

FREE

December 4-17, 2024

Christmas Issue

Our 22nd Year!

THE CORTLAND AREA TRIBUNE

YOUR REGIONAL BI-WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
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Est. 2002

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WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS ISSUE

The Cortland Area Tribune, nicknamed The CAT is published and distributed every other Wednesday. Look for it at 100's of area businesses in Cortland, Dryden, Whitney Point, Groton, Homer, Marathon, Moravia, Ithaca, Tully & LaFayette. Here's some upcoming issues for you to look forward to!

December 18 – Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & Health/Fitness
Deadline 12/13

January 8 – Cold Weather Car Care & Welcome to the New Year
Deadline 1/3

January 22 – Bridal, Super Bowl & Tax Time
Deadline 1/19

February 5 – Valentine's Day
Deadline 1/31

February 19 – Senior Citizens'
Deadline 2/14

March 5 – Spring Antiques & St. Patrick's Day
Deadline 2/28

March 19 – Spring Home Improvement, Think Spring & Go Fishing
Deadline 3/14

April 2 – Spring Motorcycle/Car Care & 53rd CNY Maple Fest
Deadline 3/28

April 16 – Pre-Mother's Day, Lawn/Garden & Easter
Deadline 4/11

April 30 – Mother's Day & Pre-Memorial Day
PLUS Spring & Summer Travel Guide
Deadline 4/26

 Like us on
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Want more timely local news & community events? Search for us: "The Cortland Area Tribune"



CORTLANDARETRIBUNE.COM

Visit our newspaper online! Each issue is posted online, along with additional content we couldn't squeeze into the printed issue! Also find us on Facebook!

POINT YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA HERE



BUMPER STICKER OF THE ISSUE

WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT WELL

Have you ever seen a clever bumper sticker on someone's car in front of you at the red light or fast food drive-thru and thought, "That's a good one"! Do you have one on your car that's worth sharing?! The newest addition to The CAT is quotes from Bumper Stickers! If you have one to share with our readers, please email it to tcatribune@gmail.com or call them in to 607-844-8228

The Cortland Area Tribune
P.O. Box 67 • Dryden, NY 13053
(607) 844-8228 • tcatribune@gmail.com
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TRIVIA QUESTIONS

See if you know the answer without looking it up!
Answers in the back.

1. What's the name of Rudolph's girlfriend in the "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" television show?
2. In the Twelve Days of Christmas, what are there eleven of?
3. What's the name of the hot spiced cider that's a yuletide tradition for many?
4. What word for Christmas or a Christmas carol was borrowed from French?

CHECK OUT THE BUSINESS SERVICE GUIDE!

Easily accessible at the back of the paper! Growing with every Issue! Take this handy pull-out 4 page directory with you in your car and leave it in your glove box for quick reference! Area businesses are listed alphabetically by services. When you patronize the businesses listed in the directory, please tell them you saw them listed in The CAT! *Shop local and save gas!*

SAVE A TREE—RECEIVE EACH ISSUE IN YOUR EMAIL INBOX

Email your request to tcatribune@gmail.com, or sign up at cortlandareatribune.com.

FREE HAPPY ADS!

Share a birthday or anniversary wish for free, include a photo! Email to tcatribune@gmail.com, or mail it to The CAT, P.O. Box 67, Dryden, NY 13053.

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The 1890 House presents its annual
Wassail Party

Celebrate the joy of the season!

Sunday, December 8th from 12:00pm to 4:00pm
at the 1890 House, 37 Tompkins St., Cortland

Festivities to include:

- 12:00pm to 4:00pm
 - Open House (all floors)
 - Festive Fare
 - Traditional Wassail Punch
- 12:00pm to 1:30pm Santa Claus
- 2:00pm to 3:00pm CNY Flute Choir
- 2:30pm to 4:00pm Buddy the Elf

Free and Open to the Public






CORTLAND COUNTY TRIVIA FROM THE CORTLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF the CAT, we asked if you knew the name of a popular park on Franklin Street.

By all accounts on file at CCHS, from about 1873-1895, there existed a little piece of Eden in the (then) Village of Cortland.



Over where the DPW is on South Franklin Street, there was a park which was about 3 acres. Its name was "Floral Fountain Trout Park," and it was owned by Hiram Curtiss Blodgett, one of Loren Blodgett's children. Loren founded Blodgett's Mills (as it was then called).

The perfectly manicured grounds made it a gorgeous slice of paradise where families picnicked, and young people would rendezvous. There was a circle about 90 feet in diameter which was surrounded by trees. A 10-12-foot promenade with a row of trees interplanted with flowers was there for strolling.

Other attractions included a maze of cedar hedges modeled after the maze at Hampton Court in London and two or three terrace walks that led to a brooklet and four ponds, all of which were full of speckled trout. There were hundreds of trout in the ponds! Two of the ponds had beautiful fountains which were fed by a hydraulic ram. In the center of the two upper ponds (30-40 feet in diameter) were large flower beds. Additional flower beds were scattered among the lower ponds and along the side, under the willow trees, and a narrow canal of running water afforded children a place to row in little boats. Visitors could go boating, play croquet, or picnic.

The park did well until Cortland put in a sewage system in 1893-1895. Ditches were dug along Port Watson Street, which diverted the springs which fed the trout ponds. Around the same time, the Cortland Homer Electric Car Company (the trolley) started their park over by the end of Elm Street. Transportation from the trolley made it an attractive alternative to the Floral Fountain Trout Park. The park struggled into the new century, but by 1940 it had all but disappeared.

Who was Tom Cimini?

Attention Business Owners

Would you like to have an article with photos printed about your business?!
Call Judy Kilmer at 607-227-0606 or email tcatribune@gmail.com to find out how!



CREATURE FEATURE SLEEP WELL, STINKY

NOW THAT COLDER TEMPERATURES ARE settling in, striped skunks are moving into their winter dens, which are often empty burrows adopted from foxes or woodchucks. It's not unusual for skunks to bunk together over the winter, providing added warmth through *social thermoregulation*. In preparation, the little stinkers have been building up their fat stores to help carry them through the cold months, and while they aren't true hibernators, they do enter a state of deep sleep known as *torpor*. During their dormancy, fat gets metabolized at a much slower rate than it does over the summer.

Over the last couple of weeks, I've noticed a lot of dead skunks on the roadways. Sadly, their search for good wintering quarters can lead them into the path of oncoming vehicles, so please be vigilant for skunk activity when driving after dark.

On a side note, skunks often get accused of spraying their stink at the least provocation. The fact is, skunks will only spray when they feel their life is in danger. The reason behind their hesitance to spray is that doing so leaves them defenseless for 10 days and vulnerable to attack from predators. Soon enough, our fragrant forest friends will be tucked away for the winter, along with their strong signature scent! Zzz...

Article by Margie Manthey • Photo by Jodi Sylvester

Paying too much? for auto insurance

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WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?!

PORTRAITS OF OUR BEST FRIENDS

DECEMBER 6

5PM - 7PM
Cortland Free Library 32 Church St., Cortland

THE CORTLAND FREE LIBRARY WILL host "Who Let the Dogs Out?! Portraits of Our Best Friends," a themed community exhibit and sale, which will run from Friday, December 6, through the end of January. Sponsored by the Groton Art Class, the exhibit will showcase the work by students and colleagues of class instructor David Beale. The public is invited to an opening reception in the library's gallery on Friday, December 6, from 57pm. Light refreshments will be available, and several of the paintings will be for sale. Contact email denisedknight@gmail.com or call 607-745-2545.

THE DOWNTOWN ITHACA WINTER HOLIDAY BASH/SANTA ARRIVAL

DECEMBER 7

Downtown Ithaca Commons
downtownithaca.com

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH this year's Downtown Ithaca's Winter Holiday Bash! This festive one-day celebration will bring joy and cheer to the Commons with two holiday events for the whole family.

Santa's Arrival 11AM - 4PM

Experience the magic of the season as Santa Claus makes his grand arrival! Families can enjoy holiday activities, take photos with Santa, and enjoy the festive activities.

Silent Disco 6PM - 8PM

Dance under the stars at our evening Silent Disco! Grab a pair of headphones, choose your favorite channel, and dance the night away to holiday beats in a unique experience.

For more info visit our website downtownithaca.com.



DRYDEN'S ALL-DAY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & SCAVENGER HUNT

9am-6pm
Dryden (Start at any participating location)

COME OUT FOR A FULL day of family fun and holiday spirit in Dryden, NY! This All-Day Holiday Celebration is packed with activities for all ages and brings together the best of our local businesses, making Dryden a truly special place to celebrate together.

Festival Highlights

Breakfast with Santa – Start the day with a festive breakfast and meet Santa at Corner Brew.

Craft & Vendor Fairs – Explore unique, handmade goods at local craft and vendor fairs around town.

Hayrides – Enjoy charming hayrides at multiple locations throughout the day.

Free Gingerbread House Make-and-Take – Let your creativity shine with a gingerbread house to bring home!

Hot Cocoa & Cookies – Find free hot cocoa and cookies at various stops to keep you warm and cozy.

Knights Den: Kids Axe Throwing – Safe, fun axe-throwing just for kids at The Event Space!

Wreath Making Workshop – Create a beautiful wreath to take home (pre-registration required).

Special Food & Discounts – Enjoy delicious holiday treats, tastings, and exclusive discounts at local restaurants.

Live Music – Catch holiday tunes and live music performances at Detrick's.

Stories with Santa & Bluey – Southworth Library will host story time with Santa and Bluey, followed by a Bluey Christmas movie!

Photos with Santa – Capture the magic with photos with Santa at the library.

Free Crafts – Enjoy free holiday crafts at the Methodist Church.

Living Nativity Scene with Caroling – Experience the warmth of the season with a live nativity scene and caroling.

And So Much More!

Town-Wide Scavenger Hunt:

Don't miss the town-wide scavenger hunt with over 30 participating local businesses, each offering clues, prizes, and giveaways. Participation is free, with chances to win amazing merchandise and gifts from our local businesses!

The Day's Grand Finale

As the festivities wind down, Santa will make a special entrance on the Dryden fire truck, leading us to the lighting of the grand Christmas tree at the Village Green. Enjoy cookies and cider as we gather to light up the night and celebrate the season together.

Free to Join to hunt. Businesses will be selling food and merchandise throughout.

Come celebrate the holidays with us in Dryden—there's no place like it!

Snowman Scavenger Hunt

Get ready for Dryden's Snowman Scavenger Hunt, a fun-filled holiday adventure with prizes! Over 30 local businesses are hiding snowmen with holiday riddles for you to find.

How to Play:

Pick up the scavenger list at participating business, at Southworth library.

Find the Snowmen: Then search for the snowman, which may be inside or outside.

Solve the Riddle: Each snowman will have a unique number and a holiday riddle for you to solve. Copy the number onto your sheet.

Collect Entries: For every 10 stops you complete, you'll earn one entry into our prize drawing. Complete all locations for five total entries!

Important Details:

Submit Your Hunt Sheet: Turn in your completed scavenger hunt sheet at the library by 4:30 PM.

Prize Drawing: The drawing will be held after the tree lighting at the Village Green, with Santa announcing the winners! Winners do not need to be present to claim their prizes.

Gather your friends and family, and enjoy this holiday scavenger hunt around town for your chance to win amazing prizes from our local businesses!

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Fri., Nov. 22nd @ 5pm thru Fri., Dec. 6th @ 5pm

- NO LIVE ONSITE BIDDING -

Preview of Items: Wednesday, December 4th from 4 PM to 5 PM at 4339 North Homer Ext., Cortland, NY

ATTENTION!
PLEASE READ THE TERMS OF AUCTION BEFORE PARTICIPATING!

Additional Items: Schou crankshaft/shaft grinder, Peterson magnetic inspection machine, Gleason sub arc welder, Sunnen comb. eqpmt. honing machine/cap cutter/aligner, Nugier 40-ton hydraulic press, Atlas rod heater w/piston fixture, Peterson resurfacers, Mart Cyclone degreasing wash machine w/swing boom, parts washer w/solvent tank, Peterson shot blaster w/vacuum, V16 Detroit crankshaft, swing boom w/elec. hoist, other hoists, trolleys, Chevy/Ford/Chrysler/Pontiac/Mitsubishi engines; Perkins reground crankshaft, conveyor rollers, Borg Warner 4-speed transmission (super nice), Vulcan mig welder, Air-Shaft polisher, Lincoln arc welder w/helmets & accessories, Chevy B/B roller cam & lifters (super nice), misc. GM parts, Positraction Unit Chevy '55-'64, Lempko shaft straightening/inspection machine, spring compressors, auto cylinder head straightener, manifolds, exhausts, rods, valves, 60s GM bucket seats (super nice), plus lots more — way too much to list!

• GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT ITEMS FOR SALE? Call or text Joe at 607-261-9312 •

FOR MORE DETAILS, PHOTOS, TERMS, AND TO REGISTER, VISIT:

www.proxibid.com/zandrauctions
PLUS...Check Us Out on Facebook

NOTE: Smaller items (Lot #s 2, 5-16, 18-163, 165-214, 216-250) are to be picked up at 4339 North Homer Avenue Ext., Cortland, NY, on Saturday, December 7th, from 10 AM to 4 PM.
Large items (Lot #s 1, 3, 4, 17, 164, and 215) must be picked up at same address by appointment, December 9th thru 11th. Call Brent J. Zogg at 607-745-7375 to schedule pick up. (Bring helpers to assist in loading these items.)

*These are the only days for pick up and pay.
If unable to pick up on these dates, please do not bid in the auction.*

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FAVORITE HOLIDAY GIFTS FROM NIGHTINGALE'S TULLY LAKES ACE HARDWARE

NIGHTINGALE'S TULLY LAKES ACE HARDWARE store in the Village of Tully has more than just hardware! Here are some of our customer's favorite gifts during the holiday season!

#1 DryShod Boot

DryShod boots are 100% waterproof and come in winter and year-round styles for Men, Women, and kids. With lots of colors and temperature ratings to choose from- they are one of the most popular gift items we sell going into the cold season. Perfect for outdoorsmen & women, hunters, ice fisherman, and anyone who spends time working or playing outside in CNY winters!

#2 Grills and Grilling Accessories

The holidays are a big time of year for gifting new grills or special accessories for the BBQ cook in your life. The holidays bring some really great deals on upgrading to a new Weber gas grill, Traeger pellet smoker or the increasingly popular flat-top griddle made by Weber and Blackstone. And there is an endless supply of accessories for the cook that already has a grill- Gift them cooking utensils, special insert grates like pizza stones, sear grates, and griddle inserts, or new wi-fi temperature probes. Seasonings, sauces, and hot sauces are always a favorite too - and make a perfect stocking stuffer!

#3 Milwaukee Heated Apparel

Every winter we see more and more customers choosing heated clothing as the go-to choice for staying warm without overly bulky jackets. Milwaukee offers a variety of jackets, camo, vests, and hoodies that are heated with rechargeable batteries. They are a favorite of anyone working or playing outside in winter- warm without being bulky- and they fly off the shelves around the holiday season!

#4 Wild Bird Feeding

Backyard bird feeding peaks during winter months and the holidays are the perfect time to give the gift of an extra special bird feeder that someone may not necessarily buy for themselves. Our assortment of top-end wooden bird feeders and specialty glass and decorative hummingbird feeders are very popular items before Christmas. We also have some limited time seasonal items such as wreath shaped suet handers and novelty feeders and bird houses.

#5 Power Tools

There are some amazing deals on battery-operated, cordless power tools during November and December! Choose from special holiday sales on Milwaukee, Craftsman and Dewalt tools- Check out our latest sale circular to see the list of offers, and find just the right one to put under the tree!

#6 Battery Powered Power Tools

Battery power is the new trend and it is in every category from power tools to lawn equipment. Every major brand - including Ego, Milwaukee, Dewalt and Craftsman are continuing



to up the game in battery powered performance. We see an increasing number of homeowners and professionals upgrading to battery powered string trimmers, leaf blowers, chainsaws, push trimmers, and even riding mowers and snow blowers that are battery operated. The Ego Battery Powered Snowthrowers are available in store and also by online order this winter season! Ace has Black Friday and December sales and deals that are sure to make picking out new tools and power equipment something you can do for multiple people on your shopping list!



#7 John Deere Toys

Customers love our selection of John Deere toys. There are unique toys for all ages!

#8 Treats for Four-legged Friends

The holiday season is a popular time for a new dog bed, special treats and bones, and fun cat toys & treats for the fur babies on your list!

#9 Gifts for Greenthumbs

We all have someone on our list that loves their garden or houseplants. The holiday season is a great time to put together a gift set that every greenthumb will love: A beautiful new flower pot, a new set of hand tools, and a Nightingale gift card that will let them pick out flowers, hanging baskets or vegetable seedlings from the plant tent next spring! Or surprise them with some winter-blooming plants like a Christmas Amaryllis

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gift card

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#10 Nightingale Gift Cards

One size does fit all! Can't decide what to get that hard-to-shop-for person on your list? November and December are prime months for gift cards because they can be used on anything in the store from gloves, to hand warmers, fishing gear, tools—everything!



The notion of new, shiny and expensive became the focus of big box retail chains who poured millions (billions) of dollars into advertising with the primary goal of drilling this very idea into the minds of anyone who watched television, listened to the radio, read magazines or shopped at any retailer.

As time went on, the target audience for retail holiday advertising (all holidays; not just Christmas) shifted from adults to children and youth: the age group often referred to as “tweens”. Today, this still holds true and, thanks in large part to the growth of children/youth network television (Disney, Nickelodeon, Cartoon Network, etc.) and to social media platforms, the bulk of advertising dollars targets children, tweens, and teens with a relentless fury. Look at a wish list for any of these age groups and the chances of finding requests for handmade/homemade is very slim. In fact, finding individual wish list items that cost less than \$30-50 will be difficult!

How do we get back to normalizing handmade, homemade or secondhand gifts? Unfortunately, there is no one-size-fits-all “cure.” However, common sense tells us that, as adults, we can model and practice behaviors that could help future generations.

- Limit exposure to advertisements when possible; this means reducing and closely monitoring screentime.
- Don't “overdo” gift giving for young children. Set a personal limit for number of gifts or the amount of money spent on gifts. Demonstrate generosity by being kind, spending extra time with your children, and doing small things for them.
- Involve children in the gift-giving process by helping them make their own gifts. Model joyful

acceptance of handmade, homemade or secondhand gifts.

- Teach generosity. Gift giving is packed full of opportunities for teachable moments. The key is communication! Talk to your children about mindful gifting and giving meaningful gifts. Ask children to consider questions like what the recipient might enjoy, what would be useful, and what they can afford. Encourage kids to participate in some way toward gift-giving, either by contributing money, helping to make a gift, or doing an “act of service” for a family member, such as planting flowers for Grandma!
- Donate! Before the holidays, have children sort through their toys and clothes to pick out items to donate to another child.
- Model community giving and volunteering. Adopt a child in need for holiday gift giving.
- Consider “making memories” as a gift! Give your time, rather than a toy. A trip to the library, a play, the zoo...
- Lead by example! Model the behavior you wish to instill in your little ones. Don't complain about “cheap,” handmade or homemade gifts—demonstrate joyful acceptance and gratitude.
- SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES: Teach children about the power of supporting your community through secondhand gifts and teach them how fun it is to find unique treasures; it is a beautiful way for you to make real difference in your local area—and to teach your children to do the same.

Normalizing handmade/homemade and secondhand gifts will positively impact the children in your life and your bank account. But, perhaps, the most wonderful impact of normalizing handmade/homemade and secondhand gift giving is that it promotes the idea of a circular economy, a brilliant idea, where products and materials are reused, refurbished, or recycled. In the big picture, this approach minimizes waste and extends the lifespan of items, easing the strain on our precious resources and guessing who this will benefit most in the long run? Our children and grandchildren!

So, this holiday shopping season, spend a little more time at craft, vendor and artisan fairs, in secondhand and thrift stores and less time on Amazon and in big box stores. In our area, The Warehouse Vendor Mall is an incredible place, home to over 20 local small business vendors! Located at 465 North Road in Freeville (just a couple of minutes from the Village of Dryden; simply turn onto North Road off of Route 13 S next to Dedrick's Farm Market and look for The Warehouse sign and “465” on the mailbox!) The Warehouse is open Wed-Sat from 9am-4pm and on Sundays 10am-3pm. You can follow The Warehouse on Facebook and on Instagram (Warehouse465North).

NORMALIZING HOMEMADE, HANDMADE & SECONDHAND GIFT GIVING

By Shana Karn, *The Warehouse & The Second Knob Gifts & Antiques, 465 North Rd, Freeville*

IN THE 1800's, THE MOST common Christmas gifts exchanged included jams, jellies, preserves, doilies, needlework and candies. At some point, the paradigm shifted. Today, homemade or handmade gifts are typically only acceptable when given by the very young and, occasionally, the very old.



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Help us give a Christmas Blessing to Sturgill Wilson & his mom Amelia. Sturgill is 3 years old and fighting a bone marrow disease. Sturgill and Amelia live here in Truxton and are traveling to Rochester where he is currently receiving treatments.

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**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
DECEMBER 8**

Casper's Kitchen
118 Main Street, Groton
(607) 220-8347
9am-11am

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST WITH Santa on Saturday, December 8th from 9am to 11am. Hope to see you soon!



**CHRISTMAS IN RICHFORD
DECEMBER 8**

5pm
Richford Graded Schoolhouse, Rt. 79, Richford

CHRISTMAS IN RICHFORD IS A lighted Christmas tree celebration, representing area families, businesses, and organizations. Purchase a tree through the project, and decorate it in memory or celebration! The \$40 fee covers the cost of the tree, materials for the sign, lead cords, etc. Participants will provide LED or solar lights and decorations. (Only LED lights will be lit-up.) All decorations must be shatter proof and securely fastened. The trees will be personally signed and ready to decorate from: Sunday, December 1 through Saturday, December 7. PLEASE NOTE: All trees must be decorated by December 7 for the final electric check.** The male end (2 prongs) of the cord must be at the bottom on the tree. **Trees will remain lit through Wednesday, January 1, 2025. All trees must be un-decorated no later than Sunday, January 5, 2025. Any questions email Vicki at vdavis@cornell.edu Hosted by the Town of Richford and the Richford Historical Society. Proceeds to benefit the Richford Historical Society.



**SANTA VISIT
DECEMBER 8**

CLN Mercantile, 7849 Main Street, Fabius
9am-11am

JOIN US AT CLN MERCANTILE for our annual Santa visit! Santa will be here with little gifts to hand out to all the good little girls and boys. There is no fee. Guest are more than welcome to take pictures! Don't forget!! 12/8 from 9am to 11am!! Follow us on Facebook for updates. Questions call us at 315-683-1011.

**CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CLOSET
DECEMBER 7**

Free baby clothes, child and maternity items

COME GET FREE BABY, CHILD and maternity items Saturday, Dec. 7th 2-3 PM! We'll have hot beverages and music too. It's a great time to shop for Christmas for free! This is made possible by generous community donations. DONATE: Drop off items between Dec. 1st-6th under the front portico at Thrive any time. DETAILS: Sat, Dec. 7th, 2-3 PM. Thrive Church, 318 Johnson Rd., Freeville

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By Jaxyn Boyce

SHUTE'S WATER SYSTEM AND WELL Drilling has been a family-operated business since 1963, when Howard Shute and his brother-in-law, Warren Shetler, first opened the business. Originally named Lafayette Well Drilling, Howard Shute carried the business alongside his sons; Mark, Neil, and Scott, and its reputation for many years until Howard Shute officially retired at almost 80 years. Scott Shute and Matt Farkas continue the effort of providing safe and clean water. The office is run by Scott's wife, Becky, and Mark Shute's daughter, Jill. Satisfied customer recommendations and glowing reviews are attributed to Shute's Water Systems and Well Drilling's success.

Now serving the CNY's areas, including Syracuse, Baldwinsville, Cortland, Cazenovia, Chittenango, Canastota, Fayetteville, Auburn, Tully, Lafayette, Marcellus, Manilus, Camillus, and Skaneateles. Scott Shutes mentions, "With years of experience, our team will assess your needs and create a custom water system plan or repair that's right for you." There are tests to determine the specific needs of a customer, and the basic water analysis of hard metals is free. For a more detailed survey, called the Water quality indicators (WQI), there is the option to test for microorganisms and bacteria. Shute's Water Systems conducts the test, and the results are then sent to a lab. They stress the importance of well-testing as the lasting effects can lead to health problems.

There are a few things to keep in mind when determining the quality or purity of the water. Examples are; recent



construction, location, maintenance, the water source, and any septic floods that could cause leakage into the well. These area contaminants vary upon location as well. Shute's Water systems have Ultraviolet filters, Chlorination and Filtration setup, and Carbon and Sediment filters. If water is determined to be hard, there are also conditioning treatments available, like; reverse osmosis, salt-based or salt-free, dual water tank softener, or a magnetic water descaler.

Shute's Water Systems can provide installation and maintenance on water pumps and storage systems. Any brand is available and can be maintained. However, a brand manufactured in the Auburn and Seneca area, Goulds, is a popular choice. In addition, Shute's Well Drilling is a four-generation business, with Mark and his son Jeff overseeing. Both experienced and reliable, the benefits of private well water can provide financial benefits, as well as cleaner water overall. Free from water bills, and the toxins public water can carry, Shute's Well Drilling installs quality wells for its customers. Their slogan is, "Quality Water From Your Well To Your Faucet!" Shute's Well Drilling is located on Highway 20, in Lafayette. They can be reached at (315) 952-4113. Shute's Water System is also located in Lafayette on 5684 Route 20. To schedule an appointment, they can be reached at (315) 677-5552.

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Two: they are a full-service center that handles everything from brakes, inspections, and oil changes.

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By Brenda Clark

JUST NORTH OF CORTLAND, in the Town of Homer, is the newest VRBO in Cortland County. Because it is located on an alpaca farm, guests have the opportunity to plan a visit with the herd of 40 or shop for clothing, yarn, and gifts made from alpaca fiber in the farm store.

The VRBO is a recently remodeled and expanded 1900 farmhouse. There are three bedrooms, two full bathrooms and a loft space loaded with games and CDs for guest's entertainment. More info and pictures can be found at the VRBO website. It's a great place to stash visiting family for the holidays or any time.

In 2001, Ken and I bought three alpacas. Another soon followed. Over the years we have had as many as 92 livestock on the farm that have coexisted with chickens, guinea hens and cats. After 20+ years we have found that it is time to move on to focus more on the rental business and are downsizing our herd. In doing so, we will give discounts to guests who visit to spend a weekend deciding if they want to get into the business and purchase alpacas from us.

People who are interested in a hobby farm of their own can arrange for an Alpaca 101 class where we will teach all aspects of raising them. Some of the things we encourage prospective

owners to find out before buying are: what kind of dwellings and how much pasture space alpacas need, what kind of food they eat, how healthy they are in general, and what kind of medicines they need. This member of the camelid family does live comfortably in Central New York and can live between 16 and 22 years. We can also instruct on breeding. Raising livestock can be both rewarding and challenging. We have been fortunate enough to have had very few difficult births and sicknesses and have great veterinarians who help out when needed. Shots are given once a month to help keep a parasite away and shearing day every spring is a time for friends to help and have fun. It is exciting when a new baby (cria) comes into the world and it is fun to watch it grow and run around the pasture chasing after butterflies and guinea hens. Spring and Fall are always a busy time of year taking some of the young stock and herd sires to special events to show them off. There are some proud alpacas on this farm who have earned many blue ribbons for their strong frame and wonderfully soft fleece.

All of the fleece from the animals at Tartan Acres is sent away to be processed into warm and comfortable clothing or yarn which we sell in our farm store.

So, if you've ever thought of owning an alpaca, **or want a unique gift**, plan on stopping by.

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PUZZLES & GAMES

WORD FIND

Find the '?' related words below! Can you find them all? Good luck! Check our next issue for the solution!

i	h	s	t	e	o	a	t	r	g	a	p	a	r	t	h
c	o	p	k	s	t	n	e	m	a	n	r	o	l	s	d
r	l	t	l	n	e	l	a	c	s	e	h	g	i	s	t
g	l	h	a	o	y	v	r	n	a	t	i	v	i	t	y
l	y	s	c	i	d	u	l	m	a	n	d	i	p	u	c
l	i	g	h	t	s	u	l	e	g	z	y	r	r	e	m
r	r	s	r	a	f	i	r	e	p	l	a	c	e	g	s
r	e	e	i	r	c	w	r	m	t	e	e	r	s	h	a
c	i	o	s	o	a	b	s	e	r	i	t	o	e	y	r
m	n	u	t	c	r	a	c	k	e	r	d	p	n	t	o
m	d	e	m	e	o	l	h	o	l	h	h	e	t	s	h
l	e	m	a	d	l	g	e	e	o	e	e	i	s	o	e
k	e	d	s	d	i	t	t	i	r	k	n	u	e	r	i
a	r	e	r	e	n	s	s	d	h	r	i	t	s	f	h
i	e	s	l	e	g	n	a	i	r	t	n	e	v	d	a
l	s	s	i	i	s	n	o	w	m	a	n	t	s	l	t

santa • snowman • fireplace • frosty • angels • cookies • presents • holly tree • lights • cupid • rudolph • sleigh • reindeer • wreath • elves christmas • decorations • merry • caroling • gingerbread • ornaments • mistletoe noel • yuletide • nutcracker • shepherd • nazareth • advent • nativity

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			6			1		
	3	6		4	7		2	
9		2			3		6	
							8	5
	6			5			4	
2	7							
	2		3			8		1
	1		5	8		3	7	
		3			9			

LAST ISSUE'S PUZZLES

SUDOKU

8	7	6	2	1	3	9	5	4
2	4	5	9	7	8	3	1	6
9	3	1	4	5	6	2	7	8
7	6	8	1	4	9	5	2	3
1	5	9	8	3	2	6	4	7
4	2	3	7	6	5	8	9	1
6	8	7	5	9	1	4	3	2
3	9	4	6	2	7	1	8	5
5	1	2	3	8	4	7	6	9

THIS ISSUE'S TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Clarice
2. Pipers piping
3. Wassail
4. Noel

WORD FIND

a	g	l	a	o	d	j	a	c	k	e	t	h	l
e	e	g	s	s	o	r	c	i	k	s	e	f	e
p	s	n	o	w	f	l	a	k	e	l	o	t	s
i	t	i	h	e	l	i	b	o	m	w	o	n	s
p	s	b	l	i	i	h	e	b	b	o	s	o	
f	y	u	l	d	a	s	t	r	o	w	i	b	n
l	e	t	i	t	w	a	n	g	m	k	o	i	s
a	k	w	h	o	k	i	g	a	s	i	b	n	d
h	c	l	n	s	g	a	n	u	d	n	o	d	s
g	o	s	w	l	n	l	m	t	d	s	b	i	b
n	h	l	o	e	i	m	w	a	e	r	s	n	o
s	l	e	d	d	i	n	g	l	e	r	l	g	o
i	s	n	f	t	k	g	o	g	g	l	e	s	t
t	i	a	m	a	s	p	a	r	k	a	d	n	s

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- Annual Tree Lighting - December 6 - Village Green, Homer
- Annual Trumansburg Winter Fest - December 7 - Main St., Trumansburg
- Santa Arrives - December 7 - Downtown Ithaca
- Tully Craft Show - December 7 - Tully Junior Senior High School, 5848 US-11, Tully
- Holiday Craft Fair - December 7 - Dryden Agway, 59 W. Main St., Dryden
- Victorian Wassail - December 8 - The 1890 House Museum, 37 Tompkins St., Cortland
- Wreath Making Workshop - December 8 - Lime Hollow Nature Center, 3277 Gracie Rd., Cortland
- Aiello's Monthly Wine Club - December 10 - 2677 Main St., Whitney Point
- Cherish The Ladies - Celtic Christmas - December 10 - Center for the ARTS of Homer, 72 S. Main St., Homer
- Annual Christmas Party & Networking - December 11 - Ford Hill Country Club, 4734 State Route 26, Whitney Point
- Marathon Christmas Baskets - December 12 - Marathon Presbyterian Church, 3 Park St., Marathon
- The Nutcracker - December 13, 14 & 15 - The State Theatre Ithaca, 107 West State St., Ithaca
- Lamont Memorial Free Library Tree Lighting - December 14 - 5 W Main St., McGraw
- Holiday Model Train Day - December 14 - Homeville Museum, 4386 Route 11, Cortland
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