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Whole Qby. 8th grade went inside Finch Paper

By Cathy DeDe
Chronicle Managing Editor

Queensbury Middle School's entire eighth grade class — 240 students — got a rare look at an industry in action when Finch Paper brought them in for tours and talks to understand what happens inside the paper mill — and the many ways that they might be a part of it.

Biz & school tout potential careers; visited the Plumbers & Steamfitters union building, too.

Finch president Eric Wood and Queensbury Superintendent Kyle Gannon told *The Chronicle*, separately and with obvious enthusiasm, the Dec. 21 tour was part of a long-standing relationship between Finch Paper and the

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Barred owl by Pete Benway

Pete Benway of Glens Falls writes: This Barred Owl has been showing up at this particular spot now for quite a while, and very tolerant of people. On this morning I found him in a tree, after taking a few shots of him he flew to a nearby barn where I got this photo. Thought your readers would like this.

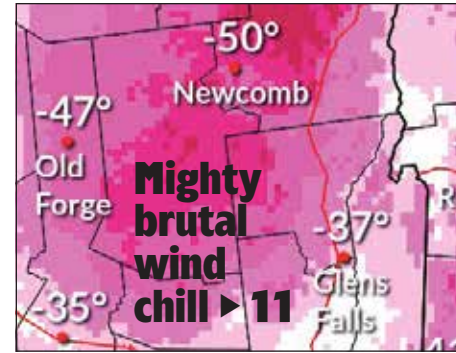


Parent: Youth theatre helped kids hugely

Hello Mark,
I was very saddened to hear that Lake George Youth theatre

has closed. The small announcement in last week's *Chronicle* from the Luces was such a quiet way of bowing out — very typical of their modesty and humbleness. I'm glad you

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Many reply to our Q&A on the \$20 minimum wage push

By Mark Frost
Chronicle Editor

Opinions were many, diverse and emphatic in response to the Q&A we posed last week to *Chronicle* digital subscribers.

What's your view of the push to raise upstate's minimum wage to \$20 by 2026?

No sooner than Governor Kathy Hochul announced her plan to index the wage to rise at the rate of inflation than Democratic State Senator Jessica Ramos, chair of the Senate Labor Committee, declared her intent to "raise the wage incrementally...until it reaches \$21.25 in New York City and \$20 elsewhere in the state in 2026.

"It's about time to provide a living wage," agreed Marc Lustick of Brant Lake.

"I think it is necessary just to offset the price increase in groceries," wrote Nan Scinta of Queensbury.

"The push for a \$20 min wage is a sad commentary on today's **lack of understanding of economics.** As many studies have shown, this will only

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GF Cement job fair seeks biz vendors

The soon-to-be-shuttered Glens Falls Cement Plant seeks businesses to participate in a job fair for its employees, on **Tuesday, Feb. 28**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Queensbury Hotel. **Deadline to sign up is Feb. 20.** Contact Amanda Vroom at amanda.vroom@heidelbergmaterials.com.

"Come to **meet our employees who are seeking new employment**....Employees will be prepared for onsite interviews," the company said.

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