

Bus driver of the year

The Mid-Hudson Transportation Supervisors Association (MHTSA) has named Ethan Allen Transportation school bus driver Andrea Whittaker "2016 Ulster County Bus Driver of the Year." The award, which recognizes Whittaker's dedication to her profession, was presented in conjunction with Operation Safe Stop Day, a program that brings together local school districts and law enforcement agencies to cooperate on ticketing motorists who illegally pass school buses that are stopped to pick up or drop off school children.

Whittaker began her career at Ethan Allen Transportation in February 1989 and for a time in the early 1990s worked under her father, Andrew Aurigemma, when he served as a manager with Ethan Allen. Whittaker also worked through three generations of Allens at Ethan Allen Transportation, including Bree M. Allen, who today serves as the Kingston-based school bus company's regional leader.

"Andrea has that winning combination of being stern when safety is at stake yet always caring and compassionate with her passengers. She makes sure they know and follow the rules — including no bullying," said Bree Allen. "She rarely misses a day of work and her driving record with us is exemplary."



School Bus Driver of the Year Andrea Whittaker (right) with Ethan Allen Transportation Regional Leader Bree Allen.

Church dinner

The St. Remy Reformed Church will set out a fundraising spaghetti dinner next Saturday, May 14, from 4-7 p.m. at the St. Remy Firehouse.

The menu: tossed salad with choice of dressing; spaghetti with meatballs, garlic and oil or butter; Italian bread with butter; desserts; cold beverages and coffee and tea.

Takeout available; tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids 5-12; free for kids under 5. Call Ariel

at (845) 598-7080 for advance tickets.

Healing for veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports that between 11-20 percent of those who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom have post-traumatic stress in a given year and that 23 percent of women reported sexual assault when in the military. Omega Institute in Rhinebeck will be offering three retreats and scholarships for

attendees this spring and summer that address the difficulties veterans face.

The Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration are now actively supporting mind-body modalities such as yoga and mindfulness practices to compliment traditional psychology and drug therapies for veterans. For more than 20 years, Omega has offered hope and healing to veterans and their family members with programs focused on complementary and alternative

medicine practices that address post-traumatic stress and promote resilience.

Programs include: "Healing From Military Trauma: A Warrior Renew Program" (June 6-24, for military women and women veterans), with Lori S. Katz, Ph.D. Military women and women veterans face enormous challenges. The impact of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) has lasting effects on the mind, body, and spirit. This retreat offers a safe and healing environment to explore facing and releasing traumatic stress and increasing resilience. Scholarship deadline: June 1.

"Practices for Comfort & Ease: Veterans Yoga Retreat" (July 31-Aug. 5, for men only), with Annie Okerlin, RYT and Nicholas Caris, RYT. Research shows that yoga and relaxation practices help veterans reintegrate after the challenging experiences of military service. Participants will learn techniques to comfort the body, ease the mind and promote healing. Scholarship deadline: June 20.

Scholarships are available for each of these retreats to cover all but \$75 of the tuition, room, and board. To learn more, visit eOmega.org, or call 1-800-944-1001.

Veleber joins Rondout Savings

The Rondout Savings Bank has appointed John Veleber as its new chief lending officer.

Veleber brings 15 years of financial experience from Wall Street working with firms including Cantor Fitzgerald, Garvin

Guybutler and JP Morgan.

Prior to joining Rondout, he held various leadership positions at other area financial institutions, first with Catskill Hudson Bank and most recently as Senior Managing Director at Sterling National Bank managing the Hudson Valley commercial lending team.

John was raised in Ridgewood, N.J. and is a graduate of Valparaiso University, where he received a bachelor's in business administration.

Residing in Ulster County, he's active in the community, currently serving on the board of directors for Monticello Academy of Finance and Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Past community leadership includes secretary for New Hope Community and treasurer for Sullivan ARC.

His job is to strategically manage all areas of the bank's lending functions, including loan portfolio management, risk analysis, and driving loan growth.



John Veleber.

"The staff and the students at the high school have been very cooperative," Clapper said. "They know it's out there. It's kind of like a background noise to them."

Clapper added that there have been one or two noise complaints from area residents, but that they were only received when the district went door to door to notify neighbors of the high school that further work was being done.

Scrodanus updated other work, including the completion of brick installation at the Field House, as well as interior framing and duct work. Exterior paneling is already underway on the athletics building, as is mechanical work such as plumbing and fire protection. Window installation is expected to begin on Monday, May 16, with the installation of an elevator on track for the following day.

WORK ON THE EAST ADDITION IS ALSO PROGRESSING, Scrodanus said, with insulation, vapor barrier and masonry set to follow the completion of the metal framing.

The work is part of Phase One of the project, which is due to finish in 2018. The entire project is scheduled for completion in 2023. Michael DeLima, a representative of BBL, detailed the bidding process for the next area of work. Bids will be accepted through Thursday,

May 19 on everything from abatement work and hazardous materials removal, to millwork and casework, to various mechanical and general contracting work.

"We've had a good turnout so far, and we're kind of in the early stages of the bidding period," DeLima said, adding that he expected to be able to make recommendations to the school board at their June 1 meeting. Abatement work is expected to get underway over the summer, while the mechanical components are still being reviewed by the State Education Department, and bids wouldn't be likely to be reviewed for that work until autumn of this year.

"That works isn't due to begin until the following summer, so we have a bit of leeway and we can get good value," he said. "We're monitoring the bidding market, we're phasing, updating, continuing to look at drawings, constructibility, biddability, dollars and cents, to make sure it will all come together and we can have the complete system in place."

The Second Century is due to take on a few more concerned parties this month, when a student shadowing program begins.

According to Scrodanus, student applicants from Kingston High have been interviewed, with two of them starting a 54-hour program in May where they'll follow along with pre-construction sessions, monitor the bid-

ding process, and get an inside look at other aspects of the capital project. The top two candidates will work through midsummer, with the next two beginning their course in August. Students chosen for the project will have to first complete a 10-hour OSHA training course before they're allowed supervised visits on construction areas.

"We're really excited to start that program," Scrodanus said.

Four for three school board seats

THE KINGSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S Board of Education will have three open seats at the end of the current school year, and all three incumbents will face off against a single challenger at the polls later this month.

Of the three incumbents, the Rev. Arthur L. Coston Sr. of Kingston is the longest serving member, seeking a third consecutive three-year term. Coston re-joined the board in 2010 after having served from 2005-08.

Kingston resident James Michael joined the school board in 2012. Up for re-election in a field of six last year, Michael placed fourth overall with enough votes to serve the final year of former board president Matthew McCoy's term; McCoy resigned unexpectedly in 2014, with his term not due to finish until this year.

The third incumbent hoping to hold onto their seat

is Kathleen Collins, a Hurley resident who is nearing the end of her first three-year term.

The challenger is Suzanne Jordan, a resident of Hurley.

Voters will head to the polls in all seven of the district's elementary schools on Tuesday, May 17 from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. They'll also decide the fate of the district's \$162 million budget proposal for the 2016-17 school year, as well as the proposed sale of a 0.277-acre easement and right-of-way along the roadway leading into Dietz Stadium to the Thomas Allen Corporation for a total cost of \$120,000, less the total sum of payments in lease agreements with the district.

More complete candidate profiles and a budget breakdown will follow in next week's *Kingston Times*.

CRISPIN KOTT

Woodstock Works

Business Center!

Desk Workspace Available

By the Week @ \$75 By the Month @ \$275

Conferences (@ \$150 - \$195/day)
Classes/Workshops (@ \$200/day),
Events (starting @ \$225/day)

12 Tannery Brook Road
info@Woodstock.Works
www.Woodstock.Works
(W) 845-679-6066 (C) 646-286-2630

POOL & SPA INSTALLATIONS • MAINTENANCE
SALT WATER SYSTEMS • FREE WATER ANALYSIS

COME HOME TO A VACATION EVERY DAY.

NOW SCHEDULING POOL OPENINGS

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Mountain POOLS

A+ Rating
BBB Accredited Business Better Business Bureau

MOUNTAINPOOLS.COM • ROUTE 212 • WOODSTOCK
845-679-7213