



# The Mountain Eagle

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## Fire Destroys Garage in Hobart

**By Liz Page**

HOBART - Hobart firefighters got the call just before 8:30 Monday morning for a confirmed structure fire on Pearl St. in the village of Hobart. They arrived to find the garage at the James Barr residence fully involved, according to Hobart Fire Chief Josh Mason.

Mutual aid was called to Stamford, South Kortright and Bloomville, with Jefferson placed on standby at Stamford.

"I got there quickly and it was fully involved," said Mason.

Firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze which gutted the garage and destroyed its contents. Although the exact

cause is not known, said Mason, it is believed electrical.

Barr reported the fire, said Mason, after he received an alert on his security system and saw the smoke on a security camera. "He ran out to the garage, but it was too involved and he called it in."

One of the cars in the driveway was slightly damaged by the heat before it was moved so firefighters could access the scene.

About 30 firefighters from the three departments responded and Hobart remained on the scene until about 10:30 a.m.. There were no injuries reported.

"There wasn't too much

we could do except put the fire out, it had too much of a head start," said Mason. "They lost

all of the contents of the garage, which included a motorcycle. Fortunately,

the garage was not attached to the home and it was not damaged."

Also responding was a county fire coordinator and one investigator.



Firefighters fight the blaze

Letters to the Editor on Page A4

## Looking for Those Signs of Spring – Tapping

**By Liz Page**

If you can believe the weather prediction of a groundhog, we have endured four weeks of winter weather since Groundhog Day (Feb. 2) and have just two more weeks to go, making March 15 the day spring arrives. Don't believe it.

The Spring Equinox arrives at 5:37 a.m. on March 20 this year, the astronomical arrival of spring as far as our calendars are concerned. Don't believe that either.

What is believable is that there have been a couple of days where the temperatures have risen above freezing and the sun actually came out from behind the clouds to provide some hope that spring isn't too far off.

What is a sure sign of spring is when the maple trees begin to pull sap

and begin the process of making leaves. Traditionally, local maple producers grab a few young bodies during the Presidents Week break from school to help them with the tapping of the trees and hopefully catch that first good run of sap.

The good news is, some local producers were boiling sap on Sunday, collecting enough sap run Saturday to get the boilers fired up.

While snowmobilers and skiers have been enjoying the snowfall and cold temperatures during what many are calling a more traditional winter, others are trying to be patient about the arrival of spring and a chance to cast off both Cabin Fever and, this year, Covid Fever.

Charlotte Collins and her mom, Sharon, were making a video at Buck

Hill Farm in Jefferson on Monday, demonstrating how to tap a tree and run a sap line.

You can enjoy the taste of pure maple syrup each weekend at Buck Hill Farm, when they serve up breakfast and brunch from 8 to 1 or shop in their gift shop, open 9-5 every day, filled with all sorts of delicious maple and other locally grown and produced products. You will also find the newly published book "Pancakes Make People Happy!" with more than 75 recipes for any occasion.

Thompson's Sugar Shack was also gearing up for the maple season, boiling their first run on Sunday, according to their Facebook post and at North Road Sugar Works, they are introducing some new technology to their operation

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## Looking for Signs, Continued from A1

this season. They also have a farm store where you will find maple and other local products.

All three maple producers are located in the town of Jefferson, where the annual Schoharie County Maple Festival was born and has always been home to several local maple producers.

Not too far away is Shaver Hill Farm in the town of Harpersfield where they have a warehouse full of equipment to sell to those who want to try making their own syrup from their backyard maple trees. The Hill family just received a shipment of equipment and it's something worth checking out.

They also have a gift shop on premises, open seven days per week is stocked with local prod-

ucts. They joined forces two years ago with a local dairy producer to create maple milk, which gets rave reviews.

There is also maple popcorn, maple peanut brittle, maple cotton candy and a host of other maple items. It's a thought for gifts, almost all do gift boxes or baskets.

Each of these producers will tell you it has been a family affair for them for generations and it is a fun activity for kids to tap, collect and boil. The reward is a sweet liquid that enhances not just pancakes, but many other dishes.

Why, you can find all sorts of recipes utilizing maple products. One of my favorites is The Farmer's Wife sticky buns. Barb Hanselman

uses maple syrup to make the sticky in the buns. You will find her culinary delights at Byebrook Farm in South Kortright or the Catskill Regional Harvest Shop.

With the influx of new families and faces to the region and as winter takes its time to let go and allow warmer spring-like weather to creep in, you might want to do a little backyard project and produce a quart or two of maple syrup.

There are plenty of local maple producers, both large scale and backyard, who are more than willing to share their knowledge and help the beginner. Now is the time, however, to get prepped and ready for the sap to run.

The ideal weather is 40-degree days with 20-

degree nights. It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. The sweeter the sap, which is usually in those first runs, the less it takes, but that is the rule of thumb.

The season passes quickly, which is why everyone has been working to get the taps in.

There is nothing like stepping into the steamy warmth of the sap house on a cold spring night to breathe in the aroma of maple as the sap becomes syrup.

Oh, and you may be interested to know there have been a couple of reports of Robins being spotted recently. And in two weeks we can jump the clock ahead one hour to have more light in the evening as we start Daylight Savings Time.



Buckets hanging off the maple trees used to be a sign spring wasn't far off. While local producers now use tap lines instead of the traditional sap buckets, they have tapped the trees and a few have boiled some syrup. It takes warm, sunny days above freezing and cold, below freezing nights for the sap to run. Although it depends on Mother Nature, warmer days are being forecast for next week.

There's lots to do in the Tri-County Region this winter. It's all in our Community Calendar! See B4.

# Stamford Rotary Club Annual



## NAPA Parking Lot Stamford

### Sunday March 7, 2021 11:00 am until sold out

Chicken.....\$8.75  
Ribs.....\$10.75



## Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration at SCS

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Parents of children living in the Stamford Central School District who will be 5 years old by December 1st are invited to register their children to begin Kindergarten in September 2021. Please call Stamford Central School at (607) 652-7301 (ext. 0) by Friday March 26, 2021 with the child's name, address and date of birth. Kindergarten screenings will be scheduled at a later date.

### PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

## Church Safety and Security Program in Delhi

The Delhi Police Department offers a free Church and Safety program for all religious organizations in the Delaware County area. The program will focus on providing a path and information for religious organizations to formulate an emergency action plan for the Church and to deal with a variety of critical incidents. The program will cover response to medical emergencies, fires and explosions, handling emotionally disturbed persons, active attack and many other types of incidents that could occur at a

Stamford Central School is taking names of children for the joint Universal Pre-Kindergarten program for the fall of 2021. Children in Stamford and Jefferson School Districts who will be 4 years old by December 1st are eligible. Parents who are interested should call their school district by Friday March 26, 2021.

Jefferson Central School (607) 652-7821  
Stamford Central School (607) 652-7301 (ext. 0)

Church. The facilitators for this program are certified NYS police instructors specializing in Critical Incident Response protocols. The Delhi Police Dept. Training Division offers this free service to any religious organization in the area, assisting the Church with any security & safety concerns they might have. For further information, contact the Delhi Police Dept., 9 Court Street, Delhi, N.Y. - 607-434-6101 or delhipd519@delhitel.net. Visit our website at: www.dpd-training.com.



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