

Taconic Valley

BERLIN

Man Caught With Large Amount Of Cocaine



Photo provided by RCSD.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, May 20, the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office conducted a search warrant at 102 Greene Hollow Road in the Town of Berlin. Matthew Lansing, age 33, was arrested and charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st degree (A-1 Felony) and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd degree (B Felony). The search warrant yielded approximately 347 grams of cocaine, a large amount of U.S. currency, drug paraphernalia and surveillance equipment.

Lansing was remanded to the custody of the Rensselaer County Jail without the possibility of parole by the Honorable Judge Sweet of Berlin Town Court.

BES Has An Exciting New Outdoor Learning Space

Submitted by the Berlin Communications Department

Berlin Elementary School has an exciting new outdoor learning space to announce! The outdoor classroom space is available to all BES teachers. Principal Tracy Kent would like to give a special thank you to Mr. Henry Ruebel for creating, delivering and donating the wonderful outdoor benches.

This Monday the benches were signed out for most of the day. The fourth grade

students in Mrs. Kneer and Mrs. Bersaw's class used the space to teach other fourth graders in Mrs. Laz's class about the Erie Canal using their shoe box projects.

Mrs. Ruebel's second grade class used the outdoor space near the end of the day for a read aloud and discussion.

It was a beautiful day for the students to enjoy the new addition.

BHS Students Get Top Honors In Statewide Olympics Of The Visual Arts

Congratulations are in order! Berlin High School Senior Bridget Hermann and Brady Hills (Gr. 11) competed in this year's Olympics of the Visual Arts (OVA) Competition. Bridget competed in the Sculpture Category and won 1st place! Brady competed in the Illustration Category and won 3rd place! This was out of all of the participating school

districts across the entire New York State! Both winning pieces will be on display at the BMHS Art Show June 10-13.

OVA is an extracurricular opportunity for all BMHS artists. It is an annual competition where students/teams create

a long-term piece all school year and develop an evidence portfolio to then bring to competition. On competition day, the teams then create on-the-spot solutions together to earn additional points. It is always a fun day had by all!



Brady Hills (left) with her illustration project and Bridget Hermann (right) with her sculpture project.

BERLIN CENTRAL SCHOOL

The Votes Are In

by Chris Teragliafer

The results of the May 18 vote on the 2021-2022 school year budget, the bus proposition and 2 seats on the Board of Education have been tallied. With a total of 385 ballots being cast, the budget was approved 273 to 110, and the bus proposition was approved 286 to 90. In addition, Trevor Jewett was elected to the board and Katie Snyder was re-elected. Throughout the meeting Superintendent Joseph Dhara as well as members of the Board and administration expressed their gratitude to the community for its support in passing the budget.

Student Communication

Representatives from the High School Student Council spoke at the meeting and expressed their desire to not only rebuild the Student Council but also promote School Pride. The current council members felt that maintaining school pride was difficult over the last year, especially with many students learning remotely. They went to school wide events in an attempt to garner interest and recruit new members.

Events such as Spirit Week, which helped collect over 200 non perishable food items for two area shelters, an apparel sale and staff appreciation week are among the events the council has used to try and boost pride. Members of the council also showed the Board a presentation they put together which explains why they feel the Berlin and New Lebanon sports merger may have something to do with the lack of school pride.

The council members gave pros and cons for the sports merger but wanted to be clear that the points they presented were simply their observations. In no way were they trying to single out or target anyone individually. Some of the pros were the fact that a lot of students developed positive friendships and relationships with students and coaches from another school. Also the fact that sports seem more competitive since before the merger and having more well rounded athletes because of the introduction of different coaching philosophies. The cons include the Council

feeling the merger caters more to New Lebanon, the reason being more games and practices being held on New Lebanon's fields. Also the fact that some students who want to show pride in their school and participate in athletics are not able to because there are fewer student athletes who will make the team from each school.

The Council requested a meeting between the two schools to ensure equality. They understand nothing that has already happened can be changed, but want to make sure there isn't a one sided precedent in the future.

Both members of the Board and Superintendent Dhara thanked the Student Council for their presentation and promised that while they may not always be able to fulfill their requests, they will always listen to their voices.

The trout release into the Little Hoosick River was said to be both fun and extremely successful. This viewpoint was shared by speakers throughout the meeting, as was pride in the fact that Berlin was the only district in the entire county to continue the trout release throughout the pandemic.

Board Statements

Each Board member read a statement written by another Board member with the purpose being to establish what Berlin School District meant to them. The overwhelming sentiment was that of focusing on the best interest of the students. Other points included valuing student and administrative feedback and creating a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Joseph Dhara said Capital Project phase two is progressing well. There have been successful bids and signed contracts. Construction should begin soon.

New COVID-19 guidelines could make it possible for outdoor gatherings of up to 500 people without the need for proof of vaccinations or a negative test. This may make it possible to expand the number of adults that students can bring to graduation.

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