

# THE WEEKLY WRAP

ISSUE NO. 137 | SEPTEMBER 2, 2022

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NYS SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN  
(R, C, IP, REF) 43RD SENATE DISTRICT



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the September 2nd edition of my Weekly Wrap!

**BIG happenings:**

- Marylou Whitney Way Dedication
- Supporting Local Family Farms
- Columbia County Honor a Veteran
- Advocating for Displaced Healthcare Workers
- Celebrating the Travers Stakes

**Other important news:**

- Overdose Awareness Day
- The Omentum Project
- Saratoga Department of the Aging and Youth Services Needs Volunteers
- Stillwater Family Day September 9th and 10th
- Ribbon Cuttings
  - Glam Fairy Mobile Spa
  - Park Avenue Confectionary & General Store

As always, I want to hear from YOU. If you have a comment, question, or concern, please email me at [jordan@nysenate.gov](mailto:jordan@nysenate.gov) or call my office at **(518) 371-2751**. Thank you for reading and subscribing to my Weekly Wrap. It's an honor and a privilege serving you!

– Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District

# IN THE NEWS



## **In stunning development, Nauman Hussain's guilty plea erased**

The original plea deal that was given to Nauman Hussain for his role in the 2018 Schoharie Limo Crash was a travesty of the justice system. I am glad that because the judge insisted on jail time the deal has fallen apart. The families of the victims deserve justice and this should move us one step closer to that.

[Read Article](#)



## **NY Sheriffs: Go after illegal guns instead**

I agree with our dedicated law enforcement officers. The new gun laws that went into effect yesterday are completely unworkable and make it impossible for local government and law enforcement to do their jobs. There is a crime problem in New York, and the Democratic Majority is only making it harder to deal with.

[Read Article](#)



### State corrections officers push HALT Act repeal while advocates stress enforcement

We are seeing the effects of the rushed, poorly thought out HALT Act. There has been a staggering increase in violence since its implementation and the hardworking members of NYSCOPBA are working to change that. As a legislature we must work to ensure the safety of inmates and officers by repealing HALT.

[Learn More](#)

### TRAVEL ADVISORY Watch for Lane Reductions on Route 50 in Saratoga Springs

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is advising motorists that State Route 50 (Ballston Avenue) will be reduced from two lanes in each direction to one lane weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., beginning Wednesday, Sept. 7, between West Fenlon Street in the City of Saratoga Springs and Hutchins Road to facilitate repaving.

[Read Article](#)

## Marylou Whitney Way Dedication



It is befitting that State Route 9P between I-87 and East Avenue in the City of Saratoga Springs that leads to and is adjacent to the Saratoga Race Track, be designated as Marylou Whitney Way. Her advocacy helped the Race Track stay open and helped the Saratoga Meet draw over a million people annually. Her horses were recognized as regular fixtures at the Travers stakes and she claimed victories and a distinguished career as an owner. Marylou was also a consequential figure who did philanthropic good works on behalf of backstretch workers and retired thoroughbreds. In addition, she was a founding member of SPAC, helped to establish the National Museum of Dance, worked to restore the National Museum of Racing, and provided years of support to Saratoga Hospital. Marylou Whitney Way will forever be associated with Marylou Whitney and the contributions she left to Saratoga Springs. I was honored to present a special Proclamation to John Hendrickson, Marylou's husband, in recognition of this important occasion. Thank you to Governor Hochul for celebrating this designation and for signing my Senate bill S6738A to make this a reality. I also thank my legislative colleague, Assemblywoman Woerner, for her work in ensuring the companion bill's passage through the Assembly.

Watch the ceremony at the link below:

Speakers and their time in the video:

- David O'Rourke, NYRA CEO: Start to 1:00
- Governor Kathy Hochul: 1:00 to 9:37
- John Hendrickson: 9:40 to 10:20
- Senator Daphne Jordan: 10:30 to 12:55
- Assemblywoman Carrie Warner: 12:55 to 14:45
- Unveiling of the Sign: 15:00 to 15:44

Watch the Ceremony

## Supporting Local Family Farms





CONTACT: Katy Delgado (914) 960-6050  
 Tom Grant (518) 527-5445 Assemblyman Jake Ashby  
 Austin Czechowski (518) 231-8277 Assemblyman Chris Tague  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, September 1, 2022

## SENATE & ASSEMBLY REPUBLICANS CALL ON FARM LABOR WAGE BOARD TO REJECT REDUCTION OF OT THRESHOLD

*To Save the Future of Family Farming in New York State*

SCHODACK LANDING, NY -- New York State Senators Sue Serino and Daphne Jordan today stood with Assembly Members Jake Ashby and Chris Tague and members of the local agriculture community calling on the Farm Labor Wage Board in Albany to reject a reduction of the overtime threshold from the current 60 hours to the proposed 40 hours.

"The Farm Laborers Wage Board must heed what they are being told as the future of New York's farms is hinged on the Wage Board's decision in just five days. Lowering the threshold 40 hours will impact our family farms significantly, including leaving the industry and heading out of New York. Our economy cannot afford to lose farmers and the important agricultural resources they bring to communities. Instead we should be developing and working on policies that enable our Agriculture community to thrive and prosper," said Senator Daphne Jordan.

"I govern by listening and when our family farmers and workers tell me that this change could devastate the agricultural industry that our state depends on, I take notice," said Senator Sue Serino. "It is far past time for others in Albany to do the same and put an end to their misguided attempts to lower the overtime threshold. Our family farms are a staple in our communities and the backbone of our economy, and we should be focusing instead on advancing policies that actually enable them to thrive. I am committed to ensuring that the voices of our farmers and workers are heard and their needs met, which is why I am urging the Board to do the right thing, stay at 60 and save the future of farming in New York State," said Senator Sue Serino.

"Our State relies on our agricultural industry not just as vital food producers but also as the economic backbone of many communities. It is imperative that we ensure the continued success and existence of our local family farms and an easy start is eliminating this unnecessary

Yesterday I was joined by Senator Sue Serino, Assemblyman Jake Ashby, and Assemblyman Chris Tague at Dutch Hollow Farm in Schodack Landing to discuss Albany's plan to lower the Farm Overtime Threshold to 40 hours. The Farm Laborers Wage Board must heed what they are being told as the future of New York's farms is hinged on the Wage Board's decision in just five days. Lowering the threshold to 40 hours will impact our family farms significantly, including leaving the industry and heading out of New York. Our economy cannot afford to lose farmers and the critical agricultural resources they bring to our communities. Instead, we should develop and work on policies that enable our Agriculture community to thrive and prosper.

[Learn More](#)

[Watch Press Conference](#)

## Columbia County Honor a Veteran



On Monday, I joined Columbia County to present a New York State Liberty Medal to the family of US Army Veteran John A Mesick. Born in Valatie, NY John joined the Army in March of 1943 and was deployed to Europe as a member of Battery C, 21st Field Artillery Battalion, 5th Inf. Div., 3rd Army. He saw his first combat as a member of the first wave to hit Omaha Beach on D-Day. Cpl. Mesick and his unit would fight alongside the rest of General George Paton's 3rd Army across France and into Germany, seeing intense fighting in the Battle of the Bulge in particular. After completing the liberation of Western Europe, John was sent home and was discharged in October of 1954.

For his honorable service Cpl. John Mesick was awarded the French Croix de Guerre, 5 Bronze Stars, and a Good Conduct Metal.

After returning from war, John met and married his wife Frances, and together they raised four children. While working for the Columbia County Telephone Company, John continued to serve his community as Mayor, Police Chief, and Fire Chief of Chatham. He was a life member of Ghent VFW #5933, the Chatham American Legion Post #42, and the Ground Observer Corps during the "Cold War". John Mesick passed away on December 31st, 2019 after 70 beautiful years with Frances and their wonderful family. Thank you to Columbia County for Honoring such a remarkable American.

## Advocating for Displaced Healthcare Workers

Throughout the entirety of the pandemic, our healthcare workers served on the



front-lines everyday to help those in need. Now, my New York State Senate Republican Colleagues and I are asking for the New York Congressional to partner with us, on a federal level, in advocating for our displaced healthcare workers. According to the CDC's own director, the guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated people is the same, and we must work together to ensure that is reflected in State and Federal policy. So many hardworking healthcare workers have had their livelihoods destroyed. It is time for us to stand with our displaced healthcare workers.



## NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

August 26, 2022

Dear U.S. Senators and Members of the New York Congressional Delegation:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its guidance to better reflect the progress made after understanding and combating the COVID-19 virus. Most notably, the CDC now recommends that those exposed to COVID-19 are no longer required to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status. Per the CDC, the new guidelines “help us to move to a point where COVID-19 no longer severely disrupts our daily lives.”

A return to normalcy is long overdue, but New Yorkers deserve so much more after over two years of living under pandemic restrictions, some of which cost them their livelihood. We continue to face shortages in the fields that are critical to our residents’ well-being, including our law enforcement, firefighters, teachers and healthcare workers. We are sure we can all agree that we must do everything we can to advocate for these essential workers.

Just last week, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky admitted the agency’s actions throughout the pandemic “fell short in many ways” and “had some pretty public mistakes. . .” She then announced an agency reset aimed at improving CDC operations during public health emergencies, including how the agency develops public health guidance. It is crucial that this reset include a reevaluation of executive agency regulations made permanent or still in effect related to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly 86 FR 61555 entitled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination.”

We have seen and heard firsthand how the healthcare workforce shortage is substantially affecting patient care, increasing healthcare costs and jeopardizing New York’s healthcare infrastructure. Governor Hochul first declared a Statewide Disaster Emergency Due to Healthcare Staffing Shortages on September 27, 2021 and continues to extend it to date. Even with final acknowledgement of this crisis, the state and federal governments continued implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine mandate on healthcare personnel. Dedicated healthcare workers not only unjustly lost their livelihoods after giving so much throughout the pandemic, but this only exacerbated the emergency in the state. Reevaluating mandates such as these, given the new CDC guidelines and the Director’s admission of mistakes, is crucial as we move out of the pandemic and glean wisdom from this horrendous experience.

We strongly urge your partnered advocacy in standing up for our displaced healthcare workers following the easing of CDC guidelines. We will continue to advocate for reevaluation of this mandate here in New York as the Governor moves forward with an assessment of the State’s COVID-19 response and urge you to do the same at the federal level. We must not allow ineffective decisions made at the height of the pandemic to continue to negatively affect our healthcare sector. We look forward to an opportunity to work with you on behalf of all our heroes.

Read the Letter

## Celebrating the Travers Stakes



We had a wonderful time at a terrific Travers Party last Friday night in Saratoga Springs. Many thanks to our gracious host!



Congratulations to the winner Epicenter . . . the purse was \$1,250,000!

## Overdose Awareness Day



Wednesday was Overdose Awareness Day. We continue to lose far too many to the tragedy of overdose – we remember the lives lost and respect the grief of the family and friends left behind, and reaffirm our commitment to increase awareness and prevention.

[Learn More](#)

The Omentum Project





I recently met Meg Wilkinson who told me about the important work that The Omentum Project does for cancer survivors. Very often, after battling ovarian cancer, patients can suffer from serious digestive issues due to a lack of an Omentum (this organ is routinely removed as part of treatment). The Omentum Project is dedicated to improving the lives of cancer survivors living without an omentum through awareness, education, and informal research. If you are interested in learning more check out their website.

[Learn More](#)

Saratoga Department of the Aging and Youth  
Services Needs Volunteers

**Saratoga County Department of Aging & Youth**



# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Saratoga County Department of Aging and Youth is looking for volunteers for the Home Delivered Meals program in the Stillwater / Mechanicville area.

Home Delivered Meals is a meal delivery program that serves Saratoga County homebound seniors.

Training will be provided!

**IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT**  
**Saratoga County Department of Aging & Youth**  
**518-884-4100**

The Saratoga County Department of Aging and Youth Services is looking for volunteers! Home Delivery Meals provides important services to our homebound seniors. Call for more information.

[Learn More](#)

**Stillwater Family Day September 9th and 10th**

# Stillwater Family Day

**FRI., SEPT. 9th (5p-9p) / SAT., SEPT. 10th (11a-9p)**

STILLWATER AMERICAN LEGION POST 490

One American Legion Rd., Stillwater

**FREE RIDES!!!**



**FREE FACE PAINTING!**  
Sat. 1pm-4pm



**Safe Child  
ID Booth ~ Sat.**



Submit your Best 2022 FAMILY DAY PIC  
to [dcowin@stillwatery.org](mailto:dcowin@stillwatery.org) by 9/14!  
Best image will win a GIFT CARD!

**Food & Craft Vendors**

**2nd ANNUAL  
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**  
Sat. at 11am **BLIND DRAW**

**Selfie  
Station!**

**MAGIC**



**McClements  
Magic Act ~ Sat.**

**FROZEN  
T-SHIRT  
CONTEST**  
Sat.



**POST 490 PIG ROAST  
& CHICKEN BBQ**  
\$12 per ticket ~ SAT. 4P-7P

**Fri. 5PM-7PM  
by DJ CHRIS  
KARAOKE  
CONTEST**

**FIREWORKS  
Sat. at 9pm**

**Prizes &  
Raffles!**

**POLKA**  
by Donnie P &  
Celebration Family  
Sat. 1pm-4pm  
**POLKA**



**Sat. 6pm - 9pm**

**The Electric City Horns**

Schedule will be posted at [stillwatery.org](http://stillwatery.org) and Town facebook



Next Friday and Saturday the Town and Village of Stillwater will be having their annual Family Day at American Legion Post 490. With food and activities for the whole family its sure to be a great time!

[Learn More](#)



## Glam Fairy Mobile Spa



Congratulations to Karen Windover on the ribbon cutting for Glam Fairy. This woman veteran owned business is a mobile spa that offers a full range of spa

products and services. Thank you to the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce for celebrating and welcoming Karen's new business.

## Business Website

### Park Avenue Confectionary & General Store



Today the The Chamber of Southern Saratoga County, the City of Mechanicville, Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh and I joined my good friends Town of Halfmoon Supervisor Kevin and Rebecca Tollisen to celebrate the grand opening of Park Avenue Confectionary, LLC & General Store. I presented a New York State Empire Award to Park Ave Confectionary, given to businesses that have achieved a high level of excellence in a Senator's District, have created a culture of philanthropy and have contributed significantly to their community's quality of life. I recognized all of Kevin and Rebecca's hard work since the store opened in 2007, making Park Avenue Confectionary a go-to for homemade chocolates and candies. Today, an excited crowd was welcomed into the Tollisen Family's expanded candy store and new General Store! The expanded store offers an exciting variety of new treats, food, decorative items and gifts. The store also features "The Chocolate Lab" party room for chocolate-making classes and birthday parties. Kevin and Rebecca Tollisen's strong work ethic and commitment to their business and the greater community has been a recipe for lasting success, contributing to a thriving and diverse local economy in the City of Mechanicville.



If you are looking for that classic small-town general store and candy shop feel, then head down to Mechanicville and check them out. Walking into the store is like being in the sweetest of dreams. Congratulations to the entire Tollisen family

Business Website

Facebook Page

Stay up-to-date with me throughout the week  
on Social Media!



FACEBOOK

TWITTER

INSTAGRAM

YOUTUBE

VISIT MY WEBSITE

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THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE