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New president: College will not lose accreditation

Accreditors will return to SUNY Sullivan in late September

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — SUNY Sullivan's new president is confident the college will both maintain its accreditation and balance its budget, even as it faces a minor decline in enrollment.

"I am very confident about the college's work," David Potash told legislators at the August 1 Government Services Committee meeting.

Accreditors from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) will visit "sometime in the latter half of September," Potash said.

MSCHE offers accreditation to colleges that meet its standards. Following up on a team visit to the campus over two days last August, MSCHE in November sent SUNY Sullivan a notice of noncompliance warning its accreditation "may be in jeopardy because of insufficient evidence that the institution is currently in compliance with" its standards regarding "educational effectiveness," its system for evaluating students' work, and its planning and budgeting processes.

"I'm very much looking forward to the visit and an opportunity for SUNY Sullivan to work with our accreditors and showcase the outstanding work that's taking place at the college and move forward," Potash told the legislature last week.

Saying he's worked with accreditors before, Potash laid out the next steps: A person or team will spend the day at the college, looking at the college's learning outcomes. The visitors will then write up their findings and submit their report to the full MSCHE commission. The commission will meet in November and expects to make a decision around Thanksgiving.

Potash said the college will be ending the year with a balanced budget, which he will present to legislators at 10:20 a.m. on Thursday, August 15.

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Photo by Jeff Dexter

A piece of the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge dangles precariously above the Upper Delaware.

Hang in there. Please.

SKINNERS FALLS, NY — Local observers are now tracking The Thing Hanging Off the Skinners Falls-Milanville Bridge.

"This wouldn't happen if they'd maintained the bridge," said one.

Jeff Dexter of Damascus Township, PA, took the photo above, which he says shows a disconnected brace. He said inspectors were at the bridge on Sunday morning and took their own photographs.

The historic bridge, built in 1902, was shut down five years ago after failing an emergency inspection. The New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission is now leading studies on the bridge's fate—whether it should be restored, replaced, or removed.

The "do nothing" option is not actually an option, Kate Farrow of NTM Engineering told the **River Reporter** in April, since it would result in the bridge collapsing into the Delaware.

Hope The Hanging Thing gets the message.

Wayne to get $1.5 million in opioid settlement

Payments from both waves total $3.7 million

By JAMIE FALGIE

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County will receive $1.5 million over 15 years to fight the opioid epidemic.

The Wayne County Commissioners on July 18 accepted the "Wave 2" settlement against pharmaceutical companies found liable for contributing to the opioid crisis. Some of these companies include CVS, Walmart, Walgreens, Allergan and Teva.

The Wave 2 agreement states that the money will be used to create brick-and-mortar programs to help people struggling with substance abuse disorders.

In December 2022, then-attorney general Josh Shapiro, who is now the Pennsylvania governor, finalized agreements with CVS and Walgreens as the result of national litigation against the pharmaceutical industry. Shapiro said at the time that his office was "determined to hold accountable the greedy companies that created and jet-fueled the opioid epidemic."

The Wave 1 settlement back in 2021 awarded Wayne County $2.2 million over 18 years. Wayne County has already used some of this money to implement the Medically Assisted Treatment Program at Wayne County Correctional Facility. This type of program, which has been underway in Wayne County for about six months, treats addiction by

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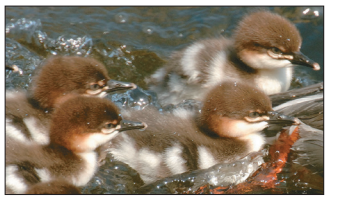
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IN BRIEF

Legislator appointed to national committee

LIBERTY, NY – Sullivan County Legislator Luis Alvarez (D-6) has been appointed to the Health Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties (NACo).

NACo President James Gore notified Alvarez of his appointment, recognizing his prior service on NACo committees and his commitment to public service. Alvarez formerly chaired the Sullivan County Legislature and is a retired sheriff's deputy. He has been involved with NACo since 2017 and also serves on the board of the NYS Association of Counties.

"I strongly believe in NACo's mission and am proud to represent Sullivan County at the national level," Alvarez said. "I remain committed to my neighbors as their legislator, but it's important to recognize that we're part of a larger system of government that constantly needs review and improvement."

NACo, founded in 1935, advocates for county priorities in federal policymaking, promotes exemplary county policies and practices, and aims to optimize county resources and taxpayer savings while enriching the public's understanding of county government.

Career day for workers displaced by prison closure

FALLSBURG, NY — Michele Frazier, a candidate for NYS Senate District 51, is organizing a career day for the corrections professionals displaced by the imminent closure of Sullivan Correctional in Fallsburg.

As a professor of criminal justice at SUNY Delhi and a former placement worker, she aims to support those seeking new job opportunities. She is offering free individual appointments on Friday, August 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fallsburg Public Library.

"Early in my career I worked in placement helping folks with job searches, resumes, cover letters and career transition," Frazier said. Now, "I train many who go on to work in corrections and other areas of law and public safety. I want to use those experiences to help the hard-working folks who find themselves displaced by the closure of Sullivan Correctional and unexpectedly on the job market—one of life's most stressful experiences."

To schedule a meeting with her for resume assistance or career guidance, email info@michelefrazierfor51.com.

Bill would cap mental health costs for military members

HARRISBURG, PA — A bill introduced in Pennsylvania would cap copays for mental health care visits for military service members, veterans and their families under TRICARE.

The cap would be set at levels equivalent to those for primary health care visits across all TRICARE plans, which have increased copay costs for mental health visits by 250 percent since 2017.

U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced the bill, titled the Stop Copay Overpay Act, which is being co-sponsored by U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Peter Welch (D-VT). .

The legislation seeks to reduce financial barriers to mental and behavioral health care, particularly for service members and veterans at higher risk of mental health conditions.

Casey also championed the passage of the Honoring our PACT Act in 2022, which expanded U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care to over 3.5 million veterans.



Spotted lanternfly alights in grape country

ROMULUS, NY — The spotted lanternfly has recently been found in New York's grape-growing region, according to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

This invasive species, originally from China, feeds on plants and secretes a substance that can cause damaging mold. It attacks more than 70 species, including plants critical to New York's agricultural economy, such as grapevines, apple trees and hops.

It was initially discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since spread to several Northeastern states. It was first found in New York State on Staten Island in August 2020 and has since been observed in all New York City boroughs. Most recently, spotted lanternfly was detected in Romulus in the Finger Lakes grape-growing region. The insect's late-season feeding can be particularly harmful to grapevines, affecting their ability to survive the winter. State and federal agencies are working to control the spread to other areas of New York.

The spotted lanternfly is not harmful to humans and cannot survive indoors. Natural predators, including spiders, praying mantises and fungi, are aiding in eradication efforts. The state is also using drones to track their spread.

Fundraiser to send drowning victim home

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — The family of Erick Alas is organizing a GoFundMe fundraiser to bring his body back to his mother in El Salvador.

The 20-year-old drowned on July 28 at Loch Sheldrake Lake.Maria Alas posted the following message on GoFundMe.com: "My family and I lost a very special person to us last night. A 20 year old with a bright future ahead. Always had a smile on his face, always laughing. We're completely devastated with this unexpected loss. After 8 years of his mother not seeing him, her wishes are to see him one last time. Anything helps and is truly appreciated to honor his memory and say our last goodbyes. Money will cover funeral in United States and El Salvador as well."

College offers free FAFSA workshops

LOCH SHELDRAKE, NY — SUNY Sullivan's Financial Aid Office will hold two workshops to help students understand and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

The free workshops will be held on Wednesday, August 7 and Tuesday, August 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Building G, Room 005 and 005c. A light breakfast will be provided.

The workshops will cover how to apply for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and student loans. The FAFSA is free to complete and submit, and provides access to federal grants, work-study funds and loans. It's the first step in applying for the Sullivan Promise Scholarship, which provides Sullivan County's graduating high school seniors with free tuition to attend SUNY Sullivan.

To register, visit bit.ly/4d2LQHV, email studentactivities@sunysullivan.edu, or call 845/434-5750. Interested students who are dependents can bring the family member who claims them as a dependent on their taxes to assist with this form.

Self-care is focus of Elder Justice Day

MILFORD, PA — The Pike County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) will hold its 10th annual Elder Justice Day on Tuesday, August 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Matamoras Senior Center.

Professionals will give presentations on topics relevant to older adults. This year, the focus is on self-care.

Local organizations will also be available to answer questions about their services. The Drug Take Back program will provide a safe way to dispose of unwanted medications.

"Elder Justice Day is designed with the needs of our seniors in mind," Tracy Simon, the protective services supervisor with the AAA. "The Elder Abuse Task Force books speakers who can provide information on topics that are currently trending among the senior community as well as the topics seniors have expressed interest in learning more about."

Registration is free by calling 570/775-5550. Transportation can be arranged. If you suspect elder abuse, call the Pike County Elder Abuse Task Force at 800/490-8505; reports are taken 24 hours a day.

Girl fatally struck by car in Lava

LAVA, NY — An 11-year-old girl was struck and killed on Sunday night while walking with a companion, reportedly to pet a dog, according to Undersheriff Eric Chaboty of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office.

Officers responded at 8:50 p.m. on August 4 to a call involving a car and pedestrian at 7090 State Route 52 in Lava, NY.

The 11-year-old, identified as Delana Weyandt, was transferred to Grover M. Hermann Hospital in Callicoon, where she was pronounced dead.

Chaboty said the driver stayed at the scene, had no signs of impairment, and passed a field sobriety test. The NYS Police investigated the accident at the scene. No arrests or charges have been made at this time, and the incident remains under investigation.

A family member, Sophia Weyandt, started a fundraising campaign through Gofundme.com. On that page, she writes: "My sister and I were walking and we went to cross the road safely. We looked both ways and held each other's hand. A driver came speeding and before I could move her, it was too late. He hit her. She sadly passed away in my arms. I tried so hard to do what I could, learning from school.

"If anyone can help with money for the funeral, it would be much appreciated. She was such a sweet soul and was taken too early."

Bomb threat at government center

MONTICELLO, NY — The Sullivan County Government Center and several other county buildings closed on Monday morning, August 5, "out of an abundance of caution" in response to a bomb threat online.The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office was the lead agency with the assistance of the NYS Police K-9 division.

A mass notification was sent to all employees working in county buildings, including the social services, public health, and community services campus in Liberty and the Center for Workforce Development in Monticello.

The offices were expected to reopen on Tuesday.

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Highland ZBA says yeshiva is really a summer camp

Applicant says town has no choice but to approve it as a place of worship

By PAMELA CHERGOTIS

HIGHLAND, NY — Is it a place of worship, or is it a children's summer camp?

Highland's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) says the proposed Yeshiva Ohr Shraga Veretzky is a sleepaway children's summer camp—a use that hasn't been allowed in town for many years.

The applicant says that because participants will be engaging in religious activities, the town has no choice but to approve the yeshiva as a place of worship.

Highland was once home to many sleepaway camps, including the biggest in the country at the time, Camp Wel-Met. Founded in the 1930s as the Metropolitan Jewish Centers Camp Association, Wel-Met closed in the 1980s. The still-operating Camp Tel Yehudah, a summer camp for Jewish teens founded in 1948, is grandfathered in. Koinonia Nature Camp is a day camp for town residents.

Although places of worship are allowed in all parts of town with a special use permit, Yeshiva Ohr Shraga Veretzky is not primarily a place of worship, writes the ZBA chair, Larry Fishman, in an interpretation dated July 18.

"The best and most accurate description of the proposed use...would be as a children's camp, which use, whether religious or secular in nature, is explicitly prohibited in the Town of Highland," he writes.



RR photo by Pamela Chergotis

The former Catskill Mountains Resort at 211 Mail Road.

Approved for a hotel

The site at 211 Mail Road was once home to the Catskill Mountains Resort and is currently approved for use as a hotel. Yeshiva Ohr Shraga Veretzky has applied for site plan approval and a special use permit to operate there.

Fishman said town code defines a children's summer camp as "either publicly or privately owned, complete with buildings, structures, sanitary facilities and ancillary services designated for the recreation and education of youth."

The applicant describes the project as a "summer religious educational retreat," a use that is not included in the town code, Fishman writes.

The applicant considers Yeshiva Ohr Shraga Veretzky a place of worship because "Hasidic young adults, children, and families" will come there "to study Torah, communicate and study with their Rabbi, deepen their religious faith, and connect on a religious level with others of their religious community," according to Fishman.

He said the applicant argues that the ZBA has no choice but to define Yeshiva Ohr Shraga Veretzky as a "place of worship" because the term is not defined in town code, and "because the courts consistently require that a municipality be 'more flexible' in seeking to accommodate religious uses and expansive in defining what constitutes religious use."

"However," Fishman writes, "on June 20, the applicant made clear that the dormitories would house only children between the ninth and twelfth grades, would only house them for the summer, and would provide recreational and educational facilities for the children, and the parents would not be permitted to stay on-site."

He said this shows that the project is intended for the "'recreation and education of youth,' i.e., a summer children's camp, after or near the conclusion of the official school year to the exclusion of any other primary use. This logical conclusion is further bolstered by the applicant's identification on its own website of the Subject Property as 'Mesivta Camp-Barryville.'" (ohrshraga.org)

A summer children's camp that caters exclusively to a religious community and includes religious structures, such as a mikva (a ritual bath) and a synagogue, does not mean that it's a place of worship, Fishman wrote.

$3.33 million purchase

In March 2023, the D'Veretzky Foundation Yad Yecheskel purchased the land and buildings from 211 Mail Road LLC for $3.33 million. The sale included two parcels, one 31.4 acres and the other 6.6 acres, according to the county's real property database..

The previous owner, 211 Mail Road LLC, paid $33,133 in county taxes in 2017, according to the database. The owner before 211 Mail Road LLC was Sokol Woodlands Inc., which purchased the property in 1963 for the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol.

The current applicant wants to build two single-story dormitories including 72 beds each and totaling 6,800 square feet. The project includes an 800-square-food mikva and a 9,000-square-foot multipurpose building.

Earlier this year, the planning board asked Laberge Group engineers to review the special use permit and referred the applicant to the ZBA. The applicant appeared before the ZBA in April.

During the public comment period, Fishman said, the town heard the public's concerns regarding traffic safety, garbage disposal, occupancy numbers, noise and the risk of fire. Some "complained that the true anticipated usage of the property had been obfuscated by the applicant," Fishman wrote. "One member of the public noted that the proposed use was already being openly and publicly advertised by the applicant as a 'CAMP.'"

The applicant returned to the ZBA on June 20 "to present more details including sketch plans of the proposed construction and to answer additional inquires from the ZBA and its counsel," said Fishman.

Yeshiva Ohr Shraga says on its web page that "Mosdos Veretzky's mission is to provide students with a superior, Torah-based, individualized education that will equip them with faith and knowledge to enable them to meet life's challenges."

Fishman said the applicant has cited no precedent in which a summer children's camp is defined as a "place of worship."

"To do so would be to render the definitions in town code meaningless and allow a use—children's summer camp—to all religious groups while simultaneously denying the same to all non-religious groups," he said.

See these related stories at riverreporter.com:

- "The future of Catskill Mountains Resort"
- "Catskill Mountains Resorts gets permit"
- "Bevy of projects at Highland planning"

SUNY

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In 2022, the college had a $6 million backlog in health insurance premiums through the NYS Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP). Then-president Jay Quaintance said expenses rose, revenues stayed flat, and enrollment declined as NYSHIP raised its premiums 12 percent.

Fewer students

Potash says enrollment is slightly behind for the fall semester, year over year.

He attributes the dip to changes in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application.

Congress passed the 2020 FAFSA Simplification Act to make filling out the complicated form easier. According to the Brookings Institute, the new law reduced questions from 108 to about 36, automated tax data transfer from the IRS, and adjusted aid calculations to increase Pell Grant eligibility. However, the 2024-25 FAFSA rollout has faced delays, prompting congressional hearings and further review by the Government Accountability Office. Brookings says only 36 percent of seniors in the class of 2024 have completed a FAFSA, down 24 percent from last year.

"I'd love to be able to say we're going to be bigger, but I can't. But we're working very, very hard."

David Potash, SUNY Sullivan president

"It slows everything down," Potash said of the FAFSA delays.

SUNY offered its colleges a short-term grant to help students get through their FAFSA applications. SUNY Sullivan received $10,000, which will be used to call people who started the FAFSA but didn't finish, and providing Spanish-language assistance to people experiencing language barriers. The college is offering two free FAFSA workshops this month (see related story on page 2).

Also affecting enrollment is the imminent closure of Sullivan Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison in Fallsburg that the state will shut down on November 6. Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, a program at Sullivan Correctional that provides college educations and other services to currently and formerly incarcerated people, will also close, taking the 20 students that would otherwise be attending this fall, Potash said.

The partnership between SUNY Sullivan and Hudson Link sponsors associates degrees in the arts and sciences, enabling students to transfer to four-year colleges.

"I'd love to be able to say we're going to be bigger, but I can't," Potash said. "But we're working very, very hard."

PA opioid settlement money: What you need to know

By ED MAHON of Spotlight PA and KATE GIAMMARISE of WESA

Editor's note: This story was first published on May 18, 2023.

Billions of dollars are expected to come to Pennsylvania to help the state respond to the opioid epidemic, but tracking how counties and other local governments plan to spend that money isn't easy.

"A lot of the decisions that are happening now are really going to set the tone for: What are we prioritizing?" said Alejandro Alves, who works on overdose prevention issues for the international public health nonprofit Vital Strategies.

Those decisions could have an impact for years to come because once counties start funding programs, it can be hard to eliminate or reduce them later—or switch to another initiative. Here's what you need to know about the money, the process for deciding how it will be spent, and how you can influence it.

How much will PA receive?

The attorney general's office has said the state is "set to receive more than $2.2 billion" from various investigations and cases. An office spokesperson declined to provide a detailed breakdown of how the office reached that number. There are several different sources of money, and the attorney general's office has described them as coming in waves.

Pennsylvania expects to receive up to $1.07 billion over 18 years from a national deal with Johnson & Johnson and three major drug distributors—Cardinal Health, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen. All 67 counties in Pennsylvania joined that agreement, the attorney general's office announced in January 2022.

The state received about $130 million in 2022 from that deal, according to Tom VanKirk, chair of the state's opioid trust.

During a public meeting in late March 2023, the state attorney general's office described a second wave of opioid settlements, saying that agreements with five companies could bring over $770 million more to Pennsylvania. The list consisted of drug manufacturers Allergan and Teva and retailers Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens.

Who's in charge of spending the settlement money?

County government officials will have the most control.

The distribution plan in Pennsylvania says 15 percent of funds go to the state legislature to decide how to spend. Another 70 percent goes to county governments based on a formula that factors in opioid-related harm that occurred while also guaranteeing a minimum of $1 million for each county, and 15 percent goes to local governments that had initiated their own litigation. The latter includes some counties.

Separately, some opioid settlement money pays for attorney fees and expenses related to litigation, as well as management costs for the trust, according to court documents.

How can local governments spend the money?

Settlement documents describe a list of approved and recommended opioid remediation uses.

That list—known as Exhibit E—includes drugs that reverse opioid overdoses, medication-assisted treatment, support for pregnant and postpartum women, recovery services, prevention programs, regional planning and media campaigns.

But that list doesn't cover every possibility, and local governments will have some discretion.

Who ensures the money is spent appropriately?

The 13-member PA Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust is primarily responsible for oversight of how counties and other local governments spend their money.

Local governments don't need permission from the trust before they spend money, according to the court order that created the trust and defined its powers. Once a year, counties must report to the trust on settlement expenditures, but the trust hasn't provided information on how much detail will be required.

The trust can withhold future payments if locals spend the money in a way that "is not in accordance with the requirements of Exhibit E." Local governments will have up to three months to fix the misspending and still receive their full payment.

But if they don't resolve the issue, the trust can cut or withhold money going forward.

What are the best ways to spend the money?

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has shared a set of five principles to help guide states and local governments: spend the money to save lives, use evidence to direct spending, invest in youth prevention, focus on racial equity, and develop a fair and transparent process for deciding how to spend the funds.

Experts say the experience of a previous major public health-related settlement—a master agreement to resolve claims against tobacco companies—has shaped the opioid settlements.

"It was diverted for a number of reasons to other basic needs of governance that didn't have anything to do with tobacco," said Alves of Vital Strategies. "No one wants to repeat that experience."

But there's still wide disagreement about the best way to respond to the opioid crisis. As Spotlight PA and WESA reported, an early point of contention is whether counties can and should spend the money to boost drug task forces, hire more police officers, and pay for guns and vests.

How can people track the spending?

In Pennsylvania, there's currently no single resource for people to see where the money is going. Requesting information from your local government under Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law can help.

Staffers with Community Education Group, an advocacy organization focused on public health issues, have been scouring meeting minutes, county government websites and local news articles to track different discussions and plans. Tricia Christensen, director of policy for the organization, said these funding decisions are "fundamentally a political process."

There are ways to influence that process. Jordan Scott, regional field organizer for the Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Network, encourages people to try to serve on local task forces, research what their communities' needs are, and attend local meetings where the decisions happen.

"It's much harder to dismiss a group of 20 versus one person," Scott said.

Some advocates are pushing for more community involvement in the process.

"We lived it," Marianne Sinisi, whose son Shawn died from a drug overdose in 2018, told Spotlight PA and WESA. "So it shouldn't be decided by government officials or somebody that just thinks they have all the answers. It should be the victims that are at that table."

When must counties report their spending?

Their deadline is March 15 of each year. But the trust waived that requirement for this year. The order creating the trust does not specifically say other local governments that received money because of their role in litigation have to submit an annual report by that same deadline. But another section of the order says those other local governments can be penalized if they misspend money or don't file an annual report.

Spotlight PA (spotlightpa.org) is an independent, nonpartisan newsroom powered by The Philadelphia Inquirer in partnership with PennLive/The Patriot-News, TribLIVE/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, and WITF Public Media.

$1.5M

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incorporating recovery support services, such as counseling, with medication. This program is just one of the many projects the county is planning to implement using the money from both waves.

Commissioner Jocelyn Cramer said she had recently attended a Drug Court graduation. More than 50 people have graduated from the program in the six years it's been active, she said.

Cramer also urges all residents struggling with addiction to reach out to Wayne County for help and to use its resources for prevention, treatment and recovery.

If you or someone you know needs help with addiction, call the Wayne County Drug and Alcohol Commission at 570/253-6022.

See related story, "PA opioid settlement money: What you need to know," this page.

Employees recognized

In other county news: Over the past two weeks, commissioners recognized several employees for their dedication to the county:

• John Martin was recognized for his five years of service in the Public Defender's Office.

• Julie Brill, Janaya Burnham and Sandra Volpato were recognized for their one year of service. Brill works in the district attorney's office, Burnham in the Area Agency on Aging office and Volpato in Magisterial District Judge Carney's office.

Riverfest-goers weigh in

By WILLA HUBER

NARROWSBURG, NY — Everyone who approached the **River Reporter**'s booth at Riverfest was handed four "Riverbucks" and asked to vote: Which community issue would you invest in?

The 143 participants put their Riverbuck votes into labeled jars in the following categories:

- The environment: Water, stormwater runoff, development, habitat—150
- Health services: Accessibility, affordability, availability—123
- Food: Affordability, accessibility, quality—107
- Educational opportunities: Higher education, mentoring, training—69
- Road safety: maintenance, improvements, signage, enforcement—68
- Child care: Affordability, availability, accessibility—55

"Some people really had to think about it, or they had a hard time finding just four of their most favorites," said Kathy Leggio, administrative assistant for the **River Reporter**, during Sunday's festival.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Riverfest 2024 patron uses Riverbucks to vote for the community issues most important to him.

Riverfest is an annual event hosted in Narrowsburg by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. The event features a plethora of activities, including artisan vendors, live music, a kid's corner, a benefit poster auction, the River Dogs parade and regional street theater.

Highland adopts Camp FIMFO review

RV campground is now at Step 8 in an 11-step process

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

ELDRED, NY — Camp FIMFO is nearing the end of its environmental review.

The project is now at Step 8 (see sidebar): The Town of Highland Planning Board adopted the project's entire draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which includes comments from the public, the National Park Service, the Upper Delaware Council, Keystone Engineering and the planning board itself.

The applicant, Northgate Resorts/Sun Communities, will now go through the comments and either revise the EIS accordingly or explain in writing why a comment is outside the project's scope.



RR photo by Pamela Chergotis

The playground at Kittatinny Campgrounds, poised for transformation into Camp FIMFO, which wants to add an aquatic play area, mini-golf course, bouncing pillow, and sports courts.

The planning board will review Northgate's responses, requesting more information as needed. At that point, the board has the option of scheduling a public hearing. Northgate did not provide a date for when it expects to submit its responses.

No further inquiries will be added to the EIS at this point.

Northgate Resorts/Sun Communities plans to invest $40 million to transform the 235-acre Kittatinny Campgrounds and Canoes–Barryville Base into an RV campground called Camp FIMFO. The project would add to the site 252 RV park models, which resemble small mobile homes. They will have permanent water and sewer hookups and stay put. The total number of campsites will decrease slightly, to 335.

Proposed new attractions include an aquatic play area, mini-golf course, bouncing pillow, and sports courts. A modern new septic system will replace the current, deteriorating system.

The State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) includes 11 steps, not all of which are conducted for every project. The planning board last year triggered the SEQR process when, in a 3-2 vote, it gave the Camp FIMFO application a "positive declaration," which means the project could have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Northgate was then obliged to prepare an EIS.

The next planning board meeting is scheduled for August 28.

In other business

• **Special counsel:** Javid Afzali of the Harris Beach law firm served as counsel for the Highland Planning Board at its July meeting. At a special town board meeting on April 16, he was hired to serve as special counsel in zoning and planning board matters where the town attorney, Steven Mogel, has a conflict of interest. It was not discussed why Afzali was serving as counsel for this meeting.

• **New spa:** The Eldred Preserve has an application before the planning board to build a spa. Kenneth Ellsworth of Keystone Engineering, which was hired to review the application, had follow-up questions about parking, paving and traffic flow. Eldred Preserve co-owner Joan Silna said the spa will be made available first to guests and, if there is extra availability, to the general public. A neighbor "heartily endorsed" the project, saying a spa would "enhance the experience and help the town in general through taxes and employment." The planning board will schedule a public hearing once Keystone's questions are answered.

• **Short-term rentals:** The planning board said it will not enforce regulations on behalf of homeowners associations (see related story below).

Read more

Read more about Camp FIMFO at riverreporter.com:

"Camp FIMFO's environmental review is now available to the public"

"Planning projects can mean heavy lifting for small towns"

"Where will they stay?"

The 11 steps of environmental review

Step 1: In New York State, the planning board decides whether the project is subject to a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR).

Step 2: If the answer is yes, the planning board then decides whether to take no action, if the project is unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment, or to take action, requiring the applicant to prepare either a short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) if the project is small, or a full EAF if the project is big.

Step 3: The applicant completes an EAF as required.

Step 4: The planning board decides which entity will act as lead agency for the project. (In the case of Camp FIMFO, the planning board is the lead agency.)

Step 5: The planning board issues either a positive or a negative declaration: A positive declaration means the planning board has found the project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. A negative declaration means no potential adverse impact was found.

Step 6: The scoping process begins, in which the planning board prepares a document that considers all environmental impacts that may stem from the project.

Step 7: The applicant completes a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on the scoping document for the planning board to review.

Step 8: If the planning board accepts the draft EIS, it's submitted for public review. If the planning board requires a revision, the draft goes back to the applicant.

Step 9: The public comment period opens upon the acceptance of the draft EIS.

Step 10: The planning board has the option to schedule a public hearing.

Step 11: The planning board completes the final EIS.

Source: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC): https://tinyurl.com/2yfrawmp.

Planning board: We don't enforce homeowners' bylaws

By RUBY RAYNER-HASELKORN

ELDRED, NY — The Town of Highland Planning Board said it will not enforce regulations on behalf of homeowners associations.

During a July 24 public hearing on a short-term rental in the Pyne Ayre subdivision, residents said the proposed rental did not comply with the bylaws of their homeowners association (HOA).

The planning board reaffirmed that it neither supersedes nor overrules the bylaws that govern homeowners associations.

"The planning board looks at its own codes and requirements when making a determination," said the chair, Jeff Spitz. "An HOA is a separate entity."

Spitz said the planning board decides whether to approve short-term rentals based only on the town code and other town requirements.

"We are not the HOA nor its enforcement," said planning board member Tim McKenna.

The applicant, Steven Rodriguez, said he and his wife decided to seek approval for a short-term rental after their lawyer found conflicting definitions of commercial uses in the homeowners association's bylaws.

One neighbor said they objected to the rental for safety reasons, since guests do not understand boundaries during hunting season.

The Rodriguezes said they live at the property most of the time. They have three children under nine and have no interest in introducing safety risks, they said.

Related stories

Read these stories at riverreporter.com for more about short-term rentals:

"Short-term rentals 'not in harmony' might be denied"

"Highland to enforce overlooked short-term rental rule"

"Highland debates short-term rentals for long-term plans"

"Short-term rentals balloon in Highland"

MY VIEW

BY LISE KENNEDY

The state of Sullivan County's CHHA

The Director of Public Health has resigned after only 14 months in her position. She made a lot of changes during her time there that have diminished the capacity of the Certified Home Health Care Agency (CHHA) to serve the public.

We heard last month from Commissioner Liddle about the increase of productivity in the CHHA—up to five visits per day—but we didn't hear anything about the average 80-plus hours of overtime it costs to achieve that. Nor did we hear that there are only six CHHA road nurses left, when there were 20-plus in 2018.

This is camouflaged in the monthly report by only including the number of so-called "clinicians." Obviously, including contract and per diem workers is another way to camouflage the true state of staffing. How are those productivity numbers meaningful with so much less staff?

We have been given no information about revenue. Not a single CHHA R.N. hired after 2019 was retained and we've been looking at a consistently high vacancy rate at Public Health Services (PHS). The CHHA used to have four nurses working every weekend but now is closed on weekends.

It's not that nurses haven't been hired. The monthly reports glorifies all hires but doesn't mention anyone leaving the positions, except for transfers of positions within the department. Why did they all leave?

The overemphasis on productivity has had an inverse effect on retention of staff and quality of care, but the public ratings of the CHHA aren't included in your monthly report as one might reasonably expect. Just like the Adult Care Center, the CHHA is also rated nationally by Medicare Home Care Compare on a scale of one to five with three being average. The 2.5-star quality performance rating is to some extent balanced by the four-star rating from the patients' reviews, showing how much our community appreciates the CHHA. See www.medicare.gov/care-compare/details/home-health/337165?city=Woodbourne&state=NY&zipcode=12765

Another equally important consumer guidance rating from the New York State Department of Health's Health Profiles for the CHHA is only one star overall because of patient outcomes that are way below average. The one-star rating in this case includes a five-star rating from the patients' surveys. See profiles.health.ny.gov/home_care/view/13998#quality.

These quality of care ratings are not included in the report, nor are any quality improvement efforts, analysis or a plan to improve staff retention. The misguided attempt to convert the CHHA into a for-profit model has emptied the building of two-thirds of the experienced and dedicated nursing staff that had been built up with so much care over many years to serve our needy community, while the remaining nurses are treated like they're still on probation. The culture at the CHHA under the current director has changed to one that is impersonal, militaristic and authoritarian, so that many key staff have left PHS.

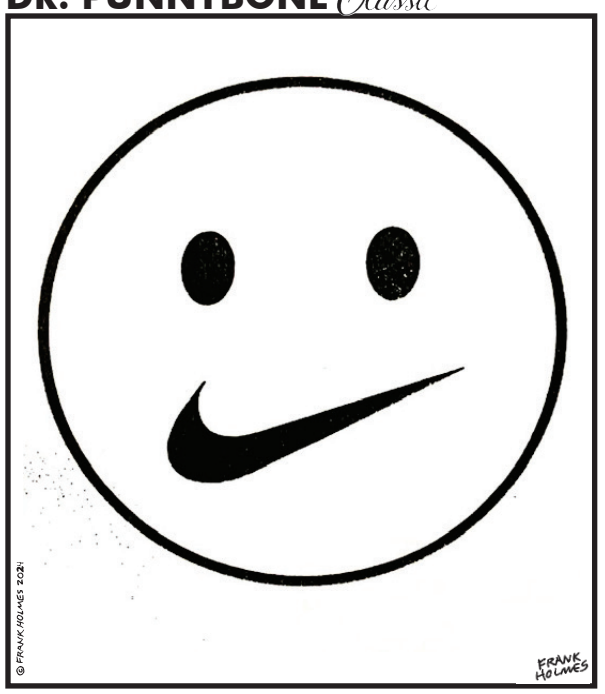
I had heard that it took several weeks for a new CHHA patient to receive a therapy visit, and noticed in June that the CHHA's start-of-care statistics are no longer included in the monthly report. I emailed the commissioner about my concerns about the CHHA and the report and he told me not to worry because the director was doing such a great job and to FOIL for any further information.

I can't tell you how tired I am of the culture of secrecy when I read that monthly report and listen to the commissioner. Legislators are free to blindly trust whatever they're told by county management and to vote without understanding what they're voting for, like how they voted recently to outsource Public Health's policies and procedures. That resolution showed the true lack of capacity Public Health now has to perform its own basic departmental functions. It was part of the agenda of the last legislature to sell the CHHA, and although that project was forestalled, the effect of the former chair's actions to deliberately undermine the public health department has taken its toll. A sure way to destroy any organization is to appoint incompetent leadership. The CHHA is a major resource for the community to receive health care at home, to improve health outcomes and to avoid costly hospitalizations or placement in a nursing home. It's the only certified home health care agency that serves the entire county. It's up to this legislature to ensure that the public service the CHHA has provided for the last 50 years continues.

I hope that we get a competent and qualified Director of Public Health this time around instead of a wrecking ball, and that the commissioner is held accountable for the condition of the CHHA.

Lise Kennedy lives in Neversink, NY.

DR. PUNNYBONE *Classic*



Have a Nike Day

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway."

—Michael Pollan



RR photo by Laurie Stuart

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Marc Fogel still sits in a Russian prison

This prisoner swap is good news for Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan and their families, but Marc Fogel is still sitting in a Russian prison.

Marc Fogel is a teacher from Pittsburgh with chronic health issues, whose health has declined significantly during his imprisonment. His 95-year-old mother, Malphine, fears she will never see him again.

As we celebrate the good news of today, we cannot forget about Marc and the Fogel family.

For years, I have been working alongside Marc's family to push the administration to bring Marc home. Negotiating with a foreign adversary is no easy task, but as the administration has worked to bring home high-profile Americans like Brittney Griner, Evan Gershkovich and Paul Whelan, we have only asked that they also prioritize Marc's release.

While Marc's name may not be in the news every day, he is no less deserving of a reunion with his family. This is a difficult day for Marc and his family. I have not forgotten about Marc, and I will never give up on bringing him home. I urge everyone who fought to bring Evan and Paul home to now work to do the same for Marc.

Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)

Washington, D.C.

A new treatment for PTSD

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has a profound impact not only on those with this diagnosis but on their friends and families as well. PTSD affects five out of every 100 adults in the United States, amounting to approximately 13 million Americans regardless of gender. Despite the prevalence of this condition, treatment options remain limited, often offering only short-term relief rather than addressing the root cause of the disorder.

There is, however, a new and promising treatment on the horizon: Methylenedioxymethamphetamine-Assisted Therapy (MDMA-AT). This innovative therapy has shown remarkable effectiveness in clinical trials, providing hope to those who have struggled with PTSD for years. Unlike traditional treatments, MDMA-AT addresses the underlying causes of PTSD symptoms.

It is critical that the Federal Drug Administration approves MDMA-AT in August. This decision could change the lives of millions of Americans who suffer from PTSD by offering the potential for lasting relief and healing.

As a retired U.S. Marine, I have seen the desperate need for more effective treatments for this disorder, and currently MDMA-AT represents a significant advancement in this field. While the FDA's advisory committee has initially recommended against this approval, organizations directly serving and daily administering care to our Veterans have advocated for the approval of this assisted therapy drug.

By advocating for this treatment, and urging the FDA's approval of MDMA-AT, Sen. Bob Casey and Sen. John Fetterman can help ensure that those suffering from PTSD receive the comprehensive care they need and a path toward the restorative health they deserve.

Barb Cross

Lt. Col. USMC Reserve (Ret.)

Carlisle, PA

Fire department trainings, screenings would be unfunded mandates

When you call 911, you're likely experiencing one of the worst days of your life. In that moment, you expect a response, right? But a new regulation proposed by President Biden's Department of Labor threatens to change all of that.

The new mandate requires volunteer fire departments to implement new training requirements and require additional health screenings with no federal funding to support it. The result? Fire departments in Upstate New York will cease to exist. Alarmist? Not at all.

Unlike New York City and other big cities, communities in upstate New York fully rely on volunteers. Herein lies the issue: As costs have risen, recruitment has gone down, and budgets have tightened.

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MIXED GREENS
BY CAROL ROIG

L'addition, s'il vous plaît

Every four years the Olympic Games take their place as the most widely watched and most expensive human event on the planet and, like most mega-events, potentially the most wasteful. Extraordinary political and economic leverage is brought to bear as cities compete for the privilege of hosting the games, communities are transformed to accommodate the needs of the games, sometimes without regard to their incumbent plans and character, and much touted economic and infrastructure benefits seldom live up to the extravagant promises.

Add to those pressures a new awareness of the climate impact of events on this scale. In its Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee announced sustainability goals for future Games, including reducing the number of new venues created by the host cities and reducing the number of participants and officials.

Moving beyond a post-Games assessment of the environmental impact of each Olympiad, the new directive asked host countries to proactively plan their games to maximize sustainability. It pledged that the IOC would operate as a "carbon neutral" organization and that the carbon footprint of future Games would be significantly reduced—30 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050.

Initially, there was a lot of talk about a carbon-neutral Olympic Games in Paris, but "carbon neutral" is a catchy phrase with a lot of loopholes; genuine carbon neutrality for Paris was not a feasible goal. What the Paris organizers actually promised was a dramatically lower carbon footprint compared to past Games, especially in London (2012) and Rio de Janeiro (2016), which averaged 3.5 million tonnes of CO2. Paris pledged to cut this impact in half, a commitment that aligns with the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement. That calls for a 50 percent reduction in global emissions by 2030.

Organizers focused on the construction sector as the best chance to achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions. They tackled this by using existing venues, through the use of recycled and bio-based low-carbon building materials, and by expanding the city's innovative cooling district—a closed-loop heat exchanger system built in 1991 that uses water from the Seine to cool more than 2,000 buildings in Paris. It is the largest such system in Europe.

The Olympic Village was built to a standard higher than France's already progressive green building standard. Designed to be repurposed as affordable housing after the Games, these apartments are cooled by a separate, newly built cooling district. Heat recovered from a data center is being used to heat the Olympic pool. Olympic venues are powered by 100 percent renewable energy.

Other strategies include heavy promotion of the city's extensive public transportation system and a focus on plant-based foods and local sourcing of at least 80 percent of the 13 million meals that will be served to participants at the Games. The organizers established a policy of zero single-use plastics at Olympic events and announced their support for four forestry projects to help offset carbon emissions related to the Games.

These are all great strategies as far as they go, but critics have been quick to point out that the Olympics are not yet addressing the bigger-ticket problems that require more transformative thinking. First is the problem of emissions from spectators' air travel to and from the Games, a significant portion of the indirect emissions relating to the event. The IOC could address this by limiting the number of seats available for each event, a change that would certainly be unpopular among the athletes and the general public. Others have proposed that the Games be rotated among a selection of cities that have already successfully hosted in the past. This would alleviate the need to build new facilities and infrastructure specifically for the Olympics, which are often poorly managed or underused after the games, and sometimes result in the wholesale displacement of thousands of residents—as happened in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Another concern is the use of Olympic sponsorship to greenwash bad environmental behavior by global corporations. The IOC could address this by setting performance standards for sponsors and dropping or avoiding bad environmental actors.

The post-Games assessment will measure how close Paris came to balancing their 1.5 million tonnes carbon budget. In the broader picture, Paris has also demonstrated that cities need to plan for the climate realities of the present and near future—a lesson with universal significance for urban planning and public health. Paris invested $1.5 billion in improvements to its stormwater management system to improve water quality in the Seine. The prolonged heavy rainfall that swamped the system and endangered the swimming portion of the triathlon events was unusual but on-trend for a warming planet. Athletes were disgusted, and stormwater management engineers labeled the system as outmoded for present and future conditions.

Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at the Imperial College of London, summed up the larger imperative: "Olympic games are a great opportunity to change cities, as for some reason people accept that athletes need to have a healthy environment, whereas ordinary citizens should live within pollution, traffic, noise and risk their life and health."

Learn more

Mega event syndrome

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full

An evaluation of the sustainability of the Olympic Games

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-021-00696-5

Olympic Agenda 2020

https://bit.ly/3SCrOeZ

District cooling

https://bit.ly/3YzEF5p

https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024/our-commitments/the-environment/carbon-method

Critique

https://carbonmarketwatch.org/2024/04/15/going-for-green-is-the-paris-olympics-winning-the-race-against-the-climate-clock/

https://apnews.com/article/olympics-triathlon-climate-change-seine-pollution-rain

LETTERS

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Fire departments in upstate New York, especially those in rural communities, are already hanging by a thread. This is why the Biden administration's proposal is so damaging; it's an unfunded mandate that our local fire departments can't absorb.

I served as a volunteer firefighter and remain a member of my local department. I know these men and women make monumental sacrifices. We want them to be as safe as possible, which is why I've prioritized directing federal dollars for fire departments to purchase new equipment, facilities and training. We also want firefighters to be able to comfortably live, work and raise a family here in New York. That's why I'm sponsoring legislation to give them a meaningful deduction on their taxes.

But the Department of Labor threatens to erase the progress we're making. Washington bureaucrats wrote this proposal without truly considering the voice of volunteer firefighters who respond to life and death calls day in and day out.

There's a reason Benjamin Franklin went to great lengths to establish the first fire department in 1736 in Philadelphia. Emergencies happen, and when you call for help, you expect a response.

I'm leading this fight because it's that important. The Biden administration must rework this dangerous mandate and thoroughly consider its impact on the volunteer fire departments that serve and protect upstate New York.

U.S. Rep. Marc Molinaro (R-NY-19)
Washington, D.C.

To resolve housing crisis, fix eviction court system

*[Ed. note: The following comment was posted on the **River Reporter** website under the story "Housing in the Hudson Valley is 'out of reach'," riverreporter.com/stories/housing-in-the-hudson-valley-is-out-of-reach,156709.]*

One place to start is fixing the eviction court system. I have been a landlord for 40 years in Sullivan County. I am selling all my apartments.

I had five evictions in the first 35 years. Since COVID, that number has increased five-fold in only a couple of years.

Evictions need to be fair for both tenants and landlords. Until then, affordable housing will be a dream. It costs approx $10,000 for an eviction between lawyers and lost rent.

That amount is added to other, good tenants' rent, making rentals higher.

Further, building costs to build new are very high and building codes are becoming restrictive and expensive. Property taxes in the '80s and '90s typically represented 1/12 of total income. Now they are far higher.

The system can be fixed, but it will not happen magically. Government needs to start addressing these issues.

Mark McLewin
Posted online

Congress needs to reform PBMs

Insurance companies and their middlemen, pharmacy benefit managers (PBM), have entirely too much control over the prescription drug marketplace. I saw this problem with my patients when I was a nurse, and I'm experiencing it firsthand now as a cardiac patient who also is living with rheumatoid arthritis.

PBM policies like step therapy, prior authorization and patient steering all have served the same basic purpose for insurers and PBMs—to cut costs and maximize profits by limiting, delaying or denying access to care for patients.

Often, PBMs will also force patients into paying for higher-cost medications and treatments when a lower-cost alternative may work just as well—all so they can inflate their profits even further.

I find it shocking that Congress has not passed PBM reform last year or this year, particularly since there is growing bipartisan support for it. Pennsylvania Senators John Fetterman and Bob Casey Jr. should support PBM reform.

Patients have waited long enough for legislators to stand up against insurers and PBMs. With the 2024 election season just heating up, this is an issue that I know I'll be watching. Some of our lawmakers in Washington can't afford to waste the opportunity to hold PBMs accountable again.

For their sake and the wellbeing of patients nationwide, I hope Congress gets it right this time.

Veronica Comfort
Fogelsville, PA

DEATH NOTICES

Gerald 'Jerry' Wayne Bunting

Gerald "Jerry" Wayne Bunting, 67, of Honesdale, PA, passed away July 25, 2024 on his family farm. Gerald was born October 10, 1956. Private services will be held at the convenience of his family.

Frederick R. Colberg Jr.

Frederick R. Colberg Jr., 73, of Beach Lake, PA, passed away July 25, 2024 at home. Frederick was born November 11, 1950 in Toms River, NJ. Services will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

Robert 'Bob' William Foell

Robert "Bob" William Foell, 95, of Hawley, PA, passed away July 29, 2024 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, PA. Robert was born May 7, 1929 in Astoria, NY. Visitation will be Thursday, August 8 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Teeters' Funeral Chapel, 505 Church St in Hawley, followed by a memorial service at 3 p.m. Inurnment follows at Glen Dyberry Cemetery in Honesdale.

Richard Michael Lasko

Richard Michael Lasko, 73, of Milanville, PA, passed away July 30, 2024 at Geisinger Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Richard was born September 17, 1950 in Brooklyn, NY. Visitation will be held Wednesday, August 7 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Hessling Murray Funeral Home, 428 Main St. in Honesdale, PA. A Mass of Christian burial will be held Thursday, August 8 at 10 a.m. in St. Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale. Interment will follow in Hillside Cemetery in Damascus, PA.

Neil 'Butchie' Regina

Neil "Butchie" Regina, 80, of Beach Lake, PA, passed away July 27, 2024 at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, PA. Neil was born May 21, 1944 in Brooklyn, NY. A Mass of Christian burial was held August 3 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Narrowsburg, NY. Burial followed in St. Francis Cemetery in Narrowsburg.

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The Bagel Festival is back

It's all things bagel and much more in Monticello

MONTICELLO, NY — The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and Bold Gold Media have teamed up again for the 12th annual Bagel Festival on Sunday, August 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It's presented by Ellenville Regional Hospital and Thompson Sanitation.

This year the event has more vendors, more music, more cars and more bagels than ever before, a spokesperson said.

During the Bagel Festival, Broadway in Monticello—the street is known worldwide as "Bagel Boulevard"—will be closed, and over 150 vendors will line the street to showcase their products, programs, and food. New for 2024: the vendor section will extend all the way to Pleasant Street.

The Any Make Any Model Car Show, sponsored by King's Collision, will have a larger area of the street to feature even more vehicles. Trophies are sponsored by Glen Smith Engineering.

Also new this year: on the Sullivan County Courthouse Lawn you can listen to the Bagel Festival Open Mic from 12 noon to 4 p.m.,



Photo by Christian Kaindl on Unsplash

This is just one way to serve up a bagel. See more, learn more and eat more bagels at the Bagel Festival in Monticello, NY on Sunday, August 11.

produced by local musicians Faith Kelly and Caswyn Moon.

At the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library, there will be a Kidz Zone, featuring a variety of fun kids' activities. It's held in partnership with Restoration Church.

The Monticello Bagel Bakery will have bagel activities and bagel merchandise available throughout the day.

The RadioBOLD Music Festival, produced by Bold Gold Media, will take place on the Fallsburg Lumber Fiberon Decking Stage. It will feature four returning local favorites: Far Beyond Gone, Somerville, Shades, The Electric Cords and—new this year—Misfit Toys.

Other family activities during the day include the Bagel Triathlon, hosted by Undersheriff Eric Chaboty, and the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts Scavenger Hunt.

It's a full day of fun for all ages, and of course there will be bagels.

For those coming from out of town, check out rooms at the official resort of the Bagel Festival, the Kartrite Resort & Indoor Waterpark, offering a Bagelfest special. Vendor spaces are going fast, but you can still get a space if you act quickly. If you are a local musician or artist and you want to showcase your talent, make sure to sign up for the Bagel Festival Open Mic.

For more information about the Bagel Festival visit thebagelfestival.org or find the Bagel Festival on Facebook or Instagram.

Multi-employer job fair in Pike

HAWLEY, PA — Approximately 20 employers from across Pike, Wayne and Monroe counties will have tables at the Workforce Development Agency's upcoming Multi-Employer Job Fair. It takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14, and will be held at the Wallenpaupack Area High School, 2552 US-6.

This free-admission event will offer employment opportunities in fields including education, health care, hospitality, law enforcement/corrections, sales and more.

The job fair is free of charge for both job seekers and employers.

Employer slots are limited, so register early. The employer registration form is available at www.pikepa.org/workforce.

For additional information, call Workforce Development Agency director Cindy DeFebo at 570/296-2909 or email cdefebo@pikepa.org.



Photo contributed by the Pike County Workforce Development Agency

Pike County's Workforce Development Agency (WDA) will host a job fair for residents of Pike, Wayne and Monroe counties in PA. Pictured are WDA employees Carmel Santiago, left; Mary Beth Sayles; Randy Philhower; Martyna Brzeska; Rebekah Marte; and Cindy DeFebo.

A perfect scoop

Pancakes and local ice cream

DAMASCUS, PA — To celebrate the last hot month of the summer season, there will be local ice cream topping the pancakes served at the Damascus Manor Community Center (DMCC) breakfast on Saturday, August 10 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at its facility at 60 Conklin Hill Rd.

A scoop of locally made Wahoo Heavenly Scoop vanilla ice cream will be offered along with the rest of the local fare prepared by the volunteers of DMCC.

Breakfast will include classic and buckwheat pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon and applesauce. Eggs are from Tom Candela's coops. Syrup is provided by Jeff and Linda Dexter, members of NEPA Maple Syrup Producers. Of course, there will be coffee and juice.

Wayne County has a long tradition of dairy farming in a state that has the second highest number of dairy-farm families in the country. Wahoo ice cream is made in Damascus Township and is served from its store at 169 Galilee Rd. in Tyler Hill.

People from near and far are welcome for country breakfast, camaraderie and conversation with neighbors and new friends. The cost is $12 per adult and $7 per child aged 12 and under. (Cash only.)

Proceeds from these breakfasts fund worthy causes in the community, including local first responders.

Recycling will take place from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the parking lot.

Families with children should remember the new playground on the township grounds. You can eat inside the center or outside in the picnic and events shed right by the playground.

The DMCC is available for rent for events and activities. Anyone interested in using the center or volunteering should find it on Facebook at Damascus Manor Community Center or call 570/729-7270.

The Damascus Manor Community Center serves the ongoing needs of the community and is committed to bringing neighbors together to connect with the best of what life has to offer in Damascus Township.

Contributed by the Damascus Manor Community Center.

LAKE HUNTINGTON NEWS

BY JENN POWELL

The time is right for dairy-free ice cream

Now that August has begun, I thought I would share one of my favorite recipes to beat the heat: dairy-free strawberry ice cream. For those who are lactose intolerant or prefer a dairy-free diet, traditional ice cream can be off limits. Fortunately, dairy-free alternatives have come a long way, and making your own is easier than ever.

This dairy-free strawberry ice cream recipe is not only simple to prepare but also deliciously creamy and bursting with fresh strawberry flavor. With just four ingredients, you can whip up a batch of this refreshing treat that everyone can enjoy.

1 pound (16 ounces) strawberries

1 14-ounce can full-fat coconut milk

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

Start by washing and hulling the strawberries. This means removing the green tops and any stems, ensuring that your ice cream is smooth and free of unwanted bits.

Place the strawberries, coconut milk, sugar and vanilla extract into a blender. Puree the mixture until it is smooth and creamy, which should take about two minutes. The coconut milk provides a rich, creamy base, while the strawberries add a natural sweetness and vibrant color.

Pour the blended mixture into a loaf pan. This shape is ideal for freezing and later scooping out the ice cream. Place the pan in the freezer.

For a soft-set ice cream, freeze for at least five hours. If you prefer a firmer texture, leave it in the freezer for six or more hours.

If you freeze the ice cream overnight or for an extended period, it could become very hard. Instead, let the ice cream sit at room temperature for a few minutes before serving. This will allow it to soften slightly and become more scoopable.

This dairy-free strawberry ice cream is a perfect summer dessert. The combination of ripe strawberries and creamy coconut milk creates a rich, luscious texture that's hard to resist. Plus, it's free from dairy, making it suitable for those with dietary restrictions.

Feel free to experiment with this recipe by adding other ingredients like chocolate chips, fresh mint or even a swirl of strawberry puree for an extra burst of flavor.

If you have a local business that you would like to have spotlighted in an upcoming column, get in touch. Email jenn@jennpowelldesigns.com with any news, events and happenings. Catch me online at www.everafterinthewoods.com for delicious recipes too.



CCE Sullivan's favorite time of year is back

Visit the Sullivan County Youth Fair

LIBERTY, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County (CCE Sullivan) invites the public to celebrate all that Sullivan County 4-H youth members, leaders, volunteers and clubs have accomplished throughout the year at the Sullivan County Youth Fair.

The fair takes place from Friday, August 16 through Sunday, August 18 at the Grahamsville fairgrounds.

From creative exhibits to entertaining animal shows and live auctions, there is something for everyone.

The Sullivan County Youth Fair is held annually with the Grahamsville Little World's Fair. Fairgoers can walk the Youth Building and two full barns to view more than 1,000 projects on exhibit, projects Sullivan County 4-H youth have created and nurtured over the past year.

Animal showmanship competitions will be held throughout the weekend. There will be a horse show, beef show, swine show, dairy show and a sheep and goat show.

Fairgoers who attend on Sunday can also participate in the 4-H Livestock & Agricultural Products Live Auction, which begins at 1 p.m. in the Upper Show Ring.

Dozens of volunteers and staff spend many hours pulling together exhibits; factoring scheduling and space options; navigating animal and biosafety issues; coordinating and orienting volunteers and activities for the public; processing local, state and Ag & Markets paperwork; soliciting donations; training 4-H members in preparation for shows; and a number of other tasks. It all makes the Sullivan County Youth Fair a safe, fun learning experience for county kids.

With that in mind, join CCE Sullivan in celebrating the hard work and dedication of 4-H youth and volunteers.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County's 4-H Youth Development program empowers any youth aged five to 18 to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. 4-H members have opportunities to connect to Cornell University resources and gain career readiness skills through hands-on activities and learning by doing. Sullivan County youth can enroll in 4-H at no charge all year long. To learn more about 4-H, call CCE Sullivan at 845/292-6180 or visit sullivancce.org/4-h-youth-development.

Contributed by Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County.

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It is surprising that this lovely dog has not yet found her permanent residence. Cali is a two-year-old boxer mix. She is good with cats, farm animals, dogs and children. Her nature is calm, yet playful. Cali exhibits excellent leash behavior and great potential for off-leash. Fully potty trained, she is the full package. This month, her adoption fee is reduced to $175; she is fully vetted and spayed.



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SNOOPY. This fella is a large 2-year-old Beagle/Lab mix, who is very friendly and well trained (sit/paw/stay). He is active on the leash and loves to follow his nose, but has good recall. Best with an active home life. Good with other dogs and cats.



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Faith & Shadow are a bonded pair that came to us after their owner sadly lost their home. They are both female, 3-4 years old, and possibly mixed with lab, collie, and German shepherd. Although they have grown up together, their personalities are complete opposites but they balance each other out. Faith is cool, calm, and collected. Shadow is goofy and bouncy, always ready to run a marathon. They are both very loving & adore people. We were told Shadow doesn't get along well with cats or small dogs, however she did not seem to mind our resident cat, Jack. Our goal is to adopt them out together since they have lived together their entire lives.



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A place to climb, a spot to safely scratch

Five tips for creating a purrfectly cat-friendly home environment

By BRANDPOINT

NATIONWIDE — Looking forward to adding a new feline family member?

With a little planning, you can make sure your cat will feel right at home, and you'll enjoy sharing the space together for years to come. Fortunately, it doesn't cost a lot to make your home ideal for any cat or kitten—all you need is a little know-how about what cats enjoy and what they need to thrive.

Even if you already have a cat or two at home, you can use these tips to help revamp your cat's environment.

1. Think vertical

Cats love to climb and jump, so providing a cat tower or other kind of climbing furniture is a good idea. Otherwise, they're likely to climb up on things you'd rather they didn't. (The china cabinet. The fridge. The wall.)

It also gives your cat somewhere they will always feel safe, especially if you have other animals or young children in the house.

While you're at it, make sure they have at least a couple of good hiding places throughout your home to help them feel safe and secure.



Contributed photo

2. A room with a view

Looking out the window is "cat TV" for them, so make sure that you have at least one good spot by a window where your kitty can enjoy looking out at the birds or squirrels for entertainment.

If you don't have an appropriate windowsill area built in, you could consider buying (or making) a perch specially designed for cats.

3. Let them scratch

Rather than declawing your cats, which can be painful and dangerous, and could cause future complications and behavioral problems, make sure that they have plenty of options for safely scratching. Regularly trim their claws. Placing cat scratching alternatives in front of or next to the furniture you especially don't want them to scratch can act as an effective distraction or deterrent.

4. Eliminate potential hazards

For the safety and well-being of your feline friends as well as that of your prized possessions, you might want to do a bit of "cat-proofing." It's similar to toddler-proofing. For example, use wire wraps and/or tuck cords well out of sight; some cats like to chew on them.

Have any breakable collectibles? Store them so your cats can't get at them.

Also, don't keep flowers or plants that could be dangerous to cats in your home—such as any form of lily—and keep toxic household cleaners out of reach.

5. Give them multiple hangouts

Just because you think one spot's perfect for a cozy cat bed or kitty condo, you can't know what they will find appealing until you try it out. Providing a few different options is your best bet—they'll soon let you know what their preferences are.

If they don't like your setup, try moving things to a different location and see what happens.

Keep in mind that you don't have to spend a fortune to keep your cat happy. Your cat's favorite hangout might be not a pricey cat bed, but a cardboard box with a towel inside.

It's also best to offer them more than one litter box option—preferably at least one box per cat, and in more than one location if possible.

Making a comfortable home for your cat will reap plenty of rewards for you, in the form of cuddles and purrs. With these tips, you'll be well on your way to creating your cat's ideal fur-ever home.

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Celebrate the Dog Days with a dog walk

SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — Come out and celebrate the dog days of summer at the third annual Bow WO&W Dog Walk on Thursday, August 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the new tunnel bypass segment of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail.

You'll meet at the trailhead next to the Dogpatch Town Park, which is located at 14 Old Country Rd.

At 5 p.m., there will be a ribbon cutting hosted by the Town of Fallsburg to officially open this new 1.1-mile section of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail.

"The Town of Fallsburg is thrilled to be the host of this year's BowWO&W Dog Walk starting at the new Dogpatch Town Park. Town staff from the Highway Department and Parks Department worked very hard to create this trail over the past year, and they did a phenomenal job," said town supervisor Michael Bensimon. "This new trail will eventually connect to a planned pedestrian bridge and boardwalk over the Neversink River where the old train trestle used to be."

"Be advised that this new trail is not flat like the rest of the O&W Rail Trail, so be prepared to tackle some hills and moderately steep grades," said Shannon Cilento of Sullivan 180, a member of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance.

Even if you don't plan to hike the trail, everyone is encouraged to bring their dog and enjoy the dog park. Dog-related vendors and organizations—including Catskill Animal Rescue, Catskill Veterinary Services, Great Companion Dog Training, and Lilly Bear Treats, just to name a few—will also have tables at the park.

Visit the event page at Facebook.com/SullivanOandW or call 845/428-9175 for more information.

Staying busy with community projects

Meet Carli, and learn about Cherry Ridge 4-H

By CARLI SEAMAN, News Reporter, Cherry Ridge 4-H Club

CHERRY RIDGE, PA — My name is Carli Seaman, and I'm a third-year member and reporter for Cherry Ridge 4-H. I am a resident of Greentown and attend the Wallenpaupack Area School District. I enjoy playing softball and basketball and being a big sister to my two little brothers.

The weekend of July 11-14, Cherry Ridge 4-H Club volunteered at the annual Women's Club Antiques Show. This year marked the 60th year of the show, which was held at Wayne Highlands Middle School.

Cherry Ridge members helped the Women's Club of Honesdale set up for the show by moving tables and chairs and arranging them throughout the gymnasium.

The Cherry Ridge volunteers also helped the vendors by carrying their unique antiques from their cars into the building.

After a very busy weekend for the vendors, the Cherry Ridge 4-H Club was there to help with cleanup on Sunday afternoon. That included carrying unsold items back to the vendors' cars and breaking down the tables and chairs that were set up earlier in the week.

Cherry Ridge 4-H stays busy throughout the year with community projects like this. The projects included a pet supply drive for Dessin Animal Shelter, a food drive for the local food pantry, a roadside trash cleanup, cleaning at the Wayne County library and making decorations and cards for the local elderly in a nursing home.



Contributed photos

Cherry Ridge 4-H members assist with cleanup after the Honesdale Women's Club antique show.

In the upcoming weeks, the Cherry Ridge 4-H will be very busy with the cleanup of barn facilities and projects for the Wayne County Fair. For the fair, we have a club project and individual show/market animal projects, including rabbits, pigs, goats, cows and sheep.

On top of these projects, you might have caught the Cherry Ridge 4-H Club volunteering at the milkshake stand on August 3 at the fair.

We hope to see you at the fair!



The Cherry Ridge 4-H Club cleaned up a roadside this year.



Photo contributed by the 4-H Explorers Club

Members of the 4-H Explorers Club participated in the Lake Ariel Parade on July 6.

4-H Explorers support fire company

By KYLIE BOLLING, News Reporter, 4-H Explorers Club

LAKE ARIEL, PA — On Saturday, July 6 members of the 4-H Explorers Club participated in the Lake Ariel Parade.

Each member had a bucket full of candy that they happily tossed at the onlookers.

This is an event the 4-H members attend yearly to support the Lake Ariel Fire Company.



Photo contributed by the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters

Chelsea Hill, pictured at the far right, is shown with all members of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club who will exhibit market hogs this year at the Wayne County Fair in Honesdale, PA.

4-H exhibitors trained in animal care, biosecurity

By JONATHAN NEBZYDOSKI, News Reporter, Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club

PLEASANT MOUNT, PA — At a recent meeting of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club, Chelsea Hill, Penn State Extension educator for Wayne County, taught the annual mandatory QAM (Quality Animal Management) training for 4-H members who will exhibit livestock for their project this year.

QAM teaches proper animal care, animal health and common knowledge relating to housing, feeding and biosecurity.

The Pleasant Mount Go-Getters take the QAM training so they can exhibit market lambs, dairy and beef cattle, goats and rabbits.

Bethany 4-H makes plans for the fair

By PARKER SHARIATMADARI, News Reporter, Bethany 4-H Club

BETHANY, PA — At our most recent meeting, Bethany 4-H Club discussed plans for the Wayne County Fair under a beautiful rainbow.

The fair this year will be held on August 2-10, and everyone is excited to show their animals and projects. Members finished their demonstrations for the year. If you would like to get involved in our humble 4-H, call 570/253-5970.

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Livestock auction helps 4-H, FFA members

Purchasing animals they raised at the auction translates into scholarships

By ORLEY WHITE

WAYNE COUNTY, PA — Each year, members of 4-H Clubs and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters of Wayne County enroll in Market Animal Programs.

Their leaders, parents and the personnel of the Wayne County Penn State Extension Office guide and educate them to carefully raise their market steers, hogs, sheep, goats and rabbits.

The projects are complete only when they turn in all the required paperwork and they exhibit their animals in various competitions at the Wayne County Fair.

Before there was a livestock auction, members took their animals home. They might have been added to breeding stock; the animals might have been slaughtered; or, in an attempt to recoup the monies they spent raising the animals, private buyers were found.

But in 1998, a few long-time supporters of the program created an auction. The Wayne County sale has become highly successful, frequently being the second- or third-highest-grossing sale in Pennsylvania, next to the Harrisburg sale.

The first auction began with about 10 animals; this year, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 10, 420 animals will be auctioned.

In 1998 the sale committee began a scholarship program to assist graduating senior 4-H and FFA members with the costs of higher education and careers. The fund's name, the Nebzydoski-White Memorial Jr. Livestock Scholarship Fund, honors two of the program's ardent supporters—Dr. David J. Nebzydoski and James D. White.

Scholarship funds are raised by direct donation, often in memory of a loved one, and by the "buy back" feature of the livestock sale. Those who purchase an animal at the auction can donate the animal back to be sold again. The proceeds from the resale go to the scholarship fund or any other charity of the second purchaser's choice. The buy-back method benefits 4-H or FFA twice: once when the initial sale proceeds are paid to the individual who raised the animal, and again for a future senior member, assisting them in their plans.

At the close of the 2024 sale, the committee will have donated 412 scholarships totaling $571,433. This year, 16 senior FFA or 4-H members will each receive $2,300.

Livestock Auction scholarship winners

The hard work of these 16 young people paves their way forward

By ORLEY WHITE

By the close of the 2024 Livestock Auction, the Scholarship Committee will have donated 412 scholarships totaling $571,433 since the scholarships began in 1998.

This year, the senior FFA or 4-H members will each receive $2,300.

Benedict J. Bateman, son of Russell and Kathleen Bateman, is a member of the Waymart Horizons Club. He plans on attending either Belmont Abbey College or Ave Maria University.

A member of the Calkins Ag Club, Caleb Bryant is enlisting in the United States Air Force. He is the son of R. Zackary and Katherine Bryant.

Ayden Connolly, a member of the Waymart Horizons Club, plans on attending Johnson College. His parents are Bob Barna and Cheryl Swingle.

Adam and Devena Dutton's daughter, Aurora Dutton, is a member of the Maple Line 4-H Club. She will be attending Penn State University.

Emily Eccles will continue to run her own business. She is the daughter of Allen and Michelle Eccles and is a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters.

Miranda Grossman is the daughter of Edward and Amy Grossman. She is a member of the Cherry Ridge 4-H Club. She has been accepted to West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Allen and Margaret Kellogg's daughter, Brooke Kellogg, is a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club. She will attend Johnson College.

Carter Kennedy, a member of the Tri-Gal 4-H Club, is the son of Paul and Heather Kennedy. He has been accepted at Penn State University.

Rozlyn Maciejewski is the daughter of Jason and Rebecca Maciejewski. A member of the Calkins Ag 4-H Club, she will attend Temple University.

Peter Modrovsky, the son of Mike and Kim Modrovsky, will attend De Sales University. He is a member of the Tri-Gal 4-H Club.

Elyse Montgomery is the daughter of Jay and Emily Montgomery. She is a member of the Calkins Ag 4-H Club and has been accepted at the University of Scranton.

Weston Nugent, a member of Waymart Horizons 4-H Club, plans to attend Johnson College, majoring in diesel truck technology. His parents are Matt and Jada Nugent.

Matthew Reed, son of Harley and Barbara Reed, is a member of the Creamton 4-H Club. He plans to attend Lackawanna College.

Drew Rutledge is the son of Doug Rutledge and Julie Olver. He is a member of the Bethany 4-H Club and will continue his education online.

Sarah Spinelli, the daughter of Brian and Beth Spinelli, will attend Penn State University. She is a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters.

Karleigh Weist is a member of the Explorers 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Andy and Tammy Weist and will attend Kings College.

The Pleasant Mount Go-Getters



Photo contributed by the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters

The Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club showed patriotic pride with their festive float in the Pleasant Mount, PA parade on July 4. Club members decorated the float prior to the parade with flower boxes, a garland, the 4-H flag and the club sign. The club is led by key leaders Mark Nebzydoski, Brian Eltz, Carrie Bonham, and Jeremy and Jessica O'Neill. Submitted by 4-H News Reporter Jonathan Nebzydoski.

Thank you to our interns!

The 2024 Sullivan 180 interns are working in Bethel, Highland, Liberty, Livingston Manor, Lumberland, Thompson and Woodridge.

The internship program offers interns an opportunity to connect with peers, learn about Sullivan County and engage with community members. Interns develop communication, interpersonal, problem-solving and leadership skills while working as part of a team.

"At first this was just a job that worked well with my theater schedule but now I have realized the value of my work in my community and how it is a chance for me to be involved and respected at such a young age."

— Aly Galvin-Bliefernich, Town of Highland



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Currents | WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ARTS, LEISURE AND OUTDOORS

Youth Academy gets straight A's

By TED WADDELL

SWAN LAKE, NY — Sullivan County's first-ever Emergency Services Youth Academy introduced seven 14-to-15-year-old cadets to the world of local fire, emergency medical services (EMS) and law enforcement during the week of July 22 to 26.

The comprehensive orientation program was held at the county's Emergency Services Training Center. The training center is a division of the Sullivan County Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security and the Sullivan County Bureau of Fire. It serves as a multi-agency training facility for local fire departments, EMS, law enforcement—Sullivan County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), New York State Police (NYSP) and local officers—and county government.

The first four days covered a wide range of topics: a tour of the county's state-of-the-art 911 center, search and rescue (SAR), ropes and knots, fire suppression and CPR and first aid. There was also an introduction to law enforcement, including drone use, cybercrime and CSI—and more.

On the final day, the cadets participated in a simulated exercise that "pulled it all together with one big scenario, using everything they learned from the week to resolve an emergency incident," said John Hauschild, Sullivan County's deputy commissioner of public safety/fire coordinator.

"It was a great opportunity for our youth to learn, and get hands-on experience," Hauschild continued. "The academy is a great recruitment tool to hopefully encourage the cadets to join their local fire department, EMS or law enforcement as they become of age." He noted that some of the cadets are already members of the local fire/EMS community.

"This week was absolutely amazing, with so much positive energy from the cadets," he continued. "The cadets are getting information and knowledge not only to be used in the emergency services, but everyday life… The positive energy that has been given by the cadets and all emergency services within the county is beyond words."

As part of the week-long emergency services intensive orientation, the cadets were given a tour of the county's 911-Dispatch Center, which is located at the Sullivan County International Airport. They also saw the Bureau of Public Safety's rehabilitation bus, a recently acquired 14-passenger vehicle equipped to provide aid to firefighters and EMS personnel at the scenes of emergencies.

The rehabilitation bus was at the scene of the recent Russell Farm fire, and has been deployed at drownings, wildland fires, structure fires and searches for lost persons. As Hauschild put it, the bus is there for "situations where we need to take care of our first responders."

The rig is set up with on-board stations to take blood pressures, monitor other vital signs, provide misting on hot days—and during winter operations, there are portable heaters. First responders can even grab a cup of soup or hot chocolate.

"We have to take care of ourselves," said Hauschild. "Every person is important to us. It's tiring work, stressful and non-stop."

Public Safety Commissioner Scott Schulte has been "a great supporter of this youth program, and has supported getting youth involved in emergency services," said Alex Rau, 911 and EMS coordinator. "I could not be prouder of the cadets that we have in the program, and of being part of the public safety team that brought this to fruition. We also have teens that want to pursue medical careers in the future, so this has been a great opportunity to show them many aspects of emergency services."



RR photos by Ted Waddell

Detective Anthony Skow of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office shows 14-year-old Celeste D'Andrea how to breach a locked door using a battering ram to simulate a dynamic entry. All the students had a chance to practice this form of gaining entrance to a potentially barricaded dwelling.

The agencies behind the academy

The Emergency Services Youth Academy was a joint effort between the county's Division of Public Safety; 911; the Bureau of Fire, including the Recruitment and Retention Task Force and Join Sullivan Fire; the Bureau of EMS; the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office; the New York State Police; the county manager's office; and other county departments.

"A friend of mine told me about it, and I hoped to get some training in CPR and AED," said Celeste D'Andrea, a student at Monticello High, a 15-year-old who will be entering her sophomore year in the fall.

Her mother is a nurse in Middletown, and Celeste said she's eyeing a career in medicine, possibly starting out as an EMT.

"We learned a lot of educational things, lots of hands-on things," she said. When it came to law enforcement, "They showed us a lot of behind the scenes stuff."

Asked if she would recommend the Emergency Services Youth Academy to her peers, Celeste replied, "Definitely. It has a lot of good skills you can use, like CPR, even if you're not going into emergency services."

Celeste's grandparents, Lillian and Robert Francis of Middletown, came to the academy's graduation ceremony. Shortly before the cadets were awarded their certificates, Lillian Francis said, "I think it's been an excellent opportunity for her to learn about different careers, and it's given her some skills."

Robert Francis came to the graduation ceremony as a 23-year veteran of the United States Air Force. He spent another 15 years as a New York State court officer.

"I think it was beneficial to her. It opened up a lot of doors and ideas for her. It's a worthwhile activity for kids," he said.

The Emergency Services Youth Academy cadets

All are listed with their school districts.

Madysen Brown (home schooled), Celeste D'Andrea (Monticello), Carolmay Gugliotta (Livingston Manor) , Philip Kolark (Liberty), Nicholas Rivenburg (Livingston Manor), Jaden Washington (Monticello) and Cody Winters (Liberty).

Interested in the academy? Watch the Sullivan County NY Bureau of Fire page on Facebook.

For the more photos, visit www.riverreporter.com.



Sullivan County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Barrett explains to the youth academy students how drones are used in various law enforcement and search-and-rescue operations.

‘You either have it in your blood, or you don’t!’

By TED WADDELL

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — It all started with Prometheus, who according to ancient Greek mythology ripped off the Olympians and gave fire to humanity.

Ever since then, folks have been faced with a two-edged sword in the form of flame. It cooks food and keeps people warm. And they’re forced to battle blazes that take lives, destroy property and endanger the environment.

Once the genie was out of the bottle, civilizations across the globe created deities to worship fire; they named entities the likes of the Bantu Nyambe, the Hindu Agni, Arshi Tenger of Mongolian myth, the Celt’s Aed, Helios of Greek lore and personification of the Sun, and Mixcoati, the Aztec hunting god who introduced fire to humanity.

But don’t forget St. Florian, the patron saint of firefighters, a saint who lived during the tumultuous era when the Romans were endeavoring to eradicate Christianity.

St. Florian was the leader of a Roman firefighting brigade, and he keeps watch over modern-day firefighters. His likeness is featured on many fire companies’ signature logos.

In the 17th century, what was at the time called a great conflagration broke out in Boston in 1631. As a result, the Massachusetts Bay Colony decreed that smoking was banned in public places.

In 1647, New Amsterdam created a firefighting system: fire wardens inspected houses and chimneys and fined residents if hazards were discovered.

Eight-man teams called a Rattle Watch patrolled the streets after dark, and if a fire was discovered, shook wooden rattles to warn townsfolk of the impending disaster.

Benjamin Franklin founded the first American volunteer fire company in Philadelphia in 1736, and among those who served as early volunteer firefighters were such luminaries as George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Hancock, Samuel Adams and Paul Revere.

In 1818, Molly Williams took the initial step for women to be accepted into the fire service. The trailblazer from New York reportedly “took her place with men on the drag ropes and pulled the pumper to the fire through deep snow.”

According to Wikipedia, early firefighters were members of the colonies who banded together to battle fires in bucket brigades, and were often paid by insurance companies in return for protecting their clients.

As this method eventually became unreliable, the first professional fire departments were established in Cincinnati, OH by 1853.

Today, fire departments protect an estimated 68 percent of the county’s ever-growing population, with a total of more than 1.2 million firefighters serving in more than 29,000 departments nationwide. They respond to emergencies from more than 58,000 fire stations spread across the United States.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) states that of the county’s legion of firefighters, 65 percent are volunteers, and of the total of fire departments, almost 19,000 are staffed completely by volunteers.

In the news today

The Sullivan County Bureau of Fire, Bureau of Emergency Services (EMS) and local law enforcement agencies—including the New York State Police and the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Office—conducted the first-ever Emergency Services Youth Academy for young people aged 14-16 who expressed interest in joining the ranks of firefighters, EMS responders or law enforcers. It was held July 22-26 at the Emergency Services Training Center. See story, page 14.

“We are hoping that it will be very successful, a plant a seed, get them interested in public safety,” said John Hauschild, deputy commissioner and fire coordinator of Sullivan County’s Division of Public Safety. “It will let them see how much people can do to help others. It’s not just a paycheck.”

Asked why people should join a fire department or EMS squad, Hauschild, now in his 43rd year of being involved with local firematics and public safety, said it’s often a generational call to duty, as his father served with Protection Hose Co. #1 of Jeffersonville as did other members of the family. That includes his father, Donald “Pop” Hauschild, who served for 56 years, and his son Gavin, former Bulldogs star QB, now a student at the Maritime Academy, studying emergency operations management.

John Hauschild said that joining a volunteer fire department is time consuming and takes dedication, but “It’s rewarding, helping people in the community, your neighbors… in time of need, helping somebody who’s having the worst day of their life, a motor vehicle accident, a structure fire, any type of emergency. That person’s having a bad day, and you can help them get a sense of relief.”

In making a pitch to get folks to join the ranks of the county’s volunteer fire departments, Hauschild noted that there are a lot of jobs that don’t require putting your life on the line.

“You don’t have to run into a burning building,” he said, explaining that other duties can involve water rescue, driving the apparatus and fire police.

Like a high percentage of communities nationwide, the Upper Delaware River Valley is hurting for volunteer firefighters: folks have to work multiple jobs to pay the bills; the new generation is forced to leave to find work; or there’s a sense of “let the other guy or gal do it, I don’t have the time.”

In an effort to get people to join a local volunteer fire department, the Sullivan County Division of Public Works in the form of the Bureau of Fire has recently started a series of recruitment and retention initiatives: “Join Sullivan Fire” and “Is There A Fire in You?”

On the topic of public service by serving in a local fire company, the veteran firefighter said, “You either have it in your blood, or you don’t!”

‘My Curious Mind’ at the ARTery

MILFORD, PA — For August, the ARTery Gallery celebrates “The Curious Mind” by bringing together the work of two curious and creative artists: acrylic painter Kate Horan and eclectic sculptor Bill Rabsey.

An opening reception will be held at the ARTery Gallery from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, August 10. Refreshments are included.

Horan’s fairly large pieces capture unusual scenes and characters. Rabsey expresses his curiosity through unusual “found” objects that he features in their unique sculpture formation.

Bill Rabsey works out of his Lost and Found Gallery in his hillside barn in Greenville, NY. When creating sculptures, he uses objects found either on his travels or bought at yard sales and transformed through creativity because their context is altered.

There is no admission charge for the opening.

The month-long exhibit will be on display from Thursday, August 8 through Monday, September 9. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays.



Contributed image

Works by Kate Horan will be on display at the ARTery Gallery from Thursday, August 8 through Monday, September 9. Pictured is “Too Much?”.

The gallery is located at 210 Broad St.

Learn more at www.arterygallerymilford.com.

Chamberlain Brass performs at Grey Towers

MILFORD, PA — Kindred Spirits Arts Programs will present a concert by Chamberlain Brass at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 11 at the Grey Towers Open Amphitheater.

Titled “From Handel to Sousa,” the concert covers classics, opera, musicals and patriotic tunes.

Admission is free.

This concert is in cooperation with the Grey Towers Heritage Association. Bring your own blankets, chairs, umbrellas—and your friends.

Learn more at kindredspiritsarts.org.

Weekend of song at Harmony in the Woods

HAWLEY, PA — Music venue Harmony in the Woods offers a weekend of French classics, pieces of Americana and rock.

On Friday, August 9 at 6 p.m., Laura Anglade will perform with the Ben Rosenblum Quartet. The French-American Anglade will perform classics from both sides of her heritage, backed by pianist, accordionist and composer Ben Rosenblum and his quartet.

Mike Mizwinski, who hails from the region, returns to Harmony at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 10 with his full band The Northeast Extension. On offer that evening are Americana, blues, folk and rock.

Tickets for the Anglade/Rosenblum concert cost $25 for general admission.

Tickets for Mizwinski and the Northeast Extension cost $32.

Ticket price includes a lawn chair.

Shows take place at 19 Imagination Way. Doors open 45 minutes prior to showtime. Attendees are encouraged to BYOB and dress for the outdoors.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.harmonyinthewoods.org. For additional questions or for help purchasing tickets, call 570/503-6685.



Con Brio Quartet, Katherine Lerner Lee at Shandelee Music Festival

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — The Shandelee Music Festival will celebrate its 31st season beginning at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13 with an Evening of Chamber Music, performed by the Con Brio Quartet.

Composed of award-winning international musicians, the quartet will play string quartets by Philip Glass, Mozart and Dvorak.

Con Brio's members are violinists Marina Lenau and Evgeniya Antonyan, violist David Pedraza and cellist Aziz Sapaev. They perform as soloists and orchestra members with ensembles around the world. Currently, they are all members of several local musical organizations, including the Palm Beach Symphony, Symphony of the Americas, Florida Grand Opera and Palm Beach Pops.

On Thursday, August 15 at 8 p.m., Katherine Lerner Lee headlines an Evening of Voice. Lerner Lee has sung opera, chamber and contemporary music—and more. In the fall of 2023, she premiered Jon Deak's Christmastime concert drama "Ingmar and the Bear" with the 21st Century Consort in Washington D.C., and made her European recital debut performing songs of Rachmaninov and Chopin in Arezzo, Italy.

While in Italy, she was awarded third prize at the Altamura/Caruso International Voice Competition, as well as a special jury recognition as the most promising contestant. Katherine has performed as a soloist at Symphony Space, Carnegie Hall and both the Brooklyn and Cleveland Museums of Art. Operatic credits include Susanna in "Le nozze di Figaro," Gold-Spur in "The Cunning Little Vixen" and Clori in Cavalli's "L'egisto."



On Thursday, August 15 at 8 p.m., Katherine Lerner Lee headlines an Evening of Voice at the Sunset Concert Pavilion in Livingston Manor.

The Shandelee Music Festival presents internationally renowned classical artists from around the world with six performances at its 2024 Sunset Concert Series.

All performances take place in the Sunset Concert Pavilion, located at 442 J. Young Rd. The venue is fully accessible.



Photos contributed by the Shandelee Music Festival

The Con Brio Quartet will perform an Evening of Chamber Music at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13 at the Sunset Concert Pavilion in Livingston Manor, NY.

Regular tickets cost $35 and those for Shandelee Music Festival members cost $30. Students aged 17 and under, or those with valid college I.D., pay $10.

Advance reservations are required. Visit Shandelee.org or call 845/439-3277 for member or sponsorship information and ticket reservations.

The life of an 18th-century physician

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Bold Gold Media speaker series will present Prof. Donald Terpening on "The Life of the 18th Century Physician," at 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 10 at Fort Delaware.

One of the original Cushetunk settlers, John Calkin, was a doctor. Terpening offers insights into how a physician and surgeon might have lived and practiced in the 18th century.

Then at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 11, herbalist Richard Mandelbaum presents "Splendid and Miraculous," about the herbal remedies employed by many of the Native Americans and colonial settlers in the 18th century.

The museum is located at 6615 Rte. 97.

Learn more on Facebook at Fort Delaware Museum.

Annual book sale at the Jeff firehouse

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — The dates are set for the annual Firehouse Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Western Sullivan Public Library.

The sale, held at the Jeffersonville Firehouse, will run Thursday, August 8 through Saturday, August 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

Saturday is bag day; fill up a bag for $2. There are thousands of gently used books, CDs, DVDs and more to choose from with prices as low as $0.25.

If you are interested in volunteering at this community event, there is a sign-up sheet at the Jeffersonville Branch or you can call the number below and choose a time that best works for you. Help is needed setting up before the sale, working during the sale, and cleaning up whatever is left over at the end.

For more information, call 845/482-4350.

Born to explore: Richard Wiese at Milford

MILFORD, PA — Learn about the natural world in both far-off places and closer to home when explorer Richard Wiese comes to Milford on Saturday, September 14 during the Milford Readers and Writers Festival weekend.

Wiese, who climbed Kilimanjaro at age 11, was the longest-serving president of the Explorers Club and was the producer and host of the Emmy-winning ABC and PBS program "Born to Explore."

During the festival, on Saturday, September 14 at 3:45 p.m. at the Milford Theatre, he will talk about his travels and his book, titled "Born to Explore: How to Be a Backyard Adventurer." Megan Smith-Harris, a playwright and documentary film producer, will be his partner for the discussion.



Photo contributed by the Milford Readers and Writers Festival

Explorer and adventurer Richard Wiese will speak at the Milford Readers and Writers Festival on Saturday, September 14 at 3:45 p.m.

The mainstage program will include a Q&A with Wiese. A book signing will be held at the theatre following the panels that day.

The festival also offers a variety of free programs.

Ticket prices vary.

Learn more and purchase tickets at milfordreadersandwriters.com.







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The magic of raku at Sullivan Public

ELDRED, NY — Artist Brady Candell will lead workshop participants through an exploration of raku from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 10 at Sullivan Public.

This is the first raku workshop in an ongoing series.

Experienced potters who can bring their own bisqueware and new potters are invited.

Email ahead of registration to discuss the workshop.

Sullivan Public will provide dozens of glazes, varying reduction chambers and multiple combustible options, horsehair etc. This is a full day and a full-participation workshop. Everyone will be expected to have a hand in this firing. The point is the amazing process rather than the product, said Sullivan Public owner Jessie Lazar. Expect some breakage as you learn.

Everyone will be assured that three pieces (about six inches by six inches or smaller) will get fired. But bring more; we hope to be able to process additional work.

A pizza lunch will be provided, but if you have dietary restrictions please plan accordingly.

An email with suggestions on what pottery to make/bring, what to wear, what to expect and so on will follow registration.

Raku is an outdoor alternative firing technique and there is inherent danger in working with fire and extremely hot elements. Participants are asked to be aware of these conditions; they will need to sign a liability waiver to participate.

The workshop is limited to 14 participants, and the cost is $150.

Sullivan Public is located at 16 Proctor Rd.

Learn more at sullivanpublic.com.

Joel Hill Sawmill to open for tours

EQUINUNK, PA — The Joel Hill Sawmill, a water-powered, Civil War-era sawmill, and the Cleveland Museum, which houses late 19th-century vintage tools and (mostly) operational industrial machinery, will be open for tours on Saturday and Sunday, August 10 and 11. Tours begin at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Come see a demonstration of the way logs are cut into lumber by the water-powered 36-inch saw blade.

The sawmill is located at 736 Duck Harbor Rd.

For more information, call Greg at 570/798-2420.



Art by tattooists at the WCAA

HONESDALE, PA — The Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA) Gallery is hosting "Idle Hours," an art show and concept curated by Dan Nelson of Happy Tattoo.

An opening reception will be held on Friday, August 9 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The exhibit is currently on view at the gallery.

The show features nine tattoo artists. Tattooing is a job; however, most outsiders view it as an art form. Tattooers themselves tend to view tattooing as a trade. Like many trades, there are traditions and rules which have been set forth by those who came before. Because of the intensity of the work, the hyperfocus, the showmanship and the one-on-one nature of the process, the exhausted tattooer often clocks out after work.

Idle Hours is an attempt to highlight those who don't let tattooing get in the way of pursuing art.

The show features tattooers from across the U.S., who in addition to exhibiting their work will be tattooing live in the gallery on Saturday and Sunday, August 10 and 11. The artists are J. Adams, Jacob Des, Hillary Fisher-White, Chris Kline, Ryan Mettz, Amelia Martin, Jeff Pfeil, A.P. Shrewsbury, Erik Von Bartholomaus—and as a special neon accompaniment, Wayne Heller (MoonSignNYC).

The show will run until Friday, August 30. The gallery is located at 959 Main St. Hours are Thursdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Learn more at waynecountyartsalliance.org.



IN MY HUMBLE OPINION
BY JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

StoryCorps: Bringing people together, one conversation at a time

Since last May, I've been hearing about folks discussing something called StoryCorps and One Small Step, in which our local NPR station, WJFF, is involved.

I took a look at Radio Catskill's website to learn more, and read this: "Created by StoryCorps, One Small Step is an effort to remind the country of the humanity in all of us, even those with whom we disagree."

I learned that "the initiative brings strangers with different political beliefs together for a conversation—not to debate politics—but to get to know each other as people," and that "Radio Catskill and StoryCorps invite you to take part in One Small Step, an effort to bring communities together, one conversation at a time."

Recently, I (JCF) sat down with the local StoryCorps team—project manager Isabel Braverman (IB), facilitator Judy Balaban (JB) and assistant producer Ronald Kelson (RK)—to learn more.

JCF: I guess I should start at the beginning. What is StoryCorps?

IB: StoryCorps is a nationwide project committed to the idea that everyone has an important story to tell and that everyone's story matters. This part of StoryCorps is called One Small Step, and WJFF was one of seven radio stations chosen to participate in 2024. With participant permission, these conversations will be preserved for future generations at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

JCF: It's my understanding that there is a limited time frame involved with the project, and that you're actively recruiting locals to participate. Is that the case?

IB: Yes. This project will conclude at the end of the year.

JB: We have a couple of months to complete 26 interviews, and we're encouraging people to sign up right away because it takes time to match people up, record the conversations and edit them.

JCF: What are the criteria for applying to participate?

IB: Anyone within the WJFF listening area is welcome to apply, including Sullivan County, Wayne County and parts of Pike County as well.

RK: The whole point is to talk with local, real people from all walks of life, because WJFF is a hub for all sorts of residents, and it's a way of making sure we get a wide range of individuals' personal stories and core values.

IB: Right. Even though the point of the project is not about politics per se, we're looking to put people with different political views together.

JCF: Why is political affiliation an issue at all?

JB: I think it's because the country is so politically divided right now. Part of the mission statement is to get two people who might otherwise never speak with each other, to sit down and have a conversation. So while it might not be specifically about politics, we're seeking people with different viewpoints.

JCF: I'm not sure I'm grasping this. Can you give me an example of what's being asked of us on the questionnaire?

IB: Sure. Aside from asking people a number of questions and to rate themselves on a scale of one to 10, where one is most liberal and 10 is most conservative—in relation to those topics, there are questions like "what life-changing experience have you had lately?" Things like "have you moved to a new area recently, started a new job or become a new parent?"

RK: Right. The questionnaire has been developed by the project to learn more about your personality, and how things that have happened in your life make you who you are. Through those responses we are able to determine who might best be paired up to have those conversations from different perspectives.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

WJFF Radio Catskill's StoryCorps project manager Isabel Braverman, center, with facilitator Judy Balaban and assistant producer Ronald Kelson.

JB: The computer program developed by StoryCorps then determines which people might make a good match, and that's how the conversation starts.

JCF: So there's no predetermined topic, but there's a moderator? Do you just allow the conversation to organically flow without direction?

IB: Yes. Judy and I are the moderators, but we stay in the background unless needed. Once the conversation is recorded, we ask those involved to approve it after the initial editing process is complete. They are then asked if they're willing for the end result to be public or private, so people can participate without the conversation being aired on the radio. It's their choice.

JCF: How does that conversation begin, or evolve? What is the jumping-off point?

RK: Each pair starts off reading the other's file and bio, and there are a couple of kick-off questions provided by StoryCorps.

JCF: I have to remember that this is not a local project, but one that is part of a national program, and designed by StoryCorps, not WJFF, right? How long has it been around?

IB: Correct. StoryCorps has been in existence since the 1990s, but this branch of it—One Small Step—was originally created in 2016.

JCF: What's the difference between the two?

RK: StoryCorps produces all sorts of people's stories, which includes relatives, friends, people who know each other—that sort of thing. The sub-program, One Small Step, was designed to use radio stations to bring two complete strangers with diverse opinions together to [possibly] find common ground.

JCF: This all sounds worthwhile, in my humble opinion. No time like the present, right?

JB: Right. David Isay, who started Story Corps [with Benji Isay] realized that he wanted to do something about the divisiveness in the country, so therefore One Small Step, because that's a reasonable way to bring people together. That's what this is about. Just taking one small step toward that goal.

Radio Catskill is teaming up with civic organizations, churches and other community groups and leaders to spread the word and connect residents from all backgrounds who are ready to take One Small Step.

Do you want to get your group or organization involved in the effort? Contact Isabel Braverman for more details. Email isabel@wjffradio.org.

For info on how to apply and see examples of One Small Step conversations, go to wjffradio.org/take-one-small-step-upstate-ny-nepa-with-radio-catskill-and-storycorps/.

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Where & When

Thursday, August 8

'Day in the Life of a Farm' @ WCHS
HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Historical Society exhibit "A Day in the Life of a Farm," noon-7pm, JB Park Farm Museum,WC Fairgrounds, Miller Dr. waynehistorypa.com/calendar.

Dream on the Farm @ FAC
DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective, Dream on the Farm, "Conference for those Still Living" 6:30-8:30pm Thurs. through Sun. Willow Wisp Organic Farm, 38 Hickory Ln. myrivertickets.com.

Evening Paddle @ Lacawac Sanctuary
LAKE ARIEL, PA — Lacawac Sanctuary evening paddle, 6:30pm, 94 Sanctuary Rd. $10/person. Register lacawac.org.

Summer Film Series @ HPAC
HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre summer film series, kids 10am, seniors 2pm, 219 Main St. hpacny.org.

Summer Concert Series @ BLM
KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY — Bethel Lakeside Music Thursday summer concert series, 6-8pm, Kauneonga Lake Gazebo Park, 3562 State Rte. 55. facebook.com/2017BLM.

Wayne County Fair @ Honesdale
HONESDALE, PA — 162nd Wayne County Fair, through Aug. 10, 270 Miller Dr. $12/per person per day. waynecountyfair.com.

'Willy Wonka' @ FBPH
FORESTBURGH, NY — The Forestburgh Playhouse, Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka," Thurs. & Sat., 11am through Aug. 17, 39 Forestburgh Rd. fbplayhouse.org.

Friday, August 9

'Art in Bloom' @ DVAA
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, "Art in Bloom" exhibition curated by Jane Luchsinger, 37 Main St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

'Cats' @ RCP
HAWLEY, PA — The Ritz Company Playhouse, "Cats: Young Actors Edition," Fri. & Sat. 7:30pm, 2 Keystone St. ritzplayhouse.com.

Laura Anglade @ Harmony in the Woods
HAWLEY, PA — Laura Anglade with the Ben Rosenblum Quartet, 6-8pm, 19 Imagination Way. harmonyinthewoods.org.

Opening Reception @ WCAA
HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance, opening reception for "Idle Hours," an exhibit curated by Dan Nelson, 5-8pm, 959 Main St. waynecountyartsalliance.org.

Retro Cinema @ Tusten Theatre
NARROWSBURG, NY — The DVAA & Bar Veloce, "Westworld," 7-9pm, 210 Bridge St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

Stourbridge Lion Anniversary @ WCHS
HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Historical Society Main Museum, 195th Stourbridge Lion Anniversary, 11am-4pm, 810 Main St. waynehistorypa.com.

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'Wizard of Oz' @ SCDW
SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop "The Wizard of Oz," Fri.-Sat. 8pm, Sun. 2pm through Aug. 18, 5243 State Route 42. $18/GA, $15/senior, student, scdw.net.

Saturday, August 10

Car Show @ TMR
NARROWSBURG, NY — Ten Mile River Scout Museum car show, TMR Museum, 1481 County Rd 26. $15 per car. tmrmuseum.org.

Damascus Forest Hike @ WSPL-TC
BEACH LAKE PA — Western Sullivan Public Library & National Park Service host a hike on the Damascus Forest Trail, 10am-noon, meet at 109 Maccubbins Rd. wsplonline.libcal.com/event.

Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk @ DHC
BEACH LAKE, PA — Edible & Medicinal Plank Walk with Heather Houskeeper, 1-4pm, 571 Perkins Pond Rd. delawarehighlands.org.

Fly Tyers Series @ CFFCM
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, Fly Tyers Series with Craig Mazur, 11am-3pm, 1031 Old Rte. 17. Register, cffcm.com.

Joel Hill Sawmill Tour @ EHS
EQUINUNK, PA — The Equinunk Historical Society, Joel Hill Sawmill/Cleveland Museum tours, Sat. 10am & 1pm, Sun. 1pm, 1972 Pine Mill Rd. equinunkhistory.com.

Latin Culture Fest @ HPAC
HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, Latin Culture Fest, 2-6pm, 219 Main St. hpacny.org.

'Life of the 18th Century Physician' @ Fort Delaware
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Company & Bold Gold Media speaker series, Professor Donald Terpening, "The Life of the 18th Century Physician" 3pm, 6615 NY-97. thedelawarecompany.org.

Mike Mizwinski @ Harmony in the Woods
HAWLEY, PA — Harmony in the Woods, Mike Mizwinski & The Northeast Extension, 6-8pm, 19 Imagination Way. harmonyinthewoods.org.

Opening Reception @ ARTery
MILFORD, PA — ARTery Gallery, opening reception for "My Curious Mind" exhibition by Kate Horan & Bill Rabsey, 6-9pm ,210 Broad St. arterygallerymilford.com.

Poker Run @ Bridge & Tunnel
LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Police Benevolent Assn. 5th annual Poker Run, 9am, followed by dinner, 50 Lake St. facebook.com/OFFICIALLIBERTYPBANY.

Pollinator Portraits @ Zane Grey Gallery
NARROWSBURG, NY — Saturday Studio: Pollinator Portraits, (after Piet Mondrian), 9:30am, Tusten Heritage Community Community Garden, De Mauro Lane, zanegreypleinair.com.

Scythian @ DSWS
WHITE MILLS, PA — Dorflinger Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary presents Scythian, 6pm, 55 Suydam Dr. wildflowermusic.org.

Second Saturday Book Sale @ WCPL
HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Public Library's Second Saturday Book Sale, 10am-3pm thorough Dec. 14, 1406 Main St. 570/253-1220.

'The Stonewall Jukebox' @ Tusten Theatre
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Arts Alliance, "The Stonewall Jukebox: A Documentary Concert," 7-9pm, 210 Bridge St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

Treasures & Trinkets Sale @ SHFL
ELDRED, NY — Sunshine Hall Free Library, Town's Treasures & Trinkets sale, 10am-5pm, followed by music & brew with The River Ramblers, 2 Proctor Rd.

Two Operas @ DVO
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — DVO's "The Telephone" & "The Old Maid & the Thief", two operas by Gian Carlo Menotti, Sat. 7pm, Sun. 2pm, 6692 Rte. 52. delawarevalleyopera.org.

Walk with a Doc @ Lacawac Sanctuary
LAKE ARIEL, PA — Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station & Environmental Education Center, Walk with a Doc, 9am, 192 Sanctuary Rd. lacawac.org.

Sunday, August 11

Bagel Festival @ Monticello
MONTICELLO, NY — Monticello annual Bagel Festival, 9am-4pm on Bagel Boulevard (Broadway). thebagelfestival.org.

Bethel School @ WCHS
HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Historical Society Bethel School open house, 1-4pm with program to follow, Bethel School Rd. in Berlin Township. waynehistorypa.com/news/calendar.

Chamberlain Brass @ Kindred Spirits
MILFORD, PA — Kindred Spirits, ice cream social & live music with Chamberlain Brass "From Handel to Sousa", 5:30pm, Pool Pavilion, 151 Grey Towers Dr. kindredspiritsarts.org.

Phish Phamily Phunday @ Arrowhead Rescue
PARKSVILLE, NY — Arrowhead Ranch Rescue, Phish Phamily Phunday, 11-4pm, 461 Cooley Rd. arrowheadranch.org.

'Plant Based Remedies' @ Fort Delaware
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Company & Bold Gold Media speaker series Richard Mandelbaum, "Splendid and Miraculous: Plant Based Remedies in Colonial America," 3pm, 6615 NY-97. thedelawarecompany.org.

Take-Out Dinner @ St. Ann's
SHOHOLA, PA — Knights of Columbus Sausage & Peppers take-out dinners, 1-2:30pm, St. Ann's Church 121 Richardson Ave. Register, 570/832-4275, 347/466-9636.

Monday, August 12

Blood Drive @ WMH
HONESDALE, PA — Red Cross blood drive, 11am-4pm, Wayne Memorial Hospital, 601 Park St. Schedule redcrossblood.org or call 800/733-2767.

Tuesday, August 13

Evening of Chamber Music @ SMF
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — The Shandelee Music Festival's Sunset Concert Series, evening of chamber music featuring the Con Brio Quartet Quartet, 8pm, Sunset Concert Pavilion, 442 J. Young Rd. shandelee.org.

Wednesday, August 14

August Mixer @ Three Hammers Winery
HAWLEY, PA — Three Hammers Winery, August Mixer, 5-7pm, 877 Welcome Lake Rd. RSVP by Aug. 12, northernpoconos.org.

Blood Drive @ St. George's Church
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Red Cross blood drive, 9am-2pm, St. George's Church, 97 Schoolhouse Rd. Schedule redcrossblood.org or 800/733-2767.

Weekly Concerts @ Callicoon Center
CALLICOON CENTER, NY — Callicoon Center Band concert, 8pm, 1669 The Gulf Rd. facebook.com/SullivanCatskills.

Thursday, August 15

Blood Drive @ First Presbyterian
HAWLEY, PA — Red Cross blood drive, 1-6p, 815 Church St. Schedule redcrossblood.org or 800/733-2767.

Bow-WO&W @ S. Fallsburg
SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — Sullivan O&W Rail Trail, Bow-WO&W, 5:30-7:30pm. Ribbon cutting 5pm, Dog Patch Town Park, 14 Old Country Rd. facebook.com/sullivanoandw.

Evening of Voice @ SMF
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — The Shandelee Music Festival, Sunset Concert Series, an evening of voice featuring Katherine Lerner Lee, 8pm, 442 J. Young Rd. shandelee.org.

Public Health & Wellness Event @ CVAC
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY— The Cochecton Volunteer Ambulance Corps Community Public Health & Wellness Event, 6-7pm, 70 Cty. Rte. 116. cvachealth70@gmail.com.

Tri-State Chorale @ Milford
MILFORD — Tri-State Chorale, concert "We the People," 7pm, 111 E High St. TriStateChorale@gmail.com.

'Your Sound Legacy' @ Liberty
LIBERTY, NY — Radio Catskill, DVAA & Growing Old Together, "Your Sound Legacy," 4pm, Piccolo Paese, 2514 NY-52. wjffradio.org.

Friday, August 16

Little World's Fair @ Grahamsville
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — The Neversink Agricultural Society 144th annual Little World's Fair, 9am-11pm Fri, 9am-9:30pm Sat. & 9am-3:30pm Sun., 8230 St. Rte. 55. grahamsvillefair.com

Opening Reception @ WCAA
HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance, opening reception "Elements of the Universe: Earth, Air, Fire and Water" exhibition, 5-8pm, 959 Main St. waynecountyartsalliance.org.

Youth Fair @ CCE
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan, Sullivan County Youth Fair, Fri.-Sun. Grahamsville Fairgrounds, 8230 St. Rte. 55. sullivancce.org.

'When the Cat's Away' @ RCP
HAWLEY, PA — The Ritz Company Playhouse presents "When the Cat's Away," Fri. & Sat. 7:30pm through Aug. 24, 512 Keystone St. ritzplayhouse.com.

Saturday, August 17

'Algonkians of the Revolution' @ Fort Delaware
NARROWSBURG, NY — Drew Shuptar-Rayvis, "Loyalty and Zeal: Algonkians of the Revolution." 3pm, 6615 NY-97. thedelawarecompany.org.

Annual Bike Run @ Hope Alive
CUDDEBACKVILLE, NY — 4th annual Bike Run & Music Fest, noon-6pm from 1064 Rte 209, Cuddebackville to Morningside Park, Hurleyville. hopealive845.com/events.

Bella Notte Italiana @ Port Jervis
PORT JERVIS, NY — The Port Jervis Tourism Board annual Bella Notte Italiana Festival, 3-9pm at Orange Square Park. portjervisny.gov.

B'kawk @ Parksville
PARKSVILLE, NY — Parksville Arts Center, B'kawk, live music with The Giraffes, noon-6pm, 29 Main St. facebook.com/ParksvilleArtsCenter.

Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project @ Kauneonga Lake
KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY — The Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project 8th marker dedication, "Back to the Garden," 2pm, Kauneonga Lake Gazebo. borschtbelthistoricalmarkerproject.org.

Canal Festival @ WCHS
HAWLEY, PA — The Wayne County Historical Society 11th annual Canal Festival, 10am-4pm, 179 Texas Palmyra Hwy. waynehistorypa.com.

Carlos Bedoya @ Kindred Spirits
MILFORD, PA — Kindred Spirits Carlos Arturo Bedoya with Yosif Feigelson, 5:30pm, Pool Pavilion, 151 Grey Towers Dr. kindredspiritsarts.org.

Cassie and Maggie @ Harmony in the Woods
HAWLEY, PA — Cassie and Maggie, 8pm, 19 Imagination Way. harmonyinthewoods.org.

Evening of Chamber Music @ SMF
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — The Shandelee Music Festival Sunset Concert Series evening of chamber music with the Peter Sulski Trio, 8pm, 442 J. Young Rd. shandelee.org.

Laurel Canyon Band @ DSWS
WHITE MILLS, PA — Dorflinger Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary Laurel Canyon Band & the music of Crosby Stills, Nash & Young, 6pm, 55 Suydam Dr. wildflowermusic.org.

Mending Workshop @ Eldred
ELDRED, NY — Sullivan Public, Mending Workshop with Cal Patch, 2-5pm, 16 Proctor Rd. Register, sullivanpublic.com.

Movie in the Park @ Lackawaxen
LACKAWAXEN, PA — Growing Lackawaxen, Movie "The Guardians of the Galaxy," 7-11pm 109 Scenic Dr. growinglackawaxen.com/events.

Native American Culture @ EHS
EQUINUNK, PA — The Equinunk Historical Society, program on North American Culture with Alex Garcia, noon-1pm, 1972 Pine Mill Rd. equinunkhistory.com.

Pour it Forward @ Three Hammers Winery
HAWLEY, PA — Three Hammers Winery, Pour it Forward charity auto show, noon-4pm, 877 Welcome Lake Rd. threehammerswinery.com.

Tricky Tray Fundraiser @ BGVFD
LORDS VALLEY, PA — Blooming Grove Volunteer Fire Dept. Tricky Tray fundraiser, 5pm, calling 7pm, 484 St. Rte. 739. facebook.com/BGVFD.STA25.

Tunnel to Towers Run/ Walk @ Hawley
HAWLEY, PA — The Fawn Lake Forest Association & Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 5K Run/Walk, 9am-noon, 113 Bay Center Circle. Register lackawaxentownshippa.gov/events.

Under the Stars @ Jeffersonville
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Under the Stars concert, BJ Hendrickson & Bones Krew, gates 6pm, music 7pm, Backyard Park, 21 Lovett Lane. Sue 845/796-6966.

WWSG @ Damascus Community Center
DAMASCUS, PA — The Woodland Weavers & Spinners Guild monthly meeting, 9am, 60 Conklin Hill Rd. 845/866-4354.

Sunday, August 18

Adopt-a-Tail on the Trail @ Lacawac Sanctuary
LAKE ARIEL, PA — Lacawac Sanctuary, Adopt-a-Tail on the trail, 10am-4pm, 94 Sanctuary Rd. Register, lacawac.org.

Breakfast & Raffle @ Lava FD
LAVA, NY — The Lava Volunteer Fire Department sit-down breakfast, 8am-noon, 7898 State Route 52. Lavavolunteerfiredepartment@yahoo.com.

Chicken BBQ @ NWFC
LAKEWOOD, PA — The Northern Wayne Fire Company, Chicken BBQ, 11am till sold out, 1633 Crosstown Hwy, facebook.com/NWFCo3.

Historical Sunday Series @ PCHS
MILFORD, PA — Pike County Historical Society Historical Sunday Series, "Cornelia in Confidence," 3pm, 608 Broad St, pikehistorical.org.

Pancake Breakfast @ Equinunk
EQUINUNK, PA — The Pine Mill Community Hall, pancake breakfast, 7:30-11:30am, 919 Pine Mill Rd. 570/224-7570.

Under the Stars @ Jeffersonville
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Under the Stars concert, BJ Hendrickson & Bones Krew, gates 6pm, music 7pm, Backyard Park, 21 Lovett Lane. Sue 845/796-6966.

ONGOING

Art Auction @ Time & the Valleys
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — Time & the Valleys Museum "Bittersweet Memories: Lost Towns of the Catskill Watersheds" closing reception & art auction, 2pm, 332 Main St. Bid in person or 845/985-7700.

Before TMR Exhibit @ TMR
NARROWSBURG, NY — Ten Mile River Scout Museum Before TMR exhibit, Tues.-Sun. through Aug. 17, check site for hours, 1481 Crystal Lake Rd. tmrmuseum.org.

Cannabis Documentary @ Narrowsburg Union
NARROWSBURG, NY — Cannabis: From Demonization to Legalization by Brandi Merolla, 7 Erie Ave., narrowsburgunion.com.

'Colors, Shapes, & Spaces' @ BCA
KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY — Bethel Council of the Arts, art exhibition "Color, Shapes & Spaces." Fridays-Sundays, 1 Horseshoe Lake Rd. facebook.com/BethelArt.org.

Five Gallery Exhibit @ Narrowsburg Union
NARROWSBURG — Five gallery exhibit through Aug. 31, 7 Erie Ave. narrowsburgunion.com.

Invitational Art Show @ LMAC
LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Museum & Arts Center 1st Invitational Art Show, Sat.-Sun. noon to 4pm, 46 Main St. nfrumessfnp396@gmail.com.

Julie Harrison @ DVAA
NARROWSBURG, NY — DVAA art exhibition by Julie Harrison, 11am-4pm, 37 Main St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.,

Luke Hannam @ Ruffed Grouse Gallery
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Ruffed Grouse Gallery, "Luke Hannam: Hits and Deliberate Misses," Sat.-Sun. 11am-4pm, 144 Main St. ruffedgrousegallery.com.

Mary Lucier Exhibition @ CAS
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Art Space exhibition of video art and photography by Mary Lucier, Fri.-Sun., catskillartspace.org.

'My Curious Mind' @ ARTery
MILFORD, PA — ARTery Gallery, "My Curious Mind" exhibition by Kate Horan & Bill Rabsey, Thursdays-Sundays, 10am-6pm, 210 Broad St. arterygallerymilford.com.

'Paint the Town' Art Show @ WCAA
HAWLEY, PA — "Paint the Town," art show through Aug. 31, Miss Elly's Antiques & Such, 518 Church St. waynecountyartsalliance.org.

Photography Exhibition @ HPAC
HURLEYVILLE, NY — Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre's Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Exhibition, 11am-4pm Mon. - Fri., 219 Main St. hpacny.org.

Plein Air Lake Huntington Exhibit @ DVO
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — The Barryville Area Arts Association & Delaware Valley Opera's Plein Air Lake Huntington Art exhibit, Arts Nest, 6692 Rte. 52. delawarevalleyopera.org.

Richard D'Ambrosia @ Tess
NARROWSBURG, NY — TESS, pop-up exhibition with artwork by Richard D'Ambrosia, Thurs. -Sun. 11am-4pm, 15 Main St.

Tatana Kellner @ DVAA
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, art exhibition by Tatana Kellner, 11am-4pm, 37 Main St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

MEETINGS

Thursday, August 8

Planning Commission @ DCC
DAMASCUS, PA — Township of Damascus Planning Commission meeting, 7pm, 60 Conklin Hill Rd. planning@damascustwp.org, 570/224-4410.

Monday, August 12

Planning Board Meeting @ Lumberland
GLEN SPEY, NY — Town of Lumberland planning board meeting, 7pm work session & 7:30pm regular meeting, 1054 Proctor Rd. 845/856-8600 prompt 7.

Town Board Meeting @ Callicoon
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Town of Callicoon board meeting, 7:30pm 19 Legion St. 845/482-5390.

Tuesday, August 13

Highland Town Board Meeting
ELDRED, NY — Town of Highland board meeting, 7pm, 4 Proctor Rd. 845/557-6085.

Tusten Town Board Meeting
NARROWSBURG, NY — Town of Tusten board meeting, 6:30pm, 210 Bridge St. 845/252-7146.

Wednesday, August 14

Town Board Meeting @ Bethel
WHITE LAKE, NY — Town of Bethel board meeting, 7:30pm, 3460 Route 55 or on Zoom. townofbethelny.us/meetings.

Town Board Meeting @ Cochecton
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Town of Cochecton board meeting, 7pm work session & 7:30pm meeting, 74 Smalles Rd. 845/932-8360, ext. 11.

Town Board Meeting @ Lumberland
GLEN SPEY, NY — Town of Lumberland board meeting, 7pm, 1054 Proctor Rd. 845/856-8600.

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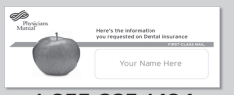
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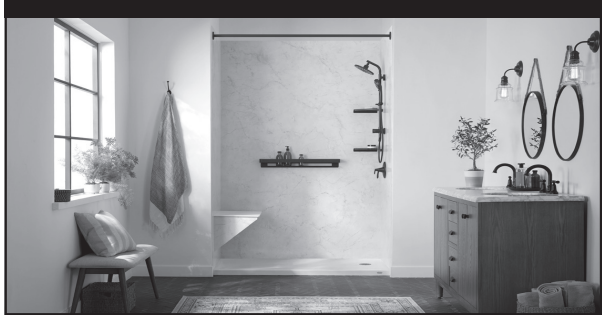
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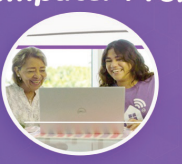
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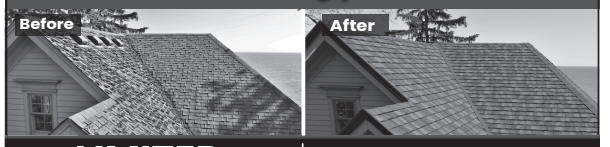
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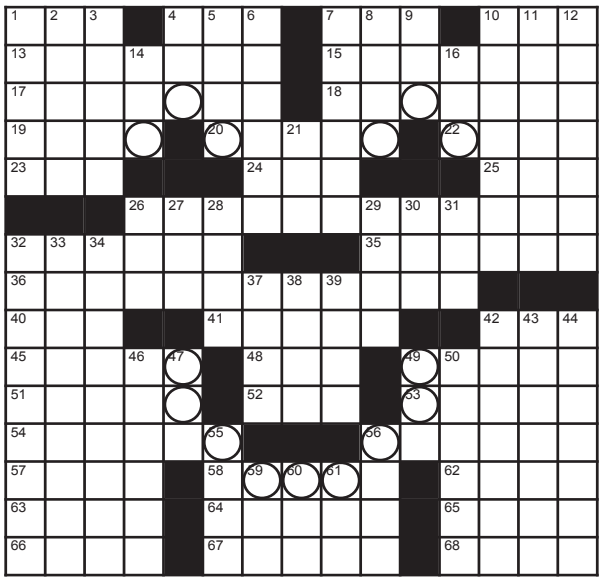


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CROSSWORD PUZZLE
By DAVID LEVINSON WILK



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ACROSS
1. "The Book of _____" (2010 Denzel Washington movie)
4. Dumbbell abbr.
7. Roast VIPs
10. Observed
13. Rhode Island town known for its opulent mansions
15. West End attraction
17. Red Cross beneficiary, perhaps
18. Swindle
19. Godfather's voice, maybe
20. No-no
22. Suffix with stink
23. "Are you a man _____ mouse?"
24. Twosome
25. Un : France :: _____ : Germany
26. With 36-Across, the opening lyric of a "Bye Bye Birdie" song whose title aptly appears in the grid's circles
32. Measure
35. Some virtual meetings
36. See 26-Across
40. Fossil suffix
41. "August: _____ County" (2008 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama)
42. Used a stool
45. Bar mitzvah reading
48. "_____ Maria"
49. Prefix with centric
51. Rock concert venue
52. Actor Danson
53. Old geezers
54. #1 position
56. For three: Fr.
57. Princess loved by Hercules
58. Genre of TV's "Alias"
62. Buster Brown's dog
63. Post-Passover period
64. Snowboarder White
65. Federal dept. with a lightning bolt on its seal
66. "I, Claudius" figure
67. Quaint denial
68. IRS IDs

DOWN
1. Start of the Spanish calendar
2. Burton of "Reading Rainbow"
3. Gloria Steinem's "_____ Playboy Bunny"
4. Baseball's Brock
5. Baseball's Saberhagen
6. Unwavering
7. Highest peak in N. Zealand
8. "Ah" follower
9. Upper house member: Abbr.
10. Ogle
11. Tall wardrobe
12. Tots
14. Drug whose street name is angel dust
16. Turkish title
21. Commuter's choice
26. Floor (it)
27. Messenger _____
28. Classic record label for the Bee Gees and Cream
29. "Able was _____ ..."
30. University URL ending
31. Drain
32. Turbulence
33. Road house?
34. Nickelodeon showing
37. 180 is its max. score
38. Roof overhang
39. Matured
42. Sure winners
43. Immunologist's concern
44. Horseshoes players
46. Prefix meaning "situated in front"
47. Vietnamese coin
49. Outer: Prefix
50. Flourless cakes
55. Hushed "Hey!"
56. "_____ it the truth!"
59. Fraternity letter
60. _____ in "yellow"
61. Enjoyable

Answer to Last Week's Crossword Puzzle

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

For daily crossword puzzles and sudoku visit riverreporter.com/puzzles

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

CHARE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/21/24. 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 Margulies, 342 Hurd Road, Swan Lake, NY 12783. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of CAREWAY HOME CARE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/20/2024. 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 CAREWAY HOME CARE LLC: 34 LEW STREET, WOODRIDGE, NY, 12789. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of NY Stephentown I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/18/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of NY Clarence II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/01/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: P.O. Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

58 PARK AVE NY LLC. Filed 7/10/2024. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 58 Park Ave, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: General.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

RBSS MANAGEMENT LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 7/1/24. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 590 Route 211 E. Middletown, NY 10941. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 400 Old Sackett Rd., Rock Hill, NY 12775.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Rockland Road, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 5/10/2024. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Luke Pellizzi, 140 Unqua Rd, Massapequa, NY 11758. General Purpose

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Coates Construction LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 6/17/2024. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 140 Pickles Rd, Bloomingburg, NY 12721. General Purpose

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of NY Conklin I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/26/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 400 Old Sackett Rd., Rock Hill, NY 12775.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

4 Greenview LLC. Filed 7/11/2024. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 4 Greenview Ave, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: General.

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

2 Larson Farm LLC filed 6/21/24. Cty: Sullivan. SSNY desig. for process & shall mail to: c/o Kwang Il Yoo, 2 Larson Rd, Bloomingburg, NY 12721. Purp: any lawful.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of SHR DEVELOPMENT, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/16/2024. Office location: Sullivan SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to 761 STATE ROUTE 55, ELDRED, NY 12721. Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of NY Conklin III, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/26/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

PATHUN LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 7/1/24. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 590 Route 211 E. Middletown, NY 10941. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Principal business loc: 324 Old Sackett Rd., Rock Hill, NY 12775.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of NY Vestal I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/08/2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Delaware River Solar, LLC: P.O. Box 384 Callicoon NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of 268 WESTERVELT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/23/2024. 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 268 WESTERVELT LLC: 1122 49TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY, 11219. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

MAPLE BROOK PROPERTIES LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 7/18/24. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 583, Parksville, NY 12768. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Mongaup Mountains LLC. Filed 7/2/2024. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 65 East Mongaup Rd, Hurleyville NY 12747. Purpose: General

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LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Galvan General Construction LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/05/2024. 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 Gonzalo Galvan: 3 Forest Ct Lot 7A, Burlingham NY 12722. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Smitty's Pest Control LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/15/2024. 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 Michael Smith: 146 Hollow Rd. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Ateres Estate, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on July 11, 2024. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC at c/o Viznitz Institution, PO Box 170, Kiamesha Lake, NY 12751. Purpose: any lawful activity.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Formation of MONTICELLO II, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/1/2024. Office loc.: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to 28 Serenity Lane, Unit 2, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on July 25, 2024, a tentative 2024-2025 budget for the Sullivan County Community College.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid tentative 2024-2025 budget for the Sullivan County Community College at the Legislature's Hearing Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, 12701, on August 15, 2024 at 10:20 AM at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: July 25, 2024

NNMARIE MARTIN

lerk of the Legislature

ounty of Sullivan, New York

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on July 25, 2024, a proposed local law entitled "Local Law Amending to the County's Sale of Real Property Law".

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid proposed local law at the Legislature's Meeting Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, 12701, on August 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: Monticello, New York
July 25, 2024

NNMARIE MARTIN

lerk of the Legislature

ounty of Sullivan, New York

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

----------x

LOST LAKE FUNDING CORP.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

ZIPPORAH KINGOINA, LOST LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #10" inclusive the names of the ten last name Defendants being fictitious, real names unknown to the Plaintiff, the parties intended being persons or corporations having an interest in, or tenants or persons in possession of, portions of the mortgaged premises described in the Complaint,

Defendants.

----------x

NOTICE OF PENDENCY

Index No. E2023-1756

Filed: 11/7/23
Index Number Assigned: 11/8/23

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an action has been commenced and is pending in this Supreme Court Count of Sullivan County upon the Complaint of the above-named plaintiff against the above-named defendant(s) for the foreclosure of a mortgage dated the 19th day of August 2017, executed by Zipporah Kingoina to secure the sum of $52,235.94 and recorded in Instrument #: 2018-281 Mortgages in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Sullivan, on the 12th day of January 2018.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the mortgaged premises described in such mortgage(s) affected by the said foreclosure action, were, at the time of the commencement of this action, and at the time of the filing of this Notice, situated in the County Sullivan and State of New York, and are described in "Schedule A – Legal Description" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The clerk of the County of Sullivan is directed to index the Notice against the names of all the defendant(s).

Dated: November 7, 2023
Walden, New York

Respectfully submitted,
J&G LAW, LLP

By: _____
Krystle N. Butcher, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
158 Orange Avenue, P.O. Box 367
Walden, New York 12586
T: (845) 778-2121
F: (845) 778-517

SCHEDULE A DESCRIPTION
Title Number HN71166

All that piece or parcel of land situated in the Town of Forestburgh, County of Sullivan and State of New York being more particularly known and designated as Lot(s) 318 Phase 1 on a map entitled "Final Subdivision Plan of Lots Lake Resort Phase 1" filed in the Sullivan County Clerk's Office July 9, 2013 as Map No 13-417.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

----------x

LOST LAKE FUNDING CORP.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

ZIPPORAH KINGOINA; LOST LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #10" inclusive the names of the ten last name Defendants being fictitious, real names unknown to the Plaintiff, the parties intended being persons or corporations having an interest in, or tenants or persons in possession of, portions of the mortgaged premises described in the Complaint,

Defendants.

----------x

SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates Sullivan County as the place of trial Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated.

Index No. E2023-1756

Filed: 11/7/23
Index N0. Assigned: 11/8/23

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to hereby answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR MORTGAGE

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: November 7, 2023
Walden, New York

Respectfully submitted,
J&G LAW, LLP

By: _____
Krystle N. Butcher, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
158 Orange Avenue, P.O. Box 367
Walden, New York 12586-0367
Telephone: 845-778-2121
Facsimile: 845-778-5173

TO: Zipporah Kingoina
Lot 318 Mongaup Falls Ct
Forestburgh, NY 12777

Zipporah Kingoina
320 Concord Avenue
Union, NJ 07083-4219

International Certified Mail #
International first class mail
Zipporah Kingoina
Box 9534-0300
Nairobi, Kenya 00100

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

PBKA LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/22/2024. Off. Loc.: SULLIVAN Co. SSNY desig. As agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 125 Leers Road, Glen Spey, NY 12737. General Purposes.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on July 25, 2024, a proposed Amendment to the County Ethics Law.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid proposed Amendment to the County Ethics Law at the Legislature's Meeting Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, 12701, on August 15, 2024, at 10:10 AM at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: Monticello, New York
July 25, 2024

NNMARIE MARTIN

lerk of the Legislature

ounty of Sullivan, New York

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COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on July 25, 2024, a proposed local law entitled "Local Law Amending to the County's Installment Agreement Law".

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid proposed local law at the Legislature's Meeting Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, 12701, on August 15, 2024, at 9:50 AM at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: Monticello, New York
July 25, 2024

NNMARIE MARTIN

lerk of the Legislature

ounty of Sullivan, New York

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RIVER REPORTER

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

LOST LAKE FUNDING CORP.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

ZIPPORAH KINGOINA; GEOFFREY B. CHWEYA, LOST LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.;"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #10" inclusive the names of the ten last name Defendants being fictitious, real names unknown to the Plaintiff, the parties intended being persons or corporations having an interest in, or tenants or persons in possession of, portions of the mortgaged premises described in the Complaint,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY

Index No. E2023-1754

Filed: 11/7/23
Index Number Assigned: 11/8/23

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an action has been commenced and is pending in this Supreme Court Count of Sullivan County upon the Complaint of the above-named plaintiff against the above-named defendant(s) for the foreclosure of a mortgage dated the 30th day of October 2016, executed by Zipporah Kingoina and Geoffrey B. Chweya to secure the sum of $62,923.70 and recorded in Instrument #: 2016-9210 Mortgages in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Sullivan, on the 30th day of September 2016

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the mortgaged premises described in such mortgage(s) affected by the said foreclosure action, were, at the time of the commencement of this action, and at the time of the filing of this Notice, situated in the County Sullivan and State of New York, and are described in "Schedule A – Legal Description" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The clerk of the County of Sullivan is directed to index the Notice against the names of all the defendant(s)

Dated: November 7, 2023
Walden, New York

Respectfully submitted,
J&G LAW, LLP

By: _____
Krystle N. Butcher, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
158 Orange Avenue, P.O. Box 367
Walden, New York 12586
T: (845) 778-2121
F: (845) 778-517

SCHEDULE A DESCRIPTION
Title Number HN71165

All that piece or parcel of land situated in the Town of Forestburgh, County of Sullivan and State of New York being more particularly known and designated as Lot 18 Phase 1 on a map entitled "Final Subdivision Plan of Lots Lake Resort Phase I" filed in the Sullivan County Clerk's Office July 9, 2013 as Map No 13-417.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

LOST LAKE FUNDING CORP.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

ZIPPORAH KINGOINA; GEOFFREY B. CHWEYA, LOST LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.;"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #10" inclusive the names of the ten last name Defendants being fictitious, real names unknown to the Plaintiff, the parties intended being persons or corporations having an interest in, or tenants or persons in possession of, portions of the mortgaged premises described in the Complaint,

Defendants.

SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates Sullivan County as the place of trial Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated.

Index No. E2023-1754

Filed: 11/7/23
Index No. Assigned: 11/8/23

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to hereby answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME.

SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY.

SENDING A PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: November 7, 2023
Walden, New York

Respectfully submitted,
J&G LAW, LLP

By: _____
Krystle N. Butcher, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
158 Orange Avenue, P.O. Box 367
Walden, New York 12586-0367
Telephone: 845-778-2121
Facsimile: 845-778-5173

TO:

Zipporah Kingoina
Lot 18 Mongaup Falls Ct
Forestburgh, NY 12777

Zipporah Kingoina
320 Concord Avenue
Union, NJ 07083-4219

International Certified Mail #
International first class mail
Zipporah Kingoina
Box 9534-0300
Nairobi, Kenya 00100

Geoffrey B. Chweya
Lot 18 Mongaup Falls Ct
Forestburgh, NY 12777

Geoffrey B. Chweya
320 Concord Avenue
Union, NJ 07083

International Certified Mail #
International first class mail
Geoffrey B. Chweya
Box 9534-0300
Nairobi, Kenya 00100



TALKING SPORTS
BY TED WADDELL

Trout Town's first annual car show a success

ROSCOE, NY — "Just one more car, I promise," proclaimed the T-shirt sported by Alan Kehrley.

Kehrley was walking along the rows of cars parked on freshly mowed fields at Fireman's Park during the first annual Roscoe-Rockland Fire Department's Car Show on Sunday, July 28.

Kehrley and his clan are frequent attendees at local car shows. He owns 16 classic cars plus a few vintage motorcycles, "all drivable and ready to go."

At the inaugural show, his 1930 Indian Scout motorcycle was displayed in the back of a vintage Chevy pickup. Next to it was another of his old Chevy trucks, this one showing off a classic 1950s Harley-Davidson.

Of the Indian Scout 101, the 89-year-old Kehrley, a resident of Liberty, said it was purchased in 1949 for 50 bucks when he was 14 years old. "I bought it as a kid, and ran the hell out of it" until 1955, when it was put into storage before the restoration process started in 2007.

At first, the organizers of the "Fightin' 29" were mostly likely seating buckets—with only a couple of days before the event, only a handful of folks had registered. But as word spread through the car collector community and the day was sunny, a total of 81 vehicles were finally on display before a large crowd.

The main organizers of the show included fire department members Tom Darbee, Niko Niforatos, Steve Hecht and Stephen Hecht, along with Ladies Auxiliary members Emily Niforatos, Heidi Hesse and Paula Austin.

"We wanted to have a car show, and get people out to see some nice cars, utilize the field like it should be used, and get people together," said Darbee, a 40-year member of the local fire department.

Along the edge of the field, close to the Roscoe-Rockland's award-winning 1929 International Pumper, nine-year old Russell Olsen of Jeffersonville was making the rounds in a unique contraption made by John Gleason. Gleason put his mechanical talents to work fabricating it with rear wheels off a hand cultivator, a "trailer thing from the late '40s" and powered by a 1920s Maytag washing machine engine.

"I've always built stuff, ever since I was little, from junk laying out in the woods," he explained. Perhaps he's putting Tesla's Elon Musk on notice that the spirit of backyard American ingenuity is alive and well in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Jesse Stephenson showed off his 1965 Ford Mustang, a red 'Stang powered by a 289. He purchased it in rust-free Alabama about 10 years ago.

Asked about his take on car shows, Stephenson replied, "I just like the idea of camaraderie; we're all at the same kind of level," he said. He added that he does his own work on all his cars. "When you go to a shop, you don't know what they're telling you, right or wrong, left or right."

A few cars down the line was Butch Burdick's blue '65 289 Mustang, a classic he bought in Florida. It reminded him of his second car, also a '65 'Stang.

"Many people tell you stories about their cars when they were young, enjoying the past," said Burdick. He added that it took him six years to restore the car. "It was a basket case; every panel except the roof has been replaced."

As Kehrley and his car clan headed off to grab some refreshments and a while before Lilly Kehrley was awarded the trophy for Best 1949 & Earlier for their 1931 Buick Cabriolet, Kehrley said of collecting vintage automobiles, "It keeps you broke and out of trouble."

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



RR photos by Ted Waddell

Promises, promises. Alan Kehrley sports a T-shirt that promises not to buy any more cars and motorcycles. He brought several vintage rides to the car show, including a 1930 Indian Scout motorcycle, an old Harley Davidson, two classic Chevy pickups and a 1931 Buick Cabriolet.



Where there's a will, there's a way. Daniel Olsen, 9, takes a spin round the fireman's field in a contraption powered by a 1920s Maytag washing machine motor and other scrap parts.

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RAMBLINGS OF A CATSKILL FLY FISHER

BY TONY BONAVIST

Summer on the rivers

By this time each year, in July and August, some of our trout streams are in perilous condition. High water temperatures along with low flows set up life-threatening conditions for trout populations.

To see how some of the nation's most famous trout rivers were faring, I did a little research. In Montana, for example, sections of the Big Hole, Gallatin, Madison, Bitterroot and Clark Fork Rivers—to mention a few—are under "Hoot Owl" regulations. That means any time water temperatures in those rivers reach 73 degrees Fahrenheit three days in a row, fishing is curtailed between 2 p.m. and midnight. That regulation prevents anglers from hooking and playing trout during conditions that are extremely stressful.

Closer to home, the USGS gage at Cooks Falls, NY on the Beaver Kill recorded a flow of 138 cubic feet per second (CFS) with a water temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit, while the upper East Branch of the Delaware at Margaretville, NY showed a flow of 58 CFS and a water temperature of 78 degrees. Temperatures lethal to trout survival in both rivers. Those conditions were documented on July 14 of this year.

While the New York State DEC does close a section of the Beaver Kill River from the bridge at Horton, NY downstream to the first Route 17 overpass during July and August, the rest of that river and all other Catskill rivers remain open to fishing. No Hoot Owl regulations here, likely because unlike Montana, nighttime air temperatures do not drop enough to cool water temperatures significantly.

Fortunately, most anglers who fish these rivers are astute enough that during July and August, they abandon the freestones; instead, they flock to the tailwaters.

In contrast, the tailwater downstream from Pepacton Reservoir flows cool, clear and clean behind our camp. The filaments of green algae, indicators of very cold water, wave gently in the current.

At some point later in the day, as the sun slides behind the mountain, mayflies will come. There will be a steady hatch of the various Baetis, or olives as they are commonly known, as the day progresses. On cool, cloudy days olives will hatch at any time. These diminutive mayflies will continue to emerge well into October, providing dry fly fishing for the hardy as the weather cools.

Meanwhile, down river a few miles, where the water temperature warms up a bit, every morning around 9 a.m. there will be a hatch of tiny trico mayflies (*Tricorythodes sp.)* I'm told that these little flies hatch, molt from dun to spinner over the river, then return to egg lay all within a few hours. After the reproductive process is complete, dead and dying flies cover the water and offer about two hours of surface activity. If the wind does not blow; tricos are about; and you are a good caster, capable of fishing 7X with size 20 or 22 imitations, there is good sport to be had during these spinner falls.

Years ago, I found these diminutive mayflies on the Madison River, just outside of Yellowstone Park, every morning around 11 a.m. But tricos appear about two hours later there than in the Catskills. Unfortunately, just about every time I found these flies in the air and on the water, with trout beginning to rise, the famous famous Montana wind would begin, ending the fishing.

During that same trip, I found a good hatch of trico duns emerging along the Henry's Fork River in Idaho. I landed two very nice Henry's Fork rainbows, using size 18 olive on 6x tippet, during that emergence and was very proud of myself!



RR photo by Tony Bonavist

One of the Catskill tailwaters, where flows are excellent and water temperatures cold and suitable for trout.

Anglers who fish the East and West Branches of the Delaware should keep an eye out for changes in flow. The New York City DEP plans to close the Delaware Aqueduct in October to repair a leak that loses up to 35 million gallons of water per day. That aqueduct runs between Rondout Reservoir in Ulster County, under the Hudson River, and over to the West Branch Reservoir in Putnam County. The goal is to reduce the volume of water in the Pepacton and Cannonsville Reservoirs to about 70 percent by October. That will be undertaken to minimize flooding, since there will be no diversions of West Delaware water to New York City. To achieve that level of capacity, releases from both reservoirs might be higher than normal.

During that shutdown, the DEP's Catskill and Croton systems will make up the loss created by the Delaware System.

Summer fly fishing, whether in the East or Rocky Mountain West, can be a mixed bag. In the East, major hatches are over, and with the exception of tailwaters, flows are low and temperatures high, making fishing difficult for both anglers and trout. In the West, hatches are beginning but lack of snowpack, along with higher air and water temperatures, are causing some rivers to be closed to fishing after 2 p.m. So regardless of where anglers plan to fish, it's important to check flows, water temperatures and regulations before going forth, to see where the best fishing opportunities are to be found.

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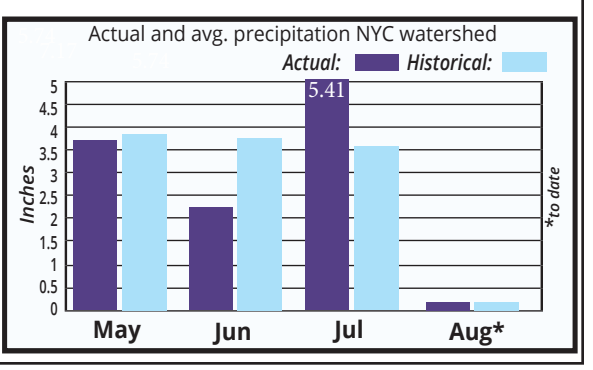
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Reservoir levels

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Cannonsville: 67%
Pepacton: 81.6%
Neversink: 75.1%
Total: 83.6%
Normal Total: 89.8%
Total in 2023: 93.3%





RIVER TALK
BY SCOTT RANDO

PA Bird Atlas underway

The third PA Breeding Bird Atlas got underway this year. This undertaking is a partnership between Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and the Pennsylvania Bird Atlas Steering Committee.

"What is a breeding bird atlas?" you might ask. In a recent press release by the PA Game Commission, they give the following description: "The Atlas will provide a snapshot of the population status and distribution of birds in the commonwealth. No other bird surveys are as comprehensive, and for that reason, the results are critical to the establishment of conservation priorities for Pennsylvania birds!"

Most of the actual data collection in the field is performed by volunteers. Winter surveys, in addition to breeding season surveys, will be used. Birders of all skill levels are invited to participate, and the data can be from your backyard, a walk in a park or a trip across the state.

The atlas data entry uses the eBird app by Cornell. There is an app for mobile phones as well as a desktop app. Many birders may already have eBird installed; it is easy to switch to the PA Bird Atlas portal in the eBird app. Go to ebird.org/atlaspa/home and select "Quick Start Guide" from the menu.

I already had eBird installed on a PC and installed on a phone using my same eBird account info and had no software surprises. Take a little time to read about the atlas, take your phone outside in your backyard and look and listen for a few birds to try it out; above all, have fun!





RR photos by Scott Rando

<< This two-week-old eaglet was one of two raised in this lakeside nest. Eagles start their breeding activity; even in winter, they engage in nest building and courtship. By March, they are incubating. With eagles—or any other bird—look for signs of breeding activity such as carrying sticks or defending territory.



A yellow-bellied sapsucker young is shown here peeking out of the cavity hole, likely looking for an adult with some food to deliver. Adult woodpeckers shuttling back and forth from a cavity entrance are a sure sign of breeding activity and hungry young within the cavity.

Starting early in the spring, woodpeckers of all types will tap on trees rapidly, or "drum," to signal to other woodpeckers that the territory is occupied. A person can learn to identify the species of woodpecker by the drumming cadence. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers have an irregular cadence.

<< Common mergansers inhabit our region year-round and breed here over the spring and summer. This diving duck uses old woodpecker cavities in trees to nest. This image shows a few young of a large clutch of a dozen following the female adult. Even though the young are small, they have no trouble keeping up with the mother in the swift water of the upper Delaware River. Many times, the young can be seen on the mother's back when they need a rest.

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