eagles took on the Maroon Knights of Frankfort-Schuyler. The Eagles got off to a slow start in the game allowing the Knights to jump out to a 15-5 lead early in the first quarter. D/H was able to fight their way back and close the gap by the end of the quarter with F-S leading 16-14. The teams were even in the second quarter with the

Eagles narrowly outscoring the Knights 11-10 going into the break down 26-25. The Eagles came out strong in the third quarter taking the lead outscoring the Knights 17-8 and going into the final period up 42-34. In the fourth quarter, the teams traded baskets and D/H was able to finish strong winning the championship by a score of 56-45. Walker led the Eagles in scoring with 22 points and was named to the All-tournament team. Dobromirescu scored 11 points and pulled down 11 rebounds and was named MVP. Wyatt Jacobs scored 13 points and Sokol pulled down 10 rebounds to help the team win.

The following weekend, the Eagles traveled to Downsville for their Holiday Tournament. In the first round, they took on the Blue

Devils of Margaretville. Both teams came out looking to score early and the Eagles jumped out to a 15-13 lead. The scoring slowed down for both teams and the Blue Devils overtook the Eagles to lead 25-23 at the half. D/H again had a strong third quarter outscoring Margaretville 20-9 and taking a 43-34 lead into the final period. The Eagles were able to finish the game with poise and win 55-42. Walker again led the team in scoring with 24 points. Dobromirescu was the only other double digit scorer for the Eagles chipping in 10. Jacobs and Sokol controlled the glass pulling down 12 and 10 rebounds respectively.

The championship game was a rematch of the Eagles first game of the season against the Blue Devils of Roscoe. The Eagles con-

trolled the game from the opening tip scoring 17 in each quarter of the first half while holding the Blue Devils to 6 in the first quarter and 10 in the second. The third quarter was a back and forth scoring match with the Eagles increasing their lead by outscoring the Blue Devils 24-19. D/H finished the game dominating the fourth quarter and winning the championship 72-41. Tyler Santamaria led D/H with 18 points and was named MVP of the tournament. Sokol added 14 points and pulled down 11 rebounds and was named to the All-tournament team. Jacobs scored 12 points and pulled down nine rebounds in the effort.

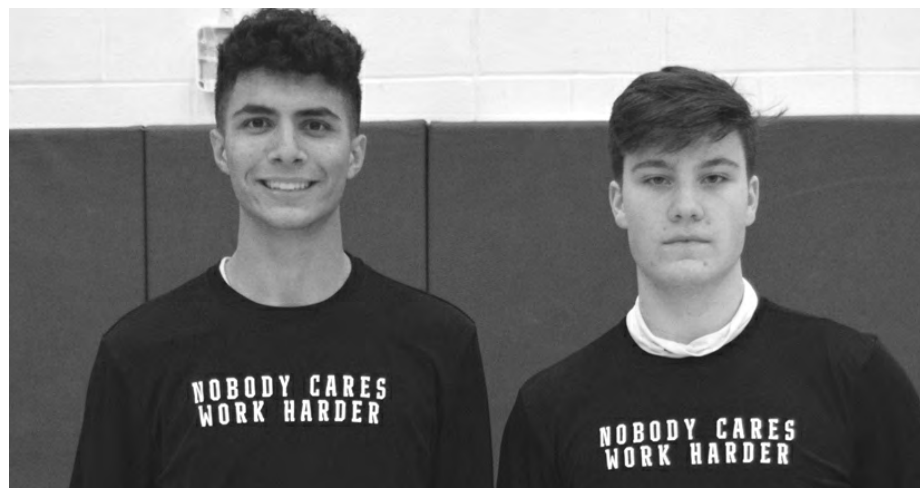
The Eagles will next travel to Afton on Wednesday January 8th and turn around to host Harpursville on January 9th in Deposit. Tip time in Afton will be 5 pm for the JV and 6:30 for the varsity. Tip time against Harpursville will be 5:30 for JV and 7:15 for varsity.



Coach Ben Diemer, Wyatt Jacobs, Mike Makowski, Caleb Walker, Brandon Christ, Christian Sokol, Jacob Dobromirescu, Tyler Santamaria, Bob Lewis, Nate Begeal, Dominick Aldridge, Erik Yunga, and Coach Anthony Pascarelli. Photo courtesy of Mike Santamaria



Wyatt Jacobs jumping for the opening tip against Morris



Jacob Dobromirescu MVP, Caleb Walker Morris All-tournament Team. Photos courtesy of Amanda Walker



Right: Christian Sokol (All-tournament team) Downsville Tournament, Coach Ben Diemer, and Tyler Santamaria MVP