

## Hancock EVolves

*New charging hub, dog park for Route 17 corridor*

By LIAM MAYO

HANCOCK, NY — The Roscoe and Hancock area serves as a stopping point for travelers going from New York City to designations in the western part of the state. So said Shelly Johnson Bennett, director of Delaware County's planning department, speaking in the brisk mid-morning of January 31 outside the Hancock Town Hall.

Bennett joined Town of Hancock supervisor Jerry Vernold, lieutenant governor Antonio Delgado plus staff from the New York Power Authority (NYPA) on that day. They gathered there to cut the ribbon on a project that will cement Hancock's place as a travel hub along the Route 17 corridor.

A pair of projects have been built behind the Hancock Town Hall: one is a fast-charging electric vehicle (EV) power station; the other is the Hancock Hounds Dog Park and (soon to be) a garden.

The two projects came together at about the same time, Vernold told the **River Reporter**.

The Hancock dog catcher came to the town board with the initial idea for a dog park. After ruling out the first sites considered, Vernold suggested putting it behind the town hall, he said.

The town began work with the county's planning department on plans for the site.



The new EVOlve NY electric vehicle charging hub in Hancock is the largest in the Southern Tier of the state.

**The EVOlve NY program is the power authority's attempt to help with the infrastructure problem, placing public-access charging stations in strategic locations along New York's travel thoroughfares.**

As that project got underway, Vernold learned that NYPA was looking at Hancock as a potential site for EV charging. The owners of the first plot of land NYPA considered put the agency in touch with the town, and together they realized they could put the charging station project with the dog park in the hitherto empty field behind the town hall.

"We are proud of the work that has been done over the last 18 months to ensure that we are always moving forward, not back," Vernold told the crowd at the ribbon-cutting. **- Page 4**

## High energy prices prompt investigation

By OWEN WALSH

PENNSYLVANIA — Many Pennsylvania homeowners were shocked by their abnormally high electric bills last month. Now, the state's Public Utility Commission (PUC) has announced that it is launching an investigation into what went wrong.

PPL Electric Utilities customers have been reporting excessively high electric bills since January, some paying double or even triple the amount they had paid in just the previous month.

Rep. Joe Adams, who represents Wayne and Pike counties in the state legislature, said that his office has been hearing from "quite a few" constituents with concerns about their bills.

"[PPL] estimated bills in December incorrectly, and then when they got real kW numbers in January, they piled on what was missed in

December," Adams said. "It's certainly caused quite a bit of strife for the residents."

In a letter to PUC chair Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright, who represents much of the Northeast PA region, said that one of his constituents was billed more than \$400 in January, despite only paying \$195 the previous month, an increase of over 100 percent. Another constituent, "who did nothing substantially different from a year ago," received a \$584 bill and was informed on the PPL bill that the household's electricity usage had increased by 25 percent since January 2022.

"Many ratepayers are on a fixed income, and they are understandably worried about being able to pay their mortgages or other due bills along with their highly unusual January PPL bill," Cartwright wrote.

At first too overwhelmed with calls from

distressed customers to address them all effectively, PPL eventually released a statement, via the company's president, apologizing for the glitch and for the lack of communication. "We know that delivering reliable electricity—keeping the lights on for you—must be matched by exceptional customer service," the statement read. "In recent weeks, we've fallen short of this standard in both our billing and responsiveness to customers."

President Steph Raymond said that PPL had resolved the technical issue that resulted in the exorbitant bills, and that customers affected by this glitch have either already received a corrected bill with actual usage or an adjustment on their next monthly bill.

The utility will not shut off power to residential and small-business customers for non-payment through March 31, **- Page 4**



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Shooting for the cure with Sullivan County basketball



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## ■ IN BRIEF

### Unclaimed funds total \$16 million for Sullivan County

ALBANY, NY — New York State comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli oversees more than 46 million unclaimed-funds accounts, valued at \$17.5 billion. Sullivan County has 32,115 accounts with unpaid money, the balance totaling \$16,474,865. State residents can visit [osc.state.ny.us/unclaimed-funds](https://osc.state.ny.us/unclaimed-funds) to search for and claim their money through an online database system, or call 800/221-9311.

### Hochul announces highlights of 2024 executive budget

ALBANY, NY — Gov. Kathy Hochul on February 1 outlined her fiscal year 2024 executive budget. Spending totals \$227 billion, an increase of 2.4 percent. Deposits to reserves that had been planned for FY 2024 and FY 2025 will be completed by the end of the current year—two years ahead of schedule—for a total of \$24 billion. The budget makes a long-term, \$1 billion investment to transform New York's continuum of mental health care; sets aside \$378.8 million to address a historic housing shortage in New York State, with a target of 800,000 new homes over the next decade; and makes \$497.4 million in major public safety investments aimed at reducing violent crime and enhancing quality of life, including \$337 million for programs designed to prevent and reduce gun violence.

### Executive order to speed up PA licensing process

HARRISBURG, PA — On January 31, Gov. Josh Shapiro signed an executive order to improve the commonwealth's licensing, permitting and certification processes. This would begin a comprehensive review of how long it takes agencies to process applications, and examine how workers and businesses apply online. The executive order will help to establish a date for each license, permit or certificate by which applicants will hear back. If applicants don't receive a response by that date, the agency responsible will refund the application fee, a spokesperson said.

### Cartwright named ranking member of appropriations subcommittee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright (PA-08) announced his election to serve as the ranking member of the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies subcommittee on the Appropriations Committee for the 118th Congress. Cartwright, who has served on the House Appropriations Committee since 2016, will also serve as the second-highest Democrat on the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations subcommittee.

### Local organizations encouraged to apply for DCNR grants

HARRISBURG, PA — Counties, municipalities and municipal agencies; pre-qualified land trusts; nonprofits; and other eligible organizations interested in applying for conservation, recreation, trail and riparian buffer grants through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources can do so now. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, April 5; for more information on the grant program, visit [dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/Pages/default.aspx](https://dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/Pages/default.aspx).

### SNAP emergency allotments to end

ALBANY, NY — The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) emergency allotment benefits that have been provided throughout the pandemic are ending in February, due to federal rules. The temporary benefits have provided an extra payment each month to ensure all SNAP households received at least the maximum monthly benefit. For more information, visit [otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP](https://otda.ny.gov/EA-SNAP).

### Tusten Repair Café postponed

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Tusten Repair Café, previously scheduled for Saturday, February 25, will be postponed until Saturday, March 18. The repair café connects people who have objects in need of repair with people who have the skills needed to repair them. For more information, email [repaircafetusten@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafetusten@gmail.com).

### Legislation introduced to support individuals with disabilities

WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (R, NY-19) introduced his first bill, the Think DIFFERENTLY Database Act. This bipartisan bill creates a comprehensive and easy-to-access website that includes support services and resources available to individuals with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. This measure was inspired by Molinaro's ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative, launched in 2015 during his service as Dutchess County Executive. The measure challenged local residents, businesses and municipalities to break down barriers for those with disabilities.

### Policy hearing on workforce development

CRANBERRY, PA — Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R-Butler) hosted a policy hearing on February 2 with members of the House Republican Policy Committee and the public. It focused on how to develop the commonwealth's workforce to meet the needs of Pennsylvania employers and consumers. Participants discussed the difficulties of bringing in new staff, and about the current business climate. They suggested remedies including making employment and workforce data available to local agencies and stakeholders in real time, implementing realistic and consistent regulation and policy, and providing incentives to people to stay in or relocate to Pennsylvania.

### WMCHC appoints CEO

HONEDALE, PA — The board of directors of the Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC) has appointed Teresa "Terri" Lacey, R.N., to the position of chief executive officer. The change in leadership follows the retirement of Frederick Jackson, who led the WMCHC as executive director for nearly 16 years.

In 30-plus years in healthcare in northeast Pennsylvania, Lacey held various leadership positions, encompassing behavioral health, emergency services, inpatient care, home health and quality improvement. She most recently served six years as the executive director of the behavioral health initiative at the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton.

### First-time homebuyers legislation to be reintroduced

HARRISBURG, PA — Sen. Rosemary Brown (R-40) announced that she will be reintroducing legislation to assist first-time homebuyers. Last session, while serving in the House of Representatives, Brown sponsored House Bill 730—companion to Senate Bill 157—to allow first-time homebuyers to deposit money into a savings account for the exclusive purpose of purchasing a first home. The money saved will be deducted from their state income tax.

### Liberty looking for part-time data collector

LIBERTY, NY — The Town of Liberty wants to fill a position for a part-time data collector, for the collection of real property data on residential and/or commercial properties and other tasks. Contact supervisor Frank DeMayo for more information, at [supervisordemayo@townofliberty.org](mailto:supervisordemayo@townofliberty.org) or at 845/292-5111.

# Service cut Amid a mental health crisis, creative arts therapists are removed from a NY bill

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

NEW YORK STATE — Buried in the end-of-2022 bills signed by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul was a final unpleasant surprise for the state's licensed creative arts therapists (LCATs).

Bill A1171A/S6574A would have enabled LCATs, as well as other mental health professionals, to be covered by blanket health insurance policies (issued to groups, schools and colleges) for outpatient treatment.

Instead, the LCATs were written out of the bill at the last moment.

This wasn't the first time. A change to a 2021 bill prevented them from being covered by Medicaid. A June 2022 bill would have enabled creative arts therapists and other mental health counselors to diagnose mental illness and create treatment plans. LCATs were dropped from that bill too.

The profession blends traditional psychotherapy with the creative arts; practitioners often treat people who struggle with expressing themselves verbally. (See sidebar on page 3.) They frequently work with children.

"The reality is this," wrote Maya Benattar, co-founder of the LCAT Advocacy Coalition, in an email. "LCATs being removed from the insurance bill shrunk the number of mental health practitioners [that would be covered by patients' insurance]... by 14%. This is a significant number at a time when NY is undergoing a mental health crisis, and waitlists for therapy are extremely long."

The coalition promotes and supports creative arts therapy in New York.

Many of New York school districts' mental health teams are understaffed, with too few available services, a 2022 audit by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli found.

"The upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic created a crisis for many students in New York, but not enough is being done to make sure they are getting the information and support they need," DiNapoli said at the time. "The state education department should work with state and local entities to ensure resources to address the problem are available, and prioritize mental health instruction and outreach among school districts, so students and staff can recognize warning signs of distress and know how to get help."

"Mental health crises have skyrocketed during the pandemic and persisted, with anxiety and depression rates rising by more than 35 percent," said LCAT Jennifer Giuglianotti, who practices in Brooklyn and Wurtsboro. "Traumatic experiences, grief and overwhelm are very difficult

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# UDC welcomes new leadership, NPS staff

By LIAM MAYO

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) marked the start of February by swearing in its 2023 officers in a meeting on February 1. Shohola Township board of supervisors chairman Gregory Hoepfer administered the oaths of office.

Shohola Township representative Aaron Robinson was sworn in as the UDC's 2023 chairperson. Robinson served previously as the council's 2018 chairperson and as vice-chairperson in 2022; he has participated in advocacy and research work along the Upper Delaware River since his service at age 18 as the secretary-treasurer of advocacy organization Catskill Waters, and ran the businesses of Robinson's Sawmill and Firewood-on-Time.

Virginia "Ginny" Dudko, Town of Deepark representative, was sworn in as the council's vice-chairperson. She has served as an alternate representative since 2011 and became a primary representative in 2022; she taught kindergarten in the Eldred Central School District from 1972 to 2002, and since 2004 has served as a volunteer and substitute teacher.

Berlin Township representative Alan "Al" Henry was sworn in as the UDC's secretary-treasurer, a post he held previously from August 2013 through 2014 and from 2016 to 2022, while serving as the UDC's chairperson in 2015. Henry had a 32-year career with the National Park Service (NPS), spending all but three years with the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, before his retirement in 2009 from his post as chief ranger.

## NPS staffing changes

Following the swearing-in, the UDC welcomed Lindsey Kurnath, the new NPS superintendent for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Kurnath hails from Rochester, and joined the NPS in 2010 following a stint with the Environmental Protection Agency. She served since 2020 as the deputy superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore, and holds a master's degree in environmental management and in public policy from Duke University in Durham, NC, as well as a bachelor's degree in biology from Boston College.

"I'm really hoping that I'm able to give all of you, as well as the park staff, some stability," Kurnath told the council. "I have an analytical, measured, thoughtful approach so far in my career, so I'm hoping to bring that strategy and hopefully that consistency."

Kristina Heister, who served as superintendent for the Upper Delaware since 2014, left for a position as the deputy superintendent of the Gettysburg National Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site in 2020. The Upper Delaware has seen several acting superintendents in the years since, and superintendent Joe Salvatore, who joined as a permanent superintendent at the start of 2021, passed away unexpectedly in July 2022. The office's staff has experienced turnover as well; most recently, community and land use planner Cody Hendrix left for an assignment elsewhere.

The UDC and park staff have done a great job preserving the natural resources of the area, said Kurnath. She thanked the UDC in advance for its patience and corrections as she became accustomed to the role: "I like



RR photos by Liam Mayo

National Park Service Superintendent Lindsey Kurnath, left, UDC Resources and Land Use Specialist Kerry Engelhardt and UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie at a February 2 meeting of the Upper Delaware Council.

to think I'm a quick study, but I know it's going to take me a few months."

Robinson welcomed Kurnath, and said that the UDC's "excellent" staff would be a great resource. "It's nice to have a superintendent that hopefully will be here a while," he said.

"I hope so," Kurnath replied.

## And in other business...

Laurie Ramie, UDC executive director, told the council that she was planning a coordinating summit later in February, and will invite the area's elected officials to attend and to hear about the financial plight of the UDC. There were eight elected officials newly representing the Upper Delaware following the most recent election cycle, she said.

The council set a February 24 date for the meeting.

Minutes from the January 24 meeting of the UDC's project review committee discuss the Skinners Falls Bridge repair project; preliminary design work for the bridge will not start until after the Planning and Environmental Linkages study and the National Environmental Policy Act review is completed. The process will near its end in winter 2024, according to the minutes. Ramie told the council at its February 1 meeting that she applied for the UDC to be a participating agency, increasing its level of input for the project, and was denied; the UDC will remain as a member of the project advisory committee.

And the UDC voted to recommend for substantial conformance a new zoning ordinance in Lackawaxen Township, creating a "Boat, Golf Cart and RV Storage/Winterization Business" use. UDC resources and land use specialist Kerry Engelhardt told the council she had worked with the township on tweaks to the ordinance, and that there were currently two businesses in the township it would apply to, neither of them in the river corridor.



Upper Delaware Council Vice-chairperson Virginia "Ginny" Dudko, left, chairperson Aaron Robinson and secretary-treasurer Alan "Al" Henry talk after a February 2 meeting of the UDC, with Cocheton representative Larry Richardson looking on.

## SERVICE CUT - Page 2

to articulate in words."

The creative arts therapists were dropped from A1171A due to concern that their inclusion would increase costs, per Hochul's approval memo.

According to the state department of labor, there are fewer than 2,000 LCATs in New York.

The numbers affected are small. Even aside from that, the governor's concern is inaccurate, Benattar said. "LCATs provide psychotherapy, same as any other licensed mental health practitioners. We bill psychotherapy [billing] codes for insurance, and always have."

In the June bill, the problem was that LCATs did not have diagnostic privileges in their statutes, said Marsha Wineburgh, legislative chair of the New York State Society for Clinical Social Work in an email.

Being able to diagnose and plan treatment was "a huge win" for counselors, according to a St. Bonaventure University post at [online.sbu.edu](https://online.sbu.edu). No social worker or psychiatrist would be needed to sign off on a plan.

The approved counselors had to complete master's degree-level work and thousands of clinical hours. They have to register with the state and pass a licensing exam.

New York's licensed creative arts therapists fulfill those requirements, according to the state education

department. Even so, they were excluded.

Getting that privilege was a long-fought battle. In 2004, Wineburgh wrote, mental health practitioners sought permission to diagnose. "To the best of my knowledge, the LCAT leadership did not participate."

However, nearly 20 years on, given the damage from the pandemic, the exclusion "creates yet another barrier to efficient and accessible mental health care," Benattar wrote.

And, she added, "for this last bill, LCATs were the only one of the four licensed mental health practitioners without a lobbyist to represent them in Albany."

"When it comes to protecting New Yorkers' well-being, strengthening our mental health care system is essential and long overdue," Hochul said in her state of the state address. "We have underinvested in mental health care for so long, and allowed the situation to become so dire, that it has become a public safety crisis as well."

The state's billion-dollar investment, she said, "marks a monumental shift to make sure no one falls through the cracks, and to finally and fully meet the mental health needs of all New Yorkers."

But cutting out the LCATs from the bill "affects... people who might seek support and not be able to use their insurance, [receive] a proper diagnosis, or utilize government-funded health care," said Giuglianotti. It "deprives those in our most vulnerable and marginalized communities."

## What is creative arts therapy?

Licensed creative arts therapists (LCATs) combine psychotherapy with the creative arts.

It's "a new path to be seen, heard and understood," wrote LCAT Jennifer Giuglianotti in an email. She practices at Balanced Life Movement in Wurtsboro, NY.

The profession includes art, music, drama, poetry and dance/movement therapists. "Therapists work to help clients restore healthy functioning. It's evidence-based, effective and transformational."

Those who seek out creative arts therapists can have major mood disorders, from anxiety and depression to bipolar disorder. Others have autism or dementia and are unable to communicate in traditional ways, she said.

"The creative arts therapies are incredibly effective for so many people of all ages and challenges," she wrote.

For many of her clients, traditional talk therapy was less useful, and her work includes reading bodily cues. Non-verbal communication is 80 to 90 percent of "how we all speak"; it is absolutely critical that we are not overlooking body language and the arts in treatment," Giuglianotti said.

Creative arts therapists are required to have master's degrees and multiple years of supervised training before they can apply for a license, she pointed out.

For Giuglianotti, ignoring the creative arts in therapy shuts out a significant part of who people are and where they are happiest.

"Most of the people I've surveyed express that they felt free, light, happy and were most often engaged in play, music, dance or the arts. If we neglect to engage in these critical sources of joy and identity, we miss the mark in health care and see only a tiny piece of the person and who they are," she said.

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### EVolve NY

The charging station is part of NYPA's EVolve NY initiative. That initiative envisions a network of public access charging stations across the state, and has 118 chargers at 31 sites so far.

EVolve NY is designed to solve for range anxiety, said Justin Driscoll, NYPA Acting President and CEO.

Electric cars make up a growing percentage of vehicles on New York's roads. The percentage of new car registrations that were EVs rose from under one percent in 2016 to over five percent in 2022, according to numbers compiled by regional advocacy organization Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress. In September 2022, Gov. Kathy Hochul directed the Department of Environmental Conservation to take major regulatory action, with the end goal that all new cars, pickup trucks and SUVs sold in New York State will be zero emissions by 2035. The direction implements the goals of the September 2021 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act by providing the infrastructure for electric vehicles.

Range anxiety—the worry that an electric car's charge won't last long enough to get you to your destination—hampers the state in pursuing that goal. Sixty-two percent of electric-vehicle owners said they "always" or "frequently" rearranged travel plans or experienced anxiety while driving because of their vehicle's range, according to a June 2022 survey from Forbes Wheels. While improvements in battery technology can help, giving cars the ability to drive further on a single charge, at heart it's an infrastructure issue. Gas stations are everywhere, giving owners of gas-powered cars the comfort to know that, wherever they drive, there will be fuel ready for them; it's a sense of security that electric-car owners don't have.

The EVolve NY program is the power authority's attempt to help with the infrastructure problem, placing public-access charging stations in strategic locations along New York's travel thoroughfares.

The Hancock site is EvolveNY's second-biggest, just behind one at JFK airport. Through a partnership with Tesla, the site has 16 charging stations in total: half have Tesla's proprietary charging ports, the others are a mix of combined charging system (CCS) connectors, an industry standard connector, and CHAdeMO connectors, a standard used for some Japanese EV models.

The goal is to get long-distance trippers' cars charged and on their way as quickly as possible, said Driscoll.



RR photo by Liam Mayo  
Geraldine Walsh, left, a member of the Hancock Hounds Dog Park; Justin Driscoll, NYPA Acting President and CEO; Lieutenant Gov. Antonio Delgado; and Town of Hancock Supervisor Jerry Vernold cut the ribbon on a new EVolve NY electric vehicle charging hub in Hancock.



RR photo by Liam Mayo  
Lieutenant Gov. Antonio Delgado speaks at the ribboncutting of Hancock's new EVolve NY electric vehicle charging stations.

And while they wait for their cars to charge, travelers can take advantage of the dog park to stretch their two legs and their canine friends' four.



Photo contributed by the office of Governor Kathy Hochul  
The new EVolve NY electric vehicle charging hub in Hancock is the largest in the Southern Tier of the state.

There are more people using the charging stations every time she visits the site, and many of those people have dogs, said Geraldine Walsh, local resident and dog

park member. "I think we're going in the right direction."

"That is how you invest in our future," said Delgado.

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the letter said, and will also waive all late fees in January and February. To reduce call wait-times, PPL has also brought on more customer service agents.

Just hours after this statement was released, the PUC announced that its independent bureau of investigation and enforcement has initiated a "comprehensive investigation" into what went wrong.

Technical mistakes aside, electric prices have increased sharply in the past two years. According to PPL's internal data, its default

rate for electricity this year is roughly 54 percent higher than in 2021.

National sources point to multiple factors to explain the upward trend; top of the list is the high cost of natural gas, which generates about 40 percent of the country's energy supply. Extreme temperatures are another cause—excessive heat and cold require more air conditioning and heating.

As Wayne County residents, many of whom are seasonal employees, fight to stay warm inside their homes this winter,

unaffordable electric bills are an additional, unwelcome strain.

"It's been a really tough time for residents with grocery bills, inflation, fuel costs, utility costs and everything going up significantly right before a major cold front comes through," Adams said. "This time of year, because of the nature of our area, a lot of employment [is] around construction, around the resort operations, restaurants, tourism and leisure. There's not a lot of extra money in people's pockets to be able to pay those bills."

PPL has encouraged customers who are struggling to pay their energy bills to visit [www.pplelectric.com](http://www.pplelectric.com) or call 800/DIAL-PPL to set up a structured payment plan. Additionally, the PUC has told consumers who don't believe that PPL has addressed their issues, or responded appropriately to the situation, to call the commission's bureau of consumer services at 800/692-7380. Consumers who are unable to reach PPL agents or do not receive a response from PPL should also contact the bureau to report those issues, the commission said.

# Pike: Conservationists pursuing 'climate resiliency'

## Plus, rehab for West Ann Memorial Park

By OWEN WALSH

PIKE COUNTY, PA — Between Milford Borough and Shohola Township, Pike County is on the receiving end of more than \$500,000 in grant funding to put toward outdoor recreation and conservation efforts.

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded more than \$195,000 to the Nature Conservancy for the acquisition of about 130 acres in Shohola Township. The land is slated to become state game lands, part of an ongoing effort across public and private partnerships to conserve the natural ecosystems there.

The department also awarded grants totaling \$400,000 to Milford for the rehabilitation of its downtown West Ann Memorial Park.

### Shohola Creek Project

In mid-January, the Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania and Delaware—a private conservation nonprofit—acquired more than 1,000 acres that lie downstream from Shohola Lake and include more than a mile of frontage on Shohola Creek as well as six tributary streams.

The parcel links together two pieces of state game land—the 3,000-acre State Game Land 116 to the north and the 11,400-acre State Game Land 180 to the south—to create a 43-mile corridor of public land, protected from development. The Nature Conservancy immediately transferred ownership to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

“We are grateful for partners like the Nature Conservancy that do the heavy lifting to help bring tracts like this to the game commission in order to continue the commonwealth’s conservation heritage,” said Dave Gustafson, director of the PA Game Commission’s Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management. “Protecting this property from future development will not only help the watershed, but also add to the biological,

recreational and scenic values associated with the [existing] network of lands.”

The new addition also includes Bald Hill, a habitat for several plant and animal species threatened by climate change, according to the conservancy. The organization’s director of land protection, Mari-Beth DeLucia named the black bear and bobcat as two primary animals of concern.

“[Bear and bobcat] move a lot... as the climate changes, species need to be able to move north in response to the warming temperatures,” she said. “When you connect all this land and it’s open, not only to the public, but also for animals to move, that’s really critical.”

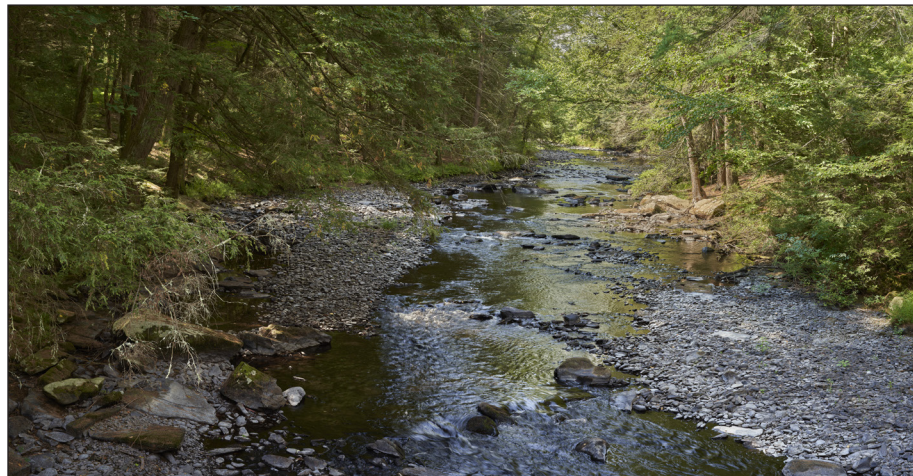
By connecting these different parcels into one long stretch of protected land reaching the Delaware River, DeLucia said conservationists can help species travel unencumbered by human development.

“This whole core area will allow animals to move across in response to climate change,” she said.

Protecting lands like these also contribute to the region’s “climate resilience,” DeLucia said, by preserving the delicate balance of differing climates within a small geographic area. As anyone who has climbed a mountain, either in a car or on foot has likely experienced, the climate on the north-facing side is often drastically different than that on the south-facing side.

“Microhabitats are really important for climate resilience and the ability of these creatures to find a suitable habitat on an exceptionally warm day,” she said.

In addition to habitat loss and migration disruption, the abnormally warm temperatures we’ve had early this winter, followed by extreme cold, can mean trouble for bird species when they come back from the south. The early warm weather can cause local flora to bloom too soon, which means they don’t bud again in springtime, leaving



Photos by Dick Ludwig courtesy of the Nature Conservancy

Shohola Creek is 29-mile tributary of the Delaware River, which provides drinking water to about 15 million people—four percent of the country’s population—across four different states. Shohola Creek (Lenape for “meek or faint”) drops off the Pocono Plateau and joins the Delaware River approximately 17 miles (27 km) upstream of Port Jervis, NY.

the animals that rely on these plants as a food source with nothing to eat.

“That is already happening, because things are already weeks earlier than they used to be,” DeLucia said. “Eventually [some] species will evolve, but when species are already teetering on edge because of development and all the other stuff, they don’t have that resilience to evolve over time... These birds who migrate thousands of miles: if that food source isn’t there when they get there, they just die.”

Several different funding sources contributed to the \$4 million acquisition. The game commission covered half the bill, providing \$2 million toward the purchase price.

Two funds through the Open Space Institute—which is a national conservation organization working to protect natural resources throughout the eastern U.S. and Canada—also lent financial support to the project: the Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund and the Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund (ALPF).

### Protecting a watershed

Launched in 2014, the Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund is capitalized by the William Penn Foundation and has protected approximately 20,000 acres of forested land in the Delaware River Watershed. According to a press release, the forested land acts as a natural filter for clean water in the headwater streams of the Delaware River Watershed, which provides drinking water for approximately 15 million people, including residents of Trenton, Philadelphia, Wilmington and New York City.

The ALPF supports land protection along the Appalachian Mountain range, an area that is home to the world’s largest broad-leaf forest, stores most of the nation’s forest carbon, and provides refuge for plants and migration routes for animals at risk of habitat loss from climate change.

“The Open Space Institute is exceptionally proud of its role in protecting Shohola Creek, which will provide public access and recreation while safeguarding critical water resources and unspoiled forests in the face of a changing climate,” said Bill Rawlyk, OSI’s Mid-Atlantic field coordinator.

Additional donors and private supporters, including the Kentfields Foundation, as well as the Pike County Commissioners’ Scenic Rural Character Preservation program, also contributed to the Shohola acquisition.

Shohola is the second land protection project the Nature Conservancy has pursued in Pike County. The first came in 2017, when the group purchased and transferred 318 acres to the PA Bureau of Forestry to expand the Delaware State Forest.

According to Gustafson, this 43-mile corridor will be open to the public, allowing visitors and locals to “enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits such as hunting, hiking and bird watching.”

### West Ann Memorial Park

Milford Borough’s \$400,000 grant will go toward the rehab of downtown West Ann Memorial Park. Rep. Joe Adams (PA-139), who represents Pike and Wayne, said that the DCNR’s funding originated from American Rescue Plan dollars.

“That’s a big chunk of money,” Adams said. “Improved parks are a key ingredient in revitalized communities, large and small. I’m thankful Pike County will be awarded this highly competitive funding. Further developing these locations will benefit children, parents and the entire community.”

The grant is slated for the construction of pedestrian walkways and a parking area, installation of play equipment with required safety surfacing and fencing, improved ADA accessibility, general landscaping and other related site improvements.



Besides the vestiges of human development already present, this land and its resources will now be free from further disruption. Humans, however, are still welcome to come here for the sake of natural connection: hiking, birdwatching and even hunting.



## ■ MIXED GREENS BY CAROL ROIG

# Inconvenient realities keep getting in the way

While their proximity may have been completely unintentional, the pairing of two headlines on January 17 carried a heady jolt of irony: “Disasters displaced 3 million Americans last year” was the lead energy and environment story for Rachel Franzin and Zack Budryk at **The Hill**. The story notes that an estimated 3.3 million Americans were forced from their homes at least temporarily by natural disasters in 2022. By far the highest number were residents of Florida, where nearly one million people, about 7 percent of the state’s population, were displaced by major disasters such as Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole. According to data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, these two hurricanes killed 157 people and caused \$114 billion in damage.

Louisiana followed, with 410,000 residents (about 15 percent of the state’s population) displaced by weather events. NOAA noted that 2022 tied with 2021 and 2017 for the third-highest number of billion-dollar disasters, and was the third highest in total costs, with 18 major natural disasters, including hurricanes, tornadoes, derechos, hailstorms, heat waves, droughts and wildfires, responsible for 472 deaths and \$165.1 billion in damage.

Just a little way down the page, the same authors reported on a decision by Gov. Ron DeSantis to prohibit the investment of Florida’s state pension funds with companies that consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in their investment decisions. Part of a larger effort led by the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), which has drafted numerous corporate-friendly model laws, at least 18 states have proposed or adopted similar legislation boycotting companies that enact policies for sound environmental and social behavior. The result of such laws is to shield polluting industries like fossil fuels from informed scrutiny that considers long-term climate consequences—like those afflicting Florida—in investment decisions.

ESG policies are designed to help individual investors, brokerages and mutual funds evaluate the level of environmental responsibility exercised by the companies they

choose to invest in, their commitment to treating their employees fairly and being good corporate citizens of the communities in which they operate, and the effectiveness of internal controls that ensure transparency and accountability to the stockholders. ESG policies are largely shareholder-driven, and have grown in popularity among individual and institutional investors, especially among younger investors, as they exercise consumer choice in the marketplace.

Proponents are quick to point out that, as idealistic as the policies might sound, they also have the practical effect of protecting investors from costly environmental and health disasters that result from risky or unethical corporate behavior.

A recent analysis of the results of anti-ESG legislation in Texas concluded that in the first eight months since its enactment, the boycott caused five of the major municipal underwriters to withdraw from the state, resulting in reduced competition and hundreds of millions of dollars in higher interest costs that will eventually be borne by the taxpayers.

Six years ago, I wrote about “woke” in this column; it was a contender that year for the Oxford English Dictionary’s word of the year. It was a runner-up to “post-truth,” which was defined as “relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.” As with so many things he doesn’t like, Florida’s governor has branded ESG policies as “woke,” which seems to have become a culture-wars code word, “post-truth” shorthand for all the inconvenient historical, scientific and economic realities that get in the way of unconstrained power and profit.

In December, I was charmed to learn that the Oxford English Dictionary had selected “goblin mode” as the 2022 word of the year. It describes “behavior that is unapologetic, lazy, self-indulgent, or greedy,” especially referencing the struggle to return to normal social behavior after the isolation experienced during the COVID pandemic. The Merriam-Webster dictionary chose “gaslighting”—“the act

## Learn more

### Billion-dollar disasters in 2022

[thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/overnights/3817166-energy-environment-disasters-displaced-3-million-americans-last-year/](https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/overnights/3817166-energy-environment-disasters-displaced-3-million-americans-last-year/)

[www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/2022-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical-context](https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/2022-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disasters-historical-context)

### Prohibiting ESG factors

[thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/3816573-desantis-prohibits-florida-state-run-fund-managers-from-considering-esg-factors/](https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/3816573-desantis-prohibits-florida-state-run-fund-managers-from-considering-esg-factors/)

[thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/3812695-analysis-state-anti-esg-laws-could-cost-taxpayers-hundreds-of-millions/](https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/3812695-analysis-state-anti-esg-laws-could-cost-taxpayers-hundreds-of-millions/)

### Economic impacts of prohibiting ESG policies

The Sunrise Project

[econsultsolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Sunrise-ESG-boycott-Impact\\_FINAL.pdf](https://econsultsolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Sunrise-ESG-boycott-Impact_FINAL.pdf)

“Gas, Guns, and Governments: Financial Costs of Anti-ESG Policies,” Daniel Garrett, University of Pennsylvania—Finance Department, Wharton School of Business; and Ivan Ivanov, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, May 30, 2022.

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=4123366](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4123366)

or practice of grossly misleading someone especially for one’s own advantage”—in recognition of the newly potent electronic tools available for the dissemination of deception. “Gaslighting goblins” will now be my go-to term for all of those working to roll back the clock on history, democracy, education, the environment and all of the social norms that allow us to focus on the common good.

## ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### REACH could privatize Medicare

Calling all seniors who are sick—or might ever be sick! Your traditional Medicare is under attack.

An op-ed piece in the December 20 **Wall Street Journal** warned that as medicine becomes industrialized, “The Doctor’s Office Becomes an Assembly Line.”

A doctor added that “large healthcare systems, which are

viewed as single entities, have been able to negotiate fees up to 300% higher than what independent practices get. The lower fees have forced many independent practices to go out of business.” They may soon disappear.

Some patients have recently sensed a change in their physician’s manner. It is more rushed and less attentive. The office management is bureaucratic and difficult to deal with. This is the result of the current sweep to privatize medicine. It is called REACH, and if your physician’s practice opts in, it will be managed by profit-seeking middlemen, and your health will be too.

The government is attempting to drastically change Medicare. If it succeeds, the new structures will change health care delivery for everyone. An active group of health care providers called Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) is opposing those efforts. I urge you to go to [pnhp.org](https://pnhp.org) and to [protectmedicare.net](https://protectmedicare.net) to learn more, sign a petition and protect your health.

Doris Chorny  
Wallkill, NY

### Proposed use for Wel-Met site is a drastic change

In the article “Blind Pond Road Retreat,” (**River Reporter**, February 2-8) the author states that Camp Wel-Met was in operation until 1997, according to a **New York Times** article.

I have lived on Blind Pond Road since 1985 and never during that time was the property used as a camp by Wel-Met. They may have owned the property, but it was not used as a summer camp, other than a handful of weekends by the Goddard Riverside Community Center for Outward Bound-type programs for teens from the city. The property

was used by the current owners, the Gurdjieff Foundation, sporadically at best by adults only since 1997.

This proposed use and request for a special-use permit to use the property as a summer camp (which they are calling an “educational retreat”) is completely out of character and will forever change the way of life of the residents of Beaver Brook.

If approved, the applicants will have the right to use this property as often as they desire, and have as many users as they wish. The addition of approximately 150 campers, plus attendant staff, will cause a drastic increase in the use of water and wastewater, traffic and noise.

These are only some of the resident’s concerns. The environmental concerns are serious and need to be addressed. We are asking the Tusten Planning Board for another public session, since so many people in the area JUST found out about this project. The residents of Beaver Brook deserve and need to be heard.

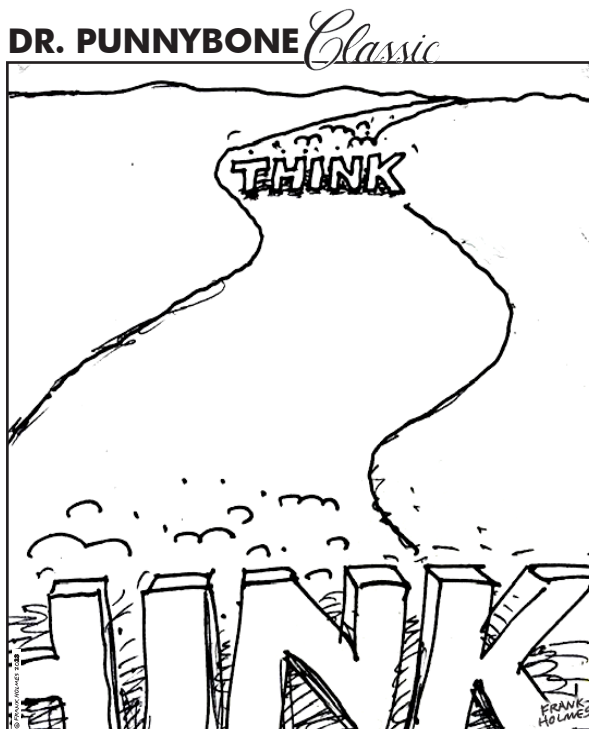
Joanne Pentangelo  
Narrowsburg, NY

### Justice depends on right of due process

Our justice system depends on the right of due process, and it must be preserved and respected at every level. Our civil society suffers when any citizen’s due process is prevented at the outset or severed midstream.

The recently released video capturing the beating of Tyre Nichols during a January 7 traffic stop is yet another example of a failure to uphold due process and the rule of law.

As we learn more about the subsequent death of Mr. Nichols on January 10 from injuries that he sustained during the encounter with law enforcement personnel, the phrase “justice denied to one is justice denied to all,” rings louder in



Another Think Coming

## MY VIEW

BY NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN AILEEN GUNTHER

# A step in the right direction

As chair of the New York State Assembly's mental health committee, I was encouraged to hear Gov. Hochul highlight the need to focus on livability, affordability and safety. Expanding and improving access to clean energy, health care, childcare and housing are key factors if we are to help our families.

The governor's call for a \$1 billion investment in mental health access and treatment is encouraging after years of not prioritizing mental health. COVID-19 pushed our families further into trauma, and the need for services has grown exponentially. The governor's proposal calls for a billion dollars in funding to rework the mental health care system and staffing shortages in the state. There are critical workforce shortages in the public mental and behavioral health, and in the substance use disorder systems of care across New York State. There is more work to do in this area, as the governor mentioned. We must make our most vulnerable our top priority and provide them with the resources they need.

We must continue to invest in our community, economy and the state, and I am committed to working with my legislative colleagues, Gov. Hochul, and stakeholders from across the region to ensure that federal and state recovery funds will be used to create opportunities for the benefit and economic prosperity for all New Yorkers, including those individuals and families historically left on the economic sidelines.

The governor's proposed investment in our families continues in her plan for increasing affordable housing, and making sure families have a safe place they can afford. The governor's call to build 800,000 affordable houses throughout the state over the next 10 years will help bring us closer to our goal.

Additionally, the proposal would create 2,150 new residential beds meant to aid people with mental illnesses. Housing is more than just an address, it's a human right.

The budget proposal would also increase child care assistance by \$7.6 billion over four years, and grant instant eligibility for families that are already receiving government support. Co-pays would be lowered, and more support is being proposed for child care providers.

Across the state and the country, concerns about public safety continue to rise. I am ready to work with the governor to continue our collaboration among state, local and federal law enforcement to respond to the unacceptable level of violence. The governor's proposal includes \$12.8 million to expand community stabilization with the expansion and help of New York State troopers.

We must also invest in preventative measures. We need root-cause solutions; real solutions mean investing in high-quality mental health services, youth engagement programs, job programs and violence intervention programs.

Strengthening bail reform and granting judges more sentencing discretion will help repair the fractured state in which bail reform currently sits. If judges don't have the authority or information available to keep our community safe from violent and repeat offenders, how can we expect families to feel safe? We need to continue to strengthen bail reform and make New York safe for all of us.

As we continue to move past the pandemic and forward as a state, expanding mental health care, affordable housing and living wages needs to be at the forefront of our efforts. For too long, we have overlooked our most vulnerable and at-risk people. I look forward to working with the governor and my legislative colleagues in the coming weeks as we create a budget that works for all New Yorkers.

*Aileen Gunther (D,I,WF-Forestburgh) is the New York State assemblywoman for District 100.*

## LETTERS - Page 6

the hearts and minds of all of us in the legal community. Our justice system requires adherence to this long-held legal maxim.

The Pennsylvania Bar Association stands with other organized bar associations in the support of actions that will better ensure fair and equal application of the rule of law and public safety for everyone.

Jay Silberblatt, president  
Pennsylvania Bar Association  
Harrisburg, PA

### Enjoy the big game responsibly

The countdown to kickoff has begun! Football fans everywhere are coming together to watch one of the most highly anticipated games of the year. And of course, this beloved American tradition isn't complete without a winning lineup of game-day snacks and a few cold beers with friends and family. Anheuser-Busch and Dana Distributors are honored to be a part of these moments and are committed to helping ensure that communities celebrate safely.

If you're planning to enjoy a beer or two, make sure you also plan for a way to get home safely. Remember, drunk driving is never the right call and

when it comes to keeping our roads safe, we're all on the same team.

Over the last 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in responsible drinking initiatives and community-based programs to prevent underage drinking, impaired driving and other harmful uses of alcohol.

All of us at Dana Distributors are once again teaming up with Anheuser-Busch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Uber to encourage everyone in Orange, Rockland and Sullivan counties to Decide To Ride.

Plan ahead for a safe ride if you are drinking. You can't drive drunk if you leave your keys at home, and by focusing on planning ahead, it makes it easier for you to make smart decisions at the end of the night.

So whether you're an avid football fan or just there for the snacks and commercials, we can all work together to put an end to drunk driving once and for all. No matter who you're cheering for in the big game, thank you for helping us end the night with a win. Cheers!

Tom Kennedy,  
General sales manager, Dana Distributors  
Goshen, NY

[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.]

# Consequences: How money is budgeted

*New York Gov. Kathy Hochul unveiled her \$227 billion executive budget proposal for fiscal 2024, up 2.4 percent from the final \$220 billion fiscal 2023 budget that was approved in April. The state's fiscal year begins on April 1. Here is a smattering of other opinions that we received.*

## Increasing spending—and taxes—is a mistake

The governor claims she is focused on affordability, yet she doubled down on her track record of increased spending at a time when a \$22 billion deficit is on the horizon.

Her definition of affordability is starkly different from that of the people I represent in the 51st Senate District.

Public safety, education, improved infrastructure and mental health are all priorities of mine, and I will work with the governor to ensure that needs are met in these and other key areas. However, continuing to spend at an unsustainable rate while hiking taxes and fees will only drive more people and businesses out of the state. We need to exercise a level of fiscal restraint.

Now the real work begins. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I will be actively questioning state commissioners and other officials during the upcoming budget hearings with an eye toward developing a final budget that is fiscally sound and addresses true needs.

Sen. Peter Oberacker, R-51

Albany and Oneonta, NY

## Allowing more charter schools will harm vulnerable students

For years, NYSUT (New York State United Teachers) members have been fighting for proper school funding and staff levels. The governor's proposed budget is a historic step in the right direction that promises to dramatically improve our schools and the communities they serve.

However, we have grave concerns about the proposal to expand the number of charter schools. This will have a devastating impact on our public schools, especially when it comes to our state's most underserved students. History shows that the corporate charter school industry is interested in making profits, not in the well-being of all students, educators and families. Charters exclude students who don't fit their business model, and they operate without input from the public or accountability to taxpayers. Where public schools unite our communities, charter schools fracture them.

Andy Pallotta, president

New York State United Teachers

Latham, NY

## New York is taking dollars meant for local government

As a former county official, Gov. Hochul should know that any new costs imposed on New York's local governments eventually come out of New Yorkers' pockets in the form of higher property taxes that drive up the cost of both rent and homeownership.

Unfortunately, the governor's budget includes an unprecedented shift that will saddle local taxpayers with up to \$1 billion in new Medicaid costs by pocketing Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Program (eFMAP) funds that were intended to go directly to local governments to help hold costs down.

Not only does this proposal harm New York's local taxpayers, but it also subverts Congress' intent that eFMAP be shared with local governments that contribute to the Medicaid program.

In March 2020, New York Sen. Charles Schumer said, "Enhanced FMAP funds are so important because they are immediate and flexible. The state—which gets billions and the most of any state in the nation—and counties use the money they save on whatever they want."

At a time when New York is facing an affordability crisis, the last thing the governor should do is burden local taxpayers with more costs that will drive up the cost of homeownership and rent, increase business expenses, and make New York more unaffordable.

We sincerely hope the governor will reconsider this misguided proposal, adhere to Congress' intent, and continue to share this federal funding so that we can do our part to make our state more affordable.

Michael Zurlo, president

New York State Association of Counties

Albany, NY

## ■ OBITUARIES

### BARBARA ANN BARNES

Barbara Ann Barnes, 84, a life-long resident of Lackawaxen, PA, passed away on February 4, 2023 at the Delaware Valley Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Matamoras, PA. Barbara was the daughter of the late Vincent and Frances (Beck) Graber. She was born May 17, 1938 in Lackawaxen, PA. Barbara retired from the mail room at the Pike County Court House in Milford, PA.



Barbara was a member of St. Ann Roman Catholic Church in Shohola, PA. She was also a member of the Lackawaxen Township Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, and was a member of the Fire Police. She received an award for voting in 60 consecutive elections. She was a member of the Highland Seniors.

Barbara was an avid sportswoman; she enjoyed deer hunting, rides on the ATV, and snowmobile trips up north, up till the age of 78. In 2019, she purchased a new Chevrolet Corvette. She was young at heart. She also had a green thumb and loved her garden.

Barbara leaves behind her two sons: Joseph Barnes and wife Abigail of Lackawaxen, PA, and Kenneth Barnes and his wife Natalie of Mooresville, NC; six grandchildren: Curtis Barnes and his fiancée Lindsey Yealy, Jeanine Barnes and her companion Michael Shea, Hannah Hjerth, Lukas Hjerth, Greta Hjerth, and Savannah Bustle and her husband Brian Bustle; three great-grandchildren: Isaac Bustle, Bruce Bustle and Layla Bustle; two brothers: Harry Graber and his wife Cherie, and John Graber and his wife Shirlyn; two sisters: Elizabeth Myers and her husband Robert, and Caroline O'Brien—all of Shohola, PA, many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Barbara is predeceased by her husband Edward, brother Frederick "Butch" Graber, and her companion Harry Kestler.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 10 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Visitation will also be held on Saturday, February 11, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. All will take place at the Harrison Rasmussen Funeral Home, 3412 Rte. 97, Barryville, NY. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Ann Roman Catholic Church in Shohola, PA at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 11. Christian burial will follow the Mass in Saint Mary Assumption Churchyard, Lackawaxen, PA.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Barbara's name to Lackawaxen Township Volunteer Fire Department, 774 Rte. 590, Lackawaxen, PA 18435.

## ■ DEATH NOTICES

### Richard D. Bruns Sr.

Richard D. Bruns Sr., 82, formerly of Honesdale, PA, passed away January 28, 2023 at home. Richard was born in 1940. A celebration of life is planned for 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 18 at Abernethy Laurels in Newton, NC.

### Patrick A. Conte

Patrick A. Conte, 83, of Honesdale, PA, passed away January 28, 2023. Patrick was born November 27, 1939 in Bryn Mawr, PA. A Mass of Christian burial was held February 2 at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale. Interment to be at St. Marys Cemetery in Honesdale.

### Cordelia DeStefano

Cordelia DeStefano, 87, a lifelong resident of the area, passed away January 30, 2023. Cordelia was born August 16, 1935 in Cuddebackville, NY. Services are private at this time.

### Robert L. Dillemath

Robert L. Dillemath, 90, of Bethany, PA, passed away January 26, 2023. Robert was born August 31, 1932. Interment will be in Girdland cemetery at the convenience of the family.

### Margaret Freeman

Margaret Freeman, 88, of Bethany, PA, passed away February 2, 2023. Margaret was born August 21, 1934. On Thursday, February 9, friends and family can visit from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Bethany United Methodist Church. A service will be held at 11 a.m. following visitation.

### Nicholas G. Fucci

Nicholas G. Fucci, 56, of Eldred, NY, passed away January 27, 2023. Nicholas was born March 26, 1966 in Staten Island, NY. Services were held privately at the convenience of the family.

### Harriet Girton Gearhart

Harriet Girton Gearhart, 91, formerly of Monticello, NY, passed away January 26, 2023 in West Seneca, NY. Harriet was born March 26, 1931 in Berwick, PA.

### Judith Ann Giglio

Judith Ann Giglio, 75, of Beach Lake, PA, passed away January 30, 2023 at Grand Strand Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, SC. Judith was born March 11, 1947. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Thursday, February 23 at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale, PA at 10 a.m. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Honesdale.

### Oscar F. Girrbach

Oscar F. Girrbach, 91, of Kenoza Lake, NY, passed away January 30, 2023. Oscar was born July 29, 1931 in Jamaica, NY. Services were held February 4 at the Kenoza Lake United Methodist Church in Kenoza Lake. Burial to be in Jeffersonville Presbyterian Cemetery in Jeffersonville, NY.

### Lucas E. Gries

Lucas E. Gries, 45, formerly of Welcome Lake, PA, passed away January 28, 2023. Lucas was born July 10, 1977 at Welcome Lake. A memorial service to celebrate his life is planned for this summer in northeast PA.

### Mary E. (Swinyer) Hickey

Mary E. (Swinyer) Hickey, 86, of Hawley, PA, passed away February 2, 2023 at home. Mary was born on May 27, 1936 in Saranac, NY. A funeral service was held February 6 at Teeters' East Chapel in Hawley. Burial followed at Green Gates Cemetery in Hawley.

### Annabelle Rosenberger Holblinger

Annabelle Rosenberger Holblinger, 113, formerly of Callicoon, NY, passed away January 27, 2023 in Pueblo West, CO. Annabelle was born March 16, 1909 in Callicoon. No arrangement has been made as yet.

### Kenneth H. Kromer

Kenneth H. Kromer, 80, of Honesdale, PA, passed away January 26, 2023 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale. Kenneth was born in September 1942 in Ossining, NY. Visitation will be held at Arthur A. Bryant Funeral Home in Honesdale on Saturday, February 18 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, with a memorial service to be held immediately afterward.

### Patricia Ann Labato

Patricia Ann Labato, 51, of Narrowsburg, NY, passed away January 27, 2023 at Geisinger-Community Medical Center in Scranton, PA. Patricia was born February 6, 1971 in Wappingers Falls, NY. Private cremation will be at Lake Region Crematory in Lake Ariel, PA.

### Wayne Lewis

Wayne Lewis, 83, of Honesdale, PA, passed away January 29, 2023. A private memorial service will be held this summer.

### James A. Price

James A. Price, 75, of Honesdale, PA, passed away January 27, 2023. Jim was born in Honesdale. Final goodbyes will be held on Saturday, February 11 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Arthur A. Bryant Funeral Home in Honesdale.

### Brenda S. Rake

Brenda S. Rake, 74, of Waymart, PA, passed away January 31, 2023 at Aventura at Terrace View Nursing Home in Olyphant, PA. Brenda was born April 28, 1948 in Milford, PA. Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

### Theresa 'Tessie' (Viering) Stockmann

Theresa "Tessie" (Viering) Stockmann, 95, of Lackawaxen, PA, passed away January 28, 2023 at Twin Cedar Assisted Living. Theresa was born July 3, 1927 in Eltmann, Germany. A prayer service was held February 2 at the Harrison Rasmussen Funeral Home in Barryville, NY. Burial to be in Lackawaxen Cemetery in Lackawaxen.

### Florence Lynda Utegg

Florence Lynda Utegg, 83, of Honesdale, PA, passed away January 29, 2023 at the Julia Ribaldo Nursing Center in Lake Ariel, PA. Florence was born January 6, 1940 in Beach Lake, PA. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated February 3 at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale. Interment followed in St. Catherine's Cemetery in Moscow, PA.

### Shirley P. Westgate

Shirley P. Westgate, 91, of Bethany, PA, passed away February 2, 2023. Shirley was born June 23, 1931. A memorial service will be held at 12 noon on Friday, February 10 at the Arthur Bryant Funeral Home, 1228 N. Main St. in Honesdale, PA, with visitation at 11 a.m. A private burial will be held at a later date.

## Cooperage to launch mobile farm market

HONESDALE, PA — It's an accessible, affordable and more equitable way for people to buy fresh, local food. For some, it could arrive right on their doorsteps.

At the end of 2022, the Cooperage Project received grant funding to create the Northern Poconos Mobile Farm Market.

A system that brings food closer to people reduces barriers to access and provides greater purchasing power, a spokesperson for the Cooperage said.

"While the mobile market will reach underserved consumers, it will also benefit small businesses and producers by reducing product loss and increasing market opportunities," he added.

The market aims to launch in early June of this year, and will serve residents of Wayne County.

Market sites will initially be senior centers and senior/disabled housing complexes. Additional locations could include libraries, community health centers, and other areas where people gather. Products available will include a variety of greens,



root and storage vegetables, seasonal fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, meats, honey, syrup, and other products made, grown, or harvested in the Northern Poconos region.

And it's a job opportunity. The Cooperage is now accepting applications for a manager to head up the program. A full description of the job is available at the link below. Applications are due Friday, February 17.

To learn more about the mobile market, visit [thecooperageproject.org](http://thecooperageproject.org).



# Big things are happening in Tiny Town!

MONTICELLO, NY — Monticello families, district leaders, school board members and folks from the Every Person Influences Children (EPIC) program—including Chase third-grade student and EPIC student liaison Josephine Marotta—stopped by the St. John Street Community School on January 18 to celebrate the grand opening of Tiny Town.

The new initiative is aimed at equipping children from birth to age three—and their families—with the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

For the educators in the room, this means helping children develop fine motor skills, and to give kids familiarity with reading and numbers.

For the families and their young children, this means a fun afternoon of play and socialization.

The district first implemented the Tiny Town program in 2019 at the Kenneth L. Rutherford Elementary School. The brainchild of district staff members Sarah Mootz and Jill Yanetta, the program gave the tiniest Panthers and their families a place to play, learn and connect.

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the district's restructuring at the two village schools, Tiny Town closed its doors at the Rutherford School.

However, when the district's new pre-school program opened at the St. John Street Community School, it seemed a natural fit



Tiny Town children learn through play, and their families are there to help.

for Tiny Town's new home.

The new Tiny Town is managed by a partnership between the Monticello Central School District and the EPIC program. There are two to three scheduled sessions per week. Each session begins with 45 minutes of unstructured playtime for children and their families, and there are plenty of age-appropriate toys to play with, a district spokesperson said.

After playtime comes activity time, and kids and families can explore learning together.

Registration is required, and Monticello families can register or learn more by emailing EPIC family engagement program manager Jane Sorensen at JSorensen@k12mcsd.net or calling 845/807-6332.



Photos contributed by the Monticello Central School District

Tiny Town is open for kids from birth to age three.



There's so much for little ones to learn at Tiny Town.

## Changes, new leadership at Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce

LIBERTY, NY — Jack Bodolosky will take over as acting president of the Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce.

He is the founder and president of Companion Coffee, a nonprofit group that raises money for veterans and their pets. Bodolosky is also affiliated with the Animal Hospital of Sullivan County in Ferndale.

The chamber's board unanimously voted him in on January 20.

Long-time president Russell Reeves highlighted the chamber's many accomplishments, which include 25 years of the Fourth of July festival, business grants during the pandemic to help its business members remain open, and its establishment of the Sullivan County Soap Box Derby, just to name a few.

Reeves will remain on the board.

Members of the chamber look forward to assisting Bodolosky in serving the greater Liberty area businesses, a spokesperson wrote, and continuing the chamber's goals and activities.

Chamber meetings will resume in February, and will be announced on its website and social media, and via email.

The Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce is a 100 percent volunteer organization, and is funded entirely through its own efforts. For more information, or to learn how to join the chamber or volunteer, call 845/292-9797 or email [libertynychamber@gmail.com](mailto:libertynychamber@gmail.com). You can also visit the Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.



Contributed photo

The Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce supports member businesses. Pictured are board members Jean Dermer, left; Russell Reeves; Verna Spina; and Eileen Mershon. Newly appointed president Jack Bodolosky is at right.

### The importance of children's dental health

LIBERTY, NY — February is National Children's Dental Health Month, and PRASAD is using the time to raise awareness.

The professionals behind the kids' dental health program (PRASAD CDHP) know all too well the impact that oral health can have on the lives of children.

In the U.S., a spokesperson said, over 51 million school hours are lost each year due to dental health problems or pain. Dental cavities are the single most common chronic childhood disease—five times more common than asthma.

The daily reality for children with untreated oral disease is often persistent pain, inability to eat comfortably, damaged teeth and distraction from play and

learning—all issues that are detrimental to a child's overall health, self-esteem and general well-being.

Parents can take simple but effective steps to set children on the right path. They should make sure that children brush their teeth twice a day and see a dentist every six months. Good oral hygiene techniques and consistent dental care will lead to healthy, happy smiles, boosting confidence and positively impacting overall health.

Since 1998, PRASAD CDHP has provided excellent preventive and restorative dental health care for children, filling a serious need in the community. For more information, visit [www.prasadcdhp.org](http://www.prasadcdhp.org) or call 845/434-0376.

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# Fat Fido no more

By FAMILY FEATURES

NATIONWIDE—Pet parents often show love for their pets with food. However, that extra “love” can lead to weight gain, which can increase the risk of developing other medical conditions.

More than 50 percent of pets are overweight, but 90 percent of pet parents with an overweight pet don’t realize it, according to research from Hill’s Pet Nutrition, a global leader in science-led nutrition.

To help transform the lives of pets, Drs. Vernard Hodges and Terrence Ferguson, stars of Nat Geo Wild’s “Critter Fixers: Country Vets,” are encouraging pet parents to take a proactive approach to maintaining their pet’s weight.

“As veterinarians, we want every pet to live a long and healthy life,” Hodges said. “That’s why pet parents should actively monitor their pet’s weight and address it in real time with the guidance of their veterinarian.

“We are proud to be a part of Hill’s ‘End Pet Obesity’ campaign to help pet parents learn about the impact of even a few extra pounds and equip them with the tools and resources they need to help their pets achieve and maintain a healthy weight.”

Consider these simple steps to get started:

## Take the L.O.V.E. test

To help assess a pet’s weight, use the L.O.V.E. Test:

- Locate the pet’s ribs
- Observe from above
- View from the side
- Evaluate feeding behavior

“Sometimes, under all their beautiful fur, it’s hard to realize our pets have gained weight, and even just a few extra pounds can have an impact on their energy and overall wellness,” Ferguson said. “Taking the L.O.V.E test is an easy way to evaluate a pet’s body condition to determine if it’s time to take action.”

## Schedule a visit with a veterinarian

Pet parents who have concerns about their pet’s weight should seek their veterinarian’s guidance. Ask questions like:

Is my pet at an ideal weight? How can I help my pet reach an ideal weight? How can food help manage my pet’s weight?

## Switch to the right food

“Obesity is one of the greatest health risks for pets, and what a pet eats is one of the most important decisions a pet parent can make,” Ferguson said. “Whether your pet is a new addition to the family or has just eaten



Photo by Karlo Tottoc on Unsplash  
Watching your pet’s weight is really important, and should include a visit to your veterinarian.

a little too much, now is a great time for pet parents to reset nutritional habits and make sure their pet is at a healthy weight—starting with the food they feed.”

Pet parents should work with their veterinarian to choose the right food to support their pet’s weight loss journey. Weight management products can help pets achieve an ideal weight, including Hill’s Science Diet Perfect Weight, which has been shown to lead to weight loss within 10 weeks in 70 percent of pets who ate it. For obese pets, veterinarians might recommend a therapeutic food.

To learn more and access free tools and resources for pet weight management, visit [endpetobesity.com](http://endpetobesity.com).

## Puppy love at WSPL

NARROWSBURG, NY — Celebrate National Library Lovers Month with a sweet story and some puppy love at the Tusten-Cochecton Branch on Monday, February 13, starting at 4:30 p.m.

A special dog named Jack will sit and snuggle while kids read to him. Register for a 15-minute slot by calling 845/252-3360 or sign up at [www.wsplonline.org](http://www.wsplonline.org).

## Kiss your pets for a good cause

MILFORD, PA — PAWS of the Hudson Valley, Inc./Pike County fund and Milford Pet Supply will hold Kiss Your Pet at the kissing booth at Milford Pet Supply in the Old Lumberyard. The event takes place on Saturday, February 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Props will be available to use in the kissing booth, and every pet will receive a free gift. Bring your pet(s) and your camera or phone, along with a \$10 donation, and have your picture taken. All dogs must be on a leash and all cats in a carrier.

# Fresh pet food for your dog’s health

By BRANDPOINT

If you’re worried whether you’re giving your dogs the best food for their health, you’re not alone. The newest generation of pet parents consider their pet’s food choices to be just as important as their own.

Compared to previous generations, the next generation of pet parents are five times more likely to add a topper to their dog’s kibble to elevate the dog’s mealtime experience, according to a pet-food study conducted by Wellness Pet Company with the Valen Group. That adds up to nearly four out of 10 next-gen pet parents (38 percent) who are topping their dog’s food each day.

The study also shows that millennial and Gen Z pet parents are willing to pay up to 15 percent more for a premium nutritional choice. That’s driven by their desire to seek higher-quality ingredients and nutrition for the health and wellness of their pet, so they can enjoy a lifetime of wellbeing together.

This growing interest in providing four-legged family members with better fresh nutrition options led Wellness Pet Food to expand its Wellness® Bowl Boosters® line with the launch of Wellness® Bowl Boosters Freshly™ in June 2022. These fresh toppers, available at PetSmart and Petco, add complete and balanced nutrition to dogs’ existing kibble. Dogs and pet parents love it.

Dr. Danielle Bernal, global veterinarian with Wellness Pet Company, knows how high-quality fresh foods make a difference in dogs’ overall health, and that such foods elevate mealtime excitement to a whole new level.

If you’re unsure how to tell if your dog’s food provides sufficient nutrition to optimize health, Dr. Bernal offers some important things to consider.

## How do you know your dog’s food is supporting their physical well-being?

Look for signs like:

- Healthy skin and shiny coat
- All-day energy that keeps them running and playing
- Healthy digestion, so you know your pet is absorbing essential nutrients
- Strong teeth and bones that help them eat well and stay active
- Healthy immune system that keeps dogs feeling their best

## What ingredients in fresh products benefit your dog’s health, and how?

Guaranteed antioxidants like Vitamins A and E for immune system support

Omega-3 fatty acids from flaxseed or salmon oil for a lustrous skin and coat

Calcium and phosphorus for strong teeth and bones

Wholesome veggies and grains, like carrots and rice, add natural dietary fibers to support digestive health and provide the energy your pet needs

Increased nutrient absorption from highly digestible proteins, fats and carbohydrates to help fuel total wellbeing

Fresh food toppers provide increased total hydration to support daily activity and put less strain on major organs, and help aid overall kidney and urinary health. With a home-cooked texture and high-quality fresh ingredients, a fresh topper is the ultimate way to make mealtimes exciting and more bowl-licking delicious for your pup.

## Using fresh foods in your pet’s daily mealtime routine

Pet parents have options on how to feed their dog fresh food, whether they are choosing to top their existing kibble with fresh food or serving as a complete meal. Remember:

Once thawed, fresh food needs to be refrigerated and enjoyed within five days.

Choose flavors your dog will love. Wellness® Bowl Boosters Freshly™ recipes, for example, offer a variety of ingredients: 1) chicken and butternut squash, 2) beef and carrots, 3) turkey and sweet potatoes. There’s a recipe made specifically for puppies, with turkey and rice.

Learn more about Wellness Pet Food at [WellnessPetFood.com](http://WellnessPetFood.com).

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Charlotte is about 1 1/2 years old. She's a smart girl who loves learning new things, she's a good listener! Her favorite things are playing fetch with a tennis ball and tug of war with rope toys. She has a fun energy level, so if you're active then she'd be a good fit. She's learning some basic commands as well as leash manners. She likes everyone she meets; older kids are preferable, she likes some dogs and a cat-free home is ideal.



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Photo contributed by Penn State Cooperative Extension

Members of Wayne County 4-H clubs gather at the 2022 Wayne County Fair.

## Welcome to the River Reporter's 4-H page!

Check these pages every second Thursday of the month, and learn what's happening in 4-H programs in Wayne and Pike counties in PA, and Sullivan County in NY.

We'll print news reports from clubs across the region, as well as related stories about 4-H and the good work it does.

Club news reporters: Send your stories to your club leader first, and then they can send them to [copyeditor@riverreporter.com](mailto:copyeditor@riverreporter.com). Reports might be edited for space, clarity or River Reporter style—but that happens to even the adult reporters.

And don't forget photos! If you send us a photo, make it as high resolution as possible (so it looks better in the paper) and try to identify everyone in the picture, even the animals. Club members work so hard on their projects, and we want to make sure everyone knows who's involved.

Have a great 4-H year—and we're really looking forward to hearing about it.

Annemarie Schuetz  
Copy editor  
River Reporter



# Join the club!



4-H is about learning through projects, giving back to the community and having fun

By **JESSICA SCULL**, Wayne County PA 4-H educator

WAYNE COUNTY, PA — The 4-H program is in full swing, but there is just enough time for new members to join the fun and get the experience of a lifetime.

Even though agriculture makes up a vast portion of the 4-H program, there are many additional 4-H project areas and opportunities for kids aged five to 18—as well as adult volunteers—to join.

The PA 4-H program year begins October 1 and continues until September 30 each year. Young people can join a 4-H club based on their location as well as their project interests. Many 4-H clubs in Wayne County are community clubs, where 4-H members can work on a wide variety of projects within one club.

### What kinds of projects?

Well, what is the young person interested in?

A 4-H project is based on a curriculum that is approved by Penn State University (or Cornell University in New York), and there's plenty to choose from.

And then they work on their project at their

own pace, learning a lot as they go.

There are projects in animal science, environmental science, shooting sports, civic engagement and leadership, communication and expressive arts, healthy living/foods and nutrition, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

Within those categories, a 4-H member can work on livestock, horses, rabbits, gardening, fishing, wildlife, leadership, finances, photography, drawing, painting, cooking and baking, woodworking or rocketry—and so much more.

Not only do 4-H members learn great skills and gain confidence, they also learn compassion and the importance of helping others through community service. Club members are taught at a very young age the importance of responsibility, public speaking, record keeping, accountability, respect and many other important life skills that help youth become capable and successful adults.

### More ways to have fun and learn

In addition to 4-H club projects and community service, 4-H members can attend workshops at the county and state levels

throughout the year.

Here are some examples:

**Poster-making class**—Learn how to make an award-winning poster or educational display for the Wayne County Fair.

**NewsWorthy workshop (hosted by the River Reporter)**—How do you tell people what your club is up to? Learn the proper way to gather information, write and submit a news article to the newspaper.

**4-H leaders' forum**—This is a professional development conference, held at Penn State University, for 4-H leaders to improve their teaching and organizational skills in their clubs.

**Quality animal management**—Learn how to care for your animals. These are training sessions for all animal science project members, so they can learn the proper way to raise the animals.

**Livestock and horse-judging teams**—What you need to learn about horses, cattle, pigs and more. Teams will meet weekly to study the anatomy, composition and quality of livestock animals and horses. The teams will compete at Penn State and other locations across Pennsylvania.

## JOIN THE CLUB - Page 12

**New 4-H family orientation**—Is your family new to 4-H? This is an excellent opportunity to meet extension staff and learn about 4-H and the projects offered.

**Intro to 4-H wildlife**—What animals live in our area? Learn about native wildlife, animal pelts and tracks from state 4-H environmental specialists.

**Seed-starting workshop**—Learn to grow! Master gardeners from Penn State will teach 4-H members how to start seeds and successfully grow them for exhibit at the Wayne County Fair and the 4-H Fall Harvest Roundup.

**4-H youth fun night**—It's a Friday night filled with fun, games and food for all 4-H members. The evening is organized by the Wayne County 4-H Teen Council.

This list of events only gets us to the middle of April! There are so many other opportunities, all year long, for 4-H members to get involved.

For more information about 4-H and to locate a club near you, call the Penn State extension office in Honesdale at 570/253-5970 ext. 4110, or check out the PA 4-H website at <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h>.

In New York, call Barbara Moran at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 845/292-6180 ext. 109.

*Administered in Pennsylvania by Penn State Extension, 4-H is a non-formal educational youth-development program of the United States Department of Agriculture that helps young people develop knowledge and skills to become capable, caring and contributing citizens. To find your local program, visit the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h>.*

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## Program can assist farm operators considering agritourism options

PENNSYLVANIA — Farm operators looking to diversify by providing agritourism activities for the public can receive assistance through a program offered by Penn State Extension, in partnership with University of Vermont Extension.

The opportunities to add new and different agritourism options are boundless, according to the organizers of the Agritourism Project, and it can be tough to know what path to pursue.

The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's risk management education program.

By participating in the program, farm operators can assess agritourism alternatives in a one-on-one consultation with members of the Penn State extension team.

Using geographic information systems to examine regional spending trends of direct sales and agritourism activities, participants

and extension experts will examine how new agritourism ventures might be integrated into a farm's current operations. There is no charge for farm operators to participate in the program.

Prospective participants should apply by Wednesday, February 15; email [sar243@psu.edu](mailto:sar243@psu.edu). They should briefly describe their current operation and future plans and ideas. Successful applicants will be notified if they have been selected.

Those selected will meet with one or more project team members to share their goals and relevant farm information and discuss diversification options. Participants will receive a copy of the analysis, and extension specialists will discuss implementation steps.

The project ends Friday, June 30. Organizers note that participants' commitment to this timeframe is essential.

## Ride and walk safely

ONLINE — From the top to the bottom, governmental agencies are acknowledging that to keep drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, wheelers and individuals of all ages and abilities safe, a change in streets and road design is in order. To do that, funding is needed and is available for eligible entities. But without road safety knowledge, applications are likely to be denied.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County invites municipal and community-based organizations to attend a free online program on available funding and resources for road safety.

It will be held on Thursday, February 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Presenters include America Walks;

Cornell University; the Federal Highway Administration Resource Center Office of Innovation Implementation, Physical Activity and Nutrition Center of Excellence; Sullivan 180; and the Sullivan County Department of Planning.

Topics will include active-friendly routes to everyday destinations; the Rural Local Roads Safety Plan; updates on complete-streets designs; current projects in Sullivan County that safe routes to health and physical activity; federal, state and local funding sources; and eligibility.

Pre-registration is required. To register, visit [sullivanccc.org/events](http://sullivanccc.org/events).

Those with questions can email [sullivan@cornell.edu](mailto:sullivan@cornell.edu), or call 845/292-6180.

## 4-H Pledge

I pledge:

My **H**ead to clearer thinking,  
My **H**eart to greater loyalty,  
My **H**ands to larger service,  
and My **H**ealth to better living,  
For my club, my community,  
My country and my world.

18 USC 707

## 4-H Motto

To Make the Best Better

## 4-H Slogan

Learn by Doing

## 4-H Colors

The 4-H colors are green and white.

White symbolizes purity and high ideals,  
and green symbolizes springtime,  
life, and youth.



Contributed photo

Honoring radio host Dave Williams. Pictured are Wayne County Commissioner Jocelyn Cramer, left; Williams; commissioner Brian Smith; and commissioner Jim Shook.

## Commissioners recognize Williams

HONESDALE, PA — The Wayne County Commissioners honored Dave Williams of Farm Country Radio with a certificate of appreciation for the 25 years he supported agriculture with his radio program.

His dedication to farmers, a press release stated, is exhibited in his interviews with government officials like the PA Secretary of Agriculture, congressmen and state representatives, as well as local farmers. All discussed their issues with weather, markets and prices. Williams' focus "is, and

has always been, improving the lives of the farmers who continue to work the land, raise the livestock and grow the crops that we all depend on for survival."

The radio shows are broadcast every day on Wayne/Pike News Radio (104.3 FM, 101.9 FM and 1590 AM). "Tune in and you might hear your farmer neighbors describing their farming operations along with their struggles and triumphs as they care for their crops and animals each and every day," the press release said.

# Tri-Gal 4-H club is on the move

By **CLAIRE GOLDSTEIN**, Tri-Gal News Reporter

Our club was very busy during the fall, and worked hard preparing for our numerous holiday community service projects.

In October, our club took two field trips. The first one was to the Joel Hill Sawmill in Lookout, PA, on October 2, prior to our October meeting at the Unity Grange Hall. The club got to see how logs were cut then, using hydropower from Duck Harbor.

We also attended the Haunted Lantern Tour at Fort Delaware in Narrowsburg, NY, on October 8. It was a full-moon night full of stories and surprises! Thank you to all of the people who made these educational and fun field trips possible.

Our club was present at the Wayne County 4-H Achievement Night on November 11, held at the Stourbridge Complex in Honesdale, PA. It was announced that we had provided the largest number of non-perishable items for the food-pantry drive, which Teen Council sponsored. We were also named the Wayne County Super Club of the Year. It was an exciting night for our members, leaders and parents.

With Thanksgiving soon on its way, the club planned the traditional Thanksgiving basket with all the fixings at our November 13 meeting. We give it to a local family who needed their spirits lifted. Our club chose to give the basket to the Hellmer family this year. Robert (Bob) Hellmer was the founding leader of our 4-H club, and passed away in August.

We also had our final collection of Books and Pajamas and Coats 4-Kids, all for Wayne



The Tri-Gal 4-H Club is shown with its collection of pajamas and books for Wayne County children and youth at the November meeting.

County children and youth. We collected over 50 pairs of pajamas and books to go with them, and over 30 coats!

At our November meeting, we also began work on our December community service projects.

The holidays are a special time and that is no exception for our club. We held our December 2 meeting at Elegante's Restaurant in Honesdale, PA. We ate pizza and had lots of fun, but most importantly we did community service projects. We made sugar cookie-making kits for the Damascus Area Food Pantry, collected our donations for the VA hospital in Wilkes-Barre, PA, wrapped our Angel Family gifts, and finished up the

last of the holiday greeting cards that we then gave to the residents at Ellen Memorial, Bethany Village, St. Francis Commons, Gino Merli VA Center in Scranton and the VA hospital in Wilkes-Barre.

Additionally, we held our 2022 club awards night on December 2. Congratulations to the following members who worked very hard to make this a year that we will never forget: Dylan Burke, first-year Cloverbud; Olyvea Burke, seven-year member, club secretary, Outstanding Club Intermediate Member and County Secretary of the Year; Nathan Burke, first-year member; Paige Fiume, 11-year aged-out member; Andrew Friedenstine, four-year member and Outstanding Club Junior Member; Cora Friedenstine, three-

year member and Outstanding Club Junior Member; Claire Goldstein, five-year member, club pledge leader, incoming news reporter and Honorary Club Junior Member; Gillian Goldstein, five-year member, club treasurer, incoming president and Honorary Senior Member; Natalie Goldstein, five-year member; Shiloh Hardler, two-year member; Carter Kennedy, one-year member; Elektra Kehagias, 11-year member, vice-president and Honorary Club Intermediate Member; Garrett Keninitz, one-year member; Emma Modrovsky, nine-year member, president and Outstanding Club Senior Member; Peter Modrovsky, eight-year member; Cade Rutledge, one-year member and Perfect Attendance; Channing Rutledge, eight-year member, Perfect Attendance, Outstanding Club Intermediate Member, news reporter/historian and County News Reporter of the Year; Sydney Rutledge, one-year member, Perfect Attendance and incoming pledge leader; Paige Rutledge, one-year member and Perfect Attendance.

The following leaders were recognized for their years of service to our club: Marissa Hoffman, seven years; Melissa Rutledge (Key Leader), 13 years; Natasha Brown, 15 years; and Rich Brown, 28 years. We had no "retiring leaders" this year, and Paige Fiume was our only aging-out member. The club gave Paige a gift bag with 4-H alumni swag and a certificate.

Are you thinking 4-H is the right community club for you? Are you looking for volunteer opportunities? Call the Penn State 4-H office in Honesdale at 570/253-5970.



Photo contributed by Bethany 4-H Club

Members of the Bethany 4-H Club pose with crafts they made for area nursing homes. Pictured in the front row are Teresa Tyler, left; Sarah Enslin; Rachel Enslin; Truly Zablocky; Everly Zablocky; and Chloe Tyler. Middle Row: Drew Rutledge, left; Charles Moran; Mason Quigley; Cameron Stinavage; Kendall Stinavage; and Leonora Orellana. Back Row: Garrett Quigley, left, and Hunter King.

## December happenings for Bethany 4-H

By **TRULY ZABLOCKY**, Bethany News Reporter

The Bethany 4-H Club held its monthly meeting on December 9. Members wore their best ugly Christmas attire and brought cookies to pack Christmas cookie boxes. These boxes were distributed to neighbors

and members of the community.

The club also made crafts for the residents at local nursing homes.

If you are interested in joining 4-H in Wayne County, call the Penn State Extension Office at 570/253-5970, ext. 4110.

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RR photos by Jacqueline Herman  
Svetlana Askenazy is pictured with her work, titled "Beyond Time."



Vincent Henry synthesizes pen-and-ink, watercolor, and pencil work into detailed, "tattoo-like" pieces, influenced by Americana and Japanese-style tattoos.



Nick Clemente, curator of the current Bethel Council of the Arts exhibit, said that his driving force is to have "regional artists meet each other and to bring attention to young artists."

## Dreams and fantasies From the Bethel Council of the Arts

By JACQUELINE HERMAN

NARROWSBURG, NY — The present exhibit by the artists of the Bethel Council of the Arts (BCA), titled "Exploring Worlds of Dreams, Fantasies and Symbolic Imagery," gives regional artists an opportunity to welcome the New Year, welcome new members, and show work of a different dimension.

On display at the Narrowsburg Union (NU) until Saturday, March 4, it is curated by Nick Clemente of DesignLab in Loch Sheldrake.

Over 100 works are displayed, ranging from woodcuts and photographs to painted glass and abstract paintings.

Established in 2016 as a nonprofit organization to foster artistic expression, civic participation and economic growth, the BCA provides support to over 100 artists and advocates for culture. According to Clemente, "When the BCA lost its space in Kauneonga Lake, due to the sale of the building, the Narrowsburg Union forged a positive relationship with it."

This is the third BCA show at the NU and features nine new artists. The artists show the power of the imagination and individual creativity that abides in our region.

Clemente said that his driving force as curator is to have "regional artists meet each other and to bring attention to young artists."

He created a poster design of QR codes, accessible with a smartphone, to read websites, Facebook pages or email sites of each artist shown.

When it comes to his own work, the woodcuts are hand-created images first; then they are brought into a digital environment and laser cut by Catskill Laser Engraving



Thong Keokham with one of his works in acrylics.

in Hurleyville. They are finished with gold leaf by Joanie Nicole, making the final product a group effort.

His work, Clemente said, is inspired by dreams and many years of meditation.

Vincent Henry is a new artist. He synthesizes pen-and-ink, watercolor, and pencil work into detailed, "tattoo-like" pieces, influenced by Americana and Japanese-style tattoos. Natural elements are fancily blended with dragons, skulls and snakes.

Chris Ramirez's works span three decades. He is an award-winning photojournalist, and his clients include the **New York Times**, Mercedes Benz, the Discovery Channel, and the **Wall Street Journal**. He is also an active firefighter, and recently has been creating content to promote volunteer firefighting and the Sullivan County Bureau of Fire's Recruitment and Retention task force.

Ramirez's photographs of dancers were taken during rehearsals at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park in Tivoli, NY, in 2006.

Svetlana Askenazy displays what can be called "infinite time," although she named it "Beyond Time." A depiction of clocks without numbers and the inner gears represent infinity. Superimposed eyes "depict the soul," she said.

Thong Keokham delightfully explains his use of acrylics. "My interest is in creating images and fantasies like the world around us, but ambiguous and abstracted. Shapes and colors intersect, overlap... to invoke imagination."

Joanie Nicole, Clemente's wife, specializes in painting on glass, which she learned from a master in Siena, Italy. In 1995, she began a company, "Light Curves," that produces custom jewelry, stained glass windows and lighting fixtures. "As an artist, I was drawn to glass... a media - Page 16



Kelly Sinclair, "Ice Abstracts"

### DREAMS - Page 15

which enhances the play of color and light," she said.

The most enchanting of Mountaintdale resident Lucas Hoeffel's photographs are black-and-white depictions of sea foam and curved tides along the shore at Fort Tilden. Also well captured are bluish designs of ice formations in a wetlands area near Liberty.

He was born to a Brazilian-American family, and a move to Brazil in 2010 developed his connection to photography. His inspiration is from the phenomena of natural world designs which convey the presence of life or its absence, he said. "These sublime encounters touch almost beyond the grasp of reality."

Curiously unique are the talents of Robert Montagnese, a former beauty executive. A trip to Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, in 2016 brought him to the St. Charles Bridge, where stands a statue of St. Margarita. By enlarging a photo of the head

and applying oil paint, chalk, pencil and gold leaf, he created one of the highlights of the show.

The works of two artists not present at the opening caught my eye. Both artists are involved with "Happy Life Productions," a diverse creative enterprise in Woodstock. Ice formations photographed by Kelly Sinclair are outstanding, and a painting called "Ganesh" (a colorful elephant brandishing a fiddle) by Mike DuBois is transcendental and worth studying.

The BCA is seeking a new home and can be reached presently at bcabethelart@gmail.com or elainedolginlieberman@gmail.com.

#### You should see it too

Check out the exhibit, learn more about the artists, and discover the Narrowsburg Union too. The Union is located at 7 Erie Ave. Call 845/252-3100, or visit it at narrowsburgunion.com.



Lucas Hoeffel with a photograph of the shore at Fort Tilden, NY.



Chris Ramirez's photographs of dancers were taken during rehearsals at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park in Tivoli, NY, in 2006.

# TICKET



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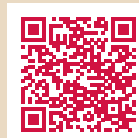


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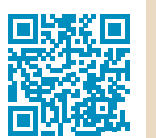
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Photo contributed by the Western Sullivan Public Library. Come check out the pop-art selfies in Callicoon on Tuesday, February 14.

### The pop-art selfies are revealed

CALLICOON, NY — As a valentine to Sullivan County, colorful, large scale “pop-art selfies” will be installed on Tuesday, February 14. All are invited to come see the selfies from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; the artwork is exhibited in the windows of the Delaware Free branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library.

The original artwork was juried by a committee, and chosen for vibrant color, composition and character. Throughout 2022, community members of all ages joined the art-in, producing works inspired by pop-art artists like Andy Warhol and Corita Kent.

All ages invited to this event and refreshments will be served.

The Delaware Free branch is located at 45 Lower Main St.

For more information, call the Delaware Free branch at 845/887-4040.

### Youth: submit poetry to the second annual Poetry Youth Festival

BETHEL, NY — Bethel Woods will host its second annual Poetry Youth Festival in April, and is now accepting submissions to all students in grades seven through 12 in Sullivan County schools.

Poems must be original, and prizes will be awarded in three categories.

For more information, email [sullivanpoetlaureate22.23@gmail.com](mailto:sullivanpoetlaureate22.23@gmail.com).

### Ice fishing in Hurleyville

HURLEYVILLE, NY — The Hurleyville Fire Department and the Town of Fallsburg Youth Commission will hold their 35th annual ice-fishing contest on Saturday, February 11 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration will take place the day of the contest.

There will be an adult and a youth division, with trophies for first, second and third place in the categories of perch, pan fish, bullhead, walleye and pickerel.

There’s a special contest for firemen. The Rich Farquhar Memorial chief’s cup goes to the top firemen’s fishing team. All team members must belong to the same fire department.

Refreshments and bait will be available, and holes will be drilled if necessary. The fee for the contest is \$5 for adults; there’s no charge for kids aged 15 and under.

For more information, call 845/436-5418 or email [jampond@hvc.rr.com](mailto:jampond@hvc.rr.com).

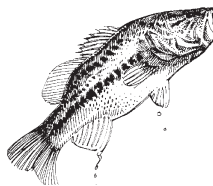


Photo contributed by the Downtown Hawley Partnership. Wilburr’s been spotted at the Ritz Theater in Hawley.

### A tuneful celebration of Black history

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Several years ago, local singer Mickey Barnett told a story to folks from the Sullivan County Museum & Cultural Center about how one of America’s most iconic soul songs, the Ed Townsend-penned “Let’s Get It On” by Marvin Gaye, came to be written in Bethel, NY.

The story will be part of a concert at 2 p.m., Saturday, February 11, by Barnett, who will perform classic renditions of the music of Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins and others. Following his performance, Barnett will share how songwriter Townsend wrote “Let’s Get it On” at Barnett’s Little Giant recording studio in Bethel.

Along with the concert that day, and in celebration of Black History Month, the Frederick Cook Society will present an exhibition highlighting the accomplishments of two of the greatest Black explorers in America’s history: Matthew Henson and Barbara Hillary.

Henson (1866-1955) was the descendant of Black slaves. He traveled with Adm. Robert Peary as a member of an expedition to the North Pole in 1909. Henson’s dog-handling skills, fluent Inuit and all-round resourcefulness were key to the expedition’s success, according to a press release from the Sullivan County Museum.

Barbara Hillary (1931-2019) was an American nurse, publisher, adventurer,

### Where’s Wilburr? He’s all over Hawley!

HAWLEY, PA — The Downtown Hawley Partnership presents its annual Where’s Wilburr scavenger hunt from Saturday, February 11 to Tuesday, February 21.

Visit Hawley at any time during the hunt period. Wilburr the Snowman will be hiding at each participating business.

Pick up a game card at a participating business, find Wilburr to have your card stamped, and then turn your completed card in for a chance to win a gift certificate.

On Saturday, February 11 at 11 a.m., enjoy a photo-op breakfast with Wilburr at the Lake Wally Cafe at 401 Main Ave.

For more information visit [www.visithawley.com](http://www.visithawley.com).



Photo contributed by the Sullivan County Museum. Ed Townsend, left, wrote “Let’s Get it On” at Mickey Barnett’s Little Giant recording studio in Bethel, NY. Barnett is pictured at right.

Arctic explorer, and inspirational speaker. Born in New York City, she attended the New School University, from which she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in gerontology.

In 2007 at the age of 75, Hillary became the first known black woman to reach the North Pole. She trekked to the South Pole in January 2011 at the age of 79, thus becoming the first African American woman on record to reach both poles. She was also a friend of the Frederick Cook Society, and in 2009 came to Hurleyville and presented a talk about her Arctic adventures.

The evening ends with a 3 p.m. performance by Little Sparrow, Cecil Allan and Van Manakas at the Sullivan County Museum, which is located at 265 Main St.

For more information, call 845/434-8044, or visit [www.facebook.com/littlesparrowny](http://www.facebook.com/littlesparrowny).

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Photo contributed by the Presby Players

The cast of "Reel Love" rehearses the choreography.

## Reel Love' by the Presby Players

PORT JERVIS, NY — You can celebrate love with music and song at the Presby Players' Valentine's Day performance, "Reel Love." It's a cabaret of love songs from favorite movies, old and new.

The performances will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, February 10 and 11, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 12. All will take place at Marsh Hall.

The idea, said musical director Sandy Stalter, was to move away from Broadway tunes and do something new. "We decided to do a show featuring original songs that

were written specifically for movies" from 1932 to 2017.

The show is choreographed by Melissa Thomas. "We love working with Melissa," said Director Jeffrey Stocker.

He added, "I think the audience will love it," said director Jeffrey Stocker. "The dance is great and there are a lot of songs they will recognize and probably some new ones."

Marsh Hall is located at 60 Sussex St. Tickets cost \$15 at the door.

For more information, visit the Presby Players page on Facebook.



Photo contributed by the DVAA

Allison Maletz, "Trash Pandas," 2023. Watercolor on paper.

## Almquist, Maletz exhibit at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) presents an opening reception for its two new art exhibitions, titled "The Space Between You and Men," by Robyn Almquist, and "Abundance," by Allison Maletz. The reception will take place on Saturday, February 11 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the DVAA, 37 Main St.

The exhibits will be on view through Sunday, March 26.

Robyn Almquist combines painting, collage, and printmaking to confront the intractable subjects of environmental destruction, gun violence, wealth disparity, political polarization and power, according to a DVAA spokesperson. She lives in Livingston Manor and is the founder and creative director of ArtKill Catskill magazine.

An artist talk is scheduled for Saturday, February 25; see link below for details.

Allison Maletz presents a series of watercolor paintings celebrating the thriving wild ecosystem in Sullivan County. These life-size watercolors depict the plethora of native flora and fauna, along with its pests and invasive species, which complete our gardens, public spaces and conversations, the spokesperson said.

Maletz lives and works between Barryville and New York City. An artist talk is scheduled for Saturday, March 18; see link below for details.

DVAA's galleries are free and open to the public; masks are recommended.

To learn more about the artists or for other information, visit [delawarevalleyartsalliance.org](http://delawarevalleyartsalliance.org).

## Understand the Ag and Markets law

MAMAKATING, NY — The New York State Agriculture and Markets Law affects Sullivan County and its farmland. To help the community understand what the Ag and Markets law means for the community and what conditions it covers, staff from the division and from Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County will hold a three-part workshop about the law.

The first workshop will take place on Wednesday, February 15 at 6 p.m.

The sessions are aimed at municipal officials, code enforcement officers and real estate professionals.

Topics to be covered on February 15 include agricultural districts and how they

relate to zoning within the municipality, agricultural assessments and right-to-farm laws. The ag data statement, the 239 review process and ag disclosure notices will also be covered.

The second and third workshops will also cover agricultural zoning, and will discuss farmland preservation techniques. A farm visit will be held for attendees.

There is no fee, but preregistration is required. Call 845/292-6180 or email [sullivan@cornell.edu](mailto:sullivan@cornell.edu).

More information on the workshops can be found at [sullivancece.org/events](http://sullivancece.org/events). Those with related questions can email [sullivan@cornell.edu](mailto:sullivan@cornell.edu) or call 845/292-6180.

## Attention actors: Audition for SCDW's 'A Lovely Day to Kill Your Spouse'

SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop (SCDW) will hold auditions for Lindsey Brown's "A Lovely Day to Kill Your Spouse" on Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the senior center at 12 Laurel Ave.

The group is seeking two males aged 50-59 and two females aged 40-49, as well as a stage manager, props person, set crew and painters.

If interested, call 845/434-0209 or 845/798-8896, or email [gladsally@gmail.com](mailto:gladsally@gmail.com).

## Auditions for SCDW's 'Oliver'

MONTICELLO, NY — The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop (SCDW) will hold auditions for its July performances of Lionel Bart's "Oliver." The group is looking for males and females from ages 10 to 60-plus.

Audition dates are Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. John's Church on St. John Street.

For more information, email [heatherscdw@gmail.com](mailto:heatherscdw@gmail.com).

## Free tax prep available

LIBERTY and MONTICELLO, NY — Volunteers trained as tax counselors can prepare and file federal and state tax returns at no cost to individuals and families through the AARP Tax-Aide program, part of the

AARP Foundation.

Preparation of tax returns will be offered at these locations on these days by appointment:

Mondays and Wednesdays, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Liberty, 845/292-6180. The cooperative extension is located at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, E.B. Crawford Public Library, Monticello, 845/794-4660. The library is located at 479 Broadway.

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## IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

BY JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

# Down with love

I know, I know. Just a month ago, I was all aglow over a new relationship that had me giddy, bright-eyed and believing in love again after a long hiatus, but it's over. As quickly as it began, it has ended, so I'm back where I started and Valentine's Day (February 14) is just around the corner. Oh joy.

Thankfully, the love of my life is Dharma the Wonder Dog, and she never lets me down. I've been doing my best to not be a total curmudgeon, even though (for something completely different) there's a song playing in my head, and it's less than enthusiastic about affairs of the heart.

Down with love let's liquidate  
All its friends  
Like moon, June, roses  
And rainbow's ends  
Down with songs  
That mourn about night and day  
Down with love  
Take it away, away

So E.Y Harburg and Harold Arlen's 1937 less-than-sentimental song "Down with Love" instructs us, and at present, I'm more than happy to comply. Moving on.

When I read that **River Reporter** columnist Kim M. Simons (Kim's Kitchen) would be hosting a Painting Party at Hector's Inn not far from Camp Fox, I contacted Kim and asked if we could join the party. "Of course!" she enthused. "Do you want to paint Dharma?"

"Naturally," I replied, "but trust me, I can't paint."

Kim assured me that she can teach anyone to paint. "Even you," she said with a chuckle. "Send me a picture to help get you started with an outline. See you there!"

Hector's is world-famous, known far and wide as "the original Woodstock watering hole," and hostess-with-the-mostess Bonnie Lagoda also was enthusiastic when she heard we were attending. "Oh, good," she texted after talking to Kim. "I can't wait to see Dharma!" Charmed, I'm sure.

True to her word, Kim shared some tricks of the trade while strolling from table to table, instructing her students based on individual levels of experience. "You're a natural!" Simons exclaimed, after showing me some brush strokes and techniques. "No really," she said after I moaned that Dharma looked more like a leprechaun than a dog. "Just keep referring to the photo and paint what you see. It's not bad!"

I schmoozed (of course) and lugged the dog around the room to check in with the other painters—all of whom had a leg up on me in the art department—but fortunately, Kim's tutorial worked wonders. She miraculously coaxed a painting out of me that by the time I was done, actually looked more like Dharma than Darby O' Gill. I love it!

Still, love isn't necessarily about feelings for people, or even dogs for that matter. I mean, I love Chinese food. And camping. And photography, and going to the movies. Boy, do I love going to the movies, so



Photo by Marie Smith

Kim assured me that she can teach anyone to paint. "Send me a picture to help get you started with an outline," she said when I told her I wanted to paint the dog.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox  
I moaned that Dharma looked more like a leprechaun than a dog. "Just keep referring to the photo and paint what you see," teaching artist Kim M. Simons instructed me during the Paint Party at Hector's Inn. "It's not bad!"



Photo by Marie Smith

Kim's tutorial worked wonders, and she miraculously coaxed a painting out of me that by the time I was done, actually looked more like Dharma than Darby O' Gill. I love it!

I did just that last weekend, and caught Steven Spielberg's latest work of art, "The Fabelmans."

**Spoiler alert:** The movie is "loosely based" on Spielberg's early life, his family, his love affair with Hollywood and how it all began. The film illustrates his childhood, warts and all; if there's one thing Spielberg knows how to do, it's elicit a response from his audience, so I cried. At least I think that's why.

The Fabelmans is about a lot of things: not only movie-making, but also about growing up as a Jewish kid in the sixties. It's about a husband's love for his wife, and a mother's love for her children.

That love is depicted as both fierce and heartbreaking, and it's easy to see (IMHO) why the director/writer's "semi-autobiographical" film has garnered so much attention amid a slew of Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay (Spielberg and Tony Kushner) Best Actress (the riveting Michelle Williams) Best Supporting Actor (Judd Hirsch) and Best Original Score (John Williams, in a surprising musical departure for the master).

I'm not normally a fan of Hirsch, but I loved him in this film, as I did the entire cast, most notably Gabriel LaBelle, who, as the aspiring 16-year-old filmmaker, delivers a performance worthy of accolades aplenty. Simply put, I loved, loved, loved this film and was thrilled to catch it at Sullivan County's beloved Callicoon Theater.

As for my personal love life? My attitude reflects the old song, I'm afraid.

Down with eyes romantic and stupid  
Down with sighs, down with cupid  
Brother let's stuff that dove  
Down with love.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

I loved, loved, loved Steven Spielberg's "The Fabelmans" and was thrilled to catch it at Sullivan County's beloved Callicoon Theater.

# Where & When

## Thursday, February 9

### AARP Tax Prep @ EBCPL

MONTICELLO, NY — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library presents free AARP's tax assistance, 9:30am-4:30pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays until Feb. 28 at 479 Broadway. Reserve slot at 845/794-4660, ext. 2.

### Aphrodisiac Appetizers @ Foundry42

PORT JERVIS, NY — Foundry42 presents Aphrodisiac Appetizers, 6-7:30pm at 42 Front St. \$39. Purchase tickets at [www.f42home.com/calendar](http://www.f42home.com/calendar). 845/858-4942, [cooper@f42home.com](mailto:cooper@f42home.com).

### Birds at Your Feeder @ EBCPL

MONTICELLO, NY — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library presents Birds at Your Winter Feeder with presenter Pam Golben from the Mamakating Environmental Education Center (MEEC), 6-7pm at 479 Broadway. Register at <https://ebcpl.libcal.com/calendar>. 845/794-4660.

### Board Meeting @ SHFL

ONLINE — Sunshine Hall Free Library Board of Directors meeting, 7:15pm on Zoom. Open to the public. Contact library for Zoom link. [eld@rcds.org](mailto:eld@rcds.org), 845/557-6258.

### Community Connections @ CCE

ONLINE — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan presents Building Your Community Connections, 7:30-9pm on Zoom. Register at <http://sullivanccce.org/events>.

### Discipline @ CCE

LIBERTY, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange presents Discipline Is Not a Dirty Word Series, 6-7:30pm, Thursdays from Feb. 9 to Mar. 22 at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Register at [sullivan@cornell.edu](mailto:sullivan@cornell.edu), 845/292-6180, ext. 100.

### Play Reading @ Narrowsburg Union

NARROWSBURG, NY — Icehouse Arts presents play readings, 6:30-8pm, Thursdays at 7 Erie Ave. Register at [ron@icehouseartsny.org](mailto:ron@icehouseartsny.org), 845/252-6583.

### Suicide Prevention Training @ Woodbourne

WOODBOURNE, NY — QPR: Suicide Prevention Training for service members, veterans and their families takes place from 6-7pm at the Woodbourne Firehouse, 355 St. Rte. 52. Register at 845/794-4228.

### Tax Prep Sessions @ LPL

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Public Library tax prep sessions, 10am, 11:30am & 1pm at 189 North Main St. Register at [lib@rcds.org](mailto:lib@rcds.org), 845/292-6070.

### Teen Dating Violence Awareness Workshops @ Newburgh

NEWBURGH, NY — Fearless presents teen dating violence awareness month workshops for students, 3-4pm, Thursdays from Feb. 2 to Feb. 23 at the Fearless Conference Room, 280 Broadway. Register at [www.fearlessv.org/tavam](http://www.fearlessv.org/tavam). [njallow@fearlessv.org](mailto:njallow@fearlessv.org), 845/562-5365, ext. 131.

## Friday, February 10

### 4-H Goats @ CCE

LIBERTY, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan 4-H Goat Program, 6:30-7:30pm at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. For Sullivan County youth to learn more about goats with multiple topics covered. Register at [bjm292@cornell.edu](mailto:bjm292@cornell.edu), 845/292-6180, ext. 109.

### Cookie Pick @ DUMC

DAMASCUS, PA — Damascus United Methodist Charge presents annual cookie pick for mission, Feb. 10 from 9am-6pm & Feb. 11 from 9am-noon at the Dime Bank, Rte. 371. \$7/pound for homemade cookies.

### Indoor Farmers Market @ Hawley Hub

HAWLEY, PA — The Hawley Farmers Market presents its indoor farmers market, Fridays 1-4pm at the Hawley Hub, 318 Main Ave. [hawleyfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:hawleyfarmersmarket@gmail.com).

### Teen Dinner & Open Mic @ The Cooperage

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Teen Dinner Club / Open Mic & Karaoke Party, 5:30-9pm at 1030 Main St. High school students from any district invited to play games, eat pizza, hang out & sing. [www.thecooperageproject.org/happenings](http://www.thecooperageproject.org/happenings), 570/253-2020.

## Saturday, February 11

### 4-H Meet & Greet @ CCE

LIBERTY, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan 4-H Meet & Greet, 10am-noon at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Register at [bjm292@cornell.edu](mailto:bjm292@cornell.edu), 845/292-6180, ext. 109.

### Bob Tellefsen @ Twisted Rail Tavern

HONESDALE, PA — Twisted Rail Tavern presents live music with Bob Tellefsen, 8:30pm at 505 Main St. [www.facebook.com/twistedrailtavern](http://www.facebook.com/twistedrailtavern), 570/253-9923.

### Coupled Together @ PJTHC

PORT JERVIS, NY — Port Jervis History Transportation Center presents Coupled Together: A Valentine's Day Experience, 4pm at 86 Pike St. \$195. More information at [www.pjthc.org/hours](http://www.pjthc.org/hours). [info@pjthc.org](mailto:info@pjthc.org).

### Cupid's Cabaret @ Callicoon Hills

CALLICOON CENTER, NY — Callicoon Hills Hotel presents Cupid's Cabaret: Valentine's Day Drag Show, 8pm at 1 Hills Resort Rd. \$45/person. Purchase tickets at <https://www.callicoonhills.com/experiences>. 845/482-2420, [hi@callicoonhills.com](mailto:hi@callicoonhills.com).

### Eagle Watch @ PEEC

DINGMANS FERRY, PA — Pocono Environmental Education Center presents an eagle watch, 9am-3pm at 538 Emery Rd. Visit the Mongaup Reservoir, the Delaware River, & the Lackawaxen River. \$25/person. Register at 570/828-2319, [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

### Empire Of Light @ Cabernet Franks

PARKSVILLE, NY — Cabernet Frank's presents live music with Empire Of Light, 7:30pm at 38 Main St. [wade@cabernetfranks.com](mailto:wade@cabernetfranks.com), 845/292-1230.

### Feathered Frenzy @ SCAS

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — Sullivan County Audubon Society presents feathered frenzy. Find as many birds as you can in a team of at least 2 people. Report results to 914/643-7396. [www.sullivanaudubon.org/AboutCalendar.htm](http://www.sullivanaudubon.org/AboutCalendar.htm)

### Film Camp @ WSPL

NARROWSBURG, NY — Ice House Arts presents its yearly film camp for kids at the Tusten-Cochecton branch of the library, 198 Bridge St. \$125/student. Enroll at [ron@icehouseartsny.org](mailto:ron@icehouseartsny.org), 845/252-6583.

### Ice Fishing Contest @ Hurleyville

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Fire Dept. & Town of Fallsburg Youth Commission present its 35th annual Ice Fishing Contest, 7am-3pm at Morningside Lake, 614 Brickman Rd. \$5/adults, \$0/ages 15 & under. Trophies, refreshments, raffles & more. 845/796-8598.

### Kid's Knitting Nook @ WCPL

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Public Library presents Kid's Knitting Nook, 10:30-11:30am at 1406 Main St. Beginner lessons for kids 6-8 years old. \$5. Register at [blawson@waynelibraries.org](mailto:blawson@waynelibraries.org). 570/253-1220.

### Kiss Your Pet @ Milford Pet Supply

MILFORD, PA — PAWS of the Hudson Valley, Inc./Pike County Fund and Milford Pet Supply present Kiss your Pet, 11am-2pm at the Milford Pet Supply in the Old Lumberyard. \$10/donation. Dogs must be leashed & cats must be in a carrier.

### Main Street Farmers' Market @ The Cooperage

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Project's Main Street Farmers' Market open every Saturday, 11am-1pm at 1030 Main St. Preorder from the online vendor list & pick up at the market. 570/253-2020, [info@thecooperageproject.org](mailto:info@thecooperageproject.org).

### Opening Reception @ SCHS

HURLEYVILLE, NY — The Sullivan County Historical Society presents an opening reception for its new exhibition on legendary black explorers, 2-5pm at 265 Main St. With live music from Mickey Barnett, Cecil Allen, Van Manakas & Little Sparrow. [carolsmith2223@gmail.com](mailto:carolsmith2223@gmail.com).

### Saturday Brunch @ Creative Compound

HONESDALE, PA — Creative Compound presents Saturday brunch with live music from a rotating roster of local artists, 10:30am-12:30pm, every Saturday at 630 Main St. 570/884-8899, [info@creativecompound.biz](mailto:info@creativecompound.biz).

### Valentine's Day Dinner @ Seminary Hill

CALLICOON, NY — Seminary Hill Cider presents Valentine's Day Dinner, Feb. 11 to Feb. 12 at 43 Wagner Ln. \$85-\$110. [info@seminaryhill.co](mailto:info@seminaryhill.co), 845/887-4056.

### Valentine's Disco Dance @ DVO

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Collaboration Productions presents Valentine's Disco Dance, 7-11pm at 6692 St. Rte. 52. \$35-\$40. [info@delawarevalleyopera.org](mailto:info@delawarevalleyopera.org), 845/887-3083.

### Where's Wilburrr @ Hawley

HAWLEY, PA — The Downtown Hawley Partnership (DHP) presents Where's Wilburrr, Feb. 11 to Feb. 21 in downtown Hawley. Pick up a game card & head on the scavenger hunt. For more information visit [www.visithawleypa.com/wilburrr](http://www.visithawleypa.com/wilburrr) or call 570/226-4064.

### Winter is for the Birds @ PCPL

MILFORD, PA — Pike County Public Library Winter is for the Birds with the Pike County 4-H, noon-2pm at 119 East Harford St. For grades K-5. For more information email [pike4-h@psu.edu](mailto:pike4-h@psu.edu).

### Yoga @ Evergreen Meadow Academy

ONLINE — Evergreen Meadow Academy presents yoga, mindfulness, journaling, moving & more, 11am-noon on Zoom. For girls ages 11-14. [info@evergreenmeadowacademy.org](mailto:info@evergreenmeadowacademy.org), 833/346-4968.

### Youth Ice Fishing Contest @ Parksville

PARKSVILLE, NY — Liberty Elks Lodge #1545 Youth Ice Fishing Contest, 7am at Tanzman Lake. 845/594-7588.

## Sunday, February 12

### Auditions @ FB Playhouse

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — The Forestburgh Playhouse seeks actors to audition, 9am-noon & 3-6pm SUNY Sullivan Seelig Theater, 112 College Rd. More information & register at [www.fbplayhouse.org/local-actors](http://www.fbplayhouse.org/local-actors).

### Drag Brunch @ Tango Cafe

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) presents Yas Queen! Drag Brunch featuring Pixel the Drag Jester, shows at 11:30am & 2:30pm, 2nd Sunday of the month at the HPAC's Tango Cafe, 219 Main St. \$40/person. Price includes brunch, show, & one drink. [info@hacny.org](mailto:info@hacny.org), 845/985-4722.

### Kali Seastrand @ Seminary Hill

CALLICOON, NY — Seminary Hill Cider presents live music with Kali Seastrand, 4-7pm at 43 Wagner Ln. 845/887-4056, [info@seminaryhill.co](mailto:info@seminaryhill.co).

### Wacky Science Adventures @ PEEC

DINGMANS FERRY, PA — Pocono Environmental Education Center presents Wacky Science Adventures: Physics Edition, 10am-noon at 538 Emery Rd. \$5/child. Register at 570/828-2319, [peec@peec.org](mailto:peec@peec.org).

## Monday, February 13

### 3D Printed Valentines @ PJFL

PORT JERVIS, NY — 3D Printed Valentine Workshop at Port Jervis Free Library, 6-8pm at 138 Pike St. Register at [www.portjervislibrary.org](http://www.portjervislibrary.org), 845/856-7313.

### Board of Ed Meeting @ Forest City School

FOREST CITY, PA — Forest City Regional School District's monthly board of education, 7:30-8:30pm at 100 Susquehanna St. 570/785-2400.

### Life Drawing @ CAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Art Society presents Adult Ed: Life Drawing, 6-8pm, Mondays through Mar. 27 at the Catskill Art Space, 48 Main St. Register at [info@catskillartsociety.org](mailto:info@catskillartsociety.org).

### Planning Board Meeting @ Lumberland

GLEN SPEY, NY — Town of Lumberland regular planning board meeting held 2nd Monday of the month, 7pm work session & 7:30pm regular meeting at 1054 Proctor Rd. 845/856-8600 prompt 7.

### Puppy Love @ WSPL

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Tusten-Cochecton branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library Puppy Love, 4:30-5pm at 198 Bridge St. Kids can read to a dog. Register at <https://wsplonline.libcal.com/calendar>. [wsplprograms@rcds.org](mailto:wsplprograms@rcds.org), 845/887-4040.

### The Magic Door @ EBCPL

MONTICELLO, NY — The Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library presents The Magic Door, 5:30-7pm at 479 Broadway. For ages 6-11 to learn about other cultures, history, myths & much more. Register at <https://ebcpl.libcal.com/calendar>. 845/794-4660.

### Town Board Meeting @ Callicoon

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Town of Callicoon regular board meeting held 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm at 19 Legion St. Any questions contact 845/482-5390, ext. 300.

## Tuesday, February 14

### Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar @ Zoom

ONLINE — The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency Region 2 (CISA) presents an active shooter preparedness webinar, 1-3pm on Zoom. Register at [www.eventbrite.com/e/cisa-active-shooter-preparedness-webinar-region-2-nj-ny-pr-usvi-registration-489942811137](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/cisa-active-shooter-preparedness-webinar-region-2-nj-ny-pr-usvi-registration-489942811137).

### Board Meeting @ Workforce Development

MONTICELLO, NY — Workforce Development Board of Sullivan Inc. will hold its next full board meeting, 8-9am at Robert Green Truck Division, 162 Bridgeville Rd. [sharon.ferber@sullivanny.us](mailto:sharon.ferber@sullivanny.us), 845/807-0593.

### Board of Ed Meeting @ Liberty Central HS

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Central School District's monthly board of education meeting in the high school media room, starting 6:30pm, 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 125 Buckley St. 845/292-6990.

### Board of Ed Meeting @ Wayne Highlands

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne Highland School District's monthly board of education meeting, 7pm in the district board room at 474 Grove St. 570/253-4661.

### Family Play Groups @ The Cooperage

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage presents Fun & Free Family Play Groups for Kids, 10-11:30am, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1030 Main St. For ages 5 months to 5 years. Register at 570/229-6496, [director@waynecountyfc.org](mailto:director@waynecountyfc.org). [www.thecooperageproject.org/happenings](http://www.thecooperageproject.org/happenings).

### Friends of the Library Meeting @ EBCPL

ONLINE, MONTICELLO, NY — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library presents Friends of the Library meeting, 5:30-6:30pm at 479 Broadway & on Zoom. Learn about the things they do to support the library. 845/794-4660. [Email langclouse@rcds.org](mailto:Email langclouse@rcds.org) for Zoom link.

### Movie Showing @ LPL

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Public Library presents a movie showing of "Ticket to Paradise," 1pm at 189 North Main St. [mlinko@rcds.org](mailto:mlinko@rcds.org), 845/292-6070.

### Read To Mocha @ ML

WURTSBORO, NY — Mamakating Library presents Read to Mocha, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 128 Sullivan St. Kids practice reading aloud to a dog. Register for one of four time slots at [mamprograms@rcds.org](mailto:mamprograms@rcds.org), 845/888-8004.

### Teen Dating Violence Awareness Workshops @ Newburgh

NEWBURGH, NY — Fearless presents teen dating violence awareness month workshops for teachers, parents & service providers, 5:30-6:30pm, Tuesdays through Feb. 28 at the Fearless Conference Room, 280 Broadway. Register at [www.fearlessv.org/tavam](http://www.fearlessv.org/tavam). [njallow@fearlessv.org](mailto:njallow@fearlessv.org), 845/562-5365, ext. 131.

### Town Board Meeting @ Fallsburg

SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — Town of Fallsburg regular board meeting held 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month at 6pm at the Town Hall. 845/434-8810, ext. 1.

### Town Board Meeting @ Highland

ELDRER, NY — Town of Highland regular board meeting held 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm at 4 Proctor Rd. 845/557-6085.

### Town Board Meeting @ Tusten

NARROWSBURG, NY — Town of Tusten regular board meeting held 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm at 210 Bridge St. 845/252-7146, ext. 1001.

### Valentine's Day Speakeasy @ Three Hammers Winery

HAWLEY, PA — Three Hammers Winery presents Valentine's Day Speakeasy Experience, 4-6pm. \$125/person with \$50 deposit up front. Reserve at [reservations@threehammerswinery.com](mailto:reservations@threehammerswinery.com), [www.threehammerswinery.com/events](http://www.threehammerswinery.com/events)

## Wednesday, February 15

### Agricultural Training @ CCE

WURTSBORO, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sullivan County Division of Planning & Community Development & Sullivan County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board present agricultural training for municipal officials, CEOS & realtors, 6-7:30pm at the Town of Mamakating Park, 2948 St. Rte. 209. Register at [mm2592@cornell.edu](mailto:mm2592@cornell.edu), 845/292-6180, ext. 116.

### Board of Ed Meeting @ Livingston Manor CS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Livingston Manor Central School District's monthly board of education meeting, 6-7pm. [jane.mann@lmcsc.us](mailto:jane.mann@lmcsc.us), 845/439-4400.

### Creative Intention Setting @ Bethel Woods

BETHEL, NY — Bethel Woods presents Creative Intention Setting with Candace Rivela, 6-7:30pm at 200 Hurd Rd. \$15/general admission, \$13/member. Register at [www.bethelwoodscenter.org/events](http://www.bethelwoodscenter.org/events). [info@bethelwoodscenter.org](mailto:info@bethelwoodscenter.org).

### Discipline @ CCE

ONLINE — Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange presents Discipline Is Not a Dirty Word Series, 8-9:30pm on Zoom, Wednesdays through Mar. 15. Register at <http://cceorangeccce.org/events>.

### Family Caregiver Support Group @ CCE

ONLINE — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan presents a virtual family caregiver support group, 6:30-7:30pm, every Wednesday on Zoom. Register at <http://sullivanccce.org/events>. [pja77@cornell.edu](mailto:pja77@cornell.edu), 845/292-6180, ext. 122.

### Free Tax Prep @ CCE

ONLINE — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan presents free tax preparation with AARP, 10am-1pm at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Register at <http://sullivanccce.org/events>. [ed468@cornell.edu](mailto:ed468@cornell.edu), 845/292-6180, ext. 100.

### Planning Board Meeting @ Delaware

HORTONVILLE, NY — Town of Delaware regular planning board meeting held 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm at 104 Main St. Meetings are in person. 845/887-5250, ext. 105.

### Tech Neck @ WCPL

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Public Library Tech Neck with presenter Kyle Passeri, 4:30-5:30pm at 1406 Main St. Get tips for dealing with neck pain. Register at [mkeesler@waynelibraries.org](mailto:mkeesler@waynelibraries.org), 570/253-1220.

## Ongoing

### 'Abundance' @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — Delaware Valley Arts Alliance presents "Abundance," an exhibit by Allison Maletz, 11am-4pm, Thur.-Sat., on display from Feb. 11 to Mar. 26 at the Loft Gallery, 37 Main St. 845/252-7576.

### Art Exhibit @ CAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Art Society an art exhibit by Judith Henry, Samuelle Green & Lizzie Wright, on display through Mar. 18 at 65 Main St. Opening reception & artist talk on Feb. 4 from 3-5pm. [info@catskillartsociety.org](mailto:info@catskillartsociety.org).

### Call to Entry @ WCAA

ONLINE — The Wayne County Arts Alliance's Great Wall of Honesdale calls artists for entry. The theme is home. Deadline is Feb. 28. Free for WCAA members, \$10/entry, \$15/two entries, \$20/three entries, free/Wayne County HS & MS students. Submit entries via email to [greatwallentry@gmail.com](mailto:greatwallentry@gmail.com).

### Chris Heim @ Chant Realtors

LORDS VALLEY, PA — The Office/Gallery at Chant Realtors presents photography by Chris Heim through Feb. 25 at 631 Rte. 739. 570/775-6896.

### 'Exploring Worlds' @ Narrowsburg Union

NARROWSBURG — Narrowsburg Union presents an exhibit from the Bethel Council of the Arts (BCA) titled "Exploring Worlds of Dreams, Fantasies & Symbolic Imagery" at 7 Erie Ave. On display until Mar. 4. 845/252-3100, [contact@narrowsburgunion.com](mailto:contact@narrowsburgunion.com).

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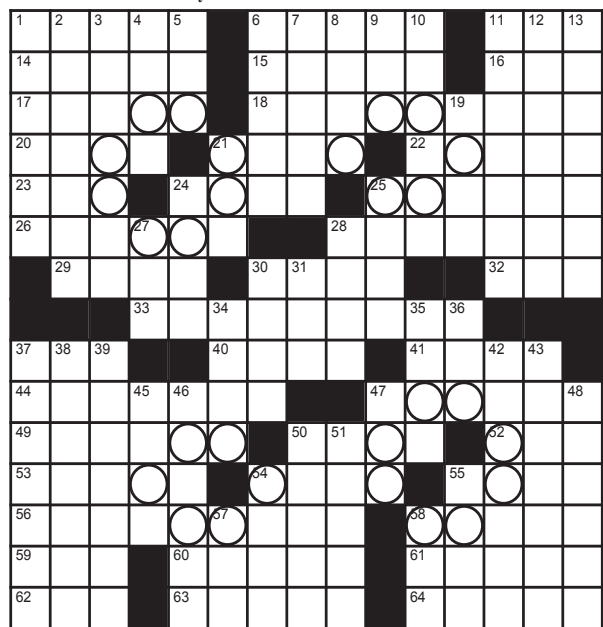
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By DAVID LEVINSON WILK



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### ACROSS

- It comes with strings attached
- Automotive debuts of 1949
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friday's
- Sierra
- "... then again, I could be wrong"
- Egg warmer
- Molten rock
- Helping a kid out, perhaps
- Anthem opener
- Eat indelicately
- Part of un jardin
- "There's \_\_\_\_\_ in 'team'"
- 1957 Nabokov novel
- John's "Grease" costar
- Michelin rival
- Sinner's exclamation
- 100 centavos
- 100 centesimi
- "Didn't I tell you?"
- Trunk accumulation ... or this puzzle's theme
- It's south of Eur.
- Catcall
- Start of the 15th century
- Classic movie villain who utters "I never drink ... wine"
- 2001 AL MVP Suzuki
- From the top, musically
- Zingers
- Suffix with lunch
- Arab leaders
- Kind of platter
- Medieval laborer
- Question for a hitchhiker
- Mil. trial
- Hosp. staff
- Starbucks offering
- Turned down, in a way
- Nova Scotia hrs.
- Orchard pest
- "That \_\_\_\_\_ accident!"

### DOWN

- Marzipan ingredient
- Metaphor for dense fog
- Propecia competitor
- 1970 hit "Raindrops Keep Fallin' \_\_\_\_\_ Head"
- Grant-giving org.
- Sleep: Prefix
- Suffix with sect
- A \_\_\_\_\_ root beer
- Curtsy
- Quell
- They take things the wrong way
- Real
- Unappreciative sort
- Go ape
- Econ. yardstick
- Destitute
- Algerian seaport
- D-Day carrier
- Colored part of the eye
- Anakin's daughter
- E-file org.
- Craig of the NBA
- Some SUVs
- It may be elem.
- Extras
- Constitution writers
- Most titillating
- Some locomotives
- Affixes, as a decal
- Part of a hand
- New Jersey college founded in 1893
- Communications org. since 1865
- Pugilist's combo
- Civilian garb
- Chose
- Central part
- Volcano that inspired the name of a health insurance company
- Length of the pool
- "On the double!"

## Answer to Last Week's Crossword Puzzle

J	E	S	S		H	O	H	O		E	S	Q	U	E	
E	L	I	A		M	O	E	N		S	O	U	R	S	
S	W	E	D	I	S	H	M	E	A	T	B	A	L	L	
T	E	N	O	F			A	B	C						
S	S	A			F	R	E	N	C	H	B	R	E	A	D
					B	Y	O	B		T	O	O	M	E	R
I	A	T	E		I	S	O	F		P	L	A	T	A	
C	H	I	N	E	S	E	D	U	M	P	L	I	N	G	
B	E	A	D	S		N	E	N	E		B	L	A	S	
M	A	R	I	S	A					G	R	E	Y		
S	P	A	N	I	S	H	R	I	C	E		S	A	G	
						I	O	U			L	U	C	C	I
I	T	A	L	I	A	N	D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G	
P	A	L	I	N		O	D	O	R		N	O	E	L	
O	I	L	E	D		R	Y	N	E		A	N	D	I	

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

S FALLSBURG MANOR APTS LLC. Filed 11/28/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 167 Division Ave Ste #115, Bklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: General.

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

Notice of Formation of NY Wawarsing I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-01-05. 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: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF SALE**

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF SULLIVAN, PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff, vs. ANNA PETROWSKI ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE ESTATE OF SLAWKO PETROWSKI, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on January 15, 2020 and an Order Appointing Successor Referee duly entered October 20, 2022, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lawrence H. Cooke Sullivan County Courthouse, 414 Broadway, Monticello, NY 12701 on February 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.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 # E2016-1683. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed at the foreclosure sale. Jason Sautter, 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**

LOCH STORAGE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/04/23. 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, 299 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10171-0002. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Apollo Upstate LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 5/27/2022. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 43 Ackerman Rd., Narrowsburg, NY 12764. General Purpose

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

Farkas Ferndale Factory LLC. Filed 1/12/2023. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 601 Harris Rd. Ferndale, NY 12734. Purpose: General.

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

Notice of Formation of DRS Earthworks, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-01-17. 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: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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

Notice of Formation of NY Esopus I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-01-18. 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: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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

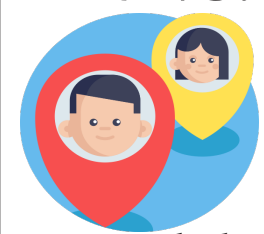
Sean Brooks LLC. Filed 12/9/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 62 Sacks Rd, Harris, NY 12742. Purpose: General.

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

PETRIFIED FILMS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/14/2022. 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, PO BOX 38 Barryville, NY 12719. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of Robbins Mowing LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-07-25. 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 Robbins Mowing LLC: P.O. Box 124 Bloomingburg NY 12721. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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**RIVER REPORTER.**

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

Notice of Formation of ALTHEA REALTY, LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with S S N Y o n 12/14/2022. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 5 COLUMBUS CIRCLE, SUITE 1501, NEW YORK, NY, 10019. Any lawful purpose.

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

MOOSE HILL LODGE LAND LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/22/22. 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, 44 Orchid Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

SULLIVAN PUBLIC LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/20/22. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 183, Yulan, NY 12792. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 16 Proctor Rd., Eldred, NY 12732.

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

240 East Broadway LLC. Filed 12/20/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 240 E Broadway, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: General.

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

Notice of Formation of BINYAN 42 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-05-19. 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 BINYAN 42 LLC: 280 HEYWARD STREET Brooklyn NY 11206. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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

Notice of Formation of 8587 Route 97 LLC . Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-12-08. 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 Valentino Rizzo : 8587 Route 97 Cochection NY 12726. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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

Notice of Formation of BLACK OAK BUILDINGS, LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with S S N Y o n 01/13/2023. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 6 P L A N K R O A D , MONGAUP VALLEY, NY, 12762. Any lawful purpose.

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

IHC CABINS, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/5/23. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 8 Tracey Ln, Augusta, NJ, 07822, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

IHC BUNKHOUSE, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/5/23. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 8 Tracey Ln, Augusta, NJ, 07822, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of 5 Lee Road LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with SSNY on 09/12/22. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 1341 DICKERSON ROAD, TEANECK, NJ, 07666. Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of WHITE LAKE EQUITY HOLDINGS LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/15/2022. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 136B CEDARHURST AVENUE, SUITE 15, CEDARHURST, NY, 11516. Any lawful purpose.

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

IHC POND EDDY, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/5/23. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 8 Tracey Ln, Augusta, NJ, 07822, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

MOOSE HILL LODGE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/22/22. 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, 44 Orchid Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

IHC KNIGHTS EDDY, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/5/23. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 8 Tracey Ln, Augusta, NJ, 07822, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

FADDY'S LLC Notice of Formation of Faddy's LLC (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 9/26/22. Office Location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: P.O. Box 960, Rock Hill, NY 12775. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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

Tree Top Healing, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 11/8/2022. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 177 North Branch Rd., Hortonville, NY 12745. General Purpose

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

MZ 76 WILL ROAD LLC. Filed 12/6/22. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 76 Will Rd, Roscoe, NY 12776. Purpose: General.

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

Notice of Formation of P U N K A B O O PROPERTIES LLC. Arts .Of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/20/2022. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 1 6 5 COOPERS CORNERS ROAD, MONTICELLO, NY, 12701. Any lawful purpose.

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

BISLAND ENTERPRISES, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/28/22. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1643 Forestburgh Rd., Glen Spey, NY 12737, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

PETER WIN, LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 12/1/22. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Synergy of Monticello, 64 Jefferson St., Ste. 1, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 2 High St., Monticello, NY 12701.

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

Notice of Formation of Consult Rah LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-12-31. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Rahsheeda McRae: Monticello Meadows 128 Monticello NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**Legal Notice****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, February 17th, 2023 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

1. Auto and Light Duty Truck Replacement Parts and Supplies – Part B (B-23-13)  
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 February 10, 2023

**RIVER REPORTER.****NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of STREAMSIDE HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-01-25. 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 DIANE BEVERIDGE: PO BOX 1325 Livingston Manor NY 12758. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**LEGAL NOTICE****Town of Cocheton Planning Board**

Please take notice that the Town of Cocheton Planning Board, Sullivan County, New York State will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on February 23, 2023 at the Town Hall located at 74 Smales Road, Lake Huntington, New York for the purpose of considering the Powell Subdivision submitted by Jay Powell. The said property is identified by tax map number 8.-1-15.23 located at 279 Brook Road, Cocheton, New York. The project consists of dividing the present parcel into three separate lots. Interested parties are invited to attend and to give their comments.

Earl Bertsch, Chairman  
Town of Cocheton Planning Board  
Dated: January 26, 2023

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

Notice of Formation of DOUBLE A RE LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/20/2022. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 108 SOUTH LAKESHORE DR., ROCK HILL, NY, 12776. Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of SETTER HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-01-26. 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 WIVA FARM HOLDINGS, LLC: PO BOX 1325 Livingston Manor NY 12758. Purpose: 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, February 24th, 2023 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

1. Resurfacing Portions of Approximately 32 Miles of Various County Roads (B-23-12)

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: February 10th, 2023

**Legal Notice****COUNTY OF SULLIVAN PUBLIC NOTICE**

Quotes 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, February 24, 2023:

1. Towing Services for Vehicles Impounded as Evidence by Sullivan County Sheriff's Office (Q-23-02)

Specifications may be obtained from the Director at the above address.

Dated: February 10, 2023

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

122 CANAL LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/12/22. 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 Stenger, Diamond & Glass, LLP, 1136 Route 9, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN PUBLIC NOTICE**

Proposals 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, February 17, 2023:

1. Geotechnical Engineering Services for Airport Terminal Building Revitalization Project at Sullivan County International Airport, County Road 183A, White Lake, NY 12786 (R-23-04) Specifications may be obtained from the Director at the above address.

Dated: February 10, 2023

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

RAY'S REEF LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/25/23. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1116 Wurtsboro Mountain Rd., Wurtsboro, NY 12790, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of BETHEL WOOD FARMS LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/16/2023. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 2 WESTCHESTER PARK DR., WHITE PLAINS, NY, 10604. Any lawful purpose.

**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN LEGAL NOTICE****Invitation to Bidders****Library Board****Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library**

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** is hereby given for single prime contract sealed bids for: **Proposed Alterations to Library at Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library.** Bids will be received by the Library, on **February 28, 2023 at 3:00p.m.** in the **Board Room, at Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library 479 Broadway, Monticello, New York 12701,** and at said time and place publicly opened and read aloud.

The **Revised** Contract Documents may be examined at **Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library 479 Broadway, Monticello, New York 12701, (845-794-4660).** The Contract Documents may be obtained thru **Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library 479 Broadway, Monticello, New York 12701.** The Contract Documents may also be obtained (by appointment only) thru the Office of **Freestone Architecture, P.C., 745 Van Burenville Rd, Middletown, NY 10940 (845) 978-1898** beginning on **January 31, 2023 for a deposit fee of One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars.** Complete digital sets of Contract Documents shall be obtained for free from the Architect via Email (Scot@FreestoneArchitecture.com). **Checks for Contract Documents shall be made payable to the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library** and may be uncertified. All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders via email. Any bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with the Architect and pay for all packaging and shipping costs. Plan holders who have obtained hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use, and coordinate directly with the Architect for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda. The bid deposit for hard copies will be returned upon receipt of plans and specifications, in good condition, within thirty days after bid date, except for the lowest responsible bidder, whose check will be forfeited upon the award of the contract.

The contract documents have been revised to extend the time of completion.

**A non-mandatory pre-bid site walk through for all trades is scheduled for February 8, 2023 at 2:00pm. All parties shall meet in the lobby of Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library.**

The Contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder or the proposals will be rejected within 45 days of the date of opening proposals. Bids shall be subject, however, to the discretionary right reserved by the Library to waive any informalities, accept or reject any alternatives, reject any proposals and to advertise for new proposals, if in its opinion the best interest of the Library will thereby be promoted.

Each bidder may not withdraw his bid within 45 days after the formal opening thereof. A bidder may withdraw his bid only in writing and prior to the bid opening date.

BY ORDER OF THE  
**Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library**  
Dated: January 27, 2023

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845.252.7414



**TALKING SPORTS**  
BY TED WADDELL

# Shooting for the cure

## Part one

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — For the 14th consecutive year, SUNY Sullivan hosted the annual Sullivan County BCANY vs. Cancer classic. It was held “down in the bunker” at the local community college.

The Basketball Coaches Association of New York (BCANY) is a service organization uniting all levels of basketball coaches in the state.

The fundraising tourney kicked off on Saturday, February 4 with varsity basketball games between the boys and girls from Sullivan West pitted against Eldred, followed by a boys’ game between the hoopsters of Monticello and Liberty, NY.

The classic is held in honor of all those fighting cancer, especially those undergoing treatment in the oncology center at Garnet Health Medical Center in Harris and Middletown.

The opening game of the classic featured the Lady Bulldogs of Sullivan West (7-3) battling Eldred’s Lady Yellowjackets (3-9).

Sullivan West outgunned Eldred in all four frames, walking off the court with a dominating 58-18 victory: 15-2, 20-4, 10-7 and 11-5.

### Top scorers

**Sullivan West:** Anna Bernas (12 points), Karlee Diehl (11), Nicole Reeves (9, including a three-pointer), Lanie Herbert (9), Viola Shami (8, including a three-pointer) and Liz Reeves (5, including a three-pointer).

**Eldred:** Sydney Furler (6) and—with 3 points each—Olivia Gonzalez and Molly McKerrell.

### Stats from the free throw line

Sullivan West 9/15 (60 percent) and Eldred 2/7 (29 percent).

The BCANY classic continues on Saturday, February 11 at SUNY Sullivan, with matchups featuring Roscoe vs. Tri-Valley (boys), Roscoe vs. Fallsburg (girls), Livingston Manor vs. Liberty (boys) and Monticello vs. Liberty (girls).



RR photos by Ted Waddell

Back to back on the hardwood. Sullivan West’s Felicity Bauernfeind and Eldred’s Emma Rumsey.



Mid-flight. Eldred’s Sydney Furler and Sullivan West’s Sophie Flynn.



Classic pose. Eldred’s Sydney Furler posted 6 points, while Sullivan West’s Nicole Reeves scored 9 points, including a three-pointer.



Divide and conquer. Eldred’s Sydney Furler breaks through Sullivan West defenders Felicity Bauernfeind and Anna Bernas, who posted 12 points for the Lady Bulldogs.



Setting it up. Eldred’s Regan Kizner.



Eldred’s Molly McKerrell added 3 points to the Lady Yellowjackets’ scorebook.



Headed for 2. Sullivan West’s Viola Shami scored 8 points, including a three-pointer.



Reach for the moon. Eldred’s Molly McKerrell and Sullivan West’s Anna Bernas.

■ RAMBLINGS OF A CATSKILL FLY FISHER  
BY TONY BONAIVIST

# Where have all the mayflies gone?

From what I'm reading, hearing and observing in the field, there is consensus that mayflies worldwide are in decline.

Many of you who read this column know that I've written a great deal about aquatic insects, and mayflies in particular, in the last few years. In fact, "Another Silent Spring?," which was about the changes and decline in aquatic insect populations, appeared in the 2021 FISH magazine published by this very newspaper.

Mayflies are considered by entomologists, taxonomists and naturalists to be the oldest order of insects on the earth, dating back some 300 million years. So the question remains: why this fairly recent decline in an insect community that has survived a myriad of environmental catastrophes, including floods, ice ages, droughts and warming and cooling climates?

There are a lot of theories about the cause of mayfly declines, and a fair amount has been written about the topic. For example, in what are some of the most pristine trout rivers in the world—the chalk streams of England—the mayfly hatches have declined dramatically.

Researchers believe that a variety of factors are the cause, including sewage, siltation [the deposition of silt] and the application of pesticides.

In Lake Erie, historical records associated with the *Hexagenia* mayfly hatch indicate this species is once again in decline after an upsurge. "Hex" mayflies are of the burrowing variety, and historically hatched in such large numbers that the dead flies had to be shoveled off bridges.

Biologists are not sure whether the current decline is cyclic, or if the species is the victim of more sinister reasons.

So what are we seeing—or not seeing—in the famous trout rivers of the Catskills regarding the decline in the mayfly population? While I can't comment on many of those rivers, I'm told that mayfly hatches are not as prolific as they once were on the Beaver Kill. There are some folks who believe siltation from uplands, and sand used along roadways in winter, are possible causes.

Where I have considerable knowledge is the East Branch of the Delaware, between Downsville and Harvard, NY. I have fished this section of river for the past 40 years, and have observed significant changes in species



RR photo by Tony Bonavist

A sulphur mayfly, a species in decline along the upper East Branch of the Delaware River.

composition and the size of mayfly hatches during that period.

While I don't have scientific proof, there is data in the literature to support the theory that aquatic insect populations closest to bottom releases can change dramatically, due to constantly cold water temperatures. With the implementation of the water releases legislation in 1976, when the summer release was increased from 15 cfs (cubic feet per second) to 70 cfs, hatches of sulfur mayflies in particular responded dramatically along the upper East Branch. There were huge emergences that began around June 10 and extended well into July, with the first flies appearing right around 6 p.m.

Several years later, when the summer release was increased from 70 cfs to about 150 cfs, we saw a significant change in the sulphur hatches. Hatches that once began at 6 p.m. saw the flies suddenly appear at 1 p.m.

The hatches were huge and lasted from mid-June well into August. There were probably several broods during that time frame.

Then beginning around 2016, we observed a significant change in sulphur hatches. The

huge, steady early afternoon hatches all but disappeared. We saw no evening hatches of these mayflies either. So what happened?

During the summer, when the release from Pepacton Reservoir is maintained at around 150 cfs, daytime water temperatures in the reaches close to the dam seldom exceed 52 degrees Fahrenheit. That temperature is constant throughout the summer. Based on my research, I believe that the normal temperature range through which sulphur mayflies evolve ran from about 33 degrees Fahrenheit in winter to highs of 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer. Sulphur mayflies, and other mayflies that evolved and survived through these extreme temperature fluctuations, do not appear to do well when exposed to a constant temperature of 52 degrees Fahrenheit. It appears to be too cold for several species.

That's why I believe that the only species of mayflies found in the upper East Branch close to the dam are what I'll call—for lack of better terminology—early season or "cold water" mayflies. Species like quill Gordon, Hendrickson, blue quills, pale evening duns and olives all hatch when the water temperature reaches 50 degrees Fahrenheit

or slightly higher. Consequently, there are no March browns, gray foxes, green drakes, brown drakes, light Cahills, *Isonychias* or tricos to be found in the upper East Branch. Yet these species are all well represented downriver beginning around Shinhopple, NY, where the water is a bit warmer.

So it appears that the release of very cold water, while favorable for trout, is limiting mayfly diversity and hatching in the upper East Branch.

Assuming that cold water is the limiting factor affecting mayflies in the upper East Branch, what is causing the changes in mayfly hatches in other Catskill rivers? While environmental factors, like siltation, flooding, low flows and high water temperatures in the summer might be factors, there is no actual data to support those naturally occurring conditions as culprits. To complicate matters, there is very little historic, baseline data available to compare against current mayfly populations.

Mayflies, like all aquatic insects, are sentinels of the environment in which they live. When their populations decline dramatically, it signals that something is very wrong.

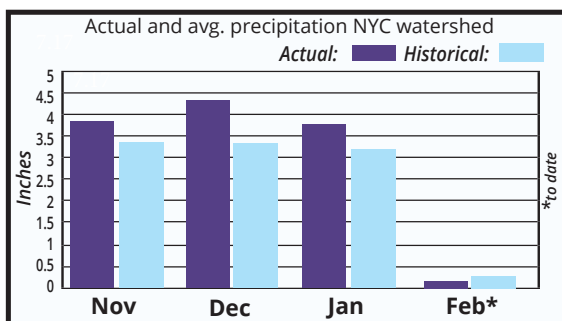
We just don't know what that is yet.

**SOUNDINGS: TAKING THE PULSE OF THE UPPER DELAWARE WATERSHED**

For river gage, height and temperature readings visit [www.bit.ly/RRsoundings](http://www.bit.ly/RRsoundings).

**Reservoir levels**

- February 2, 2023**
- Cannonsville: 92.1%
- Pepacton: 93.9%
- Neversink: 98.9%
- Total: 93.4%**
- Normal Total: 89.7%**
- Total in 2022: 86.7%**





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■ **RIVER TALK**  
BY SCOTT RANDO

# PA game commission plans to reintroduce the American marten

Pennsylvania was once home to a small animal that resembled a mink or a weasel. When settlers arrived in the 1600s, they observed these mammals in the forests of PA.

Slowly at first, but more rapidly as time went on, the mammals disappeared. By the turn of the 20th century, they were totally extirpated from the state. This was due to the loss of habitat from deforestation that occurred in large portions of the state as timber was harvested and the land was cleared.

One of the smaller members of the weasel family, the marten averages two feet in length, about the same size as a mink. The PA Game Commission (PGC) description reads, "The marten's fur is primarily brown on the back and sides, while exhibiting a lighter colored grayish face and an orangish neck and bib running down its chest. The marten has semi-retractable claws which help it utilize the forest canopy as well as the forest floor."

The PGC plans to reintroduce the American marten (or pine marten) to PA, as they had reintroduced other species, such as bald eagles and elk.

A feasibility assessment has already been completed and presented to the PGC board of commissioners in July of last year. Among the points made in the report was that un-fragmented forestland of "structural complexity" would be ideal habitat for martens; this would be mixed forest with high canopy, and white pine and northern hemlock as prevalent conifer species. Dead trees would also be present, with cavities to provide resting and denning locations for martens. (Denning, for bearing or rearing young, can be ground burrows or tree cavities excavated by woodpeckers).

Adequate snow cover during the winter was also surveyed; martens stay under the snow, which has an insulating effect against extremely cold temperatures. Using subnivean (under the snow) zones is a trait



RR photos by Scott Rando

Martens are about the same size and shape as this mink. Minks and martens both eat small mammals, as well as other things. A marten will also consume soft mast; it is considered an omnivore. Where minks are found near shore and wetland habitats, martens thrive in forest environments unfragmented by roads or development. Historical records show martens present in Pike, Wayne and Monroe counties in PA until the early 1900s.

of this species.

The future timetable for PGC's marten reintroduction efforts will be a Reintroduction and Management Plan Draft, to be presented in July 2023. A 60-day public review and comment period will start at this time.

The finalized plan, with integrated public comments, will be presented to the PGC board of commissioners no earlier than January 2024.

Data from the feasibility assessment study that took place in 2022 has been presented by the PGC on a site using ArcGIS technology. It can be found at [american-marten-pagame.hub.arcgis.com/](http://american-marten-pagame.hub.arcgis.com/).



Some of the mixed forest shown here could be good marten habitat, though they don't need waterways as minks or otters do. The American marten used to be known as the pine marten, but it was found that they lived in areas where deciduous trees grow as well. Martens prefer mature forest that has some complexity to it. A few dead trees with some woodpecker cavities allow martens to rest or den with their young. Wood debris on the forest floor facilitates the use of subnivean zones during the winter by martens for shelter and foraging under the snow.



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