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FRITZ KIRCHNER:
Softball legend passes. **8B**

JUST FAB: Metal fabrication plants on tap in Glen Wild. **2A**

KYLE McCREERY: Boys' Basketball Player of the Year. **8B**

Win for Westbrookville Post office to remain open

STORY AND PHOTO
BY SHARON MACGREGOR

WESTBROOKVILLE — "Good news," said Mamakating Council Member, Brenda Girdali, "We have a commitment — the Westbrookville Post Office will remain open!"

The community post office was recently threatened with closure following the announcement of Post Mistress Marlene Roe's retirement. Although Roe had notified the United States Postal Service (USPS) of her intention six months earlier, on February 18, boxholders were informed the facility would close effective March 31 and their mail would be available at the Cuddebackville Post Office.

Along with Girdali, Assemblyman Karl Brabenec, post office building landlord and attorney Marcelle Matthews, as well as Roe, rallied to avoid closure. Letters and emails were sent to USPS representatives from Westchester and Utah to Washington, DC; telephone calls were made,

petitions were signed then submitted and an appeal was written. Additionally, social media was utilized in a positive manner when Brenda Jagger and Tori Stasiuk were able to rally community members for meetings at the Methodist Church on Pine Kiln Road via a Facebook group.

"The corporate offices as well as the Westchester office have said it will stay open, as long as it is staffed," Girdali explained.

Currently, applicants are being reviewed and the best candidate will be awarded a permanent employment package with a fixed salary rather than the proposed performance based compensation. An experienced postal employee will be assigned to train Roe's replacement.

"Everyone worked very hard," said Matthews, "We have a commitment to keep it open as a contractual post office and business will not be disrupted. This is about more than a post office, this is about the nexus of the community,

and it is important to keep it. I give a lot of credit to Brenda Girdali and Assemblyman Brabenec in addition to Brenda and Tori for their efforts."

Asked how he felt about the turn of events, Assemblyman Brabenec replied, "I am extremely happy the postal service has decided to keep the post office open. This post office is a necessary part of our community since many in the area are senior citizens and have no home delivery, requiring a post office box to get their mail. The potential closing would have created an additional hardship on those residents."

Many of the details will continue to be sorted out including identifying the new postmaster, but for now, the people have spoken and the Westbrookville Post Office will remain the hub where residents can receive a number of services from purchasing stamps to shipping packages as well as catching up with their neighbors.

"It is just wonderful seeing the community happy, and



Postmistress Marlene Row

the looks on their faces at the community meeting this week. It is also great to see social media used in a positive way and knowing this grassroots stuff does work once in a while," Girdali shared.

For her part, Stasiuk recognized a rallying cry when she heard it. "I believe the USPS thought that since we were such a small town that losing the post office would not have an effect on our community. They were wrong..."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The hamlet of Callicoon, in the Town of Delaware, is divided by the Erie Railroad creating upper and lower Main Street sections, with buildings dating back to 1888. The stone structure was a water tower for steam locomotives.

Callicoon's got history Gov. Cuomo announces 19 recommended historic places

BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

CALLICOON — Last Wednesday, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that 19 properties, resources and districts have been recommended by the New York State Board for Historic Preservation as additions to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

In Sullivan County, thanks to the attentive and persistent work of Town of Delaware Historian Cindy Herbert and consultant Neil Larson of Larson Fisher Associates, Inc., the hamlet of Callicoon has been nominated.

Callicoon has history dating back to the early 1600s when it's said that Dutch hunters first settled in the area while traveling west from the Hudson Valley.

The best known fact of Cal-

licoon's history is that the Erie Railroad opened in 1848 and the first steam engine came through the town. Callicoon soon grew into a bustling community with the railroad at its center and the Delaware River at its banks.

Today, only a few buildings remain that date back before the Civil War. A fire tore through the town in the early months of 1888, destroying most of its buildings and businesses. Callicoon was quick to rebuild though, and in a larger and more substantial manner.

So what does this nomination mean for the hamlet of Callicoon?

A Historic District designation along with the Preserve New York Grant that the hamlet was awarded in Septem-

PLEASE SEE HISTORY, 3A

Breanna Ross is collecting for a cure

STORY AND PHOTO
BY JEANNE SAGER

ROSCOE — In most ways, Breanna Ross is a typical 10-year-old.

She loves to play basketball on Saturday mornings and wows her dad as she whizzes around an iPhone. She can't wait for summer when she can go swimming and fishing.

But on an average weekend when her classmates at Livingston Manor Central School are browsing YouTube or playing video games, chances are you'll find Breanna in front of a bottle redemption machine, exchanging empties for cold hard cash.

It's not for her. For the past three years, Breanna has been collecting people's empty cans and bottles and returning them to the store, building up a fund 5 cents by 5 cents to help find a cure for multiple sclerosis.

The fifth grader's dad, Steve Ross, was diagnosed with MS seven months before his daughter was born in August of 2005. She attended her first MS Walk for the Cure when she was still in a stroller.

But it wasn't until she was 7 that the seriousness of the condition really took hold.

"I had a real bad seizure," Steve Ross recalls, "and my mother didn't get there in time, so [Breanna] called 911."

The 10-year-old remembers that day as a turning point.

"I knew my dad has MS, but I never saw it before," she said. "He was laying in bed and shaking."

A few months later, Breanna was returning bottles for



Ten-year-old Breanna Ross has been redeeming cans and bottles since she was seven in order to raise funds for the MS Walk for the Cure. Inspired by her Dad's illness, Breanna now calls her project "Cans for the Cure," and has already raised \$1,700 for this year's Walk.

deposit with her grandmother when it hit her: this was a way a kid could make money, this was a way to help.

That year she talked to friends and was able to raise \$56 to go toward the funds raised by Shelley's Crew for the Cure, a team of mostly Roscoe residents who walk in the National MS Society's annual fundraising walk in Binghamton. The next year, she raised \$325 with her bottle and collections.

This year, the year her project got a name — Cans for the Cure — Breanna was aiming for \$1,000. She's already raised \$1,700, with the help of a bake sale and car wash in addition to her can returns, and she has no

intention of stopping until the walk on May 1.

The 10-year-old is part of the reason Shelley's Crew ranked ninth in the state in terms of fundraising for the National MS Society last year with a whopping \$9,502 raised. This year they're shooting for even higher, with the help of donation spots around the Livingston Manor and Roscoe areas for Breanna's cans. Marked with signs in bright orange, they include 287 DeBruce Road in Manor, and 148 Rockland Road and 25 Highland Avenue in Roscoe.

Asked why she does it, the 10-year-old turned shy and sneaked a peek at her dad. "For a cure," she answered with a smile.

That's why every member of Shelley's Crew — named for Roscoe resident Shelley Eggleton — do what they do. And this year they're hoping to top off Breanna's collections with a basket raffle on April 22 at the Rockland House. With everything from Alex and Ani bracelets to custom furniture, the raffle will be a major addition to the 10-year-old's efforts and a large piece of local efforts to fight a disease some 400,000 Americans are currently fighting.

For more information or to get involved, call Eggleton at 607-498-4444, drop off returnable cans or bottles at one of Breanna's drop-off spots or swing by the basket raffle on the 22nd at 5 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

County leader heads statewide group

On March 17, Sullivan County Public Safety Commissioner and Fire Coordinator Richard Martinkovic, center, was re-elected as President of the County Fire Coordinators Association (CFCA) during its 2016 Conference at the State Fire Academy. Pictured from the left are NYS Fire Administrator Bryant Stevens, Deputy Fire Administrator Bill Davis, CFCA President Martinkovic, NYS Director of the State Office of Emergency Management Kevin Wisley, and Deputy Fire Administrator Francis Niery. CFCA consists of County Fire Coordinators from 57 counties in New York State and the Fire Chief of the City of New York. They work with the fire service in each county and act as a liaison with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control to assist with state-sponsored training of fire service members and to act as the Regional Fire Administrators for each county when there is a statewide activation of the State Fire Mutual Aid Plan. They also are responsible to assist with operations when a fire chief requests county mutual aid resources during an incident in their county or between neighboring county fire departments. The CFCA meets approximately monthly, and Martinkovic is in his sixth year in office (terms are one year apiece). "Sullivan County, by having me in my position, can be part of the leadership in New York State," he remarked.

ALMANAC	4A
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SPORTS	14A
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UDC to honor 'protectors' of the Upper Delaware River Valley

BY AUTUMN SCHANIL

NARROWSBURG — Two main stems of the Delaware River — the East and West Branches — descend from the western part of the Catskill Mountains and meet at Point Mountain in Hancock, where their confluence forms the Delaware River.

The Delaware, when including its two main branches and excluding the Delaware Bay, is a river that is 388 miles in length,

entirety of its main stem.

In the Upper Delaware Valley, the river runs from Hancock down to the Shawangunk Mountains and Port Jervis, and is home to a diverse array of wildlife ranging from American Bald Eagles to eels and trout, Wood Aster plants and Spring Coral roots, River Otters, Marsh Rats, and Long-tailed Salamanders, while providing clean drinking water to many hamlets and towns along

the shade of its trees.

On Sunday, April 24, the Upper Delaware Council, Inc. (UDC) will host its 28th Annual Awards Ceremony to honor individuals and organizations who have worked diligently to enhance the quality of life or protect the resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

A reception with appetizers and cash bar beginning at 3 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner will

At 5 p.m., Kristen Heister, the superintendent of the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, will deliver the keynote address just before the presentation of awards.

John McKay, Salvatore Lombardo, Joshua Turner, the Shohola Township Planning Commission, Sue Currier, Sunshine Hall Elementary, Nellie's