

BRIEFLY

Rock Stream has new cancer support group

Rock Stream Cancer Support Group will meet Friday, May 19 at the Rock Stream Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. All cancer patients, friends, family and caregivers are welcome to attend. For more, call 607-243-7364.

Wine Trail will present 'Keuka in Bloom'

Keuka Lake Wine Trail's "Keuka in Bloom" will take place Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 21, 12-5 p.m. Eastside wineries will open at 11 a.m. Cost is \$30 per person, \$40 per couple.

The event is highlighted by visits to wineries such as Barrington Cellars, McGregor Vineyard Winery, Dr. Frank's, Keuka Spring Vineyards, Rooster Hill Vineyards, Keuka Overlook Wine Cellars, Heron Hill Winery and Hunt Country Vineyards.

Advance sale tickets only are available by calling 1-800-440-4898, visiting www.keukawinetrail.com or by stopping at Wegmans Food Markets.

Yates Early Intervention Council to meet May 18

Yates County Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council will conduct an open meeting for the purposes of reviewing program status, identifying and addressing outstanding issues, and providing an opportunity for public comment on Thursday, May 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Yates County Office Building. Child care available. For more, call 315-536-5160.

The Observer

Founded 1878

News

Gwen Chamberlain, Editor
Rikki Marcini
Peg Thompson

Contributors: Kevin Cole, Beth Begany, Karen Gadiel, Fred Yahn, Kirk House, Judy Duquette, Barbara Gifford, Howard Covert, Clara Pinckney, Ella Knapp, Mary Geo Tomion, Bob and Leona Jensen, Pamela Miller, Thomas Pellechia, Barbara Bell, Helen Baxter and Hope Hereford.

Production: Kimberly Benz

Advertising: Cheryl Schenk, Donna Wilbur

Circulation/Business Manager: Debra Lawson

Finger Lakes Media, Inc.

President & Publisher: George C. Lawson

Correspondence

The Observer,
USPS 162-480
Finger Lakes Media, Inc.
45 Water St.
Dundee, NY 14837

Subscriptions

\$30 per year in county (Yates, Schuyler, Steuben)
\$42 per year out of county and summer-winter addresses.

All subscriptions payable in advance, with no refunds on subscriptions.

Periodical postage paid at Dundee, N.Y.

Postmasters: after forwarding,

send address changes to:

The Observer
P.O. Box 127
45 Water St.
Dundee, NY 14837

Contact Information

Phone: 607-243-7600
Fax: 607-243-5833

Website: www.fingerlakesmedia.com

Select photographs from each edition of *The Observer* are available for purchase at the web address above three to five days following publication.

Copyright 2006 by *The Observer* and *The Dundee Observer*.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the express written permission of the publisher.

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION

NYPA



Dog houses, playhouses and everything in between

Buildings to go all the time

BY PEG THOMPSON

HIMROD—As one drives along State Route 14, the rural landscape suddenly becomes what appears to be a small, dense settlement.

The setting is the display lot of one of the county's unique businesses.

Wood Tex was started in 1983 by Sanford Lapp after the family moved to Yates County from Lancaster, Pa. to be part of their church. They felt their former occupation in fruit farming would not be as successful here due to the weather. Barb Lapp said, "We needed to bring a job with us." She says they selected storage buildings as their new business, building dog houses, mini barns and workshops, adding, "He was careful about the design so there was as little waste as possible." The family had lived in a portion of the production building in the early years, so work and home were in one spot.

In 1994 Sanford died, leaving a wife and four children. During the early years in Yates County Barb was not involved in the business but after her husband's death, she said she continued the business "out of necessity. I went by memory. We talked about the business often and he was an excellent bookkeeper. I went by his files. That definitely made it easier." The business had some continuing employees who also helped the business continue during the difficult time. The four children are adults and all are involved in the business.

During the winter months, employees build a variety of structures to have stock for the busy months of the year, giving the display lot the appearance of a concentrated rural settlement.

Once the structures are complete they must get from Route 14 to their new location. The usual transportation is by a truck towing a unique tilt-trailer that employs a hydraulic ram to gently push the building right on the spot selected for its new home. There is an alternative delivery method for some geographically difficult sites on Seneca Lake. Lapp said, "Occasionally Schamel Brothers barge is used to take buildings to a lake site." The buildings are loaded on the barge at a nearby boat launch and sailed across the lake. For delivery, Lapp said, "A lot is all in having the right equipment."

Today, more than two decades after the business was established, the selections still include dog houses, but have expanded to gazebos, pool houses, Victorian playhouses and even double-wide garages.

Last week workers were busy with custom orders and Lapp



PEG THOMPSON • THE OBSERVER

Wood Tex doesn't have a giant studying how to get in one of its buildings, just employee Dwight Troyer showing the scale of one of the company's Victorian playhouses.



GEORGE LAWSON • THE OBSERVER

Woodtex produces gazebos in addition to the utility sheds and playhouse structures found around the area.

was occupied continuously with telephone and walk-in inquiries. With the muffled sounds of hammers and saws from the production area in the background, Lapp said, "God has been good in allowing us to continue and blessing the business. I feel He's had a hand in it and has given His stamp of approval."

Author Manji to deliver Fribolin Lecture

KEUKA PARK—Irshad Manji, author of the best-selling book *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith*, will deliver the 18th Carl and Fanny Fribolin Lecture Friday, May 5 at Keuka College.

One of the highlights of May Day weekend, the lecture will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Norton Chapel. It is free and open to the public.

"*The Trouble with Islam Today* is an open letter from me,

a Muslim voice of reform, to concerned citizens worldwide, Muslim or not," said Manji. "It's about why my faith community needs to come to terms with the diversity of ideas, beliefs and people in our universe and why non-Muslims have a pivotal role in helping us get there."

Manji calls herself a Muslim refusenik, because she "refuses to join an army of automatons in the name of God."



GEORGE LAWSON • THE OBSERVER

Wood-Tex owner Barb Lapp inspects the quality of work on one of the completed sheds.