

THE WEEKLY WRAP

ISSUE NO. 140 | SEPTEMBER 23, 2022



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



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the September 23rd edition of my Weekly Wrap!

BIG happenings:

- Senate Republican letter to NYS Department of Labor Commissioner Reardon regarding the Farm Labor Overtime Threshold
- Reverse Rett Upstate New York Family Fun Day
- Saratoga County Honor a Deceased Veteran Ceremony
- Firefighter for a Day Press Conference
- Groundbreaking of the West Crescent Fire District New Training Grounds
- 6th Annual Saratoga Automobile Auction Press Conference
- Saratoga Springs New Year's Fest Kickoff Announcement

Other important news:

- Recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force
- Troy Ilium Literary Club Centennial
- Celebrating the Wesley Community's 50th Anniversary
- Halfmoon Harvest Festival and Chicken BBQ September 24th
- Ribbon Cuttings:
 - Kickstart Café

As always, I want to hear from YOU. If you have a comment, question, or concern, please email me at 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



Churchill: Kathy Hochul's very bad and terribly suspicious deal with a donor

ALBANY — Is Kathy Hochul's administration just inept? Or do we have a real and serious scandal on our hands?

[Read Article](#)



Powell's stark message: Inflation fight may cause recession

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve delivered its bluntest reckoning Wednesday of what it will take to finally tame painfully high inflation: Slower growth, higher unemployment and potentially a recession.

[Read Article](#)



Shenendehowa boys' soccer Brown shines after move from Ireland

Shenendehowa senior and boys' soccer captain Conor Brown moved from his native country of Ireland and has made the most of his time in the United States — on and off the soccer field.

[Read Article](#)



Annual Giant Pumpkinfest returns to Saratoga Springs

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — All are invited to join the Saratoga County community for a day of family-friendly fun celebrating the region's agricultural industry at the eighth annual Giant Pumpkinfest. This year features a new Pumpkin Drop and I will be dropping one! I hope to see you there.

[Read Article](#)

Senate Republican letter to Commissioner Reardon regarding the Farm Labor Overtime Threshold

This week my New York State Senate Republicans colleagues and I, sent a letter to the New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, urging her not to lower the farm labor overtime threshold below 60 hours. New York farms are already struggling and this change will be the death nail for countless small family farms. In addition, the people this decision is meant to help, farm laborers, have said that if they have their hours cut, they will go work in another state that does not restrict their hours. This decision has been poorly thought out and we hope the Commissioner listens to the people most affected by this change and rejects the Farm Labor Wage Board's recommendation. The deadline for comments is Monday, Sept. 26th.

If you want to make your voice heard you can email regulations@labor.ny.gov or send physical mail to:

New York State Department of Labor,
W. Averill Harriman State Office Campus, Building 12, Room 509,
Albany, NY 12240.



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

September 21, 2022

Roberta Reardon, Commissioner
New York State Department of Labor
Building 12
W.A. Harriman Campus
Albany, NY 12240

Dear Commissioner Reardon:

We write to you regarding the final report and recommendations related to the overtime threshold for farm laborers that was provided to you by the Farm Laborers Wage Board. We strongly urge you to reject this report and any reduction of the overtime threshold beyond the current 60 hours established in the Farm Laborer Fair Labor Practices Act (FLFLPA) of 2019.

As you consider letters like this one, and others from likely hundreds, if not thousands of involved stakeholders, we implore you to notice the overwhelming trend. The vast majority of these letters are in favor of the overtime threshold staying at 60 hours. Moreover, we urge you to realize that the majority are not just farm-owners.

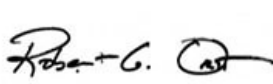
A state-funded report by Cornell University researchers found that if the overtime threshold was lowered to 40 hours, approximately 70 percent of H-2A workers indicated they would be less likely to do their current job or would consider going to another state without capped hours. It further found that two-thirds of dairy farmers would make significant changes to their operation, including leaving the industry or investing out of state, and half of fruit and vegetable farmers indicated they would decrease their operations or exit the industry. This Cornell report was done using an existing survey for a longer-term assessment of agriculture labor issues by a respected agricultural workforce researcher, reducing the bias the Wage Board's Report believed was exhibited in the public hearings and submitted testimony.

The Wage Board's decision to lower the overtime threshold will hurt the very people it was intended to help – farm workers – by restricting the number of hours they can work, meaning smaller paychecks. Ironically, it is also removing things that can be collectively bargained, which was a primary reason for the legislation in the first place.

The latest inflation numbers showed that food prices continued to climb this past month, rising nearly one percent in August from July. The average household is spending \$460 more each month to buy the same basket of goods and services as last year. While the proposed changes to the overtime threshold will not happen until 2024, we know, as the Cornell study illustrated, farmers will start making decisions now. Less farms in New York will lead to higher food prices.

While we hope that inflation returns to historical averages as quickly as possible, it is unclear if food prices will do so anytime soon due to lingering geopolitical forces affecting fertilizers and other agriculture petrochemicals prices. Doing anything that may increase the price of our food, or impact the stability of the food supply-chain (which we learned during COVID just how fragile it is), regardless of when the policies claim to start, would be extremely irresponsible.

For these reasons we urge you to reject any reduction of the overtime threshold. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this urgent request and please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss further.



Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



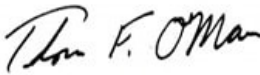
Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Fred Akshar
52nd District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Daphne Jordan
43rd District



Senator Mike Martucci
42nd District



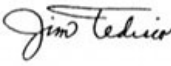
Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



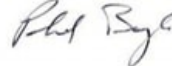
Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Jim Tedisco
49th District



Senator Phil Boyle
4th District



Senator Patty Ritchie
48th District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
59th District



Senator Ed Rath
61st District



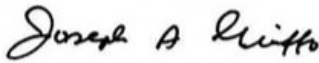
Senator Sue Serino
41st District



Senator Alexis Weik
3rd District



Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
47th District

cc: Governor Kathy Hochul

Reverse Rett Upstate
New York Family Fun Day



Saturday was a beautiful day for the first-ever Reverse Rett Upstate New York fundraiser. Rett syndrome is a very rare genetic neurological disorder that affects 1 in 10,000 females (and even more rarely in males). 20 month old Barrett Otis, the nephew of my friend and Constituent Services Director, Dan Casale has such a diagnosis. Barrett's parents, Alyssa and Rick Otis have dedicated themselves to finding a cure and Saturday's proceeds will help do just that. If you are interested in donating or learning more about Rett Syndrome, visit the link below.

[Reverse Rett Upstate New York Website](http://www.reverserettupstatenewyork.com)

Saratoga County Honor a Deceased Veteran Ceremony



On Thursday, I presented a New York State Liberty Medal to the family of World War II Navy veteran Robert C. Shaw, as he was posthumously honored at this month's Saratoga County Honor a Deceased Veteran Ceremony. Robert enlisted in 1943, at the height of the War, and served as a Torpedoman's mate on the USS Tigrone until the war's end in 1945. Seaman First class Shaw was awarded a Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal.

Upon returning home to Moreau, Robert followed his entrepreneurial passions and invested in a number of properties including the Stagecoach Inn, the Crossroads, the General Store in Wilton. He owned and operated two farms, the Palmer Ridge farm and the Selfridge Road farm, but is probably best known for his business which still serves many today, Shaw Fuel and Propane. He was a dedicated member of the community, who organized a 4-H Club for local neighborhood children, was a member of the Optimist Club and a lifelong Mason.

Seaman First Class Robert C. Shaw was a patriotic and hardworking American. It was my privilege to meet his family and to honor his life and service to our country.

Firefighter for a Day Press Conference



On Tuesday, I joined the Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department to raise awareness about a new hands-on recruitment drive. On Saturday October 1st, from 8 AM to 2 PM, the Clifton Park Fire Department will be hosting a 'Firefighter For A Day' event for anyone 14 and up at their station on Old Rt. 146. There will be various scenarios set up where all interested will be able to suit up and use equipment in emergency response. I will be suiting up and giving it a try. I am told there is a job in our fire departments for all that want to volunteer from fighting fires, to directing traffic to desk work. More volunteers are needed statewide. Each of the 76 fire departments in the 43rd Senate District find it challenging to recruit new members as volunteers who have been there for many years age out, so this drive is more important than ever! Thank you to Clifton Park Fire Department Commissioner Art Hunsinger for bringing this event to fruition. Other fire departments joining in this event are West Crescent Fire District, Hillcrest Fire Department, Halfmoon-Waterford Fire Department, Round Lake, Fire Department and Jonesville Volunteer Fire Department. If you are interested please email Firefighterforaday19@gmail.com to register for anytime between 8 AM and 2 PM.

Groundbreaking of the West Crescent Fire District New Training Grounds.



Yesterday I joined the West Crescent Fire District W. K. Mansfield Hose Company as they broke ground on their new fire training ground, storage building and pavilion. This new facility will serve numerous local fire departments and prepare them to tackle the challenges they will face in the real world. Thank you to all of the brave volunteers who keep us safe everyday.

West Crescent Fire District Website

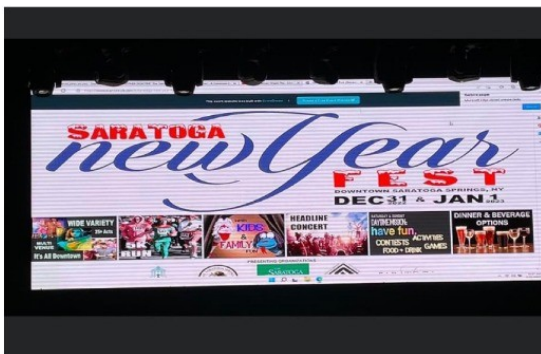
6th Annual Saratoga Automobile Auction Press Conference



It's been said Americans have a love affair with cars, and the Saratoga Automobile Museum is a prime example. This Saturday and Sunday, the Museum will be hosting its 6th Annual Saratoga Motorcar Auction at Saratoga Casino. They will have over 300 rare cars on the block, including a 1937 Packard V12, a 1959 Austin Healey, a 1979 Datsun 280Z, and a 2022 Porsche 718 Spyder. This is the premier collector car auction in the Northeast, and will have buyers and sellers from all over the world! Even if you're not quite ready to buy a classic car, you can still come take a look and enjoy the fun and excitement. I took a good look today with Todd Shimkus President of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and Darryl Leggieri, President of Discover Saratoga NY. Congratulations & best wishes for another successful auction to Carly Connors, Executive Director Saratoga Automobile Museum and Dan Ritopecki, Auction Director.

[Saratoga Motorcar Auction Website](#)

Saratoga Springs New Year's Fest Kickoff Announcement



Saratoga Springs will once again be ushering in the New Year, but with a BIGGER and better celebration! On Thursday, I joined Todd Shimkus, President Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, Darryl Leggieri, Discover Saratoga NY and Ryan McMahon, Executive Director Saratoga Springs City Center as they unveiled the new brand of celebration for New Years, 'Saratoga New Year's Fest'. The festivities will take place on New Years Eve and New Years Day with adult and family activities. The kick-off will be with Fireworks at 6:30 pm on New Years Eve followed by many venues of food, spirits and BIG music by nationally known performers. New Years Day will feature a 5K run and activities for the kids. Thank you to the sponsors and businesses that have stepped up to fund this celebration. Learn more about New Year's Fest

[New Year's Fest Event Website](#)

Recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the U.S.

Air Force

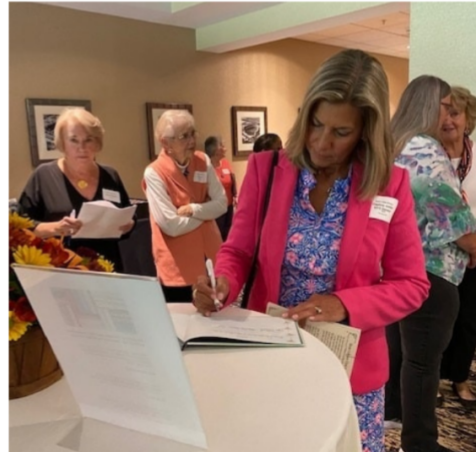


On Sunday the Air Force turned 75 years old!

Happy Birthday to the most elite flying force in the world. Thank you to all of the current and past Air Force veterans that help keep our great nation safe.

[Air Force Website](#)

Troy Ilium Literary Club Centennial



For 100 years the Troy Ilium Literary Club has been meeting to discuss the important intellectual topics of the day. The all-women club was founded in 1922 as a result of combining 2 smaller literary clubs in the city of Troy. This past Friday, we celebrated those 100 years of intellectual advancement by honoring the club's rich history and bright future.

[Read Times Union Article](#)

Celebrating the Wesley Community's 50th Anniversary



For 50 years The Wesley Community has been serving the seniors of Saratoga County. They were the first location in the Capital Region to offer both residential and medical services on the same property for their residence. Today they offer a wide range of options for seniors including nursing care, assisted living, and more. Their dedication to high-quality aging services has been so important to our seniors. They will be celebrating their 50th anniversary over the next few months so be sure to check them out.

The Wesley Community Website

Halfmoon Harvest Festival and Chicken BBQ

Tomorrow, Saturday September 24th Halfmoon Celebrations Events and the Town of Halfmoon, will be hosting the annual Harvest Festival and Chicken BBQ. With music, fireworks, and good food it's sure to be fun for the whole family. I hope to see you there!

Harvest Festival

Saturday, September 24, 2022

12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

EXTENDED HOURS AND ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR

Halfmoon Town Park, 162 Route 236, Halfmoon, NY 12065

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Pony Rides * Hay Rides
Rock Climbing Wall * Petting Zoo
Carnival Games * Stilt Walker

12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Face Painting * Balloon Artists
Pumpkin Decorating * Circle of Safety
Food to Purchase * Bounce Houses
Shopping/Vendors and much more...

Live Music

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Featuring Jukebox Rebellion



Fireworks at Dusk



CHICKEN BBQ

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

\$15.00

1/2 Chicken, Baked Potato,
Cole Slaw & Dinner Roll

Tickets can be pre-ordered at Town Hall
Town Clerk's Office
or the Recreation Office

For BBQ information contact Ross MacNeil,
Recreation Director (518) 371-7410 x 2272
or rmacneil@townofhalfmoon.org

To benefit Halfmoon Celebrations Association
& Character Counts



Halfmoon
CELEBRATIONS
Association, Inc.



For Town of Halfmoon information contact
Ross MacNeil, Recreation Director
(518) 371-7410 x 2272
rmacneil@townofhalfmoon.org

Chicken Barbecue

Saturday, September 24, 2022

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Halfmoon Town Park, 162 Route 236, Halfmoon, NY 12065

Featuring



\$15.00

1/2 Chicken, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw & Dinner Roll

Pre-order tickets available at
Town Clerk's Office
or the Recreation Office

For BBQ information contact Ross MacNeil
Recreation Director (518) 371-7410 x 2272
or rmacneil@townofhalfmoon.org

To benefit
Halfmoon Celebrations Association & Character Counts

Live Music

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Featuring Jukebox Rebellion

Fireworks

At Dusk

RIBBON CUTTINGS

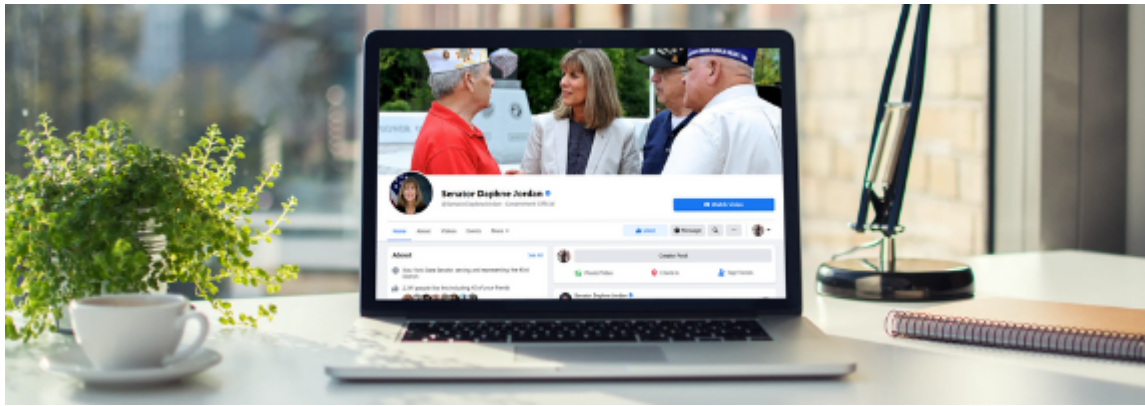
Kickstart Café



Congratulations and best wishes for success to Raymond Newberry and Jamie Rock on the opening of Kickstart Café in Schuylerville! By combining their passions for motorcycles and coffee, Raymond and Jamie have created something unique and very welcoming. Thank you to the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce for helping celebrate this morning!

[Business Website](#)

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



FACEBOOK

TWITTER

INSTAGRAM

YOUTUBE

VISIT MY WEBSITE

Albany Office:
188 State Street, Legislative Office
Bldg.,
Room 706
Albany, NY 12247
518-455-2381

District Office:
1580 Columbia Turnpike
Building 2, Suite 1,
Castleton-On-the-Hudson, NY 12033
518-371-2751



THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE