



A section about you, for you.

Ontario County grapevine

Woodworths given 'Green Thumb' award

David and Lisa Woodworth, retired owners and operators of Harvest Hill Gardens in Geneva, were honored as the 2006 recipients of the Doc and Katy Abraham Green Thumb Memorial Award. The award was given during the Cornell Cooperative Extension Spring Garden Symposium held at Steamboat Landing on Feb. 24.



DAVID WOODWORTH **LISA WOODWORTH**

The Woodworths were quick to respond to the changing needs and desires of gardeners and were responsible for making available many new and different annual and perennial plants to gardeners in the Finger Lakes area. They were leaders in the greenhouse industry's adapting and implementing new technology and scientific research. One of many notable examples was their early implementation of integrated pest management within the greenhouses to reduce pesticide use. Over the years, the Woodworths have given sound horticultural advice to thousands of patrons at Harvest Hill Gardens.

They received a framed plaque and gift certificate for merchandise from Fresh Ayr Farm Market in Shortsville.

This annual award is presented to the person, business or organization that promotes and enhances the horticultural industry in Ontario County and provides horticultural awareness and education to residents in memory of Doc and Katy Abraham.



Pet PORTRAIT



Spaz is a year-old male collaboration between a Labrador retriever and some tall dark stranger who didn't stick around for an interview. He's a friendly fellow in need of a family. Candy's kinda cute, too — unlike ol' Spaz, doesn't know how to retrieve ducks but suggests you could start her out on a skein of wool.

For more information about how to adopt these animals, call Happy Tails Animal Shelter at the Ontario County Humane Society at (585) 396-4590 or visit its Web site at <http://raims.com/animals>

STAFF PHOTOS/JACK HALEY



The Magical Dance of Ireland, a live spectacle of traditional Irish dance, music and song, is coming to the Smith Opera House in Geneva Wednesday.

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FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Blankets for Babies Project

From New York, with love

By ANNE JOHNSTON
Messenger Post Staff

PENN YAN — Karen Bradley left a piece of her heart in China when she traveled to Guangdong province to meet adopted daughters Chey and Kenna in 1997 and 2002, respectively.

She knew many children in the orphanages there might never find homes, and she wanted to do something for them. As the owner of Sassy Scrubs, a Penn Yan-based manufacturer of hospital uniforms, she decided to turn something she had begun at home — making baby blankets for the orphans — into a much bigger endeavor. To date, the Blankets for Babies Project has sent more than 1,400 blankets to Chinese orphanages.

A Yates County woman and her employees are trying to add a little warmth to the lives of children in Chinese orphanages.

The children in the institutions range from infants to teenagers, so the sizes of the blankets vary. Some are made from flannel or fleece, while others are quilts made from Sassy Scrubs scraps.

The business has 11 employees, including Bradley, and they work on the blankets when there is downtime between orders. "Several of us do it at home, too, in our free time," said Bradley, who, in addition to being a mother to the two young girls, has two grown sons.

Bradley found out a little over a month ago that the Chinese government had chosen to make Blankets for Babies an official project. "I was floored, happily so," she said.

The Chinese name for the project is *ai xin xiao mian tan*, which roughly translates into "little blanket of love." And now that it's an official project, China has asked Bradley to provide 1,000 additional blankets, to be received by the China Center of Adoption



STAFF PHOTO/RIKKI VAN CAMP

Toni Hobart of Penn Yan, a seamstress for Sassy Scrubs, works at a serger, stitching the edge of a blanket that will be sent to keep a baby warm in a Chinese orphanage. The Blankets for Babies Project, headed up by Sassy Scrubs' owner, has been asked by the Chinese government to send 1,000 blankets to be received on June 1, Children's Day in China.

Affairs by June 1, Children's Day in China. The adoption agency Bradley went through has information about her project on its Web site, and information is also on her business's Web site. A group called Families with Children from China has been promoting it, too, via e-mails sent across the country. Some of the biggest supporters are parents who are waiting to go get their adoptive children. "It gives them something constructive to do instead of just looking at the calendar every day," Bradley said.

In an e-mail Bradley recently sent out, seeking support in meeting the June 1 deadline, she said the blankets are for the children "to snuggle with, to draw comfort from over the lonely nights, and also to help keep them warm in orphanages where it is common for children to wear coats and hats to bed due to the cold."

Often, Bradley said, grateful orphanage staffers send digital photos of children with her blankets. "That just makes your whole day," she said.

Mary Campbell is the coordinator for the Rochester-area chapter of Families with Children from China and said she considers the blankets to be "a very important project."

As the mother of a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old from China, the Honeoye Falls woman said that for parents like her, "it's our way of giving back and helping support the children who are waiting and perhaps the children who may spend their lifetime in an orphanage."

"Many of these children share toys or blankets or whatever, and having something of their very own that they will have, perhaps through their lifetimes to save, is significant," she said.

Casino Day supports veterans

CANANDAIGUA — The American Legion Post No. 256, located at 454 N. Main St., will host a Casino Day beginning at noon Saturday, March 17, to "support our veterans."

There will be blackjack, the Big Wheel and other games of chance, 50/50 raffles and more. Hot dogs,

hamburgers, stew and reubens will be available. Attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

Honorary membership drive to begin

CANANDAIGUA — The New York State Sheriffs' Association Institute will begin its annual Honorary Membership drive in Ontario County within the next two weeks,

according to Sheriff Philip Povero.

Each summer, the Sheriffs' Institute sends disadvantaged children from Ontario County to summer camp at Keuka Lake, now in its 31st year of operation. The camp curriculum combines summer recreation with programs designed to teach an understanding of, and respect for, our laws and the men and women who enforce them.

The Sheriffs' Institute also provides a scholarship at each of the state's community colleges for a deserving criminal justice student interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Any person interested in becoming an honorary member, and has not received an invitation by mail, should contact Povero at (585) 394-4560. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Family delivers hospitality to newspaper carrier

A Gorham family took in a Daily Messenger delivery driver stranded in the snow during last Monday's blizzard conditions.

Daily Messenger delivery driver Bruce Phillips has grown fond over the years of the Mennonite neighborhood in the southern Gorham/Potter area of his route.

In the summer, he stops at their roadside stands for fruits, vegetables, tasty baked goods and good conversation.

But on a snowy Monday last week, he got to know one family a little better.

The Naples resident did what

Steve Buchiere

YOUR NEIGHBORS



he always does each weekday: He picked up his bundle of newspapers at our Canandaigua site on Buffalo Street in late morning and embarked on his approximately 100-mile journey that takes him from the northern tip of Hopewell into the countryside of southern Ontario and northeastern Yates counties.

But this was hardly an ordinary

day. The wind-swept north-south roads were treacherous, with blowing snow making visibility nearly impossible.

"It was the worst day I've ever had in the nine years I've been doing this," said the 73-year-old retired Eastman Kodak engineer.

On West Swamp Road in Gorham, where a number of Mennonite families live, he realized he couldn't go on, pulling into the driveway of one of the farmhouses, where he figured he'd wait it out until visibility improved.

That's when a man who lived in the house came out and invited him in. It was not an unfamiliar face.

"I knew them because in the summer, they sell vegetables,"

Bruce said while waiting for his papers to be bundled at our offices last week. "They're the most gracious folks, the Mennonites."

So he sat down with the family for a lunch of delicious soup and sandwiches and some great conversation. Seated at the massive dinner table were 10 kids, two parents and Bruce. And their hospitality didn't stop there. They offered to let him



PHILLIPS

See CARRIER, 6B▶