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February 14, 2024



In This Issue

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Auctions/Sales..... | 3 |
| Automotive..... | 6 |
| Business Directory | 8-10 |
| Dining/Entertainment | 11 |
| Employment | 4 |
| Farm | 6 |
| Firewood..... | 3 |
| For Rent..... | 3 |
| Obituaries | 2 |
| Pets | 3 |
| Reader Ad Form | 10 |

INSERTS:
Ollie's Bargain Outlet..... P
Tops..... P

P: Partial F: Full

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Monday: 8am-11am
TUESDAY: CLOSED
Wednesday: 8am-3pm
Thursday: 8am-3pm
Friday: 8am-3pm

DEADLINE:

FRIDAYS AT 3:00PM

OUR STAFF:

Publisher
• Bridgette Stewart
Office Manager
• Amanda Hayward
Support & Delivery
• Jim Stewart

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The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher.

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Obituary

STEPHEN E. OVECKA, age 81, longtime resident of County Road 142, passed away at home on Saturday February 10, 2024.

Stephen was born in Mankato, Minnesota on December 16, 1942, a son of the late Edward and Irene Ovecka. He joined the US AirForce at the age of 18, and proudly served his country for 20 years, retiring in 1980 as a Master Sergeant. He then continued his work in the new field of computers and retired as a Senior Database Specialist from IBM in Atlanta. His work took him all over the country, and he decided to retire to Interlaken. He was a life member of American Legion Post 770 in Trumansburg.


Stephen is survived by Andrew and Jarad Antwine, and his friends, Don (Anita) Miller of Trumansburg.

Military Honors will be offered at NYS Veterans Cemetery-Finger Lakes in Romulus in the near future. Ness-Sibley Funeral Home of Trumansburg has assisted with arrangements.

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Obituary



WILLIAM N. "BILLY" YALE, cherished husband of Ashley Mula and devoted father to Finnley (2 yrs old) and Iris (6 mos), peacefully passed away on February 3, 2024 at the age of 36, due to an acute asthma attack.

Billy was born in Portsmouth, VA on April 4, 1987, the son of William R. and Elizabeth Yale while they were stationed in Norfolk, VA with the US Navy. He spent his younger years living in Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and Florida and went to high school in Ithaca, NY. Together with his brother, he established Take Flight Farms in Freeville. Billy was a loving family man, whose warmth and kindness touched all who knew him. His legacy of love and laughter lives on in the hearts of his wife, children, family and those fortunate to call him friend. He surrounded himself with a huge circle of friends and family. Billy was profoundly solid in his faith in Jesus and his family takes comfort in knowing that he is safe in Heaven.

Billy is survived by his wife, Ashley Mula and his adored children, Finnley and Iris; his parents, William R. (Laurie Guinan) Yale of Romulus and Liz (Dan Leo) Yale of Webster; his siblings, Randy Yale of Freeville, Bobby Yale of East Aurora and Lindsey (JC) Yale-Mayoral of Killeen, TX; his niece, Gracie and nephew, Robby; sister-in-law Shawna (Ken) Botelho and their children, Logan and Ellis of East Providence, RI and his in laws, Michael and Karen Mula of Franklin, NY.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider a donation for the benefit of his children, by visiting www.givesendgo.com/GBPQN.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Friday, February 9, 2024 at Ness-Sibley Funeral Home, 23 South Street in Trumansburg. A Service of Remembrance, led by Rev. Rob Mellgard, will begin at the funeral home at 3:00pm on Friday. Prayers of committal will be held privately at Ovid Union Cemetery in Ovid. May he rest in eternal peace.



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Doors open @ 2 p.m. for preview. The following is just a partial list of merchandise to be sold.

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Next auction March 8 @ 5pm

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

FEB 19

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FEB 21

BEDTIME STORIES WITH SABRINA

Attend in-person or virtually. Starts at 3pm

FEB 23

SELF CARE IN OUR PJ'S

Attend in-person or virtually. Starts at 3pm

FEB 21

MAD SCIENTIST

Build your own snow storm and make your own snow. Starts at 11a

FEB 22

FUN IN THE SNOW DAY

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FEB 24

STORYTIME WITH PIRATE RICK

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PETS / LIVESTOCK

PETS / LIVESTOCK

PETS / LIVESTOCK

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It's funny how diseases seem to always bunch up in my practice. I'll go along for weeks and not see a single case of diarrhea in a dog, but then out of the blue ten cases will come along in a day. (From a diagnostician's point of view, diarrhea in dogs and kittens drives me crazy, mostly because I rarely am able to nail down a cause.) Likewise, the same story with snotty noses and sneezing in cats.

In the last month, I've had several cases of rat poisonings in dogs, and four life-threatening pyometras in both dogs and a cat. Regular readers of this humble column are already fully aware of these problems (right???) but I do believe a refresher lesson is in order for any new readers out there.

Plain and simple: rat and mouse poisons, as well as ant baits, or any other poison we put out into our home or farm environments can also kill our pets (and our children!) And that's that!!! Therefore, if you are going to use these products, you have to make sure of a few things:

1) Know what it is you are using 2) know what quantity did you start with 3) pay close attention and place the product in a location that Fido or Little Suzie has no chance of ever getting into. The first warning is important because often the pet will chew to oblivion the package containing the name/type of the poison, which makes it a guessing game for us veterinarians to unravel. The second is important because we can get a feel for how the pet's prognosis for recovery will be (or not be.) The third warning is self-evident once pet owners are aware of the lethal nature of these deadly killers. The key concept to keep in mind (and, again, it's logical once you think about it) is that the companies that make this stuff do everything in their power to make the poison flavorful, delicious, and appealing in order to get the intended victims to eat the product. And dogs (mostly it's dogs that eat these toxins) being the chow hounds they are, just love the taste of these poisons.

I now can hear the shouts and wailing and gnashing of teeth of my beloved readers: "OK, Doc, what do we do if our pet eats this stuff?" These poisons work mostly by preventing the animal's blood from clotting. In other words, the mouse or rat or other intended or unintended victim dies from internal bleeding. If you see or suspect your dog of eating any of these products, you haven't got any time to fool around. You gotta call your vet or, if it's midnight, or a weekend, or Christmas, or if he is on one of his vacation, you have to call the 800-number listed on the package (which you so dutifully wrote down before placing the bait), or the National Poison Control Center.

The first thing I do when an owner calls is get the pet to vomit at its home. When this is accomplished, I have the owner bring the dog in for a vitamin-K (the antidote) injection plus or minus activated charcoal therapy. (Many new baits have NO antidote!) If this is done within the first half hour, the chances of success are excellent; if done within the first hour, the pet's chances are good; within two hours it's only fair; after two hours, without expensive intensive care at a medical center, your pet's life is over. After 12-24 hours, the pet starts bleeding at the nose, mouth and anus and soon dies an agonizing death. [Recently, with the dedicated assistance of a loving owner and the intercession of the Divine, I did manage to save one of these guys.]

Once again, I cannot stress the importance of caution and vigilance that is required upon the part of the pet owner/parent in using these lethal products. And son-of-a-gun, I'm out of room. Next time I'll get to pyometras.

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SEE FULL JOB POSTING AT: https://www.watkinsglen.us/pdf/document_library/superintendent-of-parks-and-recreation.pdf

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SOUTH SENECA STORY

We've had more interaction this budget season with our state legislators than I can remember in over ten years, and with good reason. One recent session I attended referred to Governor Hochul's proposal to end the Save Harmless provision for school foundation aid as an "existential crisis" for some schools—meaning reductions of this magnitude might render them essentially unable to keep the doors open over time. In those scenarios, districts get absorbed by the larger neighbors, and school-age children are bused out somewhere else.

In the short term, the implications if the proposal stands come down to large-scale layoffs of personnel, which lead to larger class sizes for younger students, a decrease in overall supervision of students, loss of support services (both academic and counseling), and a sharp decrease in the ability to offer high school elective courses. Truthfully, in certain subject areas, even core classes might need to be offered only remotely, using instructors from outside the district. It's the reason Save Harmless rises to the top of the priority list this year, and it's also why the outcry is so loud about it, since the proposal came in late January with no hint of advance notice it was even being considered.

The name "Save Harmless" is a good one; if a district can at least count on state aid equal to the previous year's amount, it has the opportunity to do responsible long-range planning. To be clear, freezing state aid over time also ends up causing program reductions, since costs always trend upwards from year to year. But sudden unpredictable decreases in state aid cause actual harm. We look around the state and see no logical correlation between a district's demographics and which ones are targeted for reductions. Those who know the deep flaws in the so-called "formula" to calculate aid call it essentially useless in 2024, as it has never seen an adjustment since 2006 and it still uses census data that is 24 years old, from the year 2000. It ignores current realities, it ignores the pressures schools now face to meet mental health challenges of students today, and it ignores the intense increased demands to provide added security measures in an era of regular school violence around the country. It's not entirely wrong to call the system near-random at this point, and that doesn't even address the Governor's surprise proposal to veer away from a current inflation factor in favor of an adjusted average over ten years... also irrelevant in 2024 reality.

Besides the obvious impact on South Seneca's program, it's reasonable to ask why the Governor thinks South Seneca students deserve to be offered fewer school opportunities than students in other, similar districts. Why fewer opportunities than students in any districts at all? It doesn't have to happen this way: please let our legislators know how important it is to reject the proposal during this year's budget process.

Written by: Stephen Parker Zielinski, Superintendent

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