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Judge bars appeal of Bar Veloce

By LIAM MAYO

NARROWSBURG, NY — Bar Veloce is one of the first businesses that visitors see as they enter downtown Narrowsburg. Starting soon, visitors may see that business with open doors.

The cheese-and-wine franchise location did not open following the conclusion of its construction in 2021. Code enforcement officer Jim Crowley gave that business a certificate of occupancy in October, though only for the first floor: Bar Veloce had not gotten permission to build its rooftop deck.

Kathy and Brendan Weiden, owners of neighboring business Narrowsburg Union, brought an appeal to Tusten's Zoning Board of Appeals in February. Bar Veloce built beyond its approval from the planning board, so the Weidens claimed, and that made its certificate of occupancy invalid.

Frederick Twomey, owner of the Bar Veloce franchise, filed an Article 78 proceeding in Sullivan County Supreme Court. He offered as a condition of the suit that Bar Veloce would not open until the case got resolved.

Judge Mark Meddaugh made his decision after months, issuing an order on July 20.

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RR photo by Laurie Stuart
Frederick Twomey sits on the sill of Bar Veloce. The Narrowsburg Union is reflected in its window.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Riverfest: a scorcher

By LAURIE STUART

NARROWSBURG, NY — Riverfest is always hot, and this year was no exception. Some relief was found in the misting tent, which was a delight to the children and to hot adults. Nonetheless, the annual festival, which celebrates the arts, the environment and ecology, was packed with makers, vendors, information booths from area organizations and civic groups, and fabulous food.

The **River Reporter** was on hand, asking festival-goers a two-part question: What do

you want to see in your town? and What can you contribute to your community? Answers ranged from pledges to volunteer for emergency services, to teaching Chinese, and to hosting media-literacy courses. (See page 6 for more information.)

The Farm Arts Collective, pictured above, serenaded the street just before the annual poster auction. That's where 55 posters by area artists received bids from an enthusiastic crowd. The auction is a major fundraiser for the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

No energy

Commonwealth Court throws out Wolf's RGGI plans

By VICTORIA HOFFMANN

HARRISBURG, PA — On July 15, the Commonwealth Court placed a stop on the Wolf administration's plans to enroll the state in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

RGGI is a multi-state project that aims to reduce emissions that are playing a major role in climate change. It combines the goal with economic growth in a cap-and-trade program, according to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. A state-chosen limit is set on carbon emissions from power-generating plants.

Those opposed frame it as a tax on carbon.

Under cap-and-trade, a government sets a cap on emissions levels, and leaves it to the businesses affected to stay under the cap. Permits are issued to the companies for amounts of emissions that can be generated. If a company needs to generate more, it can buy permits from companies that are emitting less carbon.

There is no federal emissions-reduction or cap-and-trade program, so RGGI is states-based. The states currently enrolled are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia.

For Wolf, climate change drove the need to join the RGGI.

"Climate change is the most critical environmental threat confronting the world, and power generation are one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse

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FOOD

Green thumbs turned brown



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THINGS ARE HAPPENING

'Mamma Mia!' returns

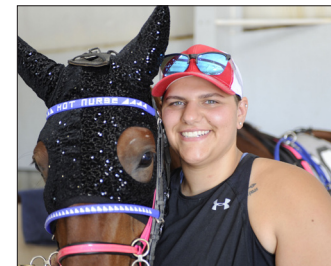


Celebrating everything we need the most

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SPORTS

The horsewomen of the 'Mighty M'



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■ IN BRIEF

Move Sullivan bus service drops fares

MONTICELLO, NY — Legislators on Thursday unanimously approved reducing fares for a one-way Move Sullivan bus ride, from \$2 to 30 cents. The legislators also agreed to cover that cost for every rider, meaning that any trip via Move Sullivan will be free of charge, starting Monday, August 1. The resolution passed by the legislature authorizes this reduction to remain in effect through December 31, 2023.

Mental health hotline launched

NATIONWIDE — There’s a new number to remember that could be as important as 911: 988. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and its chat-based counterpart, www.988lifeline.org, will be able to connect people experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis to a trained counselor who can address their immediate needs and help connect them to ongoing care. It will hopefully reduce health care spending with more cost-effective early intervention; reduce the use of law enforcement, public health and other safety resources; meet the growing need for crisis intervention; and help end stigma toward those seeking or accessing mental healthcare.

“Dialing those simple three digits will connect callers to a trained crisis counselor who can immediately address their needs, 24/7/365,” said John Liddle, commissioner of the division of health and human services in Sullivan County.

“Pennsylvanians now have a new, easier way to connect to behavioral or mental health crisis services—a historic step to increase access to life-saving support when people need it most,” said Meg Snead, acting secretary of the PA department of human services. “988 can be used by anyone, any time, at no cost, no matter what you are experiencing. Your life matters, so please know that this service is always here to help provide the support that you or your loved ones deserve.”

Cooling centers in Pike County

MILFORD, PA — With warmer temperatures continuing, Pike County senior centers will be open to use as cooling centers. For additional information, contact the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office at 570/775-5550.

Cooling centers are available at the following AAA senior centers: Blooming Grove senior center, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Lackawaxen senior center, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Eastern Pike senior center, located at the Matamoras Fire Department, Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Bushkill senior center at Saw Creek’s Top of the World Restaurant, Monday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Bushkill senior center at Pocono Mountain Lake Estates, Tuesday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The agency also has a limited supply of fans available for those without access to adequate cooling systems.

\$30 million available for child care deserts

ALBANY, NY — A portal is now open to apply for \$30 million in additional federal grant funding to expand existing child care programs in areas of the state without sufficient child care slots, known as child care deserts. The funds, which are part of the \$100 million child care desert initiative approved in the FY 2022 enacted budget, are being made available through the American Rescue Plan Act and will be administered by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Sullivan County is currently designated as a child care desert. That designation is based on census data that shows three or more children under five years of age for each available child care slot in a census tract.

Providers may visit ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts/existing.php for more information on the RFA. Grant applications will be accepted from July 20 until August 24, with award announcements slated for September.

Two charged on Thompson Education Center fraud

TOWN OF THOMPSON, NY — A criminal complaint was unsealed on July 18 in Brooklyn federal court charging Sherry Xue Li and Lianbo Wang with wire fraud conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy and conspiracy to defraud the United States by obstructing the Federal Election Commission’s (FEC) administration of campaign finance laws. As alleged in the complaint, Li and Wang orchestrated a nearly decade-long scheme to defraud investors in a fictitious project to develop, build and operate a private educational institution, the “Thompson Education Center,” in Sullivan County.

“The Town of Thompson is pleased that the federal authorities took the necessary steps to investigate and prosecute this fraud. These individuals had a preposterous scheme for a large-scale development in our town. Thankfully, we did not take the bait and held their feet to the fire to back up their application with facts,” said Bill Reiber, Town of Thompson supervisor.

Winner of Hurleyville entrepreneurial program announced

HURLEYVILLE, NY — The winner of the Hurleyville Entrepreneurial Program was announced by the creator, developer and owner of the Main Street MEWS, Jeffrey T. Stevenson. All That Glitters is Old (ATGIO) was chosen from a field of highly creative business entrepreneurs, according to a statement.

ATGIO’s new storefront location at the Main Street MEWS, on Main Street in Hurleyville, will be the first for the online shop. It is described as a “curated thrift and consignment boutique of on-trend and classic wardrobe staples,” where there is “no wrong way to dress.” ATGIO will receive free rent, a new business loan of up to \$50,000, and mentorship for the new venture.

ARPA funding available for PA small businesses

HARRISBURG, PA — Pennsylvania has been awarded nearly \$268 million in American Rescue Plan funding through the state’s small business credit initiative (SSBCI).

The PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) will distribute the new funds to eligible economic development partners, which will then route the funding to qualifying businesses in the form of equity investments and loans.

Pennsylvania will operate three different programs. The first two—equity capital investments and venture capital investments—have been allocated a combined total of \$142 million. Direct-equity investments will be made in seed- and early-stage technology companies in the state through Ben Franklin Technology Partners and Life Sciences Greenhouses. Venture capital investments will be made in new funds that are under the management of underserved venture-capital firms. The third program is a loan-participation program to which more than \$125 million has been allocated. Detailed guidelines will be available soon, and eligible partners should visit dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/federal-funding-opportunities/pennsylvania-state-small-business-credit-initiative-pa-ssbci/ for additional information as it becomes available.



RR photo by Laurie Stuart

Around the table in Highland: Councilmember Kaitlin Haas, supervisor Jeff Haas, councilmember Jim Gutegunst, Fred Bosch and attorney of the town Michael Davidoff. Gutegunst, who has been on medical leave, was called in when councilmember Chris Tambini was unable to attend the 8 a.m. July 20 emergency session to sign an amended 284 form and pay highway department bills.

Crossing Ts in Highland

By LAURIE STUART

ELDRED, NY — At an emergency town board meeting on July 20, the Highland Town Board approved the expenditures on a 284 form concerning paving. Claims 83, 85, 93, 95, 96 and 97 in Abstract #6-2022 in the amount of \$195,138.22 were approved for payment. The bills had been unpaid following the July 12 board meeting.

According to councilmember Kaitlin Haas, the 284 form needed to be amended, as highway superintendent Tom Ebers had submitted the information on an old form. Additionally, supervisor Jeff Haas said that some of the county and town road numbers needed to be corrected. Each of the four members in attendance—Kaitlin Haas, Jeff Haas, Jim Gutekunst and Fred Bosch—unanimously approved and physically signed the amended form. Jeff Haas also mentioned a July 18 meeting between himself, the town attorney and Ebers, where Ebers submitted a statement of which bidders were used and why.

That particular form did not include the addition of blacktop asphalt for the Barryville cul-de-sac. Ebers, Jeff Haas, mural coordinator Doreen Warner, Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce President Roswell Hamerick and community project liaison John Pizzoloto met on July 25, at which time Ebers agreed he would blacktop the Barryville cul-de-sac out of the town’s highway budget. He also said that the town had previously agreed to the chip and seal option on resurfacing the cul-de-sac. Jeff Haas has previously stated that chip and seal was not approved by the town. Ebers is emphatic that it was and that was the reason that he did it.

Correction

Forthright Cyder & Mead no longer has tasting-room hours. Please visit www.forthrightcyder.com for more information on where to find their products in distribution. The ad in the Upper Delaware Magazine, published July 21, was outdated.

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Publisher & Editor.....Rev. Laurie Stuart..... ext. 133.....publisher@riverreporter.com
Online Editor & Production Manager.....Amanda Reed..... ext. 123.....amanda@riverreporter.com
Managing Editor.....Annemarie Schuetz..... ext. 129..... copyeditor@riverreporter.com
Staff ReporterLiam Mayo..... ext. 143.....liam@riverreporter.com
Subscription Manager/ Ed. Assistant.....Roger Snedeker..... ext. 130.....events@riverreporter.com
Administrative Assistant.....Kathlyn Leggio..... ext. 134..... sales@riverreporter.com
Sales Associate.....Barbara Winfield..... ext. 121..... barbara@riverreporter.com
Sales Associate.....Kimberlie Tipke..... 570/795-8226.....kim@riverreporter.com

News editor@riverreporter.com	Advertising sales@riverreporter.com	Where & When events@riverreporter.com
Press Releases copyeditor@riverreporter.com	Classifieds/Legals eileen@riverreporter.com	Special Sections copyeditor@riverreporter.com

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Highland constable investigation opens up

By LAURIE STUART and LIAM MAYO

ELDRED, NY — The Town of Highland constables remain suspended, as they have been since an April 12 town board meeting. Recent releases and statements from the town shed some light on the reasons why.

The town released on July 18 a redacted report from its constable committee dated May 31. The **River Reporter** made a Freedom of Information Law request in June for misconduct complaints against the town's constabulary force, as well as any investigative reports into that misconduct; the town provided the same redacted report in response to that request.

The report itself was not subject to FOIL, the reply stated, but the town board had authorized its release. The misconduct complaints were not subject to FOIL because they were dated prior to a change in disclosure law on June 12, 2020, were unsubstantiated, contained medical information, or pertained to technical infractions.

The report

The report lists six allegations of misconduct against a constable or constables; the names in the report are redacted, and it's unclear whether all allegations concern the same constable. Three of the allegations in the report could not be substantiated by the investigation that was conducted.

A source alleged sexually suggestive and harassing statements made by a constable. The constable involved admitted to the allegation, according to the report, saying that

he was "just talking to [redacted]." A witness present further substantiated the allegation.

The investigation also substantiated violations of the town's policies. According to the report, the camera in the constable's office had been covered on multiple occasions; keys were left in unlocked constable vehicles; personal items had been stored in the constable garage; and the constable file cabinet had been left unlocked.

The report also substantiated an allegation of workplace harassment, bullying and the creation of a hostile work environment, created by one constable against another.

The constabulary committee interviewed a pair of constables as part of its investigation. One said he did not feel safe working with the unnamed constable—"Cannot tell if he has your back or if he is out to set you up or worse"—and testified that the unnamed constable did not follow policies and was a liability to the department and the town. The other constable stated that the camera-covering was ongoing, and "shared that the perception of 'senior guy' leads to inequality in scheduling of shifts."

According to the report, the unnamed constable on patrol the day of the interviews harassed the councilpeople conducting them, waiting outside the interview location and following a councilmember as they left.

The report also found insufficient training recorded in the constables' personnel files. That included no CPR/AED training; no sexual harassment training recorded in a personnel file; no current taser training;

and a lack of handgun qualifications for one constable, barring him from carrying a weapon on duty.

What comes next?

The report concluded with a summary of options for the future, both from an informational meeting with law enforcement sources and from the constable committee.

The committee asked its law enforcement sources about the feasibility of an Article 75 proceeding, which allows for the firing of municipal employees and other disciplinary actions.

A law enforcement source told the board there was a reasonable case for Article 75 proceedings, based on violations of town policy, aggressive language with the board and insubordination. The report did not indicate what punishment would be sought.

The same law enforcement source is cited as stating that he "does not allow his officers to 'moonlight.'" The source also reviewed the process for an intermunicipal agreement with the sheriff's office and promised support as available.

The sheriff's office has been providing assistance to the Town of Highland during the suspension of the constables. Sheriff Mike Schiff stated at a June 14 board meeting that his department would "assist in any way that they can and try to help whenever they could with whatever they got."

The constable committee made a few recommendations of its own, largely focused on re-establishing the constabulary on better footing.

It recommended that the town confirm training requirements and create a training rubric, with the assistance of a constabulary review committee; reinstate appropriately qualified constables, and provide inappropriately qualified constables with a [redacted] number of days to complete required training; and hire a non-patrol supervisor for the constables.

One recommendation was redacted in its entirety.

According to councilmember Kaitlin Haas, who along with Chris Tambini serves on the constable committee and conducted many hours of interviews, there is no specific timeline for the recommendations to be implemented. Additionally, the report recommends the hiring of a consultant who would be tasked with revising the policies and procedures, and determining appropriate constable training. "In the immediacy, we will be breaking off the court officers as a separate unit," she said.

According to unconfirmed reports, at least two constables, Mike Walton and Stephen Milisauskas, have handed in letters of resignation. Several Highland residents have expressed views on the Living in Barryville Facebook page that the report is political in nature.

This is a developing story. Anyone with information about the Highland constables may contact the River Reporter at editor@riverreporter.com, or liam@riverreporter.com.

Sullivan, swimmingly

By LIAM MAYO

MONTICELLO, NY — The Sullivan County Legislature has approved \$15 million for a combined swimming pool and track facility at SUNY Sullivan, half the cost of what could be a \$30 million-dollar facility.

The indoor arena will include an eight-lane pool, 25 meters long, and a 200-meter oval track.

The legislature settled on the figure of \$15 million during a back-and-forth discussion at its July 21 meeting.

The original price: \$5 million, as proposed by SUNY Sullivan president Jay Quaintance.

Quaintance pitched the facility as a boon to the college and to the broader community.

SUNY Sullivan had included plans for the arena in its 2019 facilities master planning process, he said. The facility could help the school retain and attract students; athletics had once been a draw. The college could also open the pool to members of the community, helping with health outcomes for the region's youth, and could host events in the facility that would bring visitors and their dollars to the county.

The project needed a commitment of funds from the legislature to unlock state money. New York State would match any funds committed by the county for educational capital projects: if the legislature authorized \$5 million, the state would match that amount dollar-for-dollar, for a total contribution of \$10 million.

The legislature unanimously approved the project. The only question: how much would the project cost?

"When we put this plan together, you just can't think about what we need for today," said legislator Joe Perrello. "We need to think about what we need for tomorrow, and what



RR photo by Liam Mayo

SUNY Sullivan President Jay Quaintance pitches a combined swimming and track athletic facility to the Sullivan County Legislature.

we can use it for in the future."

"Whether it's a \$5 million job or if we could do X amount of other things over and above, and it'll cost us \$10 million, we're better off going with \$10 million," Perrello added. He and other legislators also worried about the impact of inflation on the project; with prices skyrocketing, a \$10 million project today wouldn't mean as much as a \$10 million project a year ago.

The college was pretty confident it could build a good facility for \$10 million (\$5 million from the county, \$5 million from the state), said Quaintance. But there were benefits to asking for more now: it avoided a lengthy process of asking the state for more if the project ran over budget, and the college could use excess funds appropriated from the state at a future point for other projects.

"In some senses, asking this legislature to say, 'Instead

of \$5 million they're willing to invest \$7.5 million'... that might be better to have the buffer," said Quaintance.

Legislators agreed, and after haggling back and forth, settled on a figure of \$15 million.

Legislator Ira Steingart provided a note of caution to the proceedings. He wasn't against the project, he said. He did have concerns about authorizing the project, not knowing where the funding was coming from and what the usage patterns would be from the college and from the community.

"I know these are all negatives, but they're really just, I think we haven't done our due diligence yet to make a decision," said Steingart.

"I don't see those as negatives, I think they are the prudent questions to be asking," said Quaintance. The point of the day's proceedings was to get an initial commitment from the county so the project could get on the state's 2023 budget cycle. Then, the college could issue an RFP for planning services to settle some of these questions.

Typically, the county would pay the costs of projects like this upfront, and submit quarterly reimbursements to the state, said county manager Josh Potosek. There were a few pots of county money the project could pull from: fund balance, bonding and the like.

Legislators ultimately voted 8-1 (with Steingart against) to authorize \$15 million for the project.

"This project will ensure not only increased enrollment moving forward, but provide a much-needed community hub for years to come. Having our students and community be able to access a state-of-the-art facility like this will transform both the college and the county," said Quaintance, in a press release following the meeting.

Wayne County Fair gears up for 160 years

By TED WADDELL

HONESDALE, PA — “There’s a little bit of something here for everybody,” said Roger Dirlam, president of the Wayne County Fair board of directors, on the eve of the historic local fair’s 160th anniversary. The fair this year runs from Friday, August 5 to Saturday, August 13.

Like many of the folks who run the show, Dirlam comes from a family with long-standing associations with the Wayne County Fair.

“My father Ronald started working there back in the 1930s,” he recalled. “I tagged along with him as a little kid.” He noted that his dad passed away in 1978.

Since taking over the helm as president of the board in 1998, Dirlam said, “Everyone’s jumped in and things have gotten a little bigger... we’re trying to change the face of the fairgrounds, keep it going toward the future instead of behind us.”

To that end, the directors of the popular county fair have in recent years acquired land to add parking, thus increasing what Dirlam called “making the footprint of the fair a lot bigger.”

One of the fair’s top selling points is that everyone “pays one price” of \$12 per person, a nominal fee that includes

parking, small stage shows, most grandstand shows and “best of all, rides all day at no further cost.”

The fair offers a reduced admission fee of \$6 to seniors (age 62 and up) and military/veterans on Friday, August 5 and Wednesday, August 10.

“Back in the ‘80s we decided that everyone pays the same price,” said Dirlam. “You can go to the fair with a family, and ride the rides from noon until 11 o’clock.” At a lot of fairs, he said, “you’ve got to buy tickets for each thrill ride, so every half hour or thereabouts, you’re shelling out more of your hard-earned bucks.”

The Wayne County Fair offers a lot of entertainment for the whole family, and kids take a front seat when it comes time to get a thrill out of the 160th fair: a Wild West show-down; the speedy pigs of Rosaire’s Royal Racers; a strolling T-Rex named Dino Roar; Michael Griffin, aka The Escape Guy; Buffalo & Brandy on the small stage; and, last but not least, Magic Man T.J. Hill strolling the midway.

In addition, for the younger generation, several kid-size rides are featured, in addition to the ever popular 4-H exhibits and livestock shows.

“It seems like everybody likes stuff on wheels,” said Dirlam. He said that the fair offers numerous two- or four-wheeled (or -footed) grandstand events, including horse

pulls, harness racing, truck pulls, pony pulls, tractor pulls and crash-‘em-up demolition derbies.

On a historical side note, one of the attractions at the fair used to be girlie shows, where rather scantily clad young women offered a bit of spicy entertainment.

Reflecting on the long-past hoochie shows, Dirlam said, “They had those too, and I might have been up on the side hill trying to look in.”

On what makes the Wayne County Fair, which traces its roots to the Wayne County Agricultural Society in 1862, such a success, Dirlam said, “It’s a great bunch of people giving something back to the community. It’s a good set of directors, associate directors and volunteers that make this fair a great event.”

“I hope it goes on for another 160 years!” he said.

The fairgrounds open at 9 a.m. and the midway and rides are open from 12 noon to 11 p.m. The exhibit buildings are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Wayne County Fairgrounds is located on Route 191, 1.5 miles north of Honesdale.

For information, visit www.waynecountyfair.com, email gotothefair@waynecountyfair.com, or call 570/253-2942 or 570/253-5486.

BAR VELOCE – Page 1

Conclusions from the court

Meddaugh considered three general points in his determination: the zoning board, the certificate of occupancy and the appeal.

During the February meeting of the zoning board, the board voted quickly to dismiss the Weidens’ appeal. Later in the meeting, the board voted again to hear the appeal. Neither vote was unanimous.

Twomey claimed the non-unanimity of the re-hearing decision made it null and void based on town law; the Weidens opposed that point. Meddaugh ruled the ZBA did act improperly in its second vote, and so its vote to review the appeal was null and void.

The second point concerned the validity of the Weidens’ certificate of occupancy appeal. They had a 60-day window to appeal the certificate of occupancy; they appealed it in February, months past the deadline, but they argued that the clock only started when they found out about it in December, after the town delayed in providing it.

Meddaugh ruled that the Weidens were right, and their appeal was timely.

The doctrine of laches

The substance of the case came with the judge’s deliberation on the third point: the appeal itself.

Twomey argued that the Weidens were trying to challenge Bar Veloce’s entire presence as allowed by a special use permit. In addition, he argued that the Weidens didn’t appeal earlier in the building construction though they knew it was going on, and that they couldn’t now appeal it because of the doctrine of laches.

The doctrine of laches, according to an overview from pivotallawgroup.com, applies if a plaintiff delayed in taking legal action while having the knowledge and opportunity to do so, and if that delay would cause harm to the defendant.

Meddaugh agreed with both of Twomey’s points.

“The substance of the Weidens’ appeal concerns issues of on-site parking, access to the

parking at the rear lower level of the premises 174 Bridge Street, pedestrian access, off-street loading and unloading, and traffic conditions, which were all issues required to be addressed during the hearing on the petitioner’s special use application... Therefore, the Court finds that it was the issuance of the special use permit on August 26, 2020, that controls for statute of limitations purposes for many of the issues raised by the Weidens’ appeal, and that the respondent’s appeal was untimely,” wrote Meddaugh.

Even those points of the Weidens’ appeal that did address the certificate of occupancy—i.e. discrepancies between the square footage in the planning board’s approval, in the certificate of occupancy and in the amount built—were banned by the doctrine of laches.

Meddaugh found the Weidens had delayed in taking action against Bar Veloce. The construction of Bar Veloce’s Narrowsburg location was fully visible to the community, and the Weidens were aware of the building proceeding to completion throughout 2021.

Takeaways

Meddaugh ordered that the zoning board of appeals’ decision to hear the appeal was annulled, and that its earlier decision to dismiss the appeal still held. He ordered as well that the Weidens’ appeal before that board was barred by the doctrine of laches.

In a statement following the decision, Twomey said, “We are very happy that Judge Meddaugh took the position on the matter that he did. We can’t wait to restart again and put this behind us.”

Several members of the zoning board of appeals commented their disappointment with the judge’s decision, stating that it did not account for the nuances of the case and of Tusten.

The Weidens did not respond to a request for comment. In a letter to the editor published in the **River Reporter** on July 14, before the decision was issued, the Weidens stated that they did not have a vendetta against Twomey, and that their appeal to the zoning board of appeals in substance demanded that the town enforce its own zoning laws.

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gas emissions,” said Wolf. “Given the urgency of the climate crisis facing Pennsylvania and the entire planet, the commonwealth must continue to take concrete, economically sound and immediate steps to reduce emissions. Joining RGGI will give us that opportunity to better protect the health and safety of our citizens.”

He voiced his thoughts and the need to take action on climate change in 2019 and has pressed the matter throughout his term.

Also in 2019, the state released the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan. The plan examined factors affecting the environment and looked at ways to cut emissions. It recommended that the state “create a cap-and-trade program for the electricity generation sector.”

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Wolf have claimed that joining the RGGI will generate many benefits for health, the environment and the economy.

Joining RGGI will lower Pennsylvania’s CO2 emissions by between 97 and 225 million tons by 2030, according to the DEP. Emission of other harmful pollutants like nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter will also drop significantly. These reductions will particularly benefit those most often impacted by marginal air quality, such as children and at-risk seniors, especially in low-income and environmental justice communities, according to the DEP. “DEP’s modeling estimates that from 2022 to 2030, participating in RGGI would lead to an increase in gross state product of nearly \$2 billion and a

net increase of over 30,000 jobs in the commonwealth. The results also show that overall, citizens of the commonwealth could see a cumulative increase in disposable personal income of \$3.7 billion by 2050.”

Those opposed see the program differently.

“This delay [injunction made by the Commonwealth Court] is an important, much-needed step for Pennsylvania residents and businesses,” said Luke Bernstein, president/CEO of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. “We appreciate the court pressing pause on this policy, which threatens to significantly increase energy prices at a time of high inflation, while also pushing more economic activity to states on our grid who are not in RGGI.”

Senate Republicans, among other points, argued that CO2 emissions declined similarly in RGGI and non-RGGI states. It’s “a fact that unravels the entire premise for joining the program in the first place,” said Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23).

According to the Independent Fiscal Office, CO2 emissions did decline similarly in the 10 RGGI and three non-RGGI states. Pennsylvania’s 41.7 percent decline was, the report notes, due to a switch from coal to natural gas. It didn’t say what caused declines in the other states.

Wolf’s administration is currently appealing the injunction in the states’ high courts. Previous to this court ruling, the DEP had already appealed rulings in the lower courts. Wolf and those opposing enrollment are continuing the legal battle.

A conversation about human trafficking

By VICTORIA HOFFMANN

REGION — My mother has always been quite protective of me. The first time that I can recall her overprotectiveness was when my family and I moved from Long Island, NY, to Matamoras, PA. We were getting ready for a trip to Walmart when she asked to talk to me.

I was seven years old, so her explanation was more than simplified, but it was the first time I had learned about human trafficking.

She told me that when we went into the store, I was to never, ever leave her side. Even if something like a toy caught my eye, I was instructed to be by her side at all times.

She had said that there were evil people in the world, and some took other people to do “not very nice things.” I remember being shocked and thinking, “Why would people take other people without asking their mom’s permission to hang out.” To think how naive I was is almost insane to me, but as I got older, I understood my mom’s perspective.

That Walmart was right next to Interstate 84, which connects via Intersection 380 to Interstate 80, one of the three most-used highways for human trafficking in the U.S., according to phys.org

Trafficking seems almost taboo in conversation; however, it’s real. Its victims are real, and their stories are real.

And it needs to be talked about.

Start with the definition of human trafficking. It is a crime that involves the exploitation of and profit from adults or children who are forced to perform labor or engage in commercial sex.

There are three types of human trafficking cases: debt bondage, forced labor or sex trafficking. The most common of the three is forced labor, which is interchangeable with indentured servitude.

Human trafficking is referred to as “modern-day slavery.”

Despite the lack of conversation on the topic, trafficking occurs everywhere and has claimed countless victims yearly. It is estimated that at any given time, there are 24.9 million people who are trafficked, according to state.gov.

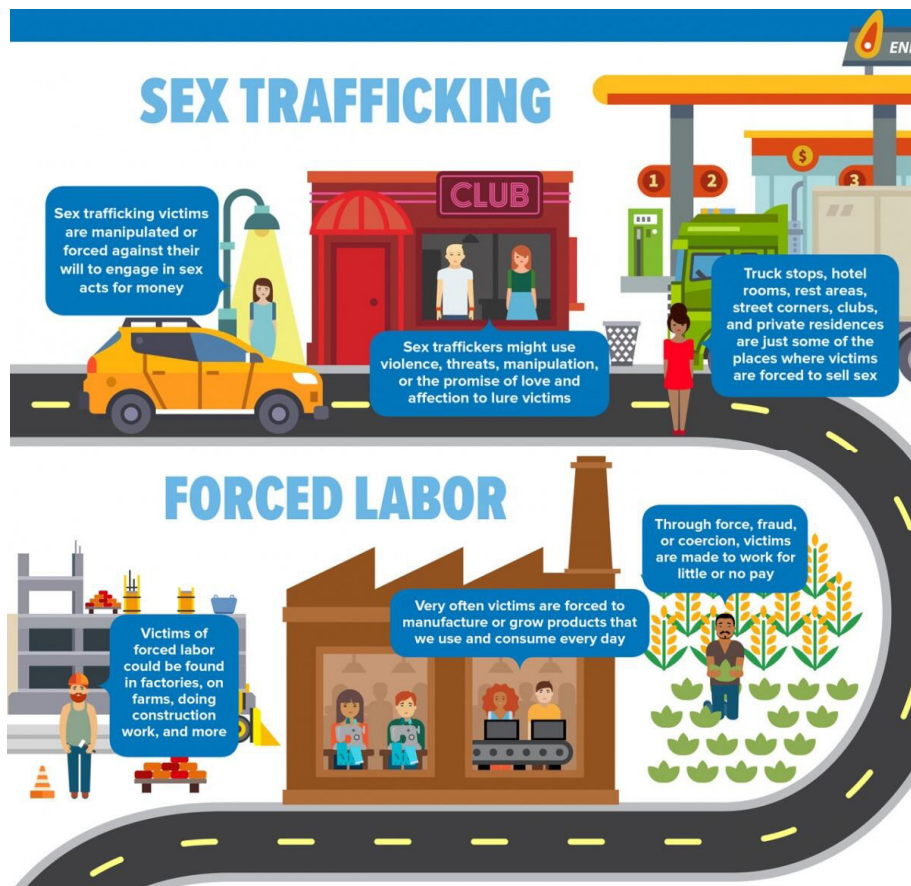
However, countless organizations combat human trafficking; some are closer than you think.

In both Wayne and Pike County, there is a nonprofit organization called Victim’s Intervention Program (VIP). VIP is dedicated to helping victims of sexual and domestic abuse and trafficking. It serves not only as a crisis center but provides counseling, one-on-one or in a group; resources and support.

Regardless of one’s beliefs, trafficking does occur close to home.

“VIP, over here in Wayne and Pike [counties], we wouldn’t have the funding that we have if we didn’t have the survivor population to support it,” said Chelsea Falotico, a staff member at VIP in Milford, PA. “If we’re getting the money from the state coalition to be able to provide these services, that means we have clearly helped victims of trafficking in the past and continue to right now.”

Without personal exposure to crimes such as trafficking, it may be hard to recognize it and its victims.



Graphic from The Blue Campaign, <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/infographic>

“It doesn’t enter your mind until it enters your life. For a lot of people, unless they know someone who has been trafficked, they don’t even think about it,” said Falotico.

However, the best way to combat ignorance of the topic is to have a conversation about it. Awareness is the key to prevention, and it empowers the victims.

“It is harmful [denying trafficking in an area where it exists] because if we’re saying this stuff doesn’t happen, then what are we telling the people who have survived it, who have gotten through it? We’re just saying their story is not valid, or that their feelings or experiences are silly or they’re being dramatic,” said Falotico.

Starting the conversation about trafficking is the first step. The second is learning more.

Trafficking does not play out as it does in the movies. It happens in so many ways that some won’t recognize it.

“It [signs of trafficking in victims] is often something that is hidden in plain sight,” said Falotico.

The signs in victims of trafficking are countless and are the products of extreme manipulation and degradation. However, there are some predominant tell-tale signs.

Trafficking victims will not be able to socialize in a public setting or engage in social activities such as a church or other religious endeavors. They show signs of physical abuse, and consistently act fearful or anxious. Victims may have few possessions, may have tattoos or brandings or no money.

However, the most common sign is not being able to talk for themselves. Victims may have their perpetrators speak for them. For example, if a victim were injured and received medical help, their trafficker or pimp would talk for them, so no incriminating details are said aloud.

In labor trafficking, physical signs include abuse, sleep deprivation, untreated injury or illness.

In sex trafficking, signs include multiple terminated pregnancies, scars, STDs, etc.

Another significant part of the trafficking timeline is grooming. Grooming, in general, is “to gain trust.” This trust is gained by extreme manipulation and gaslighting. Grooming can look like a healthy relationship. It is just a cover.

For instance, suppose a victim has suffered an abusive relationship with a partner. In that case, the perpetrator may play the role of being that “perfect partner,” or if the victim has family problems, the perpetrator may say they can act as that parental role. Then the relationship takes off; that’s when abuse comes in and strips the victim of their freedom.

“They [victims] have no freedom of movement on their own,” said Falotico.

The roles that pimps take to coerce their victims range from a father to mother, an intimate partner, recruiter, employer or even a friend. However, the role depends on the type of trafficking the victim(s) is being trafficked for.

In instances of labor trafficking, an employer might say that their job opportunity can pay them well, they can get out of their current situation and so on, and all the while the perpetrator is just taking advantage of them and their free labor.

For sex trafficking, it includes all the different scenarios of manipulation and coercion. There may be a partner claiming the victim will partake in sex acts because the perpetrator “loves them,” or it can be a modeling opportunity, where those pictures taken are then sold online.

The different ways someone can be trafficked add up significantly, and they have lasting effects on the victims—both physically and mentally.

Trafficking happens everywhere

2014: A Wilkes-Barre man and a Bear Creek woman are sentenced for recruiting and transporting a girl, then 16, from New Jersey to engage in prostitution in Pennsylvania.

2016: A Stroudsburg-area woman pleads guilty to participating in a sex trafficking conspiracy in which young women were threatened, forced and coerced into engaging in prostitution in northeastern Pennsylvania.

2016: Wayne County woman charged with sex trafficking for arranging for a man to have sex with a 14-year-old girl for money.

2016: Wayne County man convicted for multiple charges, including human trafficking, for enticing a 15-year-old girl from her home with the intention of selling her for sex.

2017: Saylorsburg man pleaded guilty to sex trafficking of a minor for arranging the rape of a nine-year-old boy in Pittston.

2018: Hazleton woman charged with endangering the welfare of a child, promoting prostitution, corruption of minors and criminal use of a communication facility. That woman was alleged to have coerced an underage boy to have sex with her at least six times a day. In addition, she advertised online that he would perform sexual acts with strangers for money.

Source: Human Trafficking presentation by NEPA Task Force against Human Trafficking.

“It takes away any self-worth,” said Falotico. “You know the old saying, ‘If you tell someone they’re stupid for long enough, they’ll start to believe it,’ and that’s what happens. How many times can you be sexually assaulted and told that you’re worthless or that you’re just a piece of property before you start to believe it?”

The victims, in most cases, put up the performance of their life, acting like they are happy because “to survive, they need to comply.”

However, one person can only withstand so much.

“How long can you put up this mask before it starts to become who you are?” said Falotico. “One of the biggest effects after a victim gets out of the trafficking situation is taking off that mask and finding out who they really are, and how they can mentally recover from that.”

Trafficking is a devastating crime with countless lifelong effects. Research the topic, understand it and open a conversation about it.

If you or someone you know has experienced trafficking and requires aid, you can reach VIP Advocates 24/7 at 570/253-4401. You can also reach out via text from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekday at 570/798-4847 or chat online at <http://vipempowers.org/chat/>.

Additionally, if you, or someone you know, has their own story to share, email editor@riverreporter.com.

■ EDITORIAL

You can almost see it

By LAURIE STUART

The schematic is simple. A rectangle between two roads and two property lines.

At this point, it's just a field in the middle of a residential neighborhood—while utilized and adequate, it is not teeming with energy.

But when I look at the schematic, I can imagine a place with an improved baseball diamond, a soccer field, a good-looking basketball court. It is a great showcase for the already-in-place playground equipment. I see trees, benches, perhaps a solar-powered pavilion; it's someplace where families can hang out together while their children play. I see community game days, pop-up camping events, programming and a place of innovation and creativity.

I have fond memories of sitting for years on the bleachers on that very field on the Flats in Narrowsburg. I thoroughly enjoyed cheering for our hometown boys on the Dodgers. My son, Zac, and I named our first dog Dodger after that team. Dodger lived to the ripe old age of 17.

Anyone who grew up on the Flats has fond memories of the field.

Bob Bunnell, a long-time Narrowsburg Dodgers Little League coach before the Curreris ably took it on, remembers it as well.

Bob has special memories from his many years of coaching and growing up in Narrowsburg. In a recent trip this month, he brought photos and a scrapbook that his mother, Doris, had kept for him. In it are clippings from the News-Times, Narrowsburg's letterpress paper that closed in 1974, recording significant baseball events throughout his coaching career. He proudly showed me the picture of his 1970 Narrowsburg Dodgers team, which was undefeated, and one of two consecutive championship teams for the Dodgers. He ticks off each player's name as he points them out. (The loss of the News-Times sparked the creation of **The River Reporter** by long-time residents who could not imagine Narrowsburg without a paper.)

Bob went on to coach at the university level, and there he was able to nurture young ballplayers, including Narrowsburg native Cliff Kelly, whom he recruited.

Still working in college athletics, Bob is returning to his roots. He was in town to begin organizing efforts to memorialize the field on the Flats to the three Narrowsburg firemen—Paul Brock, Brett Hankins and Jay Lairia, all good ball players—who died in a fiery small firetruck accident on June 29, 1979 while returning from an early July 4 parade in Montrose, PA. For years, the Montrose firemen would have a presence in Narrowsburg's July 4 parade.

At this time of uncertainty, with a changing demographic, with gentrification and economic divide at our doorsteps, improvements to the field on the Flats, and the building of a public universally accessible space is a fitting response. It is a project that we, regardless of our political ideologies, can get behind. It gets us talking together about things that are meaningful to us—like our children. Like the future we want to build for us all.

Memorializing this field connects the present and the future to the town's vibrant past history, its legacy families and the landscape that we all, whenever we arrived, hold in our hearts. This type of community-building opportunity exists wherever we live.

Let's talk. Let's scheme. Let's see what we can accomplish, connecting to each other in ways that enhance community relationships and resilience.

Join us as we amplify these efforts and each of our voices. Let's talk about what we'd like to see in our towns. It's a perfect opportunity in our rapidly changing world.

Stay tuned for more details on "Let's Talk," a **River Reporter** initiative to foster dialogue to enhance our communities.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More needed to accurately assess redistricting options

Regarding redistricting of the nine legislative districts: I am concerned about the three map-based proposals from Main Street Communications (Option 1, Option 2 and Option 3) that are available on the Sullivan County website. It is difficult to compare these new maps to the current district map.

It is my understanding that redistricting is necessary in order to give each legislator's district an approximately equal percentage of the county's overall population, yet none of these maps show population statistics. In order to review and compare the redistricting proposals, it would be helpful if Main Street Communications were to produce maps showing population statistics. If all three new maps and the current district map had population statistics, that would clarify the intent of redistricting.

The three options show boundaries, but it is difficult to compare them to the current boundaries. It would be helpful if Main Street Communications were to produce overlay maps showing how the three new maps have different boundaries from the current district map. Using Option 1 as an example, it would be good to see the boundaries of this map superimposed over the boundaries in the current district map.

Martha Scoppa
Liberty, NY

■ MONTHLY CONVERSATION EXPERIMENT



Submission for the 'Let's Talk' Monthly Conversation Experiment on the overturn of Roe v. Wade titled, "Despair," by Jay Hostetler of Milanville, PA. Double-exposure images on 35mm film.

RIVER REPORTER^{COM}

Let's Talk

Making connections to enhance our community

As part of our Let's Talk initiative, the **River Reporter** asked those at Riverfest to answer these three questions.

What do you most want in your town?

What can you contribute to your community?

What do you most want the **River Reporter** to cover?

If you weren't there and wish to weigh in, send your response to editor@riverreporter.com

Subject line: Three Questions

Cynthia Nash's letter "'Lysistrata' for the 21st century" (June 28-July 6) was chosen as the Letter of the Month.

It was a difficult decision. Those weeks included the overturning of Roe v Wade, Sullivan County redistricting and other hot-button issues. Gentle reminders of the plants and animals around us countered the pain.

These days, when we can air our opinions quickly on social media, writing a letter to a newspaper demands some thought. It calls for care, because your name is attached. Words are often chosen carefully, because a letter will not disappear under a tide of online comments or Twitter rage.

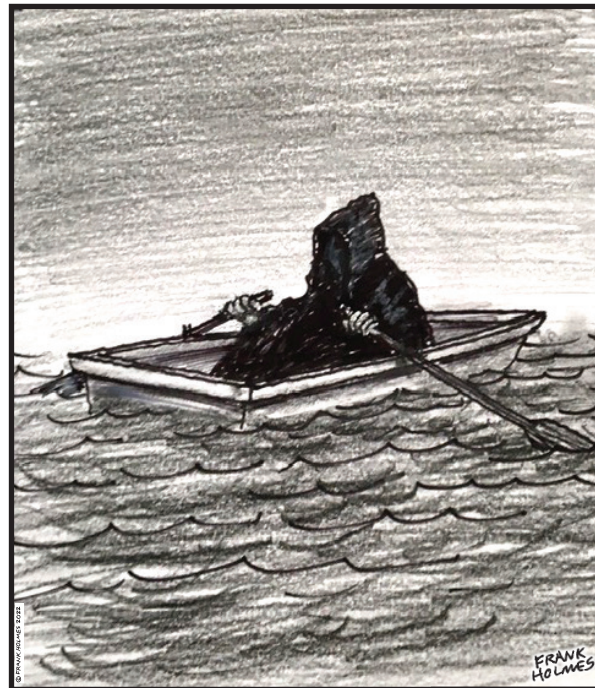
A letter lives.

Thank you to all who wrote to us this past month. And we hope you will share your views and fears with the **River Reporter** in the future.

[The **RIVER REPORTER** welcomes letters on all subjects from its readers. They must include the correspondent's phone number. The correspondent's name and town will appear at the bottom of each letter.

Letters are printed at the discretion of the editor. It is requested they be limited to 350 words; longer letters may not be printed, or may be edited down to the appropriate length. No letters or My Views in excess of 800 words will be printed. Deadline is 1 p.m. on Friday.]

DR. PUNNYBONE



Death Row

■ **STAYING GROUNDED**
BY SHARON PEDUTO

They're here...

"Here's the fun part. Pick up the worms and drop them in the pail or in a plastic bag, and leave in the sun to bake for 10 minutes or until dead."

Photo ©Tom Potterfield (2011)/via Flickr - CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The Asian jumping worm at rest. *Amyntas agrestis* adult shows the distinctive pale clitellum [the pale ring around its body]. This species wreaks ecological havoc in North American forests by consuming the litter layer. Painstakingly produced pest pic from Bowman's Hill, New Hope, Pennsylvania, U.S. October 2011.

In April, residential gardeners were warned that Asian jumping worms (*Amyntas agrestis*) were coming to New York. I hadn't seen or heard about it.

They're here.

Before you look for videos, beware: the images aren't for the faint of heart. The jumping worm behaves very differently than the earthworm. A simple photo doesn't do it justice. Videos can induce nightmares. The only one I would recommend is "How to get rid of Asian jumping worms, the evil twin of earthworms."

I was first alerted to "the coming" by an acquaintance who dropped off flowers from another neighbor to transplant, yelling, "Put them over there! Get the hose! Wash the roots good!"

After scaring the crap out of me, she explained. "They jump all over the place... gave me nightmares... a horticulturist explained to wash all the dirt off plants you buy before planting."

I'm washing them off on my lawn? They're going to spread.

But I shrugged, thinking that a worm is a worm is a worm. They're beneficial to the soil.

I was wrong.

In fact, jumping worms are an invasive species that strip the soil of nutrients and can eventually kill plants. Worse,

they endanger forests and can hurt tourism by damaging the environment.

According to Hillary Matters at the Cooperative Extension of Westchester, "The jumping worm, with a single light-colored band around its body, is most destructive to the first few inches of soil. I plant in containers a few feet off the ground now." Destroying the top layers of soil leads to erosion, making it difficult for new seedlings to take root.

In a group they look like snakes, jumping and slithering.

My first encounter with the jumping worm freaked me out, because I wasn't expecting it. Not on my property. The worms could have been delivered to me through many means. During the winter, their cocoons hide in bagged mulch, potting soil, even plants from reputable companies, and hatch in the spring and can grow to six to eight inches in length.

As of May 2022, they have been found in 35 states.

I was pushing mulch forward to kill weeds, and there it was. I picked it up with a gloved hand to squish it but it jumped away and squirmed like lightning through the grass. I ran into the house to report their presence to the cooperative extension.

How do you know you have them if you haven't already seen them? The "mustard pour" tests your soil for good and bad worms. Mix two liters (about two quarts) of water with 3/4 ounce of mustard powder. Have a pail of soapy water

handy. Pour the mustard water onto the soil surface. Give it five minutes. Mustard powder irritates the worms, forcing them to the surface to escape the uncomfortable sensation. It does not kill them or your soil.

Here's the fun part. Pick up the worms and drop them in the pail or in a plastic bag, and leave in the sun to bake for 10 minutes or until dead. Throw them in the trash, not in compost or soil. I'd say burn 'em.

There are no pesticides that control or kill the worms. Heat from processed composting can stop their cocoon cycle, but they are so invasive they could be hiding anywhere.

Long ago, I was taught that everything in the ecosystem has a purpose. For example, crabs are bottom-feeders, cleaning water like custodians. In that vein, I researched the Asian jumping worm. What's its purpose in the grand scheme of nature? Unfortunately I couldn't find anything, except that moles eat them. Salamanders won't eat them and many bird species spit them out. It's illegal to fish with them.

Maybe science will figure out the benefits of this strange creature. Until then, I will continue growing one plant at a time in containers off the ground.

For questions or concerns about jumping worms, or to report a sighting, email NY iMapInvasives at imapinvasives@dec.ny.gov.

■ **SNARKY NEWCOMER OPINES BASELY**
BY LEAH CASNER

Scrappled, brains?

I'm scared of scrapple.

Wikipedia charmingly describes it as a "semi-solid congealed loaf."

Congeaed is a creepy word. Semi-solid might be an accurate description, but it just doesn't sound the way food should be textured—it is not a phrase you would read in food critics' reviews, though they unashamedly will write "dried lacto-fermented," "carbon-negative vodka," "beguilingly unctuous," like a come-hither slime mold and "salt-macerated," in just one essay alone. Semi-solid has a gloppy, mucus-like sound to it.

The website for one of the two major manufacturers of scrapple boasts "high quality Scrapple Products," and my mind boggles at thoughts of scrapple pot pies. Scrapple pizza. Oreos with scrapple filling. Larger-than-life carved scrapple pigs at state fairs. Scrapple spiced lattes.

I thought that after moving to Pennsylvania, it would behoove me to become more familiar with it, but that was because as an average gormless New York City transplant, I hadn't realized just how big Pennsylvania was, and that the scrapple part of Pennsylvania is not the part of Pennsylvania that we live in. Here in Equinunk, we are closer to the New York Southern Tier tradition of spiedies, which we first met

while visiting our college student in Binghamton. Speidies are quite delicious and nearly identical to the souvlaki found in nearly every other corner food truck in NYC. But in the Southern Tier, the marinated chunks of meat, grilled on a spit, are served on a hoagie roll! Woo-hoo!

In college, fighting off the dinosaurs in the quad to get to class built up our appetites, and our meager allowances barely covered cigarettes and beer. School policy required us to be on the school's seven-day-a-week meal plan while we lived on campus. I remember well some of the cafeteria's glories: banana pancakes with the heft and flavor of packing blankets that Grandma forgot she left in the damp basement. Scrambled eggs, whose sloshing around the plate suggested they had been prepared with a bit more liquid than their recipe called for—not quite congealed, sort of semi-solid. The entree listed on the blackboard menu as "Braised Cubes," which a classmate explained was "a French thing, they just love to braise their cubes."

Faced with that interesting diet, in those late, long, barely post-adolescent talks in our dorms, we spent more hours reminiscing about the real food we used to eat than the meaning of life.

In my after-college life, I loved being in the city, with

its roiling exotic restaurants on every block, even if I was squeamish about the undisguised animal body parts in the ethnic groceries. I've been willing to try a lot of different stuff, from sauce made from rotting anchovies, to mysterious vegetables with no known American suburban counterpart. Moving here, I thought I ought to try what many people, including myself, associated with PA.

But when my husband and I went looking for scrapple, it was easier to find gochunjang, the spicy Korean chile paste. In the local general and grocery stores we could find sambal olek cheek-to-jowl with German mustard and bottled hoagie dressing and kimchi and spiedie marinade. But only one of the four groceries within a single stoplight's reach of our house stocked any scrapple, and it was an interesting assortment.

One congealed block was from one of the original mass-manufacturers, but that version had added bacon. Another had beef byproducts. As a scrapple newbie seeking the purest version, I fully insisted upon only PIGGY byproducts. We bought a pound from Lancaster, PA.

I'm told it is delicious when fried up crispy for breakfast with eggs.

It's in the freezer. Might be there a while.

■ OBITUARIES

ALLAN F. NOBER

Allan F. Nober, 80, of Lake Huntington, NY, passed away on Friday, July 15, 2022 at Garnet Health Medical Center, Harris, NY.

The son of the late Charles and Myrtle Nober, he was born on April 1, 1942 in Callicoon, NY. He was a lifelong resident of the area. Allan was a retired self-employed truck driver, who had his first truck at the age of 18.

He was married for 58 years to the late Eleanor Meckle Nober; she passed away on October 5, 2020.

A family statement reads, “Allan was a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. Allan and Eleanor used to love to sit on the swing for hours. He also enjoyed fishing and watching NASCAR, but most of all he loved spending time with his family. He will be greatly missed.”

He is survived by his son, Allan Nober Jr. and wife Kelly, of Lake Huntington, NY; his daughter, Kimberly Nober, and fiancé John Sattler, of Bethel, NY; his brother Raymond Nober; his brother-in-law William Meckle and wife Diane; his grandchildren: Krista Nober, Harley Siegel, Hailey Siegel and his honorary granddaughter, April White; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Not forgetting his dog, Jessie.

He is predeceased by his brother, Robert Nober.

Donations in Allan’s name can be made to the Sullivan County SPCA.

■ DEATH NOTICES

Lorena Alvarado

Lorena Alvarado, 58, of Jeffersonville, NY and formerly of Middletown, NY, passed away June 20, 2022. Lorena was born December 12, 1963. A public Mass of Christian burial was held July 22 at St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church in Liberty, NY.

Rosemarie S. Baglia

Rosemarie S. Baglia, 65, formerly of New Hampton, NY and Shohola, PA, passed away July 18, 2022 in New Paltz, NY. Rosemarie was born March 15, 1957 in New Hampton. A celebration of life for Rose will be held at a future date.

Barbara A. Clickner

Barbara A. Clickner, 77, of Hawley, PA, passed away July 21, 2022 at Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton, PA. Barbara was born May 23, 1945 in Newark, NJ. There will be a graveside service on Saturday, August 6 at 3 p.m. at Indian Orchard Cemetery, 997 Texas Palmyra Hwy. in Honesdale, PA.

John Paul De Simone

John Paul De Simone, 90, of Harris, NY, passed away July 22, 2022. John was born January 31, 1932 in New York City, NY. A prayer service was held July 27. Burial will be held at St. Peter’s Cemetery in Monticello, NY.

Alexander E. Fasceski

Alexander E. Fasceski, 65, of Rileyville, PA, passed away July 17, 2022 at home. Alexander was born June 19, 1957 in Honesdale, PA. In accordance with his wishes, there will be no public services.

Richard John Gelderman

Richard John Gelderman, 57, of Columbia, SC, and formerly of Hawley, PA, passed away July 8, 2022. Richard was born September 22, 1964 in Philadelphia, PA. Services will be held at the convenience of the family.

Harvey L. Goodman

Harvey L. Goodman, 91, of Shohola, PA, passed away July 16, 2022 at the Delaware Valley Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Matamoras, PA. Harvey was born November 12, 1930 in New Haven, CT. A graveside funeral service and burial were held July 18 at Beth El Cemetery in Port Jervis, NY.

James Warren Hess

James Warren Hess, 79, of Jeffersonville, NY, passed away July 12, 2022 at home. James was born June 28, 1943 in Callicoon, NY. Private funeral services and burial will be in the Bauernfeind Cemetery in Callicoon later this summer.

Angela G. Menotti

Angela G. Menotti, 85, of Honesdale, PA, passed away July 19, 2022 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale. Angela was born June 23, 1937 in Waymart, PA. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated July 23, 2022 at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale. Interment followed in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Polly Pauline Phillips

Polly Pauline Phillips, 80, of White Lake, NY, passed away July 16, 2022 at Garnet Health Medical Center in Middletown, NY. Polly was born March 22, 1942 in Liberty, NY. A graveside service was held July 20 at Evergreen Cemetery in Bethel, NY.

Caroline ‘Carol’ J. Roosevelt

Caroline “Carol” J. Roosevelt, 76, of Mongaup Valley, NY, passed away July 6, 2022 at Delaware Valley Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Matamoras, PA. Caroline was born September 9, 1945 in Whitney Point, NY. A graveside memorial service was held July 23, 2020 at the Mongaup Valley Union Cemetery in Monticello, NY.

Ronald C. Siepiela

Ronald C. Siepiela, 70, of Waymart, PA, passed away July 18, 2022 at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, PA. Ronald was born January 15, 1952. Services will be private and held at a later date.



Photos contributed by Monticello Kiwanis

Monticello Kiwanis donated books to second-grade students. Pictured are Doris Motl, left; Jane Sorensen; Barbara Bitjeman; Jessica Castillo and several students.

Second-graders receive books from Monticello Kiwanis

MONTICELLO, NY — Before the close of the school year, several members of the Kiwanis Club visited the Cooke Elementary School and delivered chapter books for the summer reading enjoyment of all 12 second-grade classes.

The books were selected by Kiwanian Doris Motl, who is a retired fourth-grade teacher in the district.

Accompanying Motl was Jane Sorensen, a Kiwanis member and the EPIC family engagement program manager for the district.

Each student was able to choose two books. “It’s been a very hard year for both the children and their teachers,” said Motl, “and all these surprise gifts brought beaming smiles to all.”

Kiwanis aim to improve the world one child and one community at a time. This project is certainly consistent with that goal, said a spokesperson.

For more information about the Monticello Kiwanis Club, call president Marvin Rappaport at 845/701-1655.



An assortment of the donated chapter books.

Outdoor stage closer to reality at Community House

MILFORD, PA—“Milford has been very good to me throughout my life. It’s important to give back,” said James Pedranti, a retired Altec Lansing executive and founder of Greater Pike Community Foundation.

For many years, he served as its chairman. Pedranti and his family are upholding that ideal with a gift of \$40,000 to the Milford Community House, a cornerstone of Pike County’s history.

The gift will help to construct a multi-purpose outdoor performance stage on the Community House grounds.

The facility, to be named the Pedranti Pavilion, will host cultural and community activities such as music, theater, educational seminars, poetry readings, story hours for children and holiday events. It will include a professional lighting and sound system and improved landscaping.

The Community House, located at the corner of Broad and Harford Streets, first served as a private residence for the Pinchot family in 1824. The New York City archi-

tecture firm of Heins & LaFarge remodeled it in the late 19th century to be used by the Yale School of Forestry.

In 1924, the Pinchots created the Community House board. The building was to be used as a welcoming space for public use.

The building underwent an extensive restoration in 2016, in consultation with Pedranti’s son Richard, an architect and Community House board member.

Matthew Osterberg, Community House board chair, said, “The Pedranti family has always supported Milford and the county. We are very grateful for this generous donation. This gift helps us fulfill the board’s vision of the Community House as the cornerstone of the county. This pavilion will bring educational, theatrical and musical performances to the community.”

If you are interested in supporting the project, donations can be made to the Milford Community House at PO Box 361, Milford, PA 18337.

Rails before steam

SHOHOLA, PA — Did you know that there was transportation on rails *before* the invention of the steam engine?

Join the Shohola Railroad and Historical Society (SRHS) and find out about this little-known topic. Tony Perito, assistant manager of the Wayne Bank’s Milford branch will bring it to light on Wednesday, August 3 at 7 p.m.

The SRHS meets at the Shohola

Township building at 159 Twin Lakes Rd.

Also open that evening is the museum room in the building. It previously housed the first through fourth grades of the Shohola Elementary School, when Anna Smith was the teacher during the 1950s.

For more information, visit the Shohola Railroad & Historical Society on Facebook.

■ NARROWSBURG NEWS

BY GREG TRIGGS

Emergency services

Another refrigerator-door column

The other day, I was sitting at the kitchen table, eating lunch. At an odd time—let's say 17 minutes past the hour—I heard a municipal siren being sounded.

As always, my first thought is concern, hoping that whoever is in need will be fine. My second thought is always curiosity. Could the siren be weather-related?

This time, I decided to get to the bottom of it. Help was a text away. After a brief exchange with town government, I learned a great deal.

Sirens within the town of Tusten are used to summon volunteer emergency service members for fires or health crises. However, before the alarms are sounded, they have likely already received a text alert and are on their way. This is the system followed by many communities that rely on volunteers.

It's another compelling reason to demand better cell coverage in Narrowsburg.

It was made very clear: the sirens we hear in town are *never* related to weather.

So how are citizens alerted that dangerous weather is on the way? Those who want to stay in the know only need to visit www.townoftusten.org and sign up for CodeRed, our municipal emergency alert notification system.

Note that people should sign up as individuals, and not rely on one member of the household for notifications.

After a very easy account set-up, you will get geospecific texts—or emails if that's your preference.

In the years since I first joined, I've been alerted about snow and rainstorms, tornadoes and other emergency situations. Always timely and thorough, CodeRed is a wonderful program that we are fortunate to have. Sign up today.

It's also worth noting that we are blessed to have community-minded volunteer firefighters, EMS and support staff. They are largely self-funded and rely on donations. Consider being generous the next time they



Photo by danielle174, used courtesy of the Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce
A firefighter waves from a Narrowsburg Fire Department truck.

reach out. These services and the people that provide them are at the foundation of what makes us a strong, vital and *safe* community.

Here are some other important telephone numbers to have handy:

Fire department—845/252-3375

Narrowsburg Fire Department—845/252-3328

Emergencies only—911

Tusten town hall—845/252-7146

NYSEG—800/572-1131

Sullivan County Public Works—845/807-0261

Tusten highway department—845/252-7500

Narrowsburg water and sewer department—845/252-7376

Sullivan County emergency operations center—845/807-0800

Non-emergency for trees down—845/807-0877

American Red Cross of Greater New York—877/733-2767

Tusten ambulance—845/252-3336

NY State Police, Narrowsburg barracks—845/252-3212

Walk the trail

BETHEL, NY — Join Sullivan Renaissance at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 3 for an interpretive historical walk along the Bindy Bazaar Trail.

This trail, located at the site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival, is being restored by the Museum at Bethel Woods. Phase II of the restoration project includes the newly expanded Groovy Way and a recently discovered archaeological site. Dr. Neal Hitch, Bethel Woods senior curator, and Eleanor Hein, landscape preservation fellow, will

lead the walk.

Participants will meet in Parking Lot A near the Bindy Bazaar Trail entrance. Remember to wear hiking-appropriate footwear and pack rain gear.

The event will be limited to 40 participants. Families are welcome. Dogs are not allowed.

For more information or to register, visit the events page at www.SullivanRenaissance.org or call 845/295-2445.

September plans for Country Gardeners

HAWLEY, PA — On Thursday, August 4, the Country Gardeners will hold their annual picnic.

The group's monthly meetings will resume at 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 1 at the Brookfield Environmental Learning Center.



Contributed photo

Escape artist Michael Griffin is pictured in a straitjacket during an episode of the CW Network show "Masters Of Illusion."

Keep escape artist prisoner, win cash

HONESDALE, PA — Escape artist Michael Griffin will appear at the Wayne County Fair. Reported to be the best living escape artist, he says he has surprises up his sleeves for fairgoers of all ages.

Griffin has been featured on "America's Got Talent." Although he isn't saying much, according to a report, it sounds as if there will be open challenges from fairgoers. Will he be kept a prisoner, or will he escape? There could be cash prizes for success, the report said.

Griffin is known for a challenge by police to escape from regulation handcuffs and leg

irons from inside a tightly sealed waterproof and airtight bag—all in full view.

What's his secret? "I do not use drugs or alcohol. I never have and I never will," Griffin said. "I simply do not believe in their illusion, nor the illusion of negative thinking, which is the toughest straitjacket we will ever face." However, he said, "if you put your mind to it, and you believe in yourself, you will always escape."

Learn about Griffin at www.escapeguy.com.

For more information about the Wayne County Fair, visit waynecountyfair.com.

Woodridge Kiwanis announce scholarships

WOODRIDGE, NY — Kiwanis of Woodridge awards scholarships each year to graduating seniors from the Fallsburg Central School District.

Recipients must be in good academic standing, have participated in community service, and will attend a two- or four-year college or trade school.

The Kiwanis met the recipients at Krieger Park to congratulate them and take photos.

The winners are:

Nabiha Shah Jahan of Woodbourne will major in accounting at SUNY Sullivan. The daughter of Mirza Baig and Farkhanda Begum, she is an outstanding student, a Kiwanis spokesperson said, who worked hard to give back by participating in many activities to benefit the community.

Jonathan Espinoza of Woodridge will major in health sciences at SUNY Sullivan. He is the son of Edgar and Jeannette Espinoza. An excellent student, the spokesperson said, Jonathan volunteered every year to give back to his community, working many times with the Allyson Whitney Foundation.

Maritza Rivas Joya of South Fallsburg will major in nursing at St. John's University. The daughter of Vilma Joya Gutierrez, she was involved in many activities and clubs throughout her school years. The spokesperson called her a hard worker, dedicated to improving the lives of those in her community.

Josie A. Galeas Irabeta of Woodridge will major in radiology at SUNY Orange. He is the son of Greysy Irabeta and Jose Galeas. His volunteer service is exemplary, the spokesperson said, and he is also an outstanding athlete.



Photo contributed by the Woodridge Kiwanis
Woodridge Kiwanis scholarship recipient Jonathan Espinoza will major in health sciences at SUNY Sullivan.



Photo contributed by the Woodridge Kiwanis
Woodridge Kiwanis scholarship recipient Nabiha Shah Jahan will major in accounting at SUNY Sullivan.

Kyle Tremper of Woodridge will major in mathematics at SUNY New Paltz. He is the son of Aaron and Cheryl Tremper. His work ethic and community involvement, the spokesperson said, made him a perfect choice to be awarded a scholarship.

FOOD

in the Upper Delaware



■ **JUDE'S CULINARY JOURNEY**
BY JUDE WATERSTON

Green thumbs turned brown

When I was a teenager in the mid-'60s, my bedroom windowsills were lined with plants (two of which were pot—full disclosure). I grew wandering Jew, spider, jade and cacti, among others. I had been introduced to caring for and nurturing plants by my brother, Buzz, and his wife Wendy. I found that I had a green thumb and was delighted.

Fast-forward two decades to when my sister Janet and I were first renting our house in the Catskills. We were weekenders, and gardening was an iffy affair for many reasons. Flowers planted by the previous owners would sprout up, and those we set in the ground were hit-and-miss regarding their growth. The soil was lousy, and we didn't have the money or inclination to have it tested.

When some local friends surprised me by setting up a small, enclosed garden abutting the house, I started a vegetable and herb garden. At first I only planted tomatoes and lots of herbs: Thai and sweet basil, tarragon, chives, mint, thyme, sage, oregano and flat-leaf parsley. I paid a neighbor's son to water the garden during the week. He wasn't diligent, and without our knowledge his mom, a close friend, took over the job. To this day, I don't know who pocketed the money we were doling out.

As for the other garden areas on our property, we found it difficult trying to coax them to flourish. It seemed our thumbs were turning more brown than green, as were our plants and flowers.

Janet kept copious notes on what, where and when various flowering plants or succulents were planted, but the mysteries of nature were evident as we witnessed

certain developments. An array of plants never bloomed or died, never to return, then pushed through the earth a year later. Sometimes we dug a hole for a plant where we thought nothing had ever succeeded, then come spring we had two plants one nearly atop the other.

Growing from seed was a total disappointment. I attempted to grow poppies (a favorite), sunflowers, wildflowers, and zinnias, to no avail. Meanwhile, bushes, plants and flowers planted in the 1970s by the previous owners were popping up hither and yon. Our "gardens" were an unorganized mess that frustrated us and brought little joy and much confusion. Janet, who is a master weeder, had trouble distinguishing plants from weeds and her meticulous notes unraveled.

At one point after we had moved into the house permanently, about six years ago, we bought a beautiful hand-crafted wooden bench. We set it directly under our front porch. On it we set three enormous pots in which I planted flowers. Alongside them, on the ground, I set medium-sized pots filled with yellow dahlias, rose-colored double impatiens, begonias and petunias. In the back of the house, we planted tall flowering plants. Among them were zinnias in bright yellow, pink, peach, orange and red, to cut and bring into the house so we would have bouquets to set in vases of handblown glass or multi-colored pottery we brought back from Mexico. Things started to look up.

The gardens take work. Weeds and tiny stones pop up through the surface of the soil, particularly after a night of rain. It's annoying to work a couple of hours kneeling, pulling and plucking only to **—Page 11**



RR photo by Jude Waterston

This herb frittata lets garden herbs shine.

Herb frittata

Serves 4

If you do not have an herb garden or all of the herbs listed below, just use as many as you have on hand. But the more the merrier.

- 8 large eggs
- 1/3 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped basil
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped chives
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped tarragon
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped thyme
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped rosemary
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped dill
- 1/4 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes in oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, cheese, herbs, sundried tomatoes, salt and pepper until well combined.

Heat the oil over medium heat in a 9-inch nonstick skillet.

Pour the egg mixture into the pan and lift the edges of the frittata as it sets to allow the uncooked egg to reach the surface of the pan.

Meanwhile, turn the broiler on.

Cook the frittata until the eggs are set on the bottom and the frittata is lightly browned, about 5-10 minutes.

Wrap the handle of the skillet with aluminum foil.

Slide the skillet under the broiler for 3-5 minutes or until the eggs are set and the top is lightly browned.

Slide the frittata onto a large serving plate and serve hot or at room temperature.

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SCAN TO FIND OUT





RR photo by Jude Waterston

The herb and vegetable garden in bloom.

GREEN → Page 10

have to repeat the process a week later.

We started using compost in the past couple of years and saw a miraculous change in the growth and health of our plants. Nurturing and watching the evolution of the gardens is now a joy. We lucked out this year, in that from the middle of May moving forward it looked like the temps would be high enough to ward away a frost. I was able to start planting my vegetable and herb garden earlier than ever before. I planted seven varieties of (mostly) heirloom tomatoes; slim, thin-skinned Persian cucumbers and zucchini. I'm vigilant about keeping an eye on the latter two. I can't stand a cuke or zucchini longer than about seven inches long

and an inch and a half wide in size. How many times have you gotten a zucchini the size of your forearm, only to find it mealy and inedible?

Chives, mint and thyme return every year and I've added spicy globe basil and dill along with the usual suspects. Fresh herbs transform my cooking by adding so much flavor. While weeding this week, I saw that each of my tomato plants already has branches hung with tiny green specimens. It's exciting to watch as they grow and eventually become ripe. Oh, the plans I have for all of those tomatoes!

Meanwhile, Janet and I have noticed that our thumbs have lost their brownish hue, and we believe we have recovered the green thumbs of gardening that eluded us for too many years.



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A taste of honey

NARROWSBURG, NY — Catskills Curated invites all to attend a guided honey-tasting with Riverbend Honey.

The event will be held at the Catskills Curated store, 7 Erie Ave, Saturday, July 30 from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Experts Bill Boyle, a master beekeeper, and Donna Defalco Boyle, a certified honey sommelier, will lead the tasting. The Boyles are the co-owners of Riverbend Honey.

This event is free and all are welcome to attend but pre-registration is requested. Register at <https://bit.ly/3B8lmo9>. A registration confirmation email will be sent.



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KIM'S KITCHEN

BY KIM M. SIMONS



RR photo by Kim M. Simons

The completed Summer Picnic Table Cake.

Make these summer picnic treats from fondant

By KIM M. SIMONS

Summer means picnics to me, and not just any picnics. It means gigantic picnics hosted by the Volunteer Fire Department Ontario Hose Co. #3, out of Liberty, NY—my hometown.

My dad, Jack I. Simons, loved being in the volunteer fire department. I would say it was third on his list of Big Loves, right up there with my mother and the VFW.

Of course, if Jack was cooking at the fire department picnic—and he always was—my mother, Carol, would be working right there with him, waiting tables and jumping in on anything else that needed to be done. They were truly a team.

And if my parents were there—and did I mention they were always there?—that meant I was there. Later in life, when I would work at the picnic as well, my only payment would be an unlimited supply of the delicious clams we cooked up. Even now, when I hit the fire department picnics, I devour those clams as if they were popcorn.

But as a kid, there was a lot more going on up at Fireman Park Road than just food. There were a ton of friends hanging out, too. And that spelled F-U-N.

One of our favorite things to do was to spin ourselves dizzy on this gigantic metal roundabout thing—my husband swears it would have been a merry-go-round, but I always thought merry-go-rounds require horses (and if they don't, they should).

And then there were the scavenger hunts. We would search through the woods surrounding the park, hoping against hope to snag a hidden toy.

Then, yes, there was the food to be had under the pavilion—but you could also grab handfuls of blueberries fresh off the bushes in the park. They were certainly far superior to the stinky Limburger cheese my dad was always trying to get me to eat.

Of course, there was bingo as well—you can always tell the *serious* players by how many cards they had in front of them. (If somebody's working, say, five, take my advice and don't even speak to them until the game is over.)

And one of my favorite memories? The almost-endless softball games in the field just off the pavilion. Almost everyone played.

That's why I thought making these cool Summer Picnic Treats out of fondant would be a great project for this month. It pretty much requires beginner-level skills, but the results are as delicious as the food that comes directly off the grill.

Oh, and if the fire department does a picnic this year, you can bet I'm getting me some clams!

For a step-by-step tutorial, with photos and a video, visit riverreporter.com/kims-kitchen.

Kim M. Simons is an award-winning artist, cake artist and food artist. She and her team—the Bah Hum Bakers—were the champions of Food Network's "Holiday Wars" in 2019. Kim was recently seen competing on Food Network's "Halloween Wars," which can be streamed on Food Network's app or on Discovery +. She is also available to teach classes. Visit Kim at www.cakesbykimsimons.com.

■ THE FOOD OUT HERE

BY HUNTER HILL

Blueberry compote, she wrote

If you are as busy as my wife and I have been, simple is a much-needed element to any part of the day.

After a long couple of weeks managing the blueberry patch at our farmstand, we had two thoughts: we wanted to eat a few of these delicious little blue berries, and we didn't want to get too crazy making something out of them.

Of course, we have been snacking on them fresh off the bush for nearly two weeks now. At some point, though, those dreams of blueberry-inspired desserts and treats creep into your daydreams and become demanding.

Creative when it comes to nutritious and delicious ingredients, my wife has had a longstanding recipe for blueberry compote that we both enjoy. It's not a full dessert in itself, but we were fortunate to be gifted leftover cheesecake from a friend. So now with a tasty cheesecake ready for syrupy adornment, we had the perfect vehicle for a compote.

A mere 10 to 15 minutes later, after putting the boys to bed for the night, we had an evening treat.

On a separate note, the cheesecake element is timeless. After all, is there ever a season not to enjoy cheesecake? For those pondering this life question, the only correct answer is "No."

A plain wedge of cheesecake would have been equally enjoyable, but was made all the more so by this easy topping. There are a whopping two ingredients. It really can't get much simpler.

Combine berries and sugar in a saucepan,

and cook down into sticky fruit syrup. If you have an abundance of wild raspberries or blackberries, you can easily substitute that berry for your compote. However, since we are in the height of blueberry season for another few weeks because of the steady warm weather, I suggest taking advantage of the main event.

Do you have to eat them all at once? No. As we pick our surplus for the year, we freeze them dry on a flat cookie sheet. Once they are frozen this way, they can be packed in freezer Ziploc bags and stored without risk of clumping and freezing together in the bag.

If you have little ones like we do, even the frozen berries are a treat. Our oldest has a bit of a blueberry addiction—he eats berries from the freezer bag without warming them up or having them in pancakes. I imagine it's a lot like eating frozen yogurt, but I'm far happier to eat them in their prepared forms.

Even my son likes a little leftover blueberry compote drizzled into his yogurt or on top of his breakfast. It even goes well on toast or English muffins. The uses are only limited by your imagination.

The way out here, we like to spoil ourselves with the literal fruits of our labors. Right now, that's blueberries. Pray for us when the youngest is able to eat more solid foods. We may need a team to pick enough blueberries to satisfy our young horde. In the meantime, I think my wife and I will just sneak our blueberry compote-covered cheesecake under cover of darkness after the two of our offspring have succumbed to slumber.



RR photo by Hunter Hill

Fresh-picked blueberries have great potential for sweet and delicious treats.

Blueberry compote

Recipe courtesy of Mrs. Chelsea Hill.

2 cups blueberries

1/4 cup white granulated sugar

Combine the blueberries and sugar in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir occasionally to prevent burning or to keep the contents from sticking to the pot.

Cook for about 10 minutes, or until the berries have burst and the mixture has thickened enough to stick to the back of a spoon.

Serve over dessert of your choice.

Come pick your own blueberries at Hillstead Farm, 834 Beach Lake Hwy. Hours are Friday, 12 noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you have questions, call 570/352-8649.

Be sure to get your tickets for:



Music Talks: Hannah Kendall, Tuxedo Required
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The New Fantastic
Weekend of Chamber Music
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Farm Arts Collective
Willow Wisp Organic Farm
August 3-7 7:30-9pm

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Things are Happening

in arts & leisure

DONNA
AND THE DYNAMOS

RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Celebrating everything we need the most 'Mamma Mia!' returns

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

FORESTBURGH, NY — Donna and the gang are back for another visit, as "Mamma Mia!" returns to the mainstage

at the Forestburgh Playhouse.

The show will run through Sunday, July 31.

Written by British playwright Catherine Johnson, "Mamma Mia!"

debuted in 1999. The musical features supergroup ABBA's hit songs, woven into a plot about a young woman's upcoming wedding and her search for her father.

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Where & When

Thursday, July 28

Annual Picnic @ SCAS

LIBERTY, NY — Sullivan County Audubon Society presents its annual picnic, 6pm at Hanofee Park on Sunset Rd. Bring a side dish. To see what's needed or to report what you will bring, call 845/798-3266, 845/484-5044.

'Archeology of Ten Mile River' @ TMR

ONLINE — Ten Mile River Scout Camp Museum presents a new museum exhibit "The Archeology of Ten Mile River Village/Tusten Village," available during open hours at 1481 Crystal Lake Rd. Featuring 300+ artifacts. www.tmrsmuseum.org, 845/252-2063.

Book Bingo @ LPL

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Public Library presents Teen & Adult Book Bingo through Aug. 12 at 189 North Main St. Come into the library for a chance to win prizes. <https://libertypubliclibrary.libcal.com>.

Dave's Backyard Skewers @ CPH

COCHECTON, NY — The Cochecton Pump House presents Dave's Backyard Skewers, 4-10pm at 7895 St. Rte. 97. Chinese style BBQ. 845/932-5277, pumhouseevent@gmail.com.

Drawings & Paintings @ WCAA

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance's Missing Pieces Art Galley presents drawings, painting, bowls & boxes by Bob & Sandy Schoenholtz at 959 Main St. On display until Sep. 3. Gallery hours are Thur.-Sat. 11am-4pm. 724/433-1438.

'Ekphrasis' @ WCAA

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance's Main Street Gallery presents Exhibition "Ekphrasis: Art Inspires Poetry" at 959 Main St. On display through Aug. 6. Closing party on Aug. 5 from 5-8pm. 570/729-5740, waynecountyartsalliance@gmail.com.

'Existential Inquiry' @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — Delaware Valley Arts Alliance presents "Existential Inquiry," an exhibition with the works of David Dann, on display through Jul. 31 at the Alliance Gallery, 37 Main St. 11am-4pm, Thur.-Sat. 845/252-7576.

Family Raft Trip @ UDC

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Upper Delaware Council presents the 34th annual Family Raft Trip, Aug. 7 with meeting between 9-10am at Lander's Campground, 69 DeMauro Ln. Reserve by Jul. 29 at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022-Registration-Flyer.pdf. \$29/ages 13 & up, \$19/ages 4-12. ashley@upperdelawarecouncil.org.

'Inspired by Nature' @ The ARTery

MILFORD, PA — The ARTery Gallery presents an exhibit called "Inspired by Nature" featuring the works of Chris Helfand & Yeoshin "Helen" Hwang, available Thurs.-Mon. 10am-6pm at 210 Broad St. www.arterygallerymiford.com, 570/409-1234.

Jaketown Road @ BLM

KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY — Bethel Lakeside Music presents live music with Jaketown Road, 6-8pm at 3562 St. Rte. 55. Part of the Summer Series. bethellakesidemusic@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/2017BLM.

Kids Lunch Party @ The Cooperage

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage presents Kids Lunch party, 11am-noon, Mon.-Fri. until Jul. 29 at 1030 Main St. Free lunches for ages 0-18. Games, activities, workshops & more. info@thecooperageproject.org, 570/253-2020.

Lend-a-Rod @ WSPL

WSPL LIBRARIES — Western Sullivan Public Libraries present Lend-a-Rod through Oct. 15 at any WSPL branch. Check out a rod & tackle box like a book. Free to children ages 8-14 who are members of the library. Sponsored by the Upper Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited. wsplprograms@rcsls.org.

Thursday, July 28

Leslie Bender @ ML

ONLINE, WURTSBORO, NY — Mamakating Library presents Ulster County artist Leslie Bender, 7pm at 128 Sullivan St & on Zoom. Bender will share her story as depicted in the art she has created from her early 20s through her present age of 70. Register at www.mamakatinglibrary.org/events-calendar-new. mam-circ@rccls.org, 845/888-8004.

Notary Test @ Monticello

MONTICELLO, NY — The Sullivan County Clerk's Office & NYS Division of Licensing Services present a Notary Public Test, 11:30am at the Monticello Elks Lodge, 46 North Main St. \$15. Bring a #2 pencil & a current form of government-issued ID. Register at naryexam@sullivanny.us, 845/807-0425.

Old Time Radio @ WSPL

ONLINE — Western Sullivan Public Library & The Act Underground Theatre Company present the latest Old Time Radio episode, "As the River Turns," on the library's web page at www.wsplonline.org.

Owen Walsh & Co @ Old School Farm

HONESDALE, PA — Old School Farm presents live music with Owen Walsh & Co, 6-9pm at 303 Upper Woods Rd. 215/384-7204, info@oldschoolfarm.com.

'P&D & Mini Me' @ Birdhouse Gallery

HANCOCK, NY — The Birdhouse Gallery presents "P&D & Mini Me," open by appt. through Sep. 5 at the Birdhouse Gallery, 499 East Front St. Opening reception Jul. 23 from 4-7pm. birdhousecatskills@gmail.com.

Sensory Walk at MEEC @ ML

WURTSBORO, NY — Mamakating Library presents Summer Programs Preschool: Sensory Walk at MEEC, 10am at Mamakating Environmental Education Center, 762 South Rd. mamcirc@rccls.org, 845/888-8004.

Shades @ EBCPL

MONTICELLO, NY — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library presents live music with Shades, 6-7pm outside, 479 Broadway. For adults. Register at <https://ebcpl.libcal.com/calendar>, 845/794-4660.

Sketchbook Parti 2023 @ WCAA

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance presents its Sketchbook Parti 2023. Pick up a sketchbook for \$20 at 1875 Fair Ave, Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm. Submissions accepted until Sep. 30. For more info, email waynecountyartsalliance@gmail.com.

Sullivan Fresh @ Wurtsboro Church

WURTSBORO, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan presents the Sullivan Fresh Mobile Farmers Market, Jul. to Oct. from 10:30am-12:30pm, Thursdays at the Community Church of Wurtsboro, 134 Sullivan St. www.sullivanfresh.org/agriculture/sullivan-fresh, 845/292-6180, ext. 130.

Summer Sippers Raffle @ WCPL

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Public Library presents Summer Sippers Raffle through Aug. 15 at 1406 Main St. For ages 21+. \$10 for a chance to win 21 high end sippers. 570/253-1220.

The Four26 @ CPH

COCHECTON, NY — The Cocheton Pump House presents live music with The Four26, 5-8pm at 7895 St. Rte. 97. 845/932-5277, pumphouseevent@gmail.com

The Idol Kings @ DSWS

WHITE MILLS, PA — Dorflinger Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary presents 2022 Wildflower Music Festival with The Idol Kings at 55 Suydam Dr. \$26/general admission, \$13/students ages 13-18, \$0/children under 12. Purchase tickets at www.dorflinger.org/wildflower-music-festival. music01@ptd.net, 570/253-5500.

Tobacco & Plant Dieta @ The Sanctuary

CALLICOON, NY — The Sanctuary presents 7 days - 7 nights Tobacco & Plant Dieta with Merav Artzi & Jason Sadhana Grechanik, Jul. 26 to Aug. 2 at 132 Hospital Rd. \$1,595. Register at www.thesanctuaryheal.com/calendar-of-events. 845/747-5040, info@thesanctuaryheal.com.

Trivia Night @ Catskill Brewery

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Brewery presents trivia night, 6pm, Thursdays at 672 Old Rte. 17. 845/439-1232, info@catskillbrewery.com.

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RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

The full cast of "Mamma Mia!"

CELEBRATING - Page 13

Performances take place Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., with matinees on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Back in 2018 at the playhouse, the musical had "a sold-out run," executive producer Franklin Trapp said. "We are so excited to bring back a musical that celebrates all of the things we need the most: laughter, incredible music, splashy costumes, dance routines and a heartwarming story."

What's changed for "Mamma Mia!" between 2018 and now? "In terms of popularity," Trapp said, "absolutely nothing. Our audiences love this show and are having a blast with our 'round two.'"

The music and the fun are exactly the same, he said, "and at the same time, we are presenting a very different show, created by a brand-new director" and a new team of designers and actors. Even so, he said, "the excitement and fun this show provides is timeless."

The playhouse continued to hold shows during 2020 and 2021. "The biggest challenges," Trapp said, "were finding ways to entertain our audiences and keep them safe at the same time."

They ran an outdoor concert series, outdoor arts-education programs and then designed an indoor theatre plan for a pandemic era. "Despite the challenges, the joy in keeping the arts alive was truly in [that] experienced by our patrons as they were able to finally experience the magic of live theatre."

The comedy features dance numbers to ABBA hits, such as "Super Trouper," "Dancing Queen," "Take a Chance on Me," "Thank You for the Music," "Money, Money, Money," "The Winner Takes It All" and "SOS."

What's Trapp's favorite scene? "The whole thing is spectacular," he said, "but I will say, I get really excited for the Mamma Mia Mega-mix that happens toward the end of the production." He praised the phenomenal dancing.

Tickets cost \$45, and can be purchased online at fbplayhouse.org.

"Given all the challenges we all have faced over the last few years," Trapp said, "what the world needs now is 'Mamma Mia!'"

'Mamma Mia!' cast and crew

The show is directed and choreographed by Chaz Wolcott, with music direction by James Osorio.

The cast features Chistina Stroup (Donna Sheridan), Michelle Alves (Tanya), M'Laine Hunter (Rosie), Edward Staudenmeyer (Sam), Joseph Torello (Bill), Scott Evans as (Harry), Jessi Kirtley (Sophie), Mike Bindemen (Sky), Kelly Belarmino (Ali), Caroline Borio (Lisa), Anthony DaSilva (Pepper) and Justin Sudderth (Eddie).

The ensemble features Kelly Belarmino, Caroline Borio, Anthony DaSilva, Collin Hancock, Maggie Likcani, Skyler Sajewski, Bella Serrano and Justin Sudderth.

The creative team includes Steven Velasquez (scenic designer), Risa Ando (costume designer), Ethan Newman (lighting designer), Mackenzie Ademick (sound designer), Lorelei Davis (property master), Caroline Jackson (production stage manager) and Rose Tablizo (assistant stage manager).


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The turkeys are not productive

DEC seeks citizen scientists to report turkey sightings

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

NEW YORK STATE — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) commissioner Basil Seggos is encouraging New Yorkers to take part in the state's annual survey of wild turkeys, a valuable tool that helps the DEC determine the productivity of turkey populations statewide.

By "productivity," the DEC means "making more turkeys."

Don't laugh—turkeys are important, and not just on Thanksgiving.

"Wild turkeys provide food for their predators and impact populations of the plants whose seeds and nuts they eat," according to BioKids at the University of Michigan. Turkeys eat plants indiscriminately, per the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And the plant seeds come out the other end and are spread about.

Turkeys are a top game bird. There is also "the satisfaction and entertainment of watching turkeys during their mating rituals and raising their young, the chance to hunt them yourself, and as a source of income by charging access fees to others who wish to hunt in your woodlands," adds treefarmssystem.org.

Turkey populations in New York State peaked in the late 1990s and early 2000s. However, over the past decade, turkey productivity has consistently been below average, leading to lower populations. Since 1996, the DEC has conducted a survey tracking sightings of wild turkeys. It monitors wild turkey populations and estimates the number of wild turkey poults (young of the year) per hen statewide.

This index allows the DEC to gauge reproductive success and predict future turkey populations and harvest opportunities.

DEC uses reported observations of wild turkeys to track annual productivity over time and in different parts of the state.

"Citizen scientists provide important data that helps our biologists examine how factors such as weather, predation and habitat conditions during the breeding and brood-rearing seasons impact turkey survival," Seggos said. "Without the assistance of our volunteers, the task of monitoring turkey populations statewide would be far more difficult, and we



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The wild turkey was almost our national bird. Feel the pride.

encourage participation this summer to help enhance our knowledge of turkeys in New York."

User-submitted data also helps wildlife managers forecast hunting prospects for the coming fall season and subsequent spring seasons, a DEC spokesman noted. To submit turkey observations, citizen scientists are encouraged to use DEC's form at <https://bit.ly/3BgQlyi>.

The DEC solicits citizen-scientist data on other animal activities too. Have you seen amphibians cross the road? That is potential science, and you can train to record the data. For migratory-amphibian training and other excellent information, visit the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/1155.html.

Thursday, July 28

'Wooden It Be Nice' @ BAAA

ELDRED, NY — Barryville Area Arts Association's "Wooden It Be Nice" on display through Aug. 15 at the Corner Store in Eldred. Some of the pieces are for sale. More information at www.artistsmarketcc.com/woodenitbenice.html.

Friday, July 29

Albi Beluli @ Seminary Hill

CALLICOON, NY — Seminary Hill Cider presents live music with Albi Beluli, 5:30-8:30pm at 43 Wagner Ln. 845/887-4056, info@seminaryhill.co.

'Artists of the Catskills' @ Liberty Museum

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Museum & Arts Center presents "Artists of the Catskills" at 46 South Main St. On display until Aug. 28. Museum hours Fri.-Sat. from noon-4pm. Imacinfo@libertymuseum.com, 845/292-2394.

Benefit Dance @ Loch Sheldrake

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — The Liberty NY Rotary Club presents a dance to benefit the Special Olympics, 6-9pm at Fireman's Field, 815 St. Rte. 52. Live music & refreshments. \$20/ticket. Purchase tickets at joseph.habraham2011@gmail.com.

Blake Friedman @ Harmony in the Woods

HAWLEY, PA — Harmony in the Woods presents live music with Blake Friedman, 6-7pm at 19 Imagination Way. \$40. Tickets & more info at www.harmonyinthewoods.org. hello@harmonyinthewoods.org, 570/588-8077.

Book Signing @ Milford

MILFORD, PA — Hallie Balogh & Auttie Grace present a book signing of their first book, "Empire: To Earth & Back," 4-7pm at Better World Coffee Shop, 322 Broad St. More information at www.hastoriesofficial.com.

Chris Raabe @ CPH

COCHECTON, NY — The Cochecton Pump House presents live music with Chris Raabe, 6-9pm at 7895 St. Rte. 97. Confirmation of show time announced one week prior to event. 845/932-5277, pumphouseevent@gmail.com.

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Friday, July 29

‘Don’t Dress for Dinner’ @ RCP

HAWLEY, PA — The Ritz Company Playhouse presents “Don’t Dress for Dinner,” 8pm on Jul. 29, 30, 31, Aug. 5, 6 & 2:30pm on Aug. 7. \$20/adults, \$15/students & seniors 65+, \$10/Ritz Blitz Production. More information at www.ritzplayhouse.com. theritz@ritzplayhouse.com, 570/226-9752.

Oceans of Possibilities @ WCPL

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Public Library presents Teens Oceans of Possibilities: Uncharted Waters across the Galaxy, 6pm at 1406 North Main St. For kids entering grade 6 through high school. Register at jkjera@waynelibraries.org. 570/253-1220.

Penny Social @ Beach Lake

BEACH LAKE, PA — St. Bernard’s Catholic Church Hall presents a penny social, 6:15pm at 300 Catholic Church Rd. Door prizes, raffle prizes & refreshments. \$1+/ticket. carolherbs@aol.com.

Skillet @ Rafter’s

CALLICOON, NY — Rafter’s Tavern presents live music with Skillet, 7-9pm at 28 Upper Main St. rafterstavern@gmail.com, 845/887-9882.

‘Telling Stories & Seeing Color’ @ UpFront

PORT JERVIS, NY — UpFront Exhibition Space presents an exhibition titled “Telling Stories & Seeing Color” by several local artists, through Aug. 28, Fri.-Sun. 1-6pm at 31 Jersey Ave. 845/754-1808.

Saturday, July 30

‘a-Historical Landscapes’ @ HPAC

ONLINE — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre presents “a-Historical Landscapes” by Jean-Marc Superville Sovak, 7-8pm on Zoom. More information at www.hurleyvilleartscentre.org/a-historical-landscapes. info@hacny.org, 845/985-4722.

Blood Drive @ Honesdale

HONESDALE, PA — Red Cross blood drive, 10am-3pm at Saint Dominic’s Academy, 329 Cliff St. Appointments are needed. Schedule online at www.redcrossblood.org or call 800/733-2767.

Car Show @ Hector’s Inn

BETHEL, NY — Hector’s Inn presents its 8th annual Car Show, noon at 14 Dr Duggan Rd. Live music by Keith Newman & refreshments available for purchase. 845/583-9740.

Community Luncheon @ Central United Methodist Church

HONESDALE, PA — Central United Methodist Church presents a community luncheon, 11-11:30am, 5th Saturday of the month when available at 205 11th St. 570/470-3868.

Dinner @ VFW Post #4947

WURTSBORO, NY — The Edward M. Maier Memorial VFW Post #4947 presents a full dinner & open mic, 5-7pm every Saturday at 26 VFW Rd. Meat, pasta, salad, coffee, tea, assorted desserts & more. \$15/person.

El Caribefunk @ Harmony in the Woods

HAWLEY, PA — Harmony in the Woods presents live music with El Caribefunk, 6-8pm at 19 Imagination Way. \$25. Tickets & more info at www.harmonyinthewoods.org, 570/588-8077.

Farming with Kids & Adults @ APF

CALLICOON CENTER, NY — Apple Pond Farm presents Farming with Kids & Adults, 10-11:30am, every Saturday at 80 Hahn Rd. Different topic each week. \$10/person. Register at www.applepondfarm.com/programs. 845/482-4764.

Flea Market @ Lackawaxen

LACKAWAXEN, PA — The Ladies Auxiliary of the LTVFD presents a flea market, 10am-3pm at 774 St. Rte. 590. For more information or to be a vendor, call 570/685-1998.

Forager’s Art @ Outside Institute

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — The Outside Institute presents Forager’s Art, 10am-1pm with Laura Chávez Silverman, Bette Blau & Lori Nelson. Forage for items to be featured in a photograph of your own creation. Refreshments made with foraged goods provided. \$100. Register at <https://theoutsideinstitute.org/events>. 845/557-6058.

Heavy mental music and brain commentary

ROCK VALLEY, NY — So We Are—aka the Acoustic Amygdaloids—will perform at the Rock Valley Schoolhouse on Sunday, July 31 at 4 p.m.

The band members are Joe LeDoux and Colin Dempsey, and they’ll play tunes from their Heavy MeNtal catalog.

LeDoux, a neuroscientist, will also provide interspersed commentary about the brain and mind, and could add a few words about his new work.

The schoolhouse is located at 9598 County Hwy. 28. There is no charge to attend, but donations are requested to maintain the building and support the artists.

For more information, call 845/887-6569.

Dance benefits Special Olympics

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — The Liberty Rotary Club will hold a dance to benefit the Special Olympics on Friday, July 29 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Loch Sheldrake Firemen’s Park on State Route 52.

Tickets cost \$20 and include a choice of hamburger, hot dog or vegetarian option, as well as a soft drink. \$100 sponsorships are also available.

To reserve your ticket or for additional sponsorship information, email event chairperson Joseph Abraham at josephabraham2011@gmail.com.

Stray Cat art gallery relocated

HORTONVILLE, NY — The Stray Cat art gallery has moved to the Gardner & Company General Store in Hortonville.

The gallery—and the store—are open Monday, Friday and Saturday from 12 noon to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

The store is described as a “cozy, historic, eclectic shop, created and operated by Cindy Herbert,” and the gallery hosts Stray Cat art and antiques.

You can see some of the works at straycatgallery.com.

Visit the store online at gardnerandcogeneralstore.com/ or on Facebook at [GardnerCoGeneralStore](https://www.facebook.com/GardnerCoGeneralStore).

Wendy Stuart Kaplan to read from new memoir

MILFORD, PA — Model, producer and gay activist Wendy Stuart Kaplan is now an author too, and she’ll read from her new book and sign copies at the Sparkomatic Cafe at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

The book, titled “Last Model Standing,” is described as a “memoir of climbing a rocky ladder of success, of a girl from the Bronx with big dreams, who makes her way from a village in Nigeria... to Studio 54” and beyond.

Kaplan has been a model, actress, comedian, documentary filmmaker, podcast host and more.

She is also involved with Triversity, the Milford-based LGBTQ+A organization.

Learn more about Kaplan at wendystuarttv.com.

The music doesn’t stop for the River Ramblers

REGION — Local band the River Ramblers are performing in various venues in the Sullivan County Catskills.

The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, July 31: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. outside at the Western in Callicoon

Friday, August 5: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Cochecton Pump House

Saturday, August 6: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sand Beach in Highland Lake

Learn more at [RiverRamblers](https://www.facebook.com/RiverRamblers) on Facebook, where all events are posted.

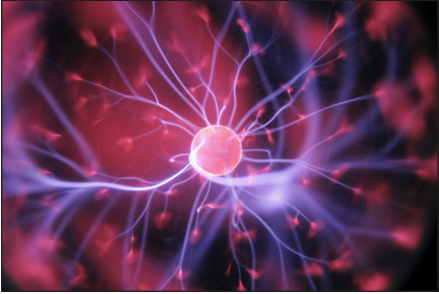


Photo by Hal Gatewood on Unsplash

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Season's end at the Weekend of Chamber Music

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — The 29th season of the Weekend of Chamber Music will end on Saturday, July 30.

The concert dates are as follows:

Thursday, July 28—"Tuxedo Required," part of Hannah Kendall's "MusicTalks" series, will take place at the Catskill Art Society's Laundry King. The show, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will feature Kendall's "Tuxedo" solos for violin and cello.

Friday, July 29—Open rehearsal at the Jeffersonville Bake Shop. The rehearsal, which begins at 7 p.m., will include discussion of works of Bach, Berio, Stravinsky, Kendall, Waggoner and Britten.

Saturday, July 30—"The New FANTASTIC," at the Jeffersonville Bake Shop, begins at 8 p.m. The show features the music of Bach, Berio, Stravinsky, Kendall, Waggoner and Britten.

Tickets for the Laundry King cost \$20 for general admission. The cost for Bake Shop concerts is \$30. For all concerts, there is no charge for kids under 18. Tickets are available at the door or at myrivertickets.com.

Admission to the open rehearsal is free.

For more information on the whole Weekend of Chamber Music season, visit wcmconcerts.org.

Photo contributed by the Weekend of Chamber Music

Hannah Kendall is the composer-in-residence this year at the Weekend of Chamber Music.

Bus trip to NYC

MONTICELLO, NY — Take a motorcoach round-trip on a visit to New York City.

The bus leaves at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, August 17 from the Temple Shalom parking lot at 5 E. Dillon Rd. It should arrive in the city in time to buy matinee theater tickets, a

temple press release said.

Passengers can enjoy a day in the city for shopping, sightseeing or visiting friends.

The bus will return by 6 p.m.

The cost is \$40 for temple members, \$45 for nonmembers. Call Paula for reservations at 845/794-2314.

The nature of Ten Mile River

NARROWSBURG, NY — Bio-blitzes have recorded every living thing around Rock Lake during a 24-hour period in 2014 and 2016.

Learn more about the natural world at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2 at the next Tuesday Evening History talk, "The Nature of Ten Mile River."

The discussion will be held at the open-air Cayuga/Kotohke cabin at 1481 Crystal Lake Rd.

For information, call 845/252-2063 or email info@tmrmuseum.org.



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Saturday, July 30

Frog Frolic @ PEEC

DINGMANS FERRY, PA — Pocono Environmental Education Center presents Frog Frolic, 10am-noon at 538 Emery Rd. Wear boots & plan on getting wet & muddy. \$5/person. Register at 570/828-2319.

Honey Tasting @ Narrowsburg Union

NARROWSBURG, NY — Narrowsburg Union Digital Gallery presents Riverbend Honey Tasting with Bill Boyle & Donna Defalco Boyle, noon-2pm at 7 Erie Ave. Preregister at www.narrowsburgunion.com/events. contact@narrowsburgunion.com, 845/252-3100.

Intro to Fly Fishing @ Zane Grey Museum

LACKAWAXEN, PA — The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission presents Introduction to Fly Fishing, 9am-3pm at the Zane Grey Museum, 135 Scenic Dr. For ages 12+ to learn the basics of fly fishing. Register at www.register-ed.com/events/view/184208. alschreffl@pa.gov, 570/477-2206.

Introduction to Orienteering @ PEEC

DINGMANS FERRY, PA — Pocono Environmental Education Center presents Introduction to Orienteering, 1-3pm at 538 Emery Rd. Learn how to use a map & compass on this orienteering course. \$5. Register at 570/828-2319. peec@peec.org.

Kids Craft Day @ Glen Spey

GLEN SPEY, NY — The Town of Lumberland Parks & Recreation presents Kids Craft Day, noon-2pm at Circle Park, 1025 Proctor Rd. Make a DIY flower planter. 845/856-8600, ext. 1210.

Learning the Double Haul @ CFFCM

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum presents Learning the Double Haul with Craig Buckbee, 9am-noon at 1031 Old Rte. 17. \$150/non-member, \$125/member. Register at www.cffcm.com/eventscalendar. 845/439-4810.

Lyme & Tick Symposium @ Pike County Training Center

LORDS VALLEY, PA — The Tick Borne Diseases Task Force presents a Pike County Lyme & Tick Borne Diseases Health Symposium, 10am-4pm at the Pike County Training Center, 135 Pike County Blvd. More information at www.pikepa.org/tick. bsnyder@pikepa.org, 570/296-3569.

Max Lee & The Air Drifters @ CPH

COCHECTON, NY — The Cocheton Pump House presents live music with Max Lee & The Air Drifters, 6-9pm at 7895 St. Rte. 97. 845/932-5277.

Mike Miz @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance presents Mike Miz & The Northeast Extension, 7:30-9pm at the Tusten Theatre, 210 Bridge St. \$25/ticket, \$0/kids 12 & under. Purchase tickets at <https://www.delawarevalleyartsalliance.org/performances>. info@delawarevalleyartsalliance.org, 845/252-757.

Plein Air @ BAAA

PORT JERVIS, NY — Barryville Area Arts Association presents Plein Air on the Delaware, 10am-3pm meeting at the Creamery, 5 Water St. Artists may choose to travel to Hawk's Nest, Elks Brox Campground, or the park along the river behind the railroad tracks. Refreshments & lunch will be served. Register at barryvilleareaarts@gmail.com.

Repair Café @ Mamakating Library

WURTSBORO, NY — Mamakating Library's Repair Café, 11am-3pm in the library parking lot, 128 Sullivan St. Volunteer repair experts will be available to help make all possible repairs free of charge. 845/888-8004.

The New Fantastic @ WCM

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Weekend of Chamber Music presents a pre-concert chat, 8pm at the Jeffersonville Bake Shop, 4906 St. Rte. 52. \$35/ticket, \$0/students. Purchase tickets at www.wcmconcerts.org/concerts. 917/664-5185.

Vanessa Collier @ DSWs

WHITE MILLS, PA — Dorflinger Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary presents 2022 Wildflower Music Festival with Vanessa Collier at 55 Suydam Dr. \$26/general admission, \$13/students ages 13-18, \$0/children under 12. Purchase tickets at www.dorflinger.org/wildflower-music-festival. music01@ptd.net, 570/253-5500.

Sunday, July 31

Art Appreciation Day @ EHS

EQUINUNK, PA — The Equinunk Historical Society presents its Art Appreciation Day at 1972 Pine Mill Rd. A special program on area postcards is being planned. 570/224-6722.

Monthly Meeting @ Rowland Co-op

ROWLAND, PA — Rowland Cooperative presents its monthly meeting, 2:30-4pm in the Helen Weisman Memorial meeting room at 101 Solversen Rd. 570/685-9500.

Open Mic @ Rafter's

CALLICOON, NY — Rafter's Tavern presents Open Mic, Sundays 3-5pm at The Nest, 28 Upper Main St. Hosted by Elizabeth Rose. 845/887-9882, rafterstavern@gmail.com.

Patrick Motto @ Tafton Taproom

HAWLEY, PA — Wallenpaupack Brewing Company (WBC) presents live music at the Wake Zone with Patrick Motto, 1-4pm at 274 PA-507. 570/390-7933.

Poison Love @ Callicoon Farmers Market

CALLICOON, NY — Poison Love will be at the Callicoon Farmers Market, 11:30am-1:30pm at A. Dorner Dr. www.facebook.com/poisonloveband.

The Electric Chords @ CPH

COCHECTON, NY — The Cochection Pump House presents live music with The Electric Chords, 5-8pm at 7895 St. Rte. 97. pumphouseevent@gmail.com, 845/932-5277.

Welcome Potluck @ FAC

DAMASCUS, PA — The Lenape Nation of PA embarks on a treaty-signing journey on the Delaware River every 4 years. Willow Wisp Organic Farm & Farm Arts Collective welcomes the sojourners with a hot meal, 5-8pm at 38 Hickory Ln. Open to all community members. Bring a dish to share. Evening will include cultural exchange, stories, short language session & a treaty signing. Register at www.farmartscollective.org/calendar.

Yoga @ CPH

COCHECTON, NY — The Cochection Pump House presents Yoga - SkyGround Sundays, 11am-noon at 7895 St. Rte. 97. Join The Chi Hive's Susan Mendoza & other yogis along with the live healing vibrational sounds of Shawn Caden or Vinny Colandrea. Register at www.thechihive.com. info@thechihive.com.

Monday, August 1

4-H Horseback Riding @ CCE

ONLINE — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan presents 4-H Horseback Riding Program, 8:30am-4:30pm virtually. First of each month until October 1. For Sullivan County youth who ride, drive, or do groundwork with their horse(s). Register at bjm292@cornell.edu, 845/292-6180, ext. 109.

Mah Jongg @ MCL

EQUINUNK, PA — Manchester Community Library presents Mah Jongg, every Monday 1-4pm at 3879 Hancock Highway. Mah Jongg games every week. Come & learn, then come to play. Beginners are welcome. 570/224-4173.

Rising Nation River Journey lands here

UPPER DELAWARE, NY and PA — Members of the Lenape nation will journey down the Delaware on their Rising Nation River Journey.

Paddlers from the tribe and its partners will arrive at Farm Arts Collective and Willow Wisp Farm at about 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 31.

A community potluck will be held. Bring a dish to share. The meal will take place at the Farm Arts Collective greenhouse, 38 Hickory Ln., Damascus, PA.

This year's trip begins in Hancock, NY, on Saturday, July 30 and ends on Saturday, August 20 at Cape May, NJ. There are currently 13 public treaty-signing events scheduled. In our region, they will be held as follows:

Saturday, July 30—Equinunk Historical Society, Equinunk, PA

Sunday, July 31—Willow Wisp Organic Farm

Tuesday, August 2—Zane Grey Museum, Lackawaxen, PA

Friday, August 5—Phoenix Gift Shop, Dingmans Ferry, PA

For more information about the river journey and the Lenape, visit <https://riverreporter.com/stories/a-pure-good,57739>.



Photo from lenape-nation.org/1st-project

The Rising Nation River Journey will launch from Hancock, NY. Stops include the Equinunk Historical Society and Willow Wisp Farm.



Photo contributed by the Eldred Preserve

Joey and the Paradons will perform at the Eldred Preserve.

Doo-wop with Joey and the Paradons

ELDRED, NY — The Eldred Preserve's Bradstan Coming Home cabaret series continues at 8 p.m. on Sunday, August 7 with a doo-wop show by Joey and the Paradons.

The performance features songs from the '50s and '60's, Motown and more.

Joey and the Paradons have been singing and performing for over 60 years. "Their unique sound and harmony, reminiscent of times past, transports listeners to simpler days, free of the troubles of today's digitally-driven society," a spokesperson said.

"The doo-wop show allows us to supply our guests with a night of nostalgia," said Scott Samuelson, the chief operating officer at the Eldred Preserve. "What better way to escape than with the sounds of this beloved musical era?"

The Bradstan Coming Home cabaret series is a revival of the original Bradstan Country Hotel's series, which closed in 2008.

Tickets are on sale now at theeldredpreserve.com/2022cabaret.



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Diverse music at Harmony in the Woods

HAWLEY, PA — The lineup at Harmony in the Woods continues with Broadway, opera, Afro-Caribbean funk and American folk and roots music.

All concerts take place at 6 p.m.

The artists who will perform over the next nine days are returning to Harmony after appearances last year or this past spring.

Friday, July 29—Blake Friedman performs cabaret, opera and Broadway hits. Tickets cost \$40 plus a processing fee.

Saturday, July 30—Latin Grammy-nominated El Caribefunk performs Caribbean funk and dance. Tickets cost \$25 plus a processing fee.

Friday, August 5—Heather Maloney performs folk and Americana music. The cost is \$25 plus a processing fee.

Saturday, August 6—Jay Ungar and the Molly Mason Family Band perform American Roots music. Tickets cost \$35 plus a processing fee.

All shows take place at Harmony in the Woods, located at 19 Imagination Way. All events are

BYOB, and golf carts can assist patrons with disabilities to get from the parking lot to the seating area. All tickets include a lawn chair with side table preset on site.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.harmonyinthewoods.org/. You can also call 570/588-8077.

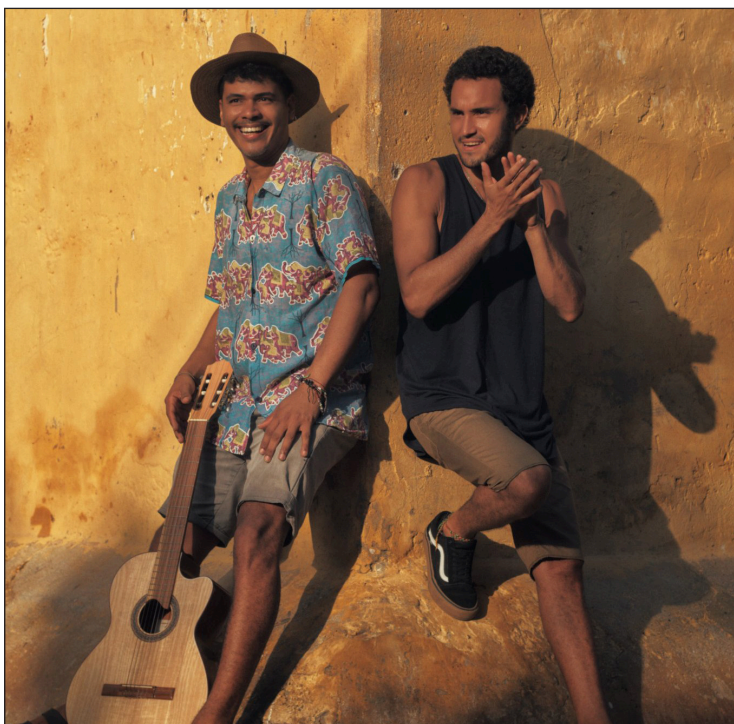


Photo by Alfredo Marimon C, from the El Caribefunk Facebook page
El Caribefunk will perform at Harmony in the Woods on July 30.

Learn to watch for fraud at 8th annual Elder Justice day

MILFORD, PA — Pike County's eighth annual Elder Justice day will take place on Wednesday, August 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at American Legion Post 139, 104 Rte. 2001. The event focuses on fraud prevention.

Register by Monday, August 1.

There is no charge to attend.

Fraud bingo will be held.

Many local vendors will attend, sharing the services they offer and providing resources and

educational materials.

The event is held to educate seniors about "pressing issues they face, either now or in the future," said Tracy Simon, protective services care manager of the Pike County Area Agency on Aging. The agency hopes that "by attending this event, seniors will gain valuable knowledge to better prepare themselves should these situations arise."

Attendees are not required to be Pike County

residents.

If you know or suspect that an elderly person is being harmed, call the Pike County Elder Abuse Task Force at 800/233-8911. Reports are taken 24 hours a day.

To register for Elder Justice Day or to learn more, call 570/775-5550 exts. 1318 or 1312. If you require transportation, call 570/296-3408.

Dinner and a 'creature feature'

MILFORD, PA — The Virginia Kidd Agency and Arrowhead SF Foundation will launch the Dinner and a Movie series of 1950s-era monster movies, or "creature features."

The series begins at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24 at the Columns Museum.

The film that evening will be "The Thing From Another World."

Funds raised will be used for a science fiction panel at the Milford Readers & Writers Festival.

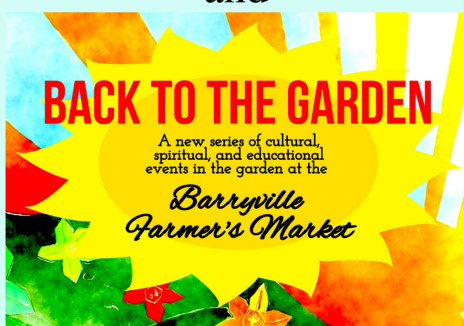
The movie was made in 1951, and features scientists at an Arctic research station who discover a spacecraft buried in the ice. Upon further investigation, they also find the frozen pilot... should they thaw him out?

The cost to attend is \$35 per person, and includes a complimentary beverage for cocktail hour, a dinner of smoked barbecue by Will Reeve and a dessert by Lillian Longendorfer, with coffee or tea.

Reservations are required. Call Christine Cohen at 570/296-6205 or the Columns Museum at 570/296-8126 for information or to reserve your place.

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Saturday, July 30, 11 am

with

River Reporter Publisher Laurie Stuart

More than one in five local papers has closed over the past decade and a half, leaving thousands of towns at risk of becoming news deserts — communities without a reliable news source, whether we are talking about town politics or the local Little League. The void created when we lose a local paper has significant political, social and economic implications, for our small towns and our democracy at large. Strong local journalism builds community, encourages political participation, and improves the efficiency, honesty, and decision-making of local and state government.

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Monday, August 1

Movement Mondays @ Hurleyville

HURLVILLE, NY — Sullivan180, Fortress Bikes, Morgan Outdoors & Bold Gold Media Group present Movement Mondays, Mondays through Aug. Sign in between 10am-6pm at Morgan Outdoors or Fortress Bikes, get moving on the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail & have a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to either store. www.facebook.com/events/704956587251297.

Narrowsburg Knitters @ WSPL

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Tusten Cochection branch of Western Sullivan Public Library presents Narrowsburg Knitters with Irma. All ages & skill levels are welcome, 6-8pm, Mondays at 198 Bridge St. 845/252-3360, wsplprograms@rcls.org.

Open Mic @ HPAC

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre presents an open mic, 1st Monday of the month, 7-9pm at the Tango Cafe, 221 Main St. www.hurleyvilleartscentre.org, 845/985-4722.

Photo Contest @ DHC

ONLINE — The Delaware Highlands Conservancy presents a photo contest with the theme 'Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife.' Submit your entry from Aug. 1 to Aug. 31 at www.delawarehighlands.org/photo-contest. \$10 entry fee. Any questions, email bethany@delawarehighlands.org.

United Way Golf Tournament @ Woodloch

HAWLEY, PA — The United Way of Pike County will hold its 15th annual Golf Classic Tournament at the Woodloch Springs Country Club, Woodloch Dr. W. Registration starts at 11:00am with a shotgun start at noon. Sponsorships available. Register at steveguccini@gmail.com.

Unclaimed Funds @ EBCPL

ONLINE — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library presents Unclaimed Funds in Your Name with staff from state comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli's office, 6-7:30pm on Zoom. Register at <https://ebcpl.libcal.com/calendar>. 845/794-4660.

Tuesday, August 2

Cab'raoke @ Cabernet Frank's

PARKSVILLE, NY — Cabernet Frank's & Sullivan Catskills present Cab'raoke, 7:30-10:30pm, Tuesdays at 38 Main St. 845/292-1230, wade@cabernetfranks.com.

Country Legends @ FB Playhouse

FORESTBURGH, NY — The Forestburgh Playhouse presents Country Legends at 39 Forestburgh Rd. Aug. 2 to Aug. 12. Purchase tickets at www.fbplayhouse.org/cabarets-2022. info@fbplayhouse.org.

Decoding Coding @ WCPL

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Public Library presents Decoding Coding with Lora Protzman, 5-5:45pm, Tuesdays until Aug. 2nd at 1406 Main St. Register at blawson@waynelibraries.org. 570/253-1220.

Night Out @ Fallsburg

SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — Fallsburg Communities Coalition, Woodridge Police Department & Village of Woodridge present the Town of Fallsburg's National Night Out, 5:30-8:30pm at 1 Krieger Park Rd. Music, food, games, education awareness & more.

Romping Radishes Storytime @ WSPL

NARROWSBURG, NY — Western Sullivan Public Library presents Summer Reading Program: Romping Radishes Storytime with Miss Tara, 10:30-11:30am at the Tusten-Cochection Branch of the Library, 198 Bridge St. Register at <https://wsplonline.libcal.com/calendar>. wsplprograms@rcls.org.

'Something Rotten' @ FB Playhouse

FORESTBURGH, NY — The Forestburgh Playhouse presents "Something Rotten" at 39 Forestburgh Rd. Aug. 2-Aug. 14. More information at www.fbplayhouse.org/home. info@fbplayhouse.org.

'The Nature of TMR' @ TMR

NARROWSBURG, NY — Ten Mile River Scout Camp Museum presents "The Nature of TMR," 7pm at Cayuga/Kotohke Cabin. Register at www.tmr-museum.org/tuesday-historical-talks. info@tmrmuseum.org, 845/252-2063.

Wednesday, August 3

Callicoon Center Band @ Callicoon Hills

CALLICOON CENTER, NY — Callicoon Hills Hotel presents live music with Callicoon Center Band, 6pm, Wednesdays at the barn, 1 Hills Resort Rd. 845/482-2420.

Dream Interpretation @ WCPL

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Public Library presents a dream interpretation course with Linda Bartels, 4:30-5:30pm, Wednesdays until Aug. 3 at 1406 Main St. Register at mkeesler@waynelibraries.org. 570/253-1220.

Family Caregiver Support Group @ CCE

ONLINE — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan presents Virtual Family Caregiver Support Group, every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30pm on Zoom. Register at <http://sullivancce.org/events>. pja77@cornell.edu, 845/292-6180, ext. 122.

Mah Jongg @ MCL

EQUINUNK, PA — Manchester Community Library presents Mah Jongg, every Wednesday 3-5pm at 3879 Hancock Highway. Mah Jongg games every week. Come & learn, then come to play. Beginners are welcome. 570/224-4173.

Mental Health Support Group @ NAMI

HONESDALE, PA — The National Alliance on Mental Illness presents a mental health support group for individuals & families affected by mental illness, noon-1pm, 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 910 Church St. Register at info@naminepa.org.

National Park Service @ WSPL

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Western Sullivan Public Library presents Summer Reading Program: National Park Service Adventures, 10:30-11:15am at the Jefferson Community Space, 19 Center St. For ages 5 & under. Register at <https://wsplonline.libcal.com/calendar.wsplprograms@rcls.org>.

Nature Talk @ WSPL

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Western Sullivan Public Library presents Summer Reading Program: Nature Talk with a special guest from the National Park Service, 1-2pm at the Jefferson Community Space, 19 Center St. For ages 6-11. Register at <https://wsplonline.libcal.com/calendar.wsplprograms@rcls.org>.

Open House @ Ladore

WAYMART, PA — Ladore presents its Open House & Veterans Appreciation Day, 10am-3pm at 398 South St. Flea market, motorcycle show, classic car show, boat rides, DJ & more. More information at www.ladore.org/event/ladores-open-house-veterans-appreciation-day.

Open Mic @ Cabernet Frank's

PARKSVILLE, NY — Cabernet Frank's presents open mic night with Caswyn Moon, 7:30-11:30pm, Wednesdays at 38 Main St. wade@cabernetfranks.com, 845/292-1230.

Open Studio @ Fiber on Main

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Fiber on Main presents an open studio, 4-7pm, Wednesdays at 227 Main St. Bring a small project to work on & chat with fellow crafters. 845/707-8769, fiberstudioonmain@gmail.com.

Song & Movement @ WSPL

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Western Sullivan Public Library presents Summer Reading Program: Song & Movement with Dawn Collins, 10:30-11:15am at the Jefferson Community Space, 19 Center St. For ages 5 & under. Register at <https://wsplonline.libcal.com/calendar.wsplprograms@rcls.org>.

'Tavern at the Edge of the World' @ FAC

DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective presents "Tavern at the Edge of the World," 7:30-9pm, Aug. 3-7, at Willow Wisp Farm, 38 Hickory Ln. \$30/adults, \$15/children 12 & under. Purchase tickets at www.farmartscollective.org/calendar. 570/798-9530.

Vinyl Night @ Catskill Brewery

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Brewery presents Bring Your Own Vinyl Night, 3-7pm, Wednesdays at 672 Old Rte. 17. info@catskillbrewery.com, 845/439-1232.

Youth Fly Fishing Class @ CFFCM

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum presents Youth Fly Fishing Classes, 11am-2pm at 1031 Old Rte. 17. Every Wednesday in Aug. \$50/per student per class. Register at www.cffcm.com/eventscalendar. 845/439-4810.



■ IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

BY JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

Dog day afternoon

Wow, man—it's hot out there! In between wiping my furrowed brow and fanning the pooch, I checked the list of events that Dharma the Wonder Dog had scratched on her chalkboard and became alarmed.

"They're all outdoors girl," I moaned. "And the temperature's rising! In fact," I said, checking the weather app on my phone, "I think the dog days are upon us!"

Sure enough, a glance at the Old Farmer's Almanac confirmed my suspicions.

"The dog days of summer are from July 3 to August 11 each year; they're usually the hottest and most unbearable days of the season. We often hear about the dog days of summer," the printed prognosticator explained, "but few know [IMHO] where the expression originated. Some think it's a reference to the hot, sultry days that are 'not fit for a dog,' while others suggest it's the time of year when the extreme heat drives dogs mad.

"But where does the term come from? And what does it have to do with dogs? You may be surprised," the almanac teased, "to find that the answer can be found in the stars."

"What? I exclaimed, watching Dharma heave her stroller into the truck. "Don't get heatstroke girl—we have a wedding to attend!"

Turns out that the phrase is a reference to Sirius, the Dog Star. During the "dog days" period, the sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any spot on Earth. Sirius is a part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog. On July 23, Sirius is in conjunction with the sun, and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the sun's warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as *diēs canicularēs*, or "dog days." The term "dog days of summer" came to mean the 20 days before and 20 days after this alignment of Sirius with the sun. Who knew?

Not only did we have chanteuse (look it up!) Laura Garone's pop-up wedding to Gregory Scott Cherry on our to-do list, but also Hurleyville Pride, where dogs are always prevalent, plus the 32nd annual RiverFest, which commences each year in Narrowsburg, NY with "River Dogs on Parade."

I cranked up the AC and headed for Hurleyville first, as Dharma checked on the ice packs in her stroller. Too overheated to talk (you're welcome!) I snapped numerous pics at each of our stops, content to let them tell the story. For more photos, follow the **River Reporter** on Facebook and Instagram. Even Dharma is on social media and trust me, she's got more followers than you can shake a stick at.

Fun Fact: "Dog Day Afternoon" is a 1975 American biographical crime drama film directed by Sidney Lumet and produced by Martin Bregman and Martin Elfand. The film stars Al Pacino, John Cazale, James Broderick, and Charles Durning.



RR photos by Jonathan Charles Fox

Dharma the Wonder Dog stayed cool in her stroller, happy to let me chauffeur her around Hurleyville Pride last weekend.



Dharma was the only dog present at chanteuse Laura Garone and Gregory Scott Cherry's pop-up wedding in Liberty, NY, last Saturday. The happy couple sang "You Make Me Feel Brand New" for the surprised guests in attendance.



Some think it's a reference to the hot, sultry days that are "not fit for a dog," while others suggest that it's the time of year when the extreme heat drives dogs mad.



Adorable Milo took home "Best in Show" at the 32nd annual RiverFest last Sunday, making it a special dog-day afternoon for his family and fans.



Charles Baran-Bookman, posing here with his pooch Wallie, enjoyed RiverFest with family and friends during the dog days of summer last Sunday.

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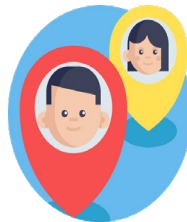
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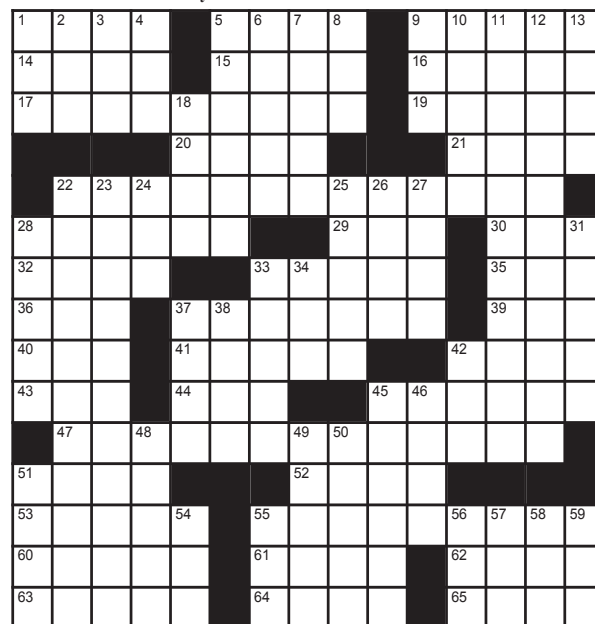
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By DAVID LEVINSON WILK



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ACROSS

1. WNBA All Star Leslie
5. "Su-u-ure"
9. Instrument heard on the Beatles' "Rubber Soul"
14. Playtex products
15. "____ the Explorer"
16. Egg producer
17. Rowing equipment belonging to a former First Lady?
19. Delibes opera
20. MLB team with a "W" insignia
21. The first "N" of CNN
22. Made sure the marquee actor was compensated?
28. Espy
29. Foofaraw
30. Espy
32. "The Time Machine" race
33. Turn signal
35. "Patience ____ virtue"
36. Intend (to)
37. Overdue debts ... or a two-word description of this puzzle's themed answers
39. UFO fliers
40. Mil. ranks
41. High times?
42. Archipelago unit
43. Theologian's sch.
44. Singer Waits
45. Frame shop stock
47. What a person with a fear of flying says when the travel arrangements have been made?
51. "You never had ____ good!"
52. Flat-topped land feature
53. Old Testament book
55. A family member along with an old name in late night TV?
60. Team building?
62. Type of sax
62. Take back
63. "Phooey!"

64. Slog (through)

65. Keats or Yeats

DOWN

1. Great Society monogram
2. Portfolio part, for short
3. Cul-de-____
4. Request
5. Brainstorm
6. It may take a toll
7. Rub out
8. It's all over the road
9. Pine-____
10. "____ to be alone" (quote attributed to Greta Garbo)
11. Rest
12. Athlete seated at a table, maybe
13. Bakery loaves
18. Visiting the White House, say
22. It's less than a leer
23. Cyclotron
24. Jr.'s Jr.
25. Singer Irene et al.
26. Bouquet
27. Females on a farm
28. Actress Patricia and others
31. Softens
33. Kitchen drawer?
34. Stimp's TV pal
37. Prefix with inflammatory
38. Origin
42. "Who am ____ say?"
45. Vermont ski resort, in short
46. "What ____ state of affairs!"
48. 1999 Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Robin
49. "____ ears!"
50. "Cool!"
51. ____ uproar
54. More, to Manuel
55. It shows you the way
56. One of a litter
57. 2009, por ejemplo
58. Suffix with block or stock
59. Raise a stink?

Answer to Last Week's Crossword Puzzle

A	D	M		A	R	T	O	I	S		Z	U	L	U
P	R	U		S	A	I	D	S	O		I	H	O	P
A	R	M		A	E	N	E	I	D		N	O	G	S
C	U	B	A	N	S	A	N	D	I	T	C	H		
E	T	A	T					O	U	I				
		H	I	V	E	A	L	A	R	M	C	H	I	L
				E	G	A	D				O	V	I	D
B	L	A	C	K	E	Y	E	D	S	N	E	E	Z	E
B	O	R	N					L	I	P	O			
C	O	R	N	E	D	B	E	E	F	R	A	S	H	
				S	I	R					I	K	E	A
		F	O	D	A	L	L	E	R	G	I	E	S	
A	T	O	M		I	S	E	E	I	T		M	H	O
T	A	X	I		O	C	T	A	N	E		P	A	N
T	E	X	T		N	O	S	H	E	S		S	W	E

**For daily crossword puzzles and sudoku
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Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

BRTM HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/12/22. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Avrom R. Vann, PO Box 366, Swan Lake, NY 12783. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.



**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

BARRYVILLE CAR & TRUCK WASH, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/05/22. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Matthew Sallusto, P.O. Box 71, Yulan, NY 12792. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of NY Groton II (South Main Street), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-29. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 New York NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of NY Liberty (State Route 52), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-29. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Pennsylvania 209 LLC. Filed 6/8/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 1 Cherry Ct, Bloomingburg, NY 12721. Purpose: General.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Pennsylvania 209 LLC. Filed 6/8/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 1 Cherry Ct, Bloomingburg, NY 12721. Purpose: General.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Frank's Repairs LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-21. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Legal Zoom: 7014 13th Ave Suite 202 Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of NY Fallsburg (Frank Brown Road), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-23. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 390 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of NY Marilla (Two Rod Road), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-23. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 390 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

E Z Management Consulting LLC. Filed 6/21/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 169 Lorimer St Apt 3, Bklyn, NY 11206. Purpose: General.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

WHELAKELAKE GROUP LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/27/22. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1109 Ditmas Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11218, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of CBD LAKESIDE, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/9/22. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 192 Maple St, Englewood, NJ 07631. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Crowley ND, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/22/22. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 287 Bowman Ave, Purchase, NY 10577. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Escape Brooklyn. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-05-20. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Erin Lindsey: 61 Shandele Lake Rd Livingston Manor NY 12758. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of NY Hillsdale (State Route 22), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-29. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Choosing Happy 365 LLC . Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-03. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Amy Nardi : PO Box 189 114 Brophy Road Hurleyville NY 12747. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of NY Blooming Grove (Marycrest Road), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-29. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Lowitz Logging LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-05-25. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Swyft Filings, LLC: 1000 N West Street Suite 1200 Wilmington DE 19801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

7173 STATE ROUTE 97 LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 6/30/22. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Baker Tilly LLP, 1130 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 500, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

22 BENNETT LLC. Filed 6/24/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 55 Franklin Ave Apt. 2a, Bklyn, NY 11205. Purpose: General.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of 699 OLD LIBERTY ROAD LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/30/2022. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 699 OLD LIBERTY ROAD, MONTICELLO, NY, 12701. Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Grome Signal, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/1/22. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 711 Stump Pond Road, Livingston Manor, NY 12758. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of NY Groton I (South Main Street), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-29. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Leg Hose LLC. Filed 6/21/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: c/o David Rottenberg, 1 Gipson St, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: General.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

STRONGTOWN SELF STORAGE, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/27/22 Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 210 Coopers Corners Rd., Monticello, NY 12701, which is also the principal business loc. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of 5 WACHER DRIVE LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/07/2021. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 5 WACHER DRIVE, KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY, 12749. Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Shad Shack, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/24/22. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, PO Box 411, Roscoe, NY 12776. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of NY Warwick (Old Ridge Road), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-29. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Barrie Krause Psychologist PLLC. Filed 5/19/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 21 Post Rd, Swan Lake, NY 12783. Purpose: Psychology.

Supreme Court of the
State of New York,
County of Sullivan
NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF SULLIVAN, PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. ANNA PETROWSKI, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on January 15, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the front steps or in the 1st floor lobby of the Sullivan County Courthouse, 414 Broadway, Monticello, NY on August 10, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., premises known as 27 Bohdan Lepky Road, Glen Spey, NY 12737. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Lumberland, County of Sullivan and State of New York, Section 19, Block 1 and Lot 11. Approximate amount of judgment is \$149,495.54 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 0001683/2016. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed at the foreclosure sale. Jeffrey Clemente, Esq., Referee Greenspoon Marder, 590 Madison Avenue, Suite 1800, New York, NY 10022, Attorneys for Plaintiff

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of JEFFERSONVILLE PLAZA LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/08/2022. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 4900 NY - 52, JEFFERSONVILLE, NY, 12748. Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids for the following will be received by the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Central Services at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701, (845) 807-0515, until 1:00 P.M. on Friday, August 19, 2022 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. 1. Purchase and Delivery of Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tanks for Sullivan County Division of Public Works (B-22-50) Bid Forms, including specifications, may be obtained from the Director at the above address, and all bids are subject to the terms and conditions therein set forth. Dated: July 29, 2022

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Legal Notice

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LIMITED LIABILITY
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Notice of Formation of NY Fallsburg (LeRoy Road), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-30. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 390 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of Formation of NY Bath (6105 Scudder Road), LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-23. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 390 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

TOWN OF TUSTEN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there has been introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Tusten in the County of Sullivan and State of New York, introductory Local Law No. 2 of the Year 2022, entitled "A local law establishing a Conservation Advisory Council for the Town of Tusten, Sullivan County, New York." The proposed local law adds a new Article II in Chapter 7 of the Town Code, entitled "Conservation Advisory Council" to establish a Conservation Advisory Council for the Town of Tusten and provides standards for appointment of members thereto, sets forth the duties thereof and makes other provisions regulating the manner in which it shall function.

The Town Board has designated itself as Lead Agency for purposes of environmental review pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), classified the local law as an Unlisted Action pursuant to the SEQRA for which a full environmental assessment form has been prepared, and adopted a negative declaration pursuant to the SEQRA finding the local law will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

A copy of the aforesaid local law is on file with the Town Clerk of the Town of Tusten, Sullivan County, New York, where the same may be examined.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, pursuant to §20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a public hearing will be held on the aforesaid local law before the Town Board of the Town of Tusten, Sullivan County, New York, at the Town of Tusten Community Hall, 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, New York, at 6:30 p.m., prevailing time, on Tuesday August 2, 2022, at which time all interested persons will be heard.

Dated: July 13, 2022

HON.

CRYSTAL WESTON, Town Clerk

Attorney

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

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Miscellaneous

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TOWN OF LUMBERLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF LUMBERLAND PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Owners: Michael & Denise Marchesani **Address:** 154 Lake Drive, Highland Lake, Ny 12743 **Lumberland Tax Map:** **Section:** 3A Block:1 Lot:4 Zoning District Classification: Mohican Lake District Project Description: PB004-22- Special use permit to construct two rooms over a pre-existing garage. Roof line will be blended into the existing roof. There will be no change to the footprint.

Public Hearing Date: August 8th 2022 **Time:** 7:35pm

Location: Lumberland Town Hall

1054 Proctor Road Glen Spey, New York 12737

The public may attend the Public Hearing in person or provide written comments. Written comments may be submitted by mail or delivered to: Planning Board, 1054 Proctor Road, Glen Spey, New York 12737. Written comments may also be submitted by email to codeclerk@townoflumberland.org. All written comments must be received by 12:00 noon on August 8th 2022

By Order of the Planning Board, Douglas Dobrzynski, Chairman

1.04A
FD057
0200



■ **TALKING SPORTS**
BY TED WADDELL

The horsewomen of the ‘Mighty M’

Part II

MONTICELLO, NY — A couple weeks ago, this sports scribbler came up with a rather rare idea, at least in his allegedly wandering mind.

How about covering the reinswomen of Monticello Raceway, known in its glory days as the Mighty M?

So one thing led to another, and as the dedicated coterie of horsewomen at the local harness track had so many fascinating stories to share, the **River Reporter** returned to the paddock for more tales of women in the business of sulky racing.

While females are often in the driver’s seat Down Under, and are fairly new to the game in North America, they are rapidly gaining ground in the United States, laying down some stiff competition for their male counterparts on the spidery two-wheeled carts.

Regardless of geography, women have always been a vital part of the harness racing scene as owners, breeders, trainers and grooms.

Brenda Gill originally hails from the Constitution State of Connecticut, but these days calls Monticello Raceway home as she works with her husband and horse trainer, Daniel Gill.

“I help set up the feed, take care of the horses and ship them,” said Gill, adding that since 2013, she’s “officially been barn manager and groom” for their stables.

“The raceway is a tight-knit group, everyone helps one another,” replied Gill, when asked about their home track.

Barbara Berger was raised around horses as her parents William and Johanna Powell used to race at the Mighty M back in the late 1950s and ‘60s.

“I grew up here, and my first job was here,” Berger recalled, standing next to Springsrollin, her three-year-old filly, a standardbred she “bred, raised and broke” to harness racing.

These days, she counts almost 40 years at the local track, and works as a groom for her husband, noted veteran driver John Berger.

Asked what it was like to be a woman in harness racing, Berger replied, “It’s challenging [but] things have come a long way. Originally, there weren’t a lot of women drivers and trainers... now that’s changed. Actually, I’ve found that women make better grooms and are better with the horses as trainers. They have a lot more finesse sometimes... not to discredit the male sex.”

More than a few years ago, Berger ran an adult educational BOCES program at the track under the watchful eye of John Manzi, Monticello’s legendary promoter and writer of all things harness racing for decades.

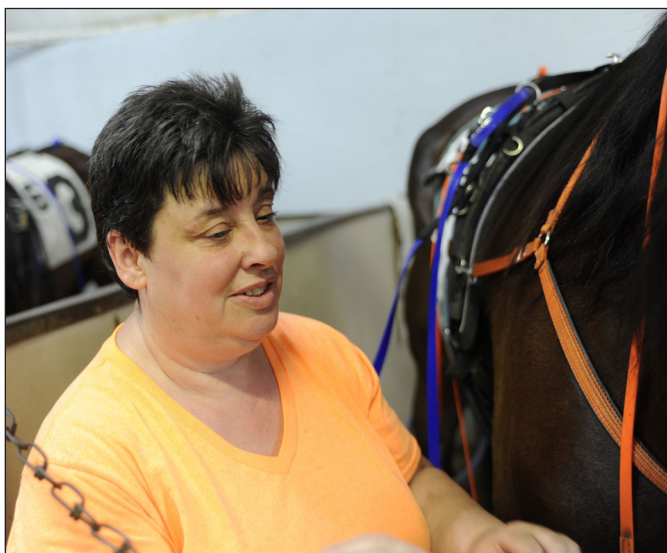
Noting that things have evolved a bit in the industry, “casinos and [electric betting] took away a lot of the money, and fewer people are in the grandstands. It’s sad,” she said. “This has been my home for years and years... it’s like a family. I love horses; they are beautiful and therapeutic.



RR photos by Ted Waddell
Newlyweds Bruce Aldrich Jr. and his bride Laura got married at a friend’s farm on May 14. He is one of the Mighty M’s all-time leading drivers, and together they own Aldrich Racing Stables.



Barbara Berger is pictured with her three-year-old filly, Springsrollin. She and her husband John own a horse farm that also serves as a unique wedding venue.



Brenda Gill serves as trainer for the stable of horses driven by her husband Daniel.



Marianna Monaco hails from Yonkers, NY, and stables nine horses at Monticello Raceway. She poses with one of her horses, Sneaky Sunrizer.

“There’s a big push to keep the industry going,” said Berger. “It’s huge, from farming to breeding, to blacksmiths and feed stores.”

Marianna Monaco grew up in Yonkers, NY and stables nine horses at Monticello Raceway, where she drives in both amateur and overnight races, along with training her speedy sulky steeds. “My parents owned horses, on and off over the years. I just love the sport. It’s given me something to look forward to every day.”

Her take of being one of the female drivers at Monticello?

“You get an adrenaline rush,” she said. Of the male drivers, she noted, “They don’t treat you any differently out there, especially when you drive with the professionals... in a sense, they look out for you at the end of the day.

“I go race by race, day by day... as long as my horses are happy,” said Monaco.

Bruce Aldrich Jr. is one of the all-time leading drivers at the local harness track, and

on May 14, he got hitched to Laura Piero, thus renaming their joint venture the Aldrich Racing Stables.

Since starting at Monticello in 1998, he has posted eight driving titles. And now, “Being together 24/7 isn’t always easy, but we’re a great team. She’s the smart one; I’m the driver. She’s the brains behind it; I’m the jackass,” he said.

Laura Aldrich said she’s been involved in the sport for about 10 years, and not being born or raised into harness racing, she “sort of had to work my way into it.

“Ever since I was a kid, what I always wanted to do was thoroughbreds, but I ended up with standardbreds,” she recalled, at which point Bruce talked a little horse sense, explaining, “Thoroughbreds are the ones you ride, standardbreds are the ones you sit behind in the cart.”

“I went to school to learn how to be a blacksmith, and got hooked into harness racing,” said Laura Aldrich. “Now I manage

everything... the trainer, blacksmith, the shipper.”

On their wedding day at the horse farm of John and Barbara Berger, close friends both on and off the harness track, she rode into the ceremony on one of the newly joined couple’s own horses.

Talk about getting hitched, harness racing style!

For a view of the “Superstar Females of Harness Racing,” take a look at a series of articles by Victoria Howard, published by Harness Racing Update at <https://harnessracingupdate.com>.

Monticello Raceway opened on June 27, 1958 and is located at 204 NY-17B. For more information about the raceway, which is owned by Empire Resorts, visit monticellocasinoandraceway.com or call 866/777-4263.

For the rest of this story and more photos, visit www.riverreporter.com/sports.

■ RAMBLINGS OF A CATSKILL FLY FISHER

BY TONY BONAIVIST

The old guard

We met at the camp the other day; it was mid-July. There was ample sunshine and a cooling breeze. Not too warm for this time of year. We were four, the last of seven; the other four were gone. We sat round the picnic table, visiting about our old friends, the river, fishing and the lack of fly hatches.

I asked how many of the other three had smartphones; all said no. Then I asked who was on social media; three more nos. And, of course, I don't have a smartphone, or indulge myself with any of the social media sites. So here we are, a group of older men, who grew up in another time, who did not need or require any of today's technology to get along.

How, then, did we manage, all those years ago, to entertain ourselves? You know, to have fun?

First of all, there was no hanging around the house during summer recess. Mom shooed us out the door immediately after breakfast, with orders to be home for dinner. Can you believe that there were no cellphones to keep track of us, for the eight or 10 hours we were gone?

So instead of vegetating on cellphones or iPads and texting friends, we would be off fishing, playing ball, picking berries, making soapbox racers, or chasing minnows in a local brook. All good times, without a single electronic device to aid or distract us.

In some of today's circles, probably most, we might be considered misfits; perhaps malcontents. We definitely would not fit in with today's hi-tech, electronics-driven society.

Of all the things that we did as lads to occupy our time, fishing was the number-one priority. Looking back, I believe that all of us became addicted at a very young age. At first we fished for sunnies and bluegills in local ponds, then bass with bobbers in nearby lakes. Eventually we heard about trout fishing, and someone, either our fathers or a family friend, took us to a nearby brook

to fish for wild brook trout. Brook trout were pretty easy to catch using worms, though I did not land one, that first season.

At the time we were growing up, Trout Unlimited was just getting started, with the first chapter founded in Michigan in 1959. Today there are 387 chapters nationwide. So we did not have that organization to turn to for guidance with fly fishing.

In addition there were few, if any, fly fishing schools around at the time. Perhaps Orvis had one in Vermont. If there were schools, none of us likely would have had the means to attend. Instead there were rod and gun clubs, like the Southern New York Sportsmen, that met in White Plains at the county center, which we turned to for help.

Southern New York had members like Bob Zigsby, Herb Howard, Dave Young and Irv Lacy. All those men were mentors to any young man who showed interest in fly tying and fly fishing. In fact, it was Bob Zigsby who helped me purchase my first fly-tying vise, a Thompson Model B, which I still have. It cost \$3.50 at the time, and has a big red knob that is turned to tighten the jaws in order to hold the hook. Bob also helped me purchase my first bamboo fly rod, a seven-and-a-half-foot Orvis Madison. Bob knew Wes Jordan, head bamboo-rod maker at Orvis, so I paid a mere \$50 for the rod, which included a new fly line.

That rod served me well for over 30 years. It came with me to Montana, where it fished the Bitterroot, Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers, along with Lolo and Rock Creeks. And, of course, all the major Catskill rivers. Sadly, it fell from a canoe while I was fishing the main stem Delaware near Bouchoux Brook with a friend several years ago. A heartbreaking and sentimental loss.

All of these men were from the old school. They wore checked wool shirts, L.L. Bean packs and smoked either pipes or cigarettes. Most hunted grouse and deer during the fall. Herb Howard invented a series of hackle



RR photo by Tony Bonavist

Some of the old guard at camp, in the fall of 2019.

pliers in different sizes, which now are very valuable, if one can find a pair. Herb also developed a line of pre-waxed, 6/0 "Herb Howard" thread. I still have several spools, some 60 years later. It's the best thread ever and the only thread that I use.

Those men were my mentors, and I'm sure that my three friends sitting around camp on that July day with me also had mentors. Folks who took them fishing and exposed them to fly fishing. Bob, Herb, Dave and Irv are long gone now. As is the Southern New York Sportsmen organization. At the time they were the old guard, men of the

Theodore Gordon, Rube Cross, Darbee and Dette era. The last to teach their craft to eager young men. Now folks learn about fly fishing from guides, fishing schools and YouTube.

Sadly, they won't have and cannot have the experiences we had growing up, being tutored by the Zigsbys, Howards, Youngs and Lacys. That's the way it is, in this hi-tech, high-speed world, where cellphones are in hand even in the middle of the Beaver Kill. There is no escape, even in Mecca. We're the old guard now.

Fish in your pond

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — The Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District has begun its annual fish-stocking program. If you are interested in stocking your pond with bass, trout and minnows, call the conservation district at 845/292-6552. You can request that

an order form be mailed to you, or you can find one online at sullivanswcd.org.

The district will accept orders until Monday, September 26.

For more information, visit [sullivan swcd.org](http://sullivanswcd.org).

SOUNDINGS: TAKING THE PULSE OF THE UPPER DELAWARE WATERSHED

For river gage, height and temperature readings visit www.bit.ly/RRsoundings.

Reservoir levels

July 22, 2022

Cannonsville: 74.3%

Pepacton: 85.2%

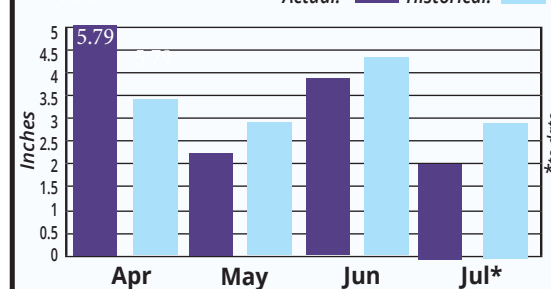
Neversink: 86.6%

Total: 85.8%

Normal Total: 91.2%

Total in 2021: 94.5%

Actual and avg. precipitation NYC watershed



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■ RIVER TALK

BY SCOTT RANDO

Summer snakes

With the arrival of summer comes the opportunity to see snakes, as well as other reptiles and amphibians.

There are 20 or more species of snake that inhabit the region, but only two of these, the timber rattlesnake and the northern copperhead, are venomous. You might not have a single sighting unless you actively look for these species.

Species such as eastern garter snakes and northern water snakes are usually seen several times a summer. Other species, such as smooth green snakes, can be hard to find.

Many species of snakes can have a similar appearance and are easy to misidentify. In addition, many individual species have varied color phases, and can range from having distinct patterns to having faded patterns or no patterns at all. Young snakes of various species usually have distinct patterning, whereas older snakes of the same species will usually appear darker with indistinct patterns.

There are several species of snakes that frequently get misidentified as northern copperheads due to similarities in color or patterning. The images of this week's column show some copperheads as well as a few of the usual suspects that sometimes get identified as copperheads.



RR photos by Scott Rando

This pair of northern copperheads is basking on a rock ledge in central PA. This thick-bodied snake has patterns that are saddle-shaped and can resemble an hourglass at some viewing angles. The lighter bands vary from light brown to pinkish-brown. The head has a copper hue, which is its namesake. Also notice that these two individuals are holding their heads up at an angle. This is characteristic behavior for the copperhead. There was a single confirmed sighting of this venomous species in Pike County last year.



The non-venomous northern water snake can be confused with a copperhead in some color phases. This is a younger individual, and still has some reddish-brown banding. When water snakes get older, they usually turn dark, and any patterning is faint and hard to see. The banding on water snakes is relatively straight compared to banding on other snakes. Water snakes are commonly seen near lakes and ponds.



The eastern hog-nosed snake is less often confused for its color or pattern; hog-nosed snakes have squarish blotches that can fade as a snake ages. Many individuals, such as this one, are completely melanistic, showing no pattern at all. This non-venomous species may be confused for more dangerous species of snakes due to its acting ability. When confronted, this snake may spread and flatten to present a cobra-like appearance. If that doesn't work, it may hiss or play dead by rolling on its back. Hog-nosed snakes are listed as a species of special concern in PA.



The eastern milk snake is often confused with the northern copperhead due to its patterning. This snake is covered with reddish-brown blotches bordered by a black fringe; the blotches are separate on a background that can be white to pinkish-brown. The brighter patterning is usually found on younger snakes. One sure way to identify a milk snake is by the V, U or Y-shaped blotch that is found on the back of the head. This harmless, non-venomous species is common in the region.

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