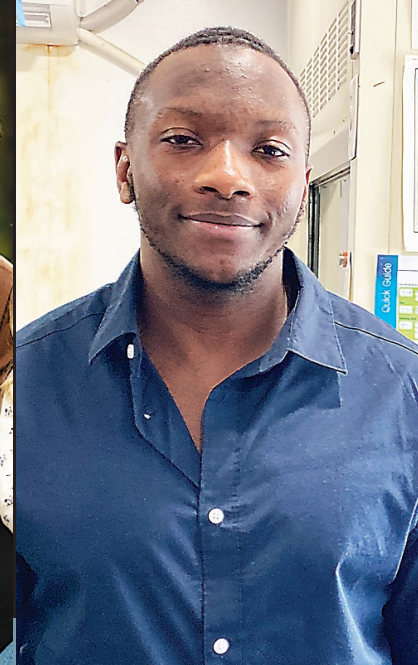


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Patricio Robayo



PHOTO CREDIT: JASON DOLE

BY DEREK KIRK

Age: 45

Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from SUNY Purchase, with a minor in Graphic Design

Place of employment: Radio Catskill

Current title and duties: I'm the Multi-Platform Content Producer at Radio Catskill. Translation: I wear many hats. I help manage the website and social media, support our expanding newsroom, write and produce news reports, and conduct interviews. I also co-produce two of our signature programs, The Local Edition and Radio Chatskill, and create long-form audio and video content for the station.

Years of experience: I've been in journalism for about 13 years, starting out as a photojournalist with the Bronx Times and New York Post. When I moved from the Bronx to the Catskills, I began reporting more for the Sullivan County Democrat, where I still contribute news stories and special features. Radio came into the picture about five years ago—where I found a way to merge my

love for storytelling, writing, and audio production.

Why did you choose this career? Honestly, it chose me. After college, I imagined myself living the artist life—photography projects, gallery openings, the whole scene. Meanwhile, I was doing real estate for 16 years in the Bronx and running a photography business for weddings and events. When I moved to the Catskills, I shifted into writing and reporting full-time. That's when I found my voice—not just creatively, but as a journalist. It was less about chasing stories and more about connecting with the people and places around me. I'm still learning, still evolving.

Favorite part of your job: Meeting interesting people and hearing their stories. There's something special about giving folks a platform to speak about their lives. It's powerful to know that the stories I help tell can spark conversations—or even change something.

Most challenging part of your job: Balancing work and family. You want to give your all to the community and your craft, but not at the cost of missing import-

ant moments with loved ones. For me, that means making time for my daughter Lucy—she's the

heart of it all.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: One story that sticks with me involves an older couple who had massive tree trunks dumped on their lawn by NYSEG after some utility work. The mess sat there for months. I took the story thinking it would be straightforward, but instead, I met this kind, welcoming couple who really opened up to me. I made a few calls and let folks know I was working on a story. The next thing you know, NYSEG called the couple, and within a week, those trees were gone. They sent me a thank-you letter I still have. That was the moment I truly understood the power of local journalism. It wasn't just about the story—it was about being part of the community.

How do you manage your time: I live by my calendar, to-do lists, and journaling. I block out time to be present with my daughter while still carving space to write, record, and produce. It's a balancing act—but one I take seriously.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20M

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132218

Matthew Meigh

BY VINCENT KURZROCK



Age: 40

Education: The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ - Bachelors of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry

Medical School: The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (now: Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine), Stratford, NJ - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

Residency: St. Joseph's University Medical Center, Paterson, NJ - Emergency Medicine

Where do you work:

Within Garnet Health, I work at all three emergency departments

within the system

What is your title and role in your job: I am the System Medical Director of Emergency Medicine at Garnet Health. I also serve as the site Medical Director for the EDs in Middletown and Grover Hermann Hospital at Callicoon. In these roles, I oversee all of the clinicians providing care at each of the Garnet emergent departments. I work clinically seeing patients as an ED physician in all three sites.

In addition to my clinical work, I am core faculty in the Emergency Medicine residency at the Garnet Middletown campus and am an Adjunct

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Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Middletown.

How many years of experience do you have: After residency, 10 years.

Why did you choose this career?

Medicine somewhat chose me. I initially went to college with the goal to pursue microbiology/research. I had the privilege of shadowing a pediatric emergency physician in New Jersey. Prior to this experience I only knew medicine to be either primary care in an office, or surgery. Once I saw what emergency medicine was, I never turned back.

What is the most challenging part of your job: My answer is the same to both my favorite and most challenging aspects of what I do: In the emergency department we are faced with multiple complicated patients, often at the same time. Being able to contribute positively to each person's experience is both challenging

Prior to this experience I only knew medicine to be either primary care in an office, or surgery. Once I saw what emergency medicine was, I never turned back.

and extremely rewarding simultaneously. It's why I come back to this every day.

What is your favorite on-the-job memory: I have many, but the common theme in each experience is being able to connect to patients in a very brief period of time to help them navigate what is often one of the most challenging days of their lives. This can be the unexpected birth of a new baby (and being able to be the first person to say "happy birthday" to a new life), navigating an unexpected death of a loved one, or introducing a patient to a new diagnosis that will have profound impact on the rest of their life. As an emergency medicine physi-

cian, I am here to help with all of those experiences.

How do you manage your time: Very delicately. Medicine is a demanding career that I try to balance with my home life including my wife and children. Its important to value what I do professionally and not forget that my life outside of work has equal (if not greater) value. An accurate and active calendar is our starting point as a family.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Medicine has many positives, but it is very demanding in nearly every direction. To be successful in this field, you must love it in all its forms. Persistence over time is

a needed personality trait as the path is quite long to get here.

Who inspires you: My kids. Seeing someone learn something for the first time is a constant reminder of how fortunate I am to have had the life-experiences leading me to where I am today. They force my attention away from my career, which is a lesson I try to never forget.

What is your favorite vacation spot: Block Island, Rhode Island. This spot has special significance to my family and has become a part of our family story in so many ways.

Family members: I am married to my incredible wife with three awesome kids aged 7, 5, and 2 years old.

If you could have any job, what would it be: A chef. Food has so many creative outlets while bringing joy (hopefully) and nourishment to those who you serve. I think it is one of the most interesting and, unfortunately, thankless careers.

Congratulations to Matthew Meigh, DO, FACOEP

Garnet Health System Medical Director, Emergency Medicine and Stroke

**Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills, Callicoon Campus,
Medical Director, Emergency Medicine and Hospital Medicine**

Please join us in celebrating Dr. Meigh, named one of the *Sullivan County Democrat's* Men at Work for 2025. A dedicated physician and exceptional leader, Dr. Meigh plays a vital role in shaping the delivery of emergency and hospital medicine across our health system. We are proud to recognize his ongoing contributions to advancing care and improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve. Thanks for all you do!



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Jeremy Cunningham

BY DEREK KIRK

Age: 37

Education: Associates Degree, Architectural Engineering Technology

Place of employment: Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Current title and duties: Facilities Supervisor; Oversee the maintenance and up-keep of the site.

Years of experience: 18

Why did you choose this career: Because I knew I could make a career

out of it anywhere I decided to go in life.

Favorite part of your job: Seeing all your hard work come to life on a sold out concert night.

Most challenging part of your job: Being able to take calls that come in and resolve them in a timely manner – it gets tricky sometimes.

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory:



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Jeremy
Cunningham

Playing softball with Jason Aldean and his band.

How do you manage your time:

One day at a time try to practice what is most important first.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Show up! If you can do that, you are already ahead of the game and take pride in your

work.

Who inspires you:

My father – he has always been my role model. From bringing me hunting to showing me what it takes to raise up my own family.

Favorite movie or TV show: The Sandlot / Yellowstone

Favorite actor/and or actress: Kurt

Russell / Russell Crow

How do you spend your spare time:

I enjoy spending time with my family, hunting, fishing, lake days on the boat and playing softball here and there.

Favorite vacation spot: The Outer Banks, North Carolina

Family: Wife, Chelsea Cunningham, two daughters Shea and Maci and son

Abel

Civic or volunteer affiliations: 1st Lieutenant at White Lake Fire Company, member for 21 years

If you could have any job, what would it be: Either an architect or professional hunter



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Eric Alleva

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

How old are you: 38 Years Old

What was your education: Monticello High School and Lincoln Technical Institute.

Where do you work: Seven X Motors Inc. on Route 17B in Mongaup Valley, NY.

What is your title and role in your job: I take immense pride in being the owner of Seven X Motors, but my role extends far beyond just a title. I wear multiple hats every single day, stepping in wherever I'm needed—whether it's making deals, turning wrenches, handling finances, or simply ensuring that every customer gets the best experience possible. From rebuilding trust in the business to expanding our operations, I've never been afraid to get my hands dirty and do whatever

it takes to keep things moving forward. Seven X Motors isn't just a dealership—it's a reflection of relentless hard work, resilience, and a commitment to excellence.

How many years of experience do you have: I currently have over 21 years of experience.



Why did you choose this career: My journey in the automotive industry began out of necessity. I faced the challenge head-on, inheriting a tarnished reputation and an unsustainable operation. Resilience has been my foundation since childhood. I learned the value

of perseverance and accountability from my father. I witnessed firsthand the sacrifices he made—closing car deals just to put food on the table. Those experiences instilled in me an unshakable work ethic, humility, and determination.

What is your favorite part of

your job: As our business grew, so did our dedication to the community. We expanded our repair facility into the largest of its kind in Sullivan County, now employing nine full-time technicians and 20 local employees. Our next step? Opening a second location. But beyond sales and service, we take the greatest pride in giving back—supporting organizations such as the Allison Whitney Foundation, Heart-A-Thon, SPCA, local fire departments and ambulance corps, youth gymnastics teams, and more.

What is the most challenging part of your job: The most challenging part of my job is overcoming adversity while continuously growing the business and maintaining a strong reputation. From the start, I had to rebuild a failing company with finan-

cial instability, a damaged reputation, and no clear roadmap to success. I took on every role—mechanic, salesman, accountant, and leader—working tirelessly without immediate rewards. Even after stabilizing the business, scaling it while maintaining quality and trust

Men at Work

'Featuring 9 professionals in a three-county region'

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required immense dedication. Offering industry-leading warranties, expanding inventory, and hiring locally all came with financial risks and operational challenges. Additionally, balancing business growth with community involvement and customer relationships adds another layer of complexity. Unlike large dealerships with corporate backing, every decision I make directly affects your employees, customers, and reputation. Ensuring customer satisfaction, retaining trust, and staying compet-

itive—while also planning future expansions—is an ongoing challenge that requires relentless effort, adaptability, and vision. Despite all this, my resilience, work ethic, and commitment to excellence have allowed me to turn these challenges into opportunities for success.

What is your favorite on-the-job memory: One of my favorite on-the-job memories is seeing first-time customers turn into lifelong supporters of Seven X Motors. There's no better feeling than earning someone's trust, seeing them

return years later for their next vehicle, and even referring friends and family. It's a testament to the hard work, integrity, and dedication we pour into every deal. Watching our customers come back, not just for another car, but because they truly believe in what we do—that's what makes it all worth it.

How do you manage your time? I manage my time by prioritizing tasks based on impact, staying hands-on, and maintaining relentless efficiency. Since I handle multiple roles—business owner,

salesperson, mechanic, leader, and community advocate—I focus on what moves the business forward while delegating where necessary.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: The automotive industry is constantly evolving, with new technology shaping the way we buy, sell, and repair vehicles. Stay ahead by continuously learning, adapting to trends, and embracing innovation. Cars are becoming more sophisti-

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Congratulations

Tariq Iqbal

Thank you for your leadership and dedication
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131158

Tariq Iqbal

BY HEATHER HORAK

Age: 55

Education:

- Bachelor of Commerce, Finance; University of Karachi, Pakistan
- Bachelor of Science, Accounting; California State University, CA
- Duke University Executive Leadership Program; Fuqua School of Business, Durham, NC
- Wharton Executive Education Program, Leadership and Management; The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Where do you work:

New Hope Community, Inc.

What is your title and role in

your job:

Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

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How many years of experience do you have:

Started at New Hope in Feb. 2006 as a Financial Analyst, promoted to Comptroller in 2008, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer in 2010.

Why did you choose this career?

Financial and accounting profession offers numerous opportunities that can lead to a fulfilling and prosperous professional life. Financial career provides diverse career opportunities, development of transferable skills, opportunities to make a tangible impact in the business world especially in non-for-profit organizations.

Favorite Part of the Job:

Strategic, Planning, Risk Management, Resource Allocation.

What is the most challenging part of your job: Main funding source being OPWDD, uncertainties in the funding and unpredictable changes in reimbursement methodology is an ongoing challenge for New Hope and similar providers. Along with funding challenges, integrating financial stewardship with administrative leadership, ensuring that the agency's resources are effectively managed and aligned with its strategic goals.

What is your favorite on-the-job memory: Way too many to list, however, every time an individual we serve comes with a smile and hugs me, that particular moment is priceless.

How do you manage your time: Effective time management is crucial to focus on multiple roles efficiently. Being organized and setting priorities based on the needs and situation is crucial part of my role, Delegating tasks based on skills and knowledge helps manage time efficiently.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Choosing career in finance can be both rewarding and challenging. However, career in accounting and finance offers financial rewards and job security but also provides opportunities for personal growth, professional de-

velopment, and a chance to make a significant impact on the organization.

Who inspires you: I believe it will be unfair for me to name one or two, professionally; there are various personalities who have guided and advised me that has helped and contributed to my fairly successful career. I have a strong belief that one can find inspiration just about from any one on a daily basis regardless of age and professional career.

Favorite movie or TV show:

Too many to list, but I love watching horror, spy, drama theme movies and TV shows.

Favorite actor and/or actress:

Tom Hanks, Tom Cruise, Al Pacino, Robert DeNiro, Gene Hackman, Jack Nicholson to name a few.

How do you spend your spare time?

Spend time with my family, playing golf, cooking, watch TV, reading articles and books

What is your favorite vacation spot: Switzerland, Bali, Singapore

Family members: Married to a beautiful, loving, caring wife, Fareeha, and 3 loving kids, Nabhan 21, Essam 16, and Bassim 11.

If you could have any job, what would it be: I love what I do as a CFAO, but some day would love to lead as a CEO an organization like New Hope Community



Tariq Iqbal

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Kebba Dumbuya

STORY BY
HEATHER HORAK



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Age: 22
Education: Bachelor of Science (Biology)
Place of employment: Ag Environmental
Current title and duties: Lab Technician in the Chemistry Department
Years of experience: 1 year
Why did you choose this career? I always wanted to work in a laboratory, and this was a great introduction into how a Lab operates.
Favorite part of your job: My favorite part of the job is running all the different tests and learning new tests and procedures.
Most challenging part of your job: The most challenging part of the job is working with potentially hazardous material.
Favorite on-the-job memory: My favorite on the job memory was first learning all the tests that we would perform.
How do you manage your time: I manage my time by prioritizing tests that require immediate action and tests that come in high quantities and require time to per-

form.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Stay organized, communicate clearly, take notes, and keep your workspace clean.

Who inspires you? My parents inspired me. They taught me many things as a kid and still do today. They encouraged me to go to college and helped me develop into a responsible person.

Favorite movie or TV show: N/A
Favorite actor and/or actress: N/A

How do you spend your spare time? My spare time is spent with family and friends, exercising, reading and acquiring knowledge. I enjoy calisthenics and playing soccer.

Favorite vacation spot: Gambia, my parents home country; a small country on the west coast of Africa. It has nice beaches, weather, and food.

Family: Mom, Dad, 3 older sisters, 2 younger brothers.

If you could have any job, what would it be? A Professional Fighter.

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STORY BY MATTHEW ALBECK

Andrew Carmona



and seeing how appreciative they were to be able to have new hardware.

How do you manage your time?

I manage my time by setting deadlines and prioritizing certain projects to make sure everything is done in a timely manner.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field?

Work hard and learn as much as you can because there is much to learn within the field. Also never stop learning because the industry evolves at a blink of an eye.

Who inspires you? My father-in-law inspires me, he inspired me to go back to school and was and still is one of my best support systems.

Favorite TV show: Chicago Fire

Favorite actor: Eamonn Walker

What is your favorite vacation spot? Lego Land

Family members? I have a wife and two beautiful daughters

If you could have any job, what would it be? Cyber Security Analyst

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special congratulations to our very own
Andrew Carmona!



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Eugene Doyle

BY HEATHER HORAK



Age: 58

Education: High School graduate, 4 years of trade school for sheet metal welding (Union- Local 38) in Brewster NY

Place of employment: Currently work part time at Cornell Extension, but I'm a retired union welder of 35 years.

Current title and duties: Custodian; room set up/break down, maintenance and cleaning.

Years of experience: 1.5 years as custodian. Welder 35 years.

Why did you choose this career? I work at Cornell Extension for "retirement fun funding". Welding was my career. My father was a union sheet metal worker and I followed him in that.

Favorite part of your job: The many great people at Cornell Extension, everyone is friendly and helpful. I meet a lot of interesting people over there.

As a welder, I liked being creative, and the feeling of being good at something.

Most challenging part of your job: Getting there!

As a welder: challenging physical positions at some jobs

Favorite on-the-job moment, customer or memory: Working with my son who is now an industry welder

How do you manage your time: I have a granddaughter now, everything is managed around her and her needs. She is the most important part of my life. I also have an 88-year-old mom, so I need to help her a lot.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Stick with it, it can get a little dirty and hot, it can be a nasty job but it's a good and upcoming trade, you'll always be working. Don't be like

me, use every safety feature out there! I was young and pretended to be tough and I ignored safety precautions. I would hope the newer generation takes safety more seriously than we did.

Who inspires you:

My father, he's always been one of those men you look up to.

Favorite movies or TV show: I like youtube videos about building and being artistic. I don't really watch TV or shows.

Favorite actor and/or actress: Uh, no.

How do you spend your spare time: Most of my free time goes to my granddaughter, and my motorcycle. I love to get out and go. I like fishing, hunting, roller blading. Anything. I like to keep moving.

Favorite vacation spot: Vero Beach, FL has been my family's vacation spot for a long time.

Family: I have a wife named Tami, granddaughter Myah, and two sons. One is a teacher at Liberty HS, (Gene Doyle) and the other is Patrick Doyle, a union welder.

If you could have any job, what would it be: I'd be some kind of artist or craftsman. I like to do anything with my hands. I have bees and chickens and a wood shop. I love creating things. Craftsmanship is a lost art in our society.

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Adam Gold

STORY BY
MATTHEW ALBECK

Age: 37

Education: Sage College of Albany

Place of employment: Sullivan Fire Protection, Catskills Real Estate Management, Decant Wine & Spirits

Current title and duties: Sullivan Fire- Vice President, Office Management, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Human Resources; Catskills Real Estate Management - Partner, where I manage all aspects of rental properties; Decant Wine & Spirits - President, where I oversee all areas of sales and purchasing.

Years of experience: 15+

Why did you choose this career? I chose to work at Sullivan Fire,

If I could have any job, it would be the one I have right now. I get to wear multiple hats and work alongside my father, which have been such a rewarding - and bonding experience.

my family business, because it's more than just a job - it's a legacy. Working alongside my father has given me the opportunity to learn from his experience, contribute to something meaningful, and help carry our business into the future while remaining a good partner within the local community.

I saw incredible opportunities with Catskills Real Estate Management and Decant Wine & Spirits,

and I wanted to challenge myself by expanding my knowledge and skillset in these industries.

Favorite part of your job: My favorite part of my job is problem-solving and working with people. My team is a huge motivation - I couldn't do it without them.

Most challenging part of your job:

The most challenging part of my job is wearing multiple hats and

balancing different roles. As part of my family business, I take that responsibility seriously and work hard to ensure its success - just as my father has. From accounts receivable and payables to human resources and office management, I handle a variety of tasks every day. It can be demanding, but it's also incredibly rewarding to contribute to something we've built together.

Favorite on-the-job memory: It's hard to pick just one memory, but the greatest gift work gives me is the opportunity to work with my dad every day. Learning from him, growing alongside him, and being part of something we've built together is truly invaluable. He's my biggest inspiration.

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Adam Gold
with his family.

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How do you manage your time? It's not always easy, but having a strong support system makes all the difference. My wife, Courtney, is my biggest help - without her, I wouldn't be able to juggle all the roles I take on each day.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? When an opportunity arises, don't hesitate to grab it. Seek out a mentor - there are plenty of successful people who are eager to offer guidance and share their experiences. And no matter what product or service you're providing, always prioritize excellent customer service. It's the foundation of long-term success.

Who inspires you? My family inspires me the most - my two kids, Milly and Benny, my wife, my parents, and friends. They keep me motivated to always strive for more. My success is

their success.

Favorite TV show: Entourage

Favorite actor: Adam Sandler

Favorite vacation spot: Dubrovnik, Croatia

Family members: Wife, Courtney; Daughter, Milly; Son, Benny; Father, Ira; Mother, Ruby; Sister, Ilana; Mother-in-Law, Karen; Father-in-Law, Allan; Sister-in-Law, Gabby and her partner Jared; Brother-in-Law, Todd; Nephews: Jake, Jack, and Grey

If you could have any job, what would it be? If I could have any job, it would be the one I have right now. I get to wear multiple hats and work alongside my father, which has been such a rewarding - and bonding experience. Between Sullivan Fire, Catskills Real Estate Management, and Decant Wine & Spirits, I get to learn and do so much, and I've always found that being a "jack of all trades" works best for me.

I'm happy doing what I do!

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PATRICIO ROBAYO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3M

(with the occasional tea-fueled late night).

What advice do you have for someone entering your field: Be a sponge. Soak up everything—in-tern, volunteer, connect with working journalists. That's where you really learn how to write fast and write well. Read a lot. Write even more. And never underestimate the value of a good question and really listen to their answer.

Who inspires you:

There's no single person—I try to be the best version of myself: as a dad, a son, and a journalist. Every day is a chance to grow mentally and physically. Oh—and also, Batman.

Favorite movies or TV show: The Shawshank Redemption, The Third Man, Star Wars (obviously), and right now, I'm deep in the Doctor Who archives—binging from the 1960s straight through to the latest season.

Favorite actor and/or actress:

Tough one—probably a tie between Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.

How do you spend your spare time: Trying to improve my chess game, playing guitar, birdwatching, reading, and most importantly, spending time with my daughter. That's where the real joy is.

Favorite vacation spot: Barcelona, Spain

Family: It's just me and my five-year-old daughter Lucy here in Sullivan County. My father lives in Florida and part time in the Catskills, I have one brother in New Jersey, and two half-brothers—one in the Bronx, the other in Ecuador.

Civic or volunteer affiliations: None at the moment, but I was previously on the board of the Wurtsboro Art Alliance.

If you could have any job, what would it be: Full-time artist would be the dream—but honestly, being a journalist and radio producer isn't too far off. I still get to tell stories. I just swapped the gallery wall for a newsroom mic.

ERIC ALLEVA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3M

cated and complex, so keeping up with advancements in diagnostics, repairs, and industry shifts is crucial. Success in this field requires resilience, a willingness to grow, and a commitment to delivering quality and trust to every customer.

Who inspires you: I'm inspired by the unwavering belief others have in what we do. My family, our loyal customers, and the incredible community we serve continuously fuel my drive. Their overwhelming support, trust, and confidence push me to work harder every day, ensuring that Seven X Motors remains a place of integrity, quality, and dedication.

What is your favorite movie or TV show: Top Gun. No Question.

Who is your favorite actor or actress: Tom Cruise, Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake

What is your favorite vacation

spot: Las Vegas

Family members: My family is everything to me. My incredible wife, and our two amazing kids, Luca and Enzo, keep me grounded and motivated every day. I'm also lucky to have the unwavering support of my sisters, Faith and Nicole, my mom, Terry, and my brother-in-law, Chris (aka #2). Plus, my in-laws have been a huge part of our journey. Family is the foundation of everything we do at Seven X Motors, and I wouldn't be where I am today without them.

If you could have any job, what would it be: I wouldn't trade my job for anything. Seven X Motors was built on resilience, hard work, and an unwavering commitment to doing the right thing. We remain dedicated to serving our community, delivering top-quality vehicles, and ensuring every customer leaves with confidence in their purchase.

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