

A purr-fect ending for the Great Meadow kittens

P.S.: Notes from Our Notebooks

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Jeffrey Lindstrand, deputy superintendent of administration at Great Meadow Correctional Facility, reports the four stray kittens who stole their way into the prison and have been attended to for the last five months now have permanent homes.

“Meadow is going to one of our secretaries. Comstock is going to one of the maintenance workers, and Annie and Doc are being adopted by one of the (correction) officers,” he said.

This follows a Jan. 14 *Post-Star* story on the tan litter that was found in the basement of the prison.

Bruce Porter, the head electrician, has been the main caretaker. An inmate built a “kitty condo” out of scrap lumber, and employees furnished toys and food.

Lindstrand said the response to the story from prison personnel was “very quick.”

“I think people knew we had them, they just didn’t know when we were going to start releasing them because three of the four are already gone and the fourth is going on Friday. The person was getting their house ready for the new cat,” he said.

Employees have also donated bags of food, which Lindstrand said would be used for any future litters that might turn up. If no kittens are discovered within a reasonable time, he will give the food back to the donors or send it to an animal shelter.

— *Meg Hagerty*

Eye on Warren County

The Warren County Sheriff’s Office’s military surplus armored vehicle got some national publicity over the weekend.

“CBS Evening News” reported Saturday about the military program that has placed hundreds of armored vehicles with police agencies around the country.

Warren County Sheriff Bud York and Undersheriff Shawn Lamouree were interviewed extensively. The news crew was in Queensbury and Lake George on Dec. 18.

York said the national media picked up on the local articles and TV broadcasts and decided to focus on Warren County’s vehicle. He said he had gotten a lot of positive comments from people who saw the broadcast.

“I thought they were really fair,” York said.

The Sheriff's Office got the "mine-resistant ambush-protected" (MRAP) vehicle last September, and maintenance costs are being paid through drug forfeiture funds.

The video can be found at cbsnews.com. *The Post-Star's* articles on the MRAP from last September are online at poststar.com.

— *Don Lehman*

Music, puppets

The historic Salem courthouse has received a pair of LARAC grants for use this spring, one for classical music and the other for puppets for children in grades 3-6.

"Music in the Courtroom," under the direction of pianist and conductor Daniel Shulman, will once again offer the works of classical masters at 3 p.m. on three Sundays — April 27, May 18 and June 8. Works to be performed will be pieces composed by Mozart, Schumann, Ravel, Brahms and Schubert.

The historic courtroom, with its wonderful acoustics, will come to life with the much celebrated music.

During the school spring break, April 14-18, the courthouse will offer children in grades 3-6 the chance to become part of the "Courthouse Puppet Club."

Debi Craig will teach children how to perform with puppets and make the scenery and sound tracks leading up to a performance. Robert Sellar, a member of the courthouse board, built a puppet theater as the matching portion of the grant.

This free program will run from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. daily. Those interested should call courthouse officials at 854-7053.

The state grants are administered by the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council.

— *Bill Toscano*

Hitting it off

Sometimes, fundraisers go even better than expected.

Community Action Angels of Washington County planned to wrap up last year's fundraising efforts for Washington County Head Start.

The basket raffle was so successful that Action Angel President Nikki Shaw and outreach coordinator Tyler Whitney of the Washington County Economic Opportunity Council Inc. were able to present a check for \$1,250 to the policy council of Head Start.

Shaw said the basket raffle also helped raise awareness of the group.

Community Action Angels is part of Washington County EOC Inc. and aims to provide services to low-income families that may not qualify for other services.

For more information, contact Whitney at 746-2390.

— *Bill Toscano*

The road to Lake George

If you need a reminder during this cold spell that the Memorial Day start of the summer season is a mere four months away, look no farther than Million Dollar Half Mile.

It's a place where local history and commerce have found a sweet spot with a showcase of images of warm-weather tourism displayed next to stores selling shoes, clothing and kitchen gadgets.

An agreement last spring between the Chapman Historical Museum in Glens Falls and the owners of the Adirondack Outlet Mall on Route 9 in Queensbury resulted in the addition of a series of murals illustrating "The Road to Lake George."

Mall patrons can stop and take in postcard-perfect images of roadside attractions and restaurants, such as a glowing nighttime photo of the Imperial Restaurant circa 1965, and even spin a wheel to see different views of Lake George from a scenic overlook.

The murals, installed in mid-2013 as the mall was completing interior renovations, proved to be a storage headache for the Chapman after they were created and displayed for a 2006 museum exhibit, said Timothy Weidner, the Chapman's executive director.

For a time, the murals became a traveling exhibit, thanks to a grant from the Charles R. Wood Foundation, but then they went back into storage.

"We wanted to find some permanent home for it," Weidner said of the exhibit. "We didn't have space to store it and did not want to discard it."

Laura Kohls, Adirondack Outlet Mall manager, said she jumped on the chance to acquire the murals when she became aware they were available.

"We thought it was a great fit," she said. "They've really caught a lot of people's attention."

The murals went up several months after the Warren County Tourism Department opened an office in the mall, but Kohls said the additions of the murals and the tourism office were coincidental.

— *Bob Condon*