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Editorial»

Try to avoid
'charity fatigue'
throughout this
holiday season.

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Clinton County, New York

Saturday, November 30, 2013

www.the-burgh.com

Honor Flight receives grant

By SHAWN RYAN
shawn@denpubs.com

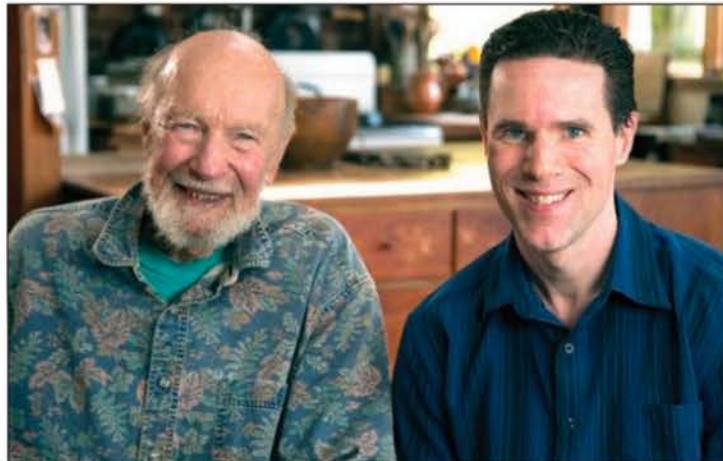
KEESEVILLE It's been a busy week for North Country Honor Flight.

At their recent meeting Nov. 20, Honor Flight director Danny Kalfetz announced receipt of a substantial grant Honor Flight had just received. Through a Clinton County legislative resolution proposed by county legislator Peter Keenan and Jim Langley, Honor Flight was awarded \$30,000 on Nov. 13 to carry on their upcoming missions next summer.

"This is not coming from tax payer money," Kalfetz said. "This is tobacco settlement money that the counties have to use, and they voted to use

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SONGS TO KEEP



A new documentary, "Songs to Keep: Treasures of an Adirondack Folk Collector," will premiere on Mountain Lake PBS on Friday, Dec. 6, at 9 pm in a live broadcast event. Pictured above is producer Paul Larson along with popular folk singer Pete Seeger who is interviewed for the piece. See related article on page 8 inside.

Photo by Dan Swinton

THIS WEEK

VETERANS



Local WWII vet remembers his time at sea.

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PLATTSBURGH



Body, Mind and Spirit winter series on tap.

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EYE ON BUSINESS



Lenny's Shoe & Apparel comes to Plattsburgh.

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Michael Staley pleads guilty in puppy abandonment case

By SHAWN RYAN
shawn@denpubs.com



One of the 19 recovered puppies abandoned by Michael Staley and later turned in to the Eagle's Nest Veterinary Clinic in Plattsburgh. The German Shepherd mix was one of 24 dogs abandoned throughout Clinton County on Aug. 3 by Staley.

Photo by Shawn Ryan

PLATTSBURGH In Plattsburgh City Court Nov. 21, Michael Staley pled guilty to five counts of abandoning an animal, in a plea agreement worked out with the Clinton County District Attorney's office.

"A sentence up to or including jail time is up to the court," said Assistant District Attorney Jason Marx in court.

The plea brings to a close a saga which has gripped the North Country since summer. Michael Staley's wife Tammy was arrested in July for 20 counts of animal cruelty, after her store, Northern Puppies, was inspected by officials from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Plattsburgh City Police. In the complaint, Agriculture and Markets claimed that they found a dead kitten, and that other kittens and two puppies were being housed in kennels which were too small. Sanitary and other issues were also noted in the complaint.

Tammy Staley pled not guilty in Plattsburgh City Court. At that time she was barred from

selling any of the puppies she had at the store until her court case was adjudicated.

Then, on Aug. 4, Michael Staley staged a burglary at Northern Puppies, took 24 puppies from the store and systematically dumped them in wooded locations in the towns of Saranac, Dannemora and Peru.

Michael Staley was arrested by Plattsburgh City Police for 24 counts of Animal Abandonment, section 355A of the Agriculture and Markets Law.

"I'm mad at him, but I understand where he's coming from," Tammy Staley said later in an interview with the Burgh. "I think in my husband's eyes, he sees me crying, he sees me depressed. He knows that we're not taking in any money. He figures 'no puppies, no problems.'"

The next morning area residents began contacting authorities with reports of found puppies. Over the next week, ad hoc groups of local citizens mobilized to search for the abandoned puppies in the areas where Staley told police he had dumped them. Nineteen puppies were re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Leading Pain Management Care

Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake now offers expanded pain management care for residents and visitors of the Adirondacks and North Country. Dr. Byung Ho Lee provides a wide range of treatment options for acute or chronic conditions such as shingles, sciatic pain, low back pain and pain resulting from surgery or a physical trauma.

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Mountain Lake PBS to air film "Songs to Keep" on Dec. 6

PLATTSBURGH — Mountain Lake PBS and TAUNY (Traditional Arts in Upstate NY) have partnered in a celebration of the Adirondacks through song. The organizations aim to preserve and reinvigorate a collection of traditional Adirondack folk songs collected by Marjorie Lansing Porter. The new documentary, *Songs to Keep: Treasures of an Adirondack Folk Collector*, will premiere on Mountain Lake PBS on Friday, Dec. 6, at 9 pm in a live broadcast event. In addition to the film, the two-hour broadcast premiere will feature live in-studio interviews and performances from individuals featured in the film including folk singers Alex Smith, Sue Grimm Hanley and Jamie Savage, and Teaching Artist Dave Ruch.

The project, "Songs to Keep", was inspired by the Marjorie L. Porter Collection of North Country Folklore, Porter (1891-1973)

dedicated her life to preserving the rare folk songs of the Adirondacks. Throughout the 40s and 50s, Porter traveled through New York State interviewing and recording traditional musicians and singers creating a comprehensive collection of songs, transcripts and other writings currently housed at SUNY Plattsburgh.

For many years this unique time capsule has been inaccessible to the broad public. Now for the first time, this documentary will illuminate and revitalize the Porter Collection through contemporary interviews with folk musicians such as the legendary Pete Seeger, a personal friend of Porter, and Peter Yarrow and Noel Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul & Mary. The film also features a series of re-recordings from the Porter Collection by modern musicians including, Lee Knight, David Ruch, Dan Berggren, Alex Smith, and many others.

In the film, one of the rare country songs captured by Porter is performed by The Bacon Brothers. The song, "My Adirondack Home" is a reflection of the love that Kevin and Michael Bacon have for the Adirondack region, where they own a family camp, and visit frequently in the summer months.

"Producing this documentary has been a fascinating lesson for me, enlightening me about this beautiful region through the songs people sang a hundred years ago as they forged a way of life up here. The updated versions of the songs also reveal how infectious these catchy tunes always were. These old songs played a crucial role in entertaining people before the days of the radio, and you hear that they haven't lost their ability to entertain today," said Paul Larson who wrote and produced this documentary.

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