

BRIEFLY



SARAH GILBERT

JRC Appoints New Staff Member

The Jamestown Renaissance Corporation has announced Sarah J. Gilbert has been hired as their newest staff addition.

Gilbert will be filling the vacant grant writer position with the organization to help secure funding sources at the local, state and federal level for projects occurring downtown and in Jamestown area neighborhoods.

"We are pleased to welcome Sarah to our office," said Greg Lindquist, Jamestown Renaissance Corporation executive director. "She offers unique perspectives, a creative mind and a willingness to learn. It is an exciting time to join our staff in preparation for a bright future."

Gilbert's hiring comes months after the state announced a \$10 million investment into the city's downtown while several other key downtown development projects begin to take shape.

Gilbert attended Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass., majoring in peace and justice studies. Her professional background includes health-care administration, grant writing and community relations. Her most recent work was for a healthcare-related nonprofit focusing on workforce development in Chautauqua County.

"I'm very excited to bring my skills, experience and energy to the city of Jamestown," Gilbert said. "I love all the natural and professional resources available in the city and I can't wait to work on projects that highlight all that there is to do here. I am also very thankful that I'll get to enjoy all four seasons again."

Originally a native of Jamestown, Gilbert worked in Arkansas, Arizona and Wisconsin during the last 15 years before returning home two years ago with her partner Dr. Carrie Pawelski to pursue newly available job opportunities. Career advancement and family were the primary drivers to bring her back to her hometown.

For more information on Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, visit jamestownrenaissance.org or call 664-2477, Ext. 226. You can also learn more about the organization by joining their Facebook page.

The Jamestown Renaissance Corporation is a public-private partnership supporting downtown and neighborhood revitalization through stakeholder engagement, innovation and reinvestment in the greater Jamestown area.

Mall Hosts Stuff The Truck Event

LAKEWOOD — Chautauqua Mall invites shoppers to get in the spirit of the holiday season by supporting the Chautauqua County Toys for Tots and the St. Susan Center with the Stuff the Truck drive sponsored by Shults Auto Group. In addition, shoppers who participate in the drive by bringing a non-perishable food item or a unwrapped new toy will have the opportunity to register for a chance to win a \$250 gas card. Shoppers can sign up at the Santa set during visiting hours or at the mall office near Sears. Suggested donation items include saltine crackers, healthy cereals, canned fruit, laundry detergent, dish soap, gift cards and office supplies.

The drive will be happening through Saturday, Dec. 24. The Santa set is in the center of the mall near Bon-Ton. The Chautauqua Mall is located at 318 E. Fairmount Ave., Lakewood. For more information, call 763-1823 or visit chautauquamall.com. Like the Chautauqua Mall on Facebook, follow on Twitter and Instagram @ChautauquaMall.

Brothers Comic Adventure

Apokolips Comics Opens City Location

By **KATRINA FULLER**
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Two brothers have gone into business pursuing their dreams, one hero and heroine at a time.

A new comic store has opened just in time for the holidays, thanks to Sam Fitch and his brother, Josh Colwell.

After two months of prepping and planning, the pair opened the doors of Apokolips Comics to offer a wide selection of new and back issue comic books, antique toys from Empire Vintage Toys, Magic the Gathering cards and a variety of other goods.

Fitch said it has been a dream of his for quite some time that has finally come true due to hard work and perseverance. When he was 19, he wanted to open his own shop after his favorite shop, the Card Connection, closed. However, Fitch then realized how much went into opening and running a business, so he put it on the shelf for awhile.

His brother recently brought up beginning a comic book shop, and it took off from there. The name pays homage to the planet Apokolips from the DC Comics universe, Fitch said.

The shop is located in a part of town that previously has not had a comic book shop, he

said. The most popular items in the store have been the DC Rebirth comics, and many items from the DC Comics brand itself. The store offers a subscription option and has recently launched a new loyalty rewards program in which members can earn points toward store credit. Also, those who enroll in a subscription will have a stocking put up on the wall in the store's Christmas display.

Fitch said the store will host special events, especially those that pertain to Magic the Gathering. To keep updated, Fitch suggests keeping tabs on their Facebook page.

He said the store focuses on providing a clean, wholesome and fun environment for customer service.

"Over the past 17 years, I've learned how to treat people," Fitch said. "Josh and I have grown up in an entrepreneurial family — our family owns a successful restaurant, AJ's Texas Hots."

He said the store has a family atmosphere and will not carry any products that they deem inappropriate or too adult.

The shop is located at 1377 E. Second St., Jamestown, and is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 393-5581.



Sam Fitch and his brother, Joshua Colwell, recently opened Apokolips Comics in Jamestown in honor of their love of comic books and beyond. Apokolips Comics offers new and back issue comic books, antique toys from Empire Vintage Toys, Magic the Gathering Cards and other items.

P-J photo by Katrina Fuller



Sam Fitch, Apokolips Comics co-owner, displays a comic that is his personal favorite.

Submitted photo

New Alpaca Gift Shop Opens In Kennedy

KENNEDY — Three Springs Alpaca Farm and Gift Shop in Kennedy is now open for the holidays.

Stephanie and Ted Clark announced they will open their farm and gift shop for visitors and holiday shoppers as a "sneak preview" before their grand opening in the spring.

"Ted is still putting the finishing touches on the gift shop, but we are eager to share our alpaca farm with visitors and maybe help them with some great holiday gift ideas," Stephanie said.

The Clarks are planning a large grand opening in the spring to introduce their two-year-old farm consisting of 12 alpacas, a llama named "Vader," two horses and two cashmere goats. No need to wait, however, visitors are welcome now Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 548 Route 394 in Kennedy.

Three Springs Alpaca Farm is easy to find and only 10 minutes from Jamestown. The gift shop is already stocked with fine alpaca products including hats, mittens, alpaca socks, blankets, rugs, boot insoles and much more.

Alpacas have grown in popularity during the last two decades for their luxurious fiber that can be made into sweaters,

scarves and other high-quality apparel. The Clarks invite holiday shoppers to check out their gift shop for those hard to get for folks or to find something unique for that special person.

Ted reports he only wears alpaca socks on his feet when he hunts now due to their natural wicking that allows his feet to remain dry and cozy warm after his walk into his deer stand.

"Alpaca socks are always appreciated as gifts and sure beats getting a necktie or cologne," Ted said.

The gift shop also has yarn, felt sheets and other farm raise items from their animals. They also sell natural alpaca fertilizer



Three Springs Alpaca Farm is opening in Kennedy prior to Christmas. The new business is located at 548 Route 394 in Kennedy.

Submitted photo

for house plants and gardens. Free gift wrapping is offered and all major credit cards are accepted.

For more information, call 489-1379 or 267-5185.

Artone Finalist In Product Design Competition

Artone traveled to the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York City Nov. 13 and 14 to exhibit for the first time at Boutique Design New York annual trade fair. The Boutique Design show is set up for vendors who specialize in the hospitality market — as Artone manufactures hotel furnishings.

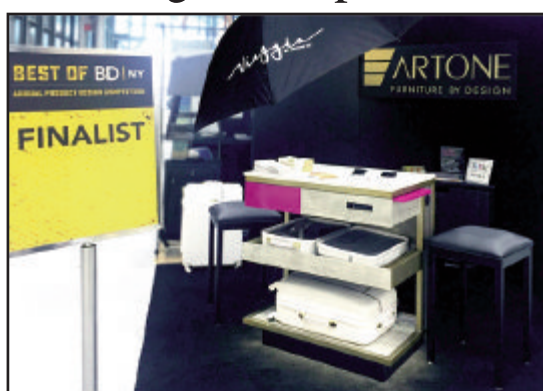
Artone teamed up with designer John Brandon of Aerie Design Services in Attica to create a unique furniture piece creatively named the Viaggio, which means travel in Italian.

"With our main focus being on hotel furniture, specifically furniture within the guestroom, it was important to us to create a concept piece that sparked ideas within the design community. Incorporating the most important pieces of

guestroom furniture into one, this thoughtfully designed unit was our way of showing the design community our capabilities within the industry," said Michael Calimeri, Artone president.

The key features of the Viaggio are an ergonomically designed standup work space with USB docking ports, a convenient pull out shelf for luggage storage, a lockable drawer safe with an additional USB docking station and an LED lit base that can be used as a night guide. Several materials and design elements were incorporated to create the exclusive look of the Viaggio, the most noticed being the patented woodgrain embossed steel frame.

The Viaggio was selected as one out of three finalist, out of more than 600



Artone was recognized as a finalist in the product design competition at Boutique Design New York trade fair in New York City last month.

Submitted photo

exhibitors, for the best of Boutique Design New York product design competition.

"As first time exhibitors at BDN, we are honored to have been selected as a best of BDN product design competition," Calimeri said.

"Our team worked diligently to create a unique piece, not only in design, but in func-

tionality," said Sebastian Calimeri, Artone vice president.

Artone is a local commercial furniture manufacturer, which primarily serves the hospitality, healthcare, contract and store fixture markets. Artone is proud to be part of the Jamestown community since 1974. For more information, visit artonemfg.com.

CCB Host Celebration

LITTLE VALLEY — On Jan. 2, 2017, Cattaraugus County Bank will turn 115.

The 115-year-old, independently owned community bank will be celebrating their success in January with both week-long and month-long promotions.

The 115th visitor to CCB at each branch the week of Jan. 3 will receive \$115 in cash. In addition, at the end of the same week, a drawing will be held for a handmade Amish quilt. All branches of the bank will begin taking entries for the quilt on Dec. 21. The quilt will be on display in the main office of CCB, in Little Valley, and is valued at \$450.

All month long CCB will be running deposit promotions as well.

Become a brand new Maximum Green or Maximum Cashback checking account customer and receive a \$100 bonus (a current loan-only CCB customer does qualify for this).

•\$100 bonus will be credited if account qualifies for rewards for two of the three qualification cycles in the 90-day period following opening account. Bonus will be credited if the account is in good standing at the end of the third qualification cycle. Bonus is reportable for tax purposes. This offer is valid on new Maximum Green or Maximum Cashback checking accounts opened by a new CCB deposit customer in the month of January 2017.

Become a brand new savings account customer and receive a \$15 bonus.

•\$15 Bonus will be credited if the account is in good standing at the end of the month following the account being opened 90 days. Bonus is reportable for tax purposes. This offer is valid on new savings accounts opened by a new CCB deposit customer in the month of January 2017.

Anyone (brand new or existing customer) can open a 15-month certificate of deposit at a rate of 1.15 percent. The bank's normal, minimum deposit amount of \$1,000 is required.

CCB plans on having refreshments available all day on Friday, Jan. 6, at all locations. Plus, there will be great giveaways, such as mop tops, snowbrush/ice scrapers and card cases until supplies run out.

"Our employees love throwing a party for our customers," said Joni Simcick, CCB senior vicepresident and chief operating officer. "And what a great reason to celebrate. I guarantee people who've never visited or banked with us and experienced our brand of banking will be very satisfied with CCB if they do. We are local and we believe CCB is the best bank in south Western New York."

Bank Offers Online Access

DUNKIRK — Lake Shore Savings Bank is pleased to announce the launch of online account opening, which allows accounts to be opened and funded completely online, and CardValet, a convenience for customers that will allow greater control and security over Lake Shore Savings debit cards.

CardValet is managed through an app that can be downloaded to either Apple or Android devices and offers control by allowing the user to turn their debit card on or off; peace of mind by establishing transaction controlled dollar amount limits, merchant categories and geographic locations and customers can stay informed of potential fraud with alerts on attempted or declined transactions; visibility through real-time balances and past transaction details; and information for the user who can receive alerts when their debit card is used, approved or exceeds the transaction controls set by the user.

"Lake Shore Savings prides itself on putting people first," said Dan Reininga, Lake Shore Savings president and chief executive officer. "Online account opening and CardValet are an ideal complement to our robust mobile and online conveniences, offering our customers the resources they need to bank where, when and however they want."