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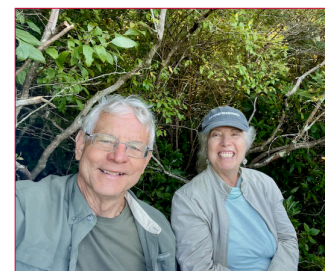


Wayne 4-H, FFA livestock sale nets \$600,000-plus

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A weary waxwing



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Parking crunch

Narrowsburg faces ongoing space issues

By CARLA GUZMAN

NARROWSBURG, NY — Narrowsburg's growth has long run up against one central problem: parking. The hamlet has only one public lot serving Main Street, a source of tension as shops, mixed-use buildings and seasonal visitors compete for space. Other parking is available at two small parking lots on Bridge Street.

Even routine infrastructure improvements can be disruptive. Tusten Highway Superintendent Don Neiger said the municipal lot behind Big Eddy Brewing Co., the former bank building, is scheduled for paving the week of September 8 pending weather, which will close the lot for two to three days.

The Narrowsburg Feed & Grain Co., which has its own lot for employee parking, said the paving project would be a non-issue for them, since deliveries typically arrive early in the morning and they are only open during the week.

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Sept. 3 — Pavement preparations at Narrowsburg, NY's municipal parking lot on Main Street.

RR photo by Carla Guzman.

EPA emergency planning presentation and Upper Delaware Council updates

By CARLA GUZMAN

NARROWSBURG, NY — At the latest Upper Delaware Council (UDC) meeting, two on-scene coordinators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pulled back the curtain on how emergency planning works in the Upper Delaware River watershed. Their main point was simple: when disaster strikes, what matters most isn't a stack of regulations—it's the relationships already in place.

"Knowing who to call, what each agency can provide and where the limits of authority lie makes all the difference when a crisis occurs," said Carl Pellegrino, Region 2 New York State on-scene coordinator for the EPA.

Pellegrino explained that EPA doesn't oversee every piece of a cleanup. Solid waste and debris are left to local governments, while law enforcement steps in on evacuations or condemnations. "We're going to do the environmental part, but they may call the local fire department," he said. "Understanding what each of us can and cannot do helps bring everyone together for a successful response."

Myles Barto, an EPA coordinator working on the PA side, described how the watershed

is divided into sub-areas to make outreach more manageable across multiple states and counties. That division, he said, helps build personal ties with officials and volunteer fire departments. "It becomes more efficient—you get those personal relationships," he said, adding that training local firefighters can be just as valuable as having outside agencies on the ground.

Distance and time are constant challenges. Pellegrino noted that it can take two to five hours for EPA teams, contractors and other larger resources to get on scene. Having a Geographic Response Plan (GRP) in place ensures the groundwork is already set. Myles put it more plainly: "We can train fire departments, for example, on hazmat classes, and when we arrive we are the safety net, the cavalry, the reinforcement."

The message was clear—neighbors and local responders will always be first. "Your neighbors will take care of you while the EPA comes from two or three hours away," the coordinators said.

Earlier in the week, the EPA surveyed 70 miles of the Upper Delaware as part of its ongoing preparedness efforts, documenting boat launches, staging areas and potential anchor points, while gathering

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GUEST ARTICLE from SPOTLIGHT PA

Shapiro admin approves major SEPTA cash infusion to reverse cuts without legislative action

The request comes shortly after a court ruling that is forcing SEPTA to reverse major service cuts.

By STEPHEN CARUSO and KATIE MEYER of SPOTLIGHT PA

HARRISBURG, PA — The Shapiro administration will allow the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Agency (SEPTA) to use hundreds of millions of dollars set aside for critical repairs and maintenance to fund court-ordered service restorations.

The move resolves the key stumbling block in negotiations over the more than two-month-late state budget, but doesn't give SEPTA and other struggling transit agencies the stable revenue they and legislative Democrats have been desperately seeking.

In a statement, Gov. Josh Shapiro's office

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IN BRIEF



Photo from Pike County Commissioners

Left to Right: Pike County Commissioner Christa L. Caceres; Jo Ann M. Rose, Voter Hall of Fame Inductee; Pike County Commissioner Matthew M. Osterberg; James Bohnert, Voter Hall of Fame Inductee; Pike County Commissioner Ronald R. Schmalzle; and Jill Gamboni, Field Representative for Rep. Jeff Olsommer.

Pike County Board of Elections inducts two into PA Voter Hall of Fame

MILFORD, PA — Pike County Board of Elections Office recognized two Pike County residents at the September 3 commissioners’ meeting for their dedication to civic engagement with their induction into the Pennsylvania Voter Hall of Fame. This distinction is reserved for individuals who have voted in every November election for at least fifty consecutive years.

This year’s inductees are Jo Ann M. Rose and James Bohnert. Their names will be recorded in the state’s Voter Hall of Fame database. Each honoree received commemorative certificates from both Gov. Josh Shapiro and state Rep. Jeff Olsommer, commending the achievement.

Brown, Argall to introduce legislation requiring preapplication meetings for data center developments

HARRISBURG, PA — Sens. Rosemary M. Brown (R-40) and David G. Argall (R-29) circulated a co-sponsorship memo on September 2 regarding legislation that would require a pre-application meeting between developers and local officials before data center projects are formally submitted for municipal review. The proposal would protect local infrastructure and ensure transparency in development planning while offering stronger factual education to local elected officials, according to a news release.

“Data centers represent potential economic opportunity for Pennsylvania,” said Brown. “However, they are also incredibly resource-intensive facilities. This bill ensures municipalities have the information they need early in the process to assess whether local infrastructure can realistically support these projects and residents have factual information.”

Under the proposed legislation, any entity seeking to develop a data center in Pennsylvania must:

- Request a pre-application meeting with the host municipality at least 30 days before submitting a formal development application.
- Include zoning, planning, elected officials and any third-party engineers and solicitors, if necessary, in the meeting.
- Provide “will-serve” letters from water, sewer, electric and fiber infrastructure providers confirming that existing systems can support the project at full build-out, not just in phases.
- Identify any anticipated impacts on local residents related to infrastructure capacity.

“The biggest takeaway from our recent public hearing is that some data centers could be an economic driver for our region, but their development must be done correctly,” Argall said. “This bill ensures local governments have a seat at the table early in the process to protect all of us from any negative consequences.”

Riley, Lawler introduce bipartisan bill to cut red tape for seniors on SNAP

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Reps. Josh Riley (D-NY-19) and Mike Lawler (R-NY-17) introduced the Increasing Nutrition Access for Seniors Act of 2025, a bill to simplify the food stamp program for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The legislation cuts through Washington red tape to make it easier for upstate New Yorkers and families across the country to get the food assistance they need, according to Riley.

“Folks who worked hard their whole lives shouldn’t have to haul around shoeboxes of receipts or fight through stacks of forms just to put food on the table,” said Riley. “This bill cuts the red tape, clears the hurdles, and makes it easier for seniors to get the groceries they need.”

The Increasing Nutrition Access for Seniors Act of 2025 modernizes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by:

- Extending certification periods—Seniors and individuals on fixed incomes would only need to recertify every three years instead of every year. That means fewer trips to the office and less paperwork.
- Creating a fair medical deduction—States could offer a standard \$155 monthly deduction for medical expenses, so seniors don’t have to collect a pile of receipts just to qualify.
- Making verification easier—States could use existing data from other programs to verify income, cutting red tape and speeding up benefits

MEETINGS
Thursday, September 11

- Berlin Township Planning Commission Meeting**
7pm, 50 Milanville Rd. berlintownship.org.
- Damascus Planning Commission Meeting**
7pm, 60 Conklin Hill Rd. planning@damascustwp.org, 570/224-4410.
- Shohola Board of Supervisors Meeting**
6:30pm, 159 Twin Lakes Rd. 570/559-7394.

Monday, September 15

- Berlin Township Supervisors Meeting**
7pm, 50 Milanville Rd. berlintownship.org.
- Damascus Board of Supervisors Meeting**
7pm, 60 Conklin Hill Rd. planning@damascustwp.org, 570/224-4410.
- Lackawaxen Supervisor’s Meeting**
6:30pm workshop & 7:30pm meeting, 169 Urban Rd. 570/685-7288.
- Texas Township Supervisors Meeting**
7:30pm, 506 Old Willow Ave. texastownship@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, September 16

- Board of Ed Meeting @ Damascus School**
7pm, 174 High School Rd. 570/253-4661.
- City of Port Jervis Planning Board Meeting**
7pm, 20 Hammond St. 845/858-4000.
- WU/RM Committee Meetings @ UDC**
NARROWSBURG, NY — 6:30pm, 211 Bridge St. upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Thursday, September 18

- Parks & Rec Board Meeting @ Lackawaxen**
5pm, 109 Scenic Dr. facebook.com/LackawaxenTownshipPA.
- Shohola Planning Committee Meeting**
6:30pm, 159 Twin Lakes Rd. 570/559-7394.
- Village of Hancock Planning Board Meeting**
4:30pm, 85 East Front St, hancockpartners.org.

[Publisher’s note: Interested in attending one of these meetings regularly as a trained observer? Find out more about becoming a River Reporter News Ambassador. Email publisher@riverreporter.com or call 845/252-7414, ext. 133.]

Bresnahan cosponsors Fair Wage Act for Labor Day

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On September 1, U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan, Jr. (PA-08) announced he cosponsored the Fair Wage Act, to raise the minimum wage to match the cost of living. The legislation was first introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01) and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-03).

The Fair Wage Act would increase the minimum wage for the first time in 16 years and would adjust over time for inflation. Specifically, the Fair Wage Act:

- Indexes the federal minimum wage to the cost of living in each region using Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis data.
- Gradually phases in a minimum wage floor based on 50 percent of the national average hourly wage.
- Sets fair wage baselines for tipped workers (30 percent of regional minimum) and for employees 18 and under (two-thirds of the regional minimum).

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Bar Veloce gets red-flagged

Allegations made of 'fraudulent' engineering report

By LIAM MAYO

NARROWSBURG, NY — Bar Veloce, an upscale Narrowsburg bar, has been forced to close by the Town of Tusten, after allegations emerged that a key structural analysis review had not been written by its purported author.

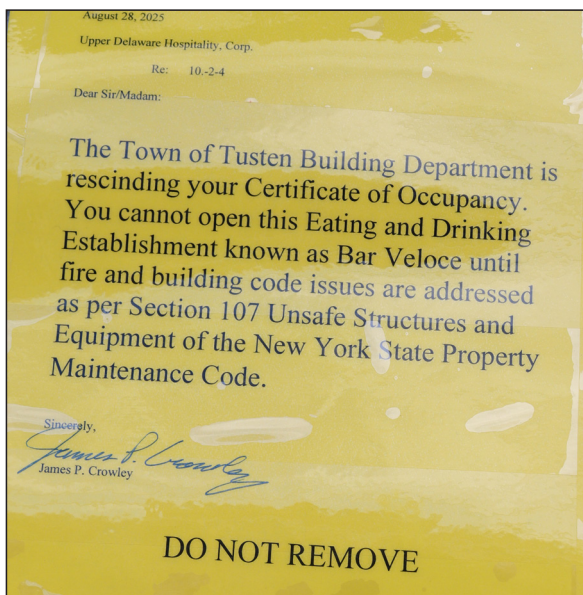
Bar Veloce opened in 2023, after several years of disputes with a neighboring business, the Narrowsburg Union. The bar is built atop Narrowsburg Motors, a used auto sales and repair establishment which formerly occupied the whole building. Town supervisor Ben Johnson works for Narrowsburg Motors and is married to its owner, Kathleen Johnson.

When Bar Veloce originally got approval to renovate, it only had approval to use the ground floor of the Narrowsburg Motors building. It proceeded to build a roof-top deck extending the bar's square footage, without getting planning board approval to do so.

The planning board met in 2021 and determined that Bar Veloce would need to submit a new application for approval of the roof-top deck. Bar Veloce did so earlier this year, and has been working with the planning board to get retroactive approval for the deck.

As part of that process, Bar Veloce submitted a document to the planning board which purported to be an engineer's assessment that the 130-person deck was structurally sound.

Project attorney Michael Davidoff included the report in an email sent to the planning board on June 20, saying, "Enclosed is report of Professional Engineer James Anderson NYS License #094171 which verified the roof deck has been constructed in conformity with the plans and is structurally sound, safe and capable of supporting the roofing loads and was completed in accordance with NYS Building Code 2022."



Bar Veloce received this notice on Thursday, Aug. 28.

Brendan and Kathleen Weiden, the owners of the Narrowsburg Union, reached out to Anderson to question a number of inconsistencies in the report—for example, there is no NYS Building Code 2022, only a 2020 and a 2024, they said.

Anderson responded to the Weidens, saying that he had not written the review, and that whoever did had used his license without authorization. On August 26, Anderson sent the involved parties an email verifying that fact.

"The letter/report reportedly authored by me is in fact, fraudulent and NOT authored by me," Anderson wrote.

"Further," Anderson continued, "neither I, nor Brecht Engineering [the company he works for], have any contractual relationship with any entity listed, nor have I/we conducted any inspection, analysis, nor have I/we produced this letter. The signature included in the "Anderson PE report" is NOT mine and the seal, which bears my name and license number is also incorrect—my seal includes my middle initial."

"I am writing to you to inform you that I/we take no responsibility for the determination of adequacy of the structure whatsoever, and that whoever produced this letter reportedly using my name and license number did so without my permission of knowledge," Anderson wrote.

Fallout

The Town of Tusten received Anderson's message on Tuesday, August 26.

The following day, the town board met for an emergency executive session to discuss "pending/current litigation."

According to Johnson, the board met to discuss an Article 78 filing against the town from the Weidens. An Article 78 proceeding is used to challenge a decision from an agency or local government in New York State.

The following day, Tusten code enforcement officer Jim Crowley rescinded Bar Veloce's certificate of occupancy, closing the business. "You cannot open this eating and drinking establishment known as Bar Veloce until fire and building code issues are addressed," reads the notice.

Johnson declined to comment on the substance of the document, saying it was a pending matter before the planning board that was subject to litigation.

The Weidens and Bar Veloce owner Frederick Twomey both declined interviews for this article.

EPA - Page 1

drone footage and field notes. GRPs, they emphasized, are "living documents"—drafted, tested, then updated again and again.

Chief Ranger Keith Winslow underscored how those relationships play out in real time. "If something happens right now, I know that I can call Myles and we're already in good hands," Winslow said. "We have enough of a relationship that if I call Myles on something that I have, Myles is like, 'Not mine, it's yours; take it back to whoever.' So local has

it, right? Or he's like, 'No, that one's bigger; local's responding,' he takes your call, and I know that they're coming behind us. But the point is, we're the community, and it's our river, right?

"So we have visitors that are going to be in the water, they want to use it. We want them to keep coming, so if somebody goes to the water, they're our priority. But we need to make sure we get everything out of the water so we can bring those visitors back. So by doing this, doing the scenario, plugging in

the fire departments, it should just be a plug-and-play, like Myles and Carl were saying. Everybody knows."

Rose Biondi, a longtime resident, spoke up from the audience. "Been living here 20 years, spillage fire and flooding, who do I call? Are they prepared? I was told by the railroad, in 2019—they don't know what's on the rail, are they prepared? It's refreshing to hear this presentation and I want to thank the council for what they do," she said. She also raised concerns about the risk of train

collisions and spill impacts.

Laurie Ramie, UDC executive director, asked about the timeline for GRPs. Bartos answered that the goal is to have them ready by late spring, barring natural disasters that might delay the work.

After the presentation, the council moved on to regular business: letters to the National Park Service and Pennsylvania DEP, discussion of a new resolution on member participation, and a debate over whether to cut the FY 2026 technical assistance grants budget.

PARKING - Page 1

Tusten Town Supervisor Ben Johnson also noted that residents can use the town-owned lot across from the firehouse, next to the library, to walk to Main Street. On two-way streets, New York State parking rules apply, with enforcement handled by either the New York State Police or the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. Tusten does not have constables, and some residents say enforcement is limited.

The parking crunch comes as Narrowsburg works to balance economic development with quality of life. Following the 2018 fire that damaged Rasmussen's Furniture and funeral home, a Main Street fixture since 1926, the hamlet saw renovations and new shops, reinforcing its role as a cultural and commercial hub. The building has been redeveloped as The Shops at Narrowsburg, including four apartments; see www.riverreporter.com/stories/157251?

[riverreporter.com/stories/157251?](http://www.riverreporter.com/stories/157251?)

Nick Santana, co-owner of The Shops at Narrowsburg building, said the area seems busier than in previous years. "Business owners are often the best source for insight on parking issues," he said.

These developments reflect the Town of Tusten Comprehensive Plan, which encourages preserving the hamlet's character while supporting small-business growth. As the plan states, "Build upon the town's quality of life to attract and retain a diversity of small businesses that fit the character of the community." See ecode360.com/TU3790.

Zoning rules also play a role. Tusten's code regulates land use in Narrowsburg, an unincorporated hamlet, including mixed-use buildings, commercial districts and parking

"[The town] got punched in the face and you don't even know it."

requirements designed to reduce conflicts between residents and businesses. According to town officials, the rules aim to allow growth while maintaining community balance, but increasing seasonal traffic and limited lot space continue to test their effectiveness.

Tension can arise as shops, mixed-use buildings and seasonal visitors compete for space. A study by the American Planning Association found that poor management of curb space costs cities billions each year and can create congestion and safety issues, making effective planning and enforcement essential.

The tension is not new. A 2022 public meeting highlighted the pressure on downtown lots. Resident Brendan Weiden, co-owner of the Narrowsburg Union, another redevelopment of the former Narrowsburg Central

School building that has its own parking lot, said during public comment, "It's hurting us. It's taking our parking." He added that zoning rules, intended to prevent disputes, had fallen short: "[The town] got punched in the face and you don't even know it."

By 2025, the competition for spaces had taken on a territorial tone, with neighbors and business owners alike feeling protective of available spots; see riverreporter.com/stories/parking,52439?

According to consultant Peter Manning, who advised the town's zoning committee on the draft local zoning law, most of the parking section was drafted years ago. "The need for more parking in Narrowsburg is longstanding," he said. "As a land-use regulatory tool, zoning can manage parking, but finding or creating additional capacity remains a community-wide need." See riverreporter.com/stories/veloce-barred,54639?

GUEST ARTICLE FROM RADIO CATSKILL

Village of Liberty passes local law to ban sleeping or camping in public areas

By KIMBERLY IZAR

LIBERTY, NY — The Village Board of Liberty approved a local law on August 21 to prohibit camping or sleeping in village parks, sidewalks, streets and other public areas.

Inside the Liberty Municipal Building on Main Street, more than 40 community members attended the Thursday public hearing, drawing mixed support for and opposition to the local law.

“We’re not trying to punish homeless people, but we are concerned about their safety and the safety of the people who choose to walk on the sidewalk,” said Village of Liberty Mayor Joan Stoddard.

Sullivan County resident JoAnne Omar urged Stoddard to reconsider the law, saying she was “perplexed” at the board’s decision to relocate people given the county’s housing crisis.

“What I’m asking is, shouldn’t you be more concerned about services other than just clearing them out?” said Omar.

The village board says the law is needed because it believes sitting, sleeping, or camping on village property poses a “public health and safety hazard and interferes with the rights of others to use the areas for which they were intended.” The local law defines a campsite as any place where chairs, blankets, or other items to sit on are placed for the purpose of sitting or lying.

Sullivan County resident Jen Duncan has been in the county for more than 15 years and is currently homeless. At the public hearing, Duncan criticized the board’s plans to connect unhoused residents with social services, saying she has yet to receive the help she needs.

“I have not received services from [the



Photo by Kimberly Izar for Radio Catskill

Residents listen at the hearing on the Liberty local law.

Department of Social Services], even though it’s been stipulated in court that I am disabled with this disability that is permanent in total and that I will receive accessible services and accommodations. That has not happened,” she said.

A study from the Journal of the American Medical Association shows that encampment sweeps and forcibly relocating unhoused people could lead to significant jumps in overdose deaths, hospitalizations and mortality. Duncan tried to speak longer than the village’s three-minute public comment limit, urging that her life would be most at risk by the law, but Stoddard and Village of Liberty Attorney Gary Silver proceeded with closing the meeting.

The local law comes one month after President Donald Trump signed an executive order that seeks to make it easier for states and cities to remove outdoor encampments. However, Stoddard said the village board

had been deliberating the local ordinance for six months, long before the executive order was announced.

Stoddard said she hopes the law will help the village to connect residents to services like Sullivan County’s Department of Social Services (DSS), but noted that social services are a county issue, not one “the village has any control over.”

Several community members in favor of the local law said it was necessary to keep residents safe and called for tighter public safety measures. “What about the older people and people who are afraid to come into the building?” said Anna Barbindi. “There’s two sides of this coin.”

Liberty resident Thelma McIver, who was born and raised in Liberty, said this is the first time she’s seen homeless people on the village’s sidewalks and streets. But she’s not so sure the new law will address the county’s broader systemic issues of unaffordability

and shrinking services.

“DSS [is] only gonna be able to do so much because you know as well as I know there is limited housing available,” said McIver. “All we’re doing is putting [on] a Band-Aid, because we haven’t solved the issue.”

Sullivan County provided emergency housing to 260 individuals as of August 2025. For more than 15 years, the county has relied on a patchwork system of placing unhoused people in hotels and motels across Liberty and Monticello. In 2024, the emergency housing model cost Sullivan County \$3.4 million. Those costs are likely to jump as hotels raise their room rates, according to Sullivan County Health and Human Services Commissioner John Liddle.

Past legislative bodies have been unsuccessful in building a temporary housing shelter or facility, referred to as gateway housing, since 2009. The village board’s decision to ban outdoor sleeping or camping in public areas comes when the Sullivan County Legislature has been grappling with where to build the county’s gateway housing facility for months. Following the legislature’s failure to approve a site location in April, legislators have gone back to the drawing board to find a new location.

District 5 Legislator Catherine Scott and District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez both attended the August 21 public hearing and pushed Liberty’s village board to endorse the gateway housing facility.

“We need votes from legislators and that has to come from public pressure,” said Scott.

The Village of Liberty filed the local law with New York State on Monday, August 25 and it is now in effect.

NY, PA work to protect vaccine access

By LIAM MAYO

ALBANY, NY and HARRISBURG, PA — With federal support for vaccine access coming into question, state governments in New York and Pennsylvania have taken steps to ensure that access will be protected for New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians respectively.

On September 3, following calls from action from Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, the PA State Board of Pharmacy voted to protect COVID vaccine access for those most in need and delivered clarity for Pennsylvanians, a news release stated. Before the board vote, Pennsylvania pharmacists could follow only vaccine recommendations issued by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The vote changes that, allowing PA pharmacists to follow the vaccine recommendations of other trusted authorities.

“The Trump Administration’s outrageous decision to limit access to the COVID vaccine is an affront to Pennsylvanians’ personal freedoms. I called on the State Board of Pharmacy to hold a special meeting to bring clarity to the people of Pennsylvania,” said Shapiro. “Health care decisions should be up to individuals—not the federal government and cer-

tainly not RFK Jr. My administration will continue to protect health care access for all Pennsylvanians.”

On September 5, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul signed an executive order that will allow pharmacists to administer COVID vaccines, providing access for all New Yorkers who wish to be vaccinated. The executive order will be in place for at least 30 days while a long-term legislative solution is developed to address access to all vaccines in order to combat the Trump administration’s misguided attack on immunization and health care, according to Hochul’s office.

“I promised New Yorkers that their family would be my fight. In the absence of federal leadership, we must do everything we can to ensure that New Yorkers have access to the vaccines and preventative health care they have come to rely on,” Hochul said. “By signing this executive order, we are sending a clear message that when Washington Republicans play politics with public health, New Yorkers can still get the care they need, close to home, from trusted providers in their own communities.”

In June, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. replaced a majority of ACIP members with individuals who, according to reports, are known to oppose vaccination. Since then, ACIP has not issued updated guid-

ance for the 2025-26 COVID vaccine and is not scheduled to meet until September 18.

In New York, most pharmacies rely on standing orders—non-patient-specific prescriptions that give them authority to administer vaccines to broad groups of people, according to the Hochul administration. These standing orders are typically based on recommendations from the ACIP.

Without federal guidance from ACIP, many pharmacies in New York began restricting access to the COVID vaccine, particularly for children ages 3-17, pregnant people and adults under 65 without underlying conditions.

In Pennsylvania, major pharmacies had stopped giving the COVID vaccine to anyone because the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) had not yet issued recommendations on the new COVID vaccine, according to the Shapiro administration.

“Following today’s regulatory action by the Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy, CVS Pharmacy will ensure COVID-19 vaccinations are available as soon as possible at our locations throughout Pennsylvania,” said Sid Tennenet, senior vice president, retail pharmacy, CVS Health. “Appointments can be scheduled online via CVS.com, through the CVS Health app or patients can walk into our pharmacies and clinics.”

Scranton mayor announces congressional bid

Paige Cognetti to challenge Rob Bresnahan for PA-08

By LIAM MAYO

EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, PA — On Tuesday, September 2, Scranton Mayor Paige Cognetti announced her campaign for Congress in Pennsylvania's 8th District against Republican Congressman Rob Bresnahan. Cognetti said in her announcement that she is running to clean up corruption in Washington and fight for the hard-working people of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

"Nobody works harder than the people of northeastern Pennsylvania, and we are tired of corrupt politicians lying to us and leaving us behind," said Cognetti. "When I first ran for Mayor, I ran as an Independent against a Democratic machine that wanted to keep using city government to benefit themselves. I took on the machine to clean up City Hall and we got to work for the people by cutting red tape, fixing our finances, attracting new businesses, putting more cops on the beat, building new parks and making real reforms. Now I'm running for Congress to take on a corrupt Washington that has left our community behind while politicians get richer, our costs keep rising and we get sold out."

Cognetti lives in Scranton with her husband and two daughters. Prior to her tenure as mayor, Cognetti served on the Scranton school board in 2017 and as a special assistant to the Pennsylvania auditor general in 2018. There she worked to root out waste, fraud and abuse in government, she said. In 2019, Cognetti ran for mayor of Scranton as an Independent, taking on the local political establishment

in a campaign that was referred to as "Paige Against The Machine," she said. Cognetti chose to run as an Independent after the then-mayor resigned after pleading guilty to federal bribery, conspiracy and extortion charges. Cognetti was the first woman elected Scranton mayor, and was eight months pregnant when she won. Cognetti ran for reelection as a Democrat in 2021, winning a full term with over 71 percent of the vote, and beat a longtime local Democratic boss with 76 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary in May 2025.

Cognetti enters the race with significant local support, according to her campaign, and has earned the day-one endorsement of Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Austin Davis, former Congressman Matt Cartwright, and Congressman Chris Deluzio.

"Mayor Paige Cognetti's proven leadership in Scranton, commitment to transparency and innovative policies, make her the ideal candidate for Congress in Pennsylvania's 8th District," said Cartwright. "Her vision and tireless advocacy for working families promise real progress for our communities. I strongly support her candidacy for Congress, and I thank her for having the courage and tenacity to step up and do this."

The Bresnahan campaign responded to Cognetti's announcement with a statement of its own, calling Cognetti a "far-left extremist."

"Paige Cognetti launching a vanity campaign for Congress while still running for a new term as Scranton mayor tells



From the Paige Cognetti campaign

you everything you need to know about her priorities," according to Rob for PA spokesman Chris Pack. "We look forward to putting a spotlight on her extreme and dangerous positions, which are completely out of step with northeastern Pennsylvania, where President Trump won by nearly 10 points."

Bresnahan won election by unseating Cartwright, the incumbent, in 2024. Bresnahan took 50.94 percent of votes across the district, earning 193,407 ballots to Cartwright's 186,294, just over a 7,000 vote difference. Sixty-six percent of Wayne County and 60 percent of Pike County voters favored Bresnahan.

Cartwright announced in June that he would not mount a bid to regain his seat in 2026, citing the strain of the job and the need to make way for a new generation of leadership.

SEPTA - Page 1

said that approving SEPTA to use up to \$394 million in capital funds for its daily operations would preserve existing service and avoid planned service cuts for the next two years.

These capital dollars from the Public Transportation Trust Fund (PTTF) pay for long-term projects and equipment, like new trolleys and trains

The administration also said that as a condition of approving the request, SEPTA had been instructed "to continue to address its structural challenges and report to PennDOT every 120 days the steps taken and progress made to increase efficiencies within the system."

The statement also said Shapiro would continue advocating for a "long-term, recurring funding solution."

The fund transfer does not require approval from state lawmakers, including Republicans who control the Senate.

SEPTA's request to transfer the capital funds came shortly after a court ruling that will force the agency to reverse the major service cuts to bus and metro lines that it enacted last month, after additional state funding was not forthcoming.

On Friday, Scott Sauer, general manager of SEPTA, sent a letter to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Michael Carroll, in which he asked for approval to use the \$394 million for daily operations.

"It was our hope that the Legislature could come to an agreement and pass into law Governor Shapiro's plan to increase

recurring revenue and fund a long-term solution for SEPTA," Sauer wrote in the letter obtained by Spotlight PA. "We are thankful to the Governor and the entire Shapiro Administration for staying at the table and fighting for SEPTA's riders and employees; however, given the legislative delay and increasing fiscal pressures, we are faced with no other option than to request this waiver."

Agency spokesperson Andrew Busch noted that SEPTA still plans to enact a fare increase, which is scheduled to take effect on September 14.

He said service restorations to bus and metro lines will also happen the same day.

"This is not the ideal outcome we wanted; however, it prevents SEPTA from having to raid current capital dollars and does not halt any already-underway projects," Busch said in an email.

SEPTA's funding request also came at a time when state budget talks related to transit appeared to have ground to a halt.

For weeks, Republicans have endorsed a plan to tap the special transit fund that pays for capital projects to help fund agencies' operations. They also wanted to use the money for road and bridge work. And they repeatedly called SEPTA's financial complaints—and the steep service cuts the agency has enacted—a "manufactured crisis."

Democrats had resisted the plan, saying that SEPTA and other transit agencies need new, recurring revenue to be truly stable. Transit agencies around the country have suffered financially after pandemic-induced

declines in ridership and the subsequent sunsetting of federal stimulus dollars.

Shapiro and other Democrats also opposed the Republicans' pitch to use transit money for roads and bridges.

Recently, Shapiro and other top Democrats had expressed a willingness to pull money from the special fund as part of a broader package. However, state Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Scott Martin (R., Lancaster) said in an interview that his caucus had fundamental differences with Democrats.

"I'm not a fan of a long-term solution," Martin said of SEPTA funding in a recent TV interview.

He's not convinced, he said, that SEPTA is committed to working on reforms Republicans think are important, like cutting down on fare evasion, and said this is making his caucus reluctant to commit dollars to transit funding year over year.

"Show us that you're serious about what you said you were going to do, and then we'll have the conversation about the long-term funding," he said. "That's the huge philosophical difference that's going on right now."

After news of the funding transfer request broke last week, state Senate Majority Leader Joe Pittman (R., Indiana) said in a statement that his caucus supports the move, again calling SEPTA's service cuts a "manufactured crisis" and saying the Senate would continue to push for "safety and accountability reforms" for transit.

In an email to fellow Senate Democrats last week, the chamber's minority leader, Jay Costa (D., Allegheny) wrote, "It has

unfortunately become clear that the Senate Republicans do not wish to negotiate in good faith toward a resolution."

A spokesperson for state House Democrats echoed that in a statement.

"House Democrats, along with the Governor's office and the Senate Democrats, have done our absolute best to meet the concerns expressed by the Senate Republicans regarding the need for road and bridge funding, reforms, accountability, safety, and so much more—and still the Senate Republicans say 'no,'" spokesperson Elizabeth Rementer said.

Rementer said there's still a need for "real, stable, recurring revenue to support transit across the commonwealth."

"As this crisis becomes more acute in all 67 counties, we still demand Senate Republicans live up to their claims and finally fund transit."

In his email to state Senate Democrats, Costa also shed more light on SEPTA's request to transfer capital funds.

He framed it as "the governor, PennDOT, SEPTA and [Pittsburgh Regional Transit]" having "one more tool they can use to get through the next fiscal year and restore services."

"We believe based on several factors we must pivot," Costa said of the decision to embrace a funding approach that had, until now, been mostly championed by Republicans.

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■ MY VIEW

BY MICHAEL KOSSOVE

Turmoil at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Part One: The point of the CDC

Our lives depend on the CDC because the agency is on the front line, protecting us from infectious diseases. Vaccinations are one of the most powerful tools in that fight, and the CDC ensures they are safe, effective and widely available. Without vaccines, diseases we've nearly defeated, like polio or measles, could return in full force.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plays a crucial role in public health, and our lives—especially when it comes to preventing dangerous diseases—depend on the work they do. Vaccinations are at the center of that mission. Here's why:

1. The CDC tracks and controls outbreaks

The CDC monitors diseases across the United States and around the world.

When outbreaks occur—such as measles, polio or influenza—the CDC investigates quickly to contain them.

Without that oversight, diseases could spread silently before anyone realized, putting millions at risk.

2. The CDC ensures that vaccines are safe

Vaccines go through years of research and trials before approval, but the CDC continues monitoring them after they are in use.

The agency tracks side effects through systems such as VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System).

This helps identify rare problems quickly and ensures vaccines remain safe for the population.

3. The CDC provides science-based guidelines

The CDC recommends vaccination schedules for children, adults, seniors and people with health conditions.

These guidelines prevent confusion and make sure people get the right protection at the right age.

For example, polio and smallpox vaccines helped nearly eliminate those diseases because of consistent CDC guidance.

4. The CDC educates the public

Many people don't realize how deadly diseases such as diphtheria, measles or polio once were.

The CDC keeps history and data alive, reminding us what happens when vaccination rates drop.

The agency's campaigns increase public awareness and fight misinformation.

5. The CDC helps prevent pandemics

The CDC's global disease surveillance warns us about emerging threats.

Vaccination programs for seasonal flu or new viruses reduce hospitalizations and deaths.

Without the CDC coordinating national responses, pandemics like COVID-19 could have been even worse.

6. The CDC protects the most vulnerable

Babies, seniors and people with weakened immune systems rely on herd immunity—the idea that if most people are vaccinated, diseases can't spread easily.

The CDC ensures vaccination rates stay high enough to shield those whose immune systems cannot shield them.

The vital role of vaccination and herd immunity: Why mandatory immunization protects us all

Human beings move through their daily lives with a certain sense of security. Parents send their children to school, people crowd into restaurants and theaters, athletes compete in stadiums filled with spectators, and travelers board planes that crisscross the globe. Few pause to wonder whether the person next to them carries diphtheria, measles, polio or smallpox. Few worry about iron lungs or mass graves filled with children lost to infectious disease.

This freedom from constant fear is not accidental; it is one of the greatest achievements of modern medicine: the widespread use of vaccines.

Vaccination programs, coordinated and enforced by public health agencies, have transformed human life in just over a century. Diseases that once killed millions yearly are now controlled, or even eradicated. The security that people take for granted today exists precisely because most citizens are immunized. But what would happen if vaccination were treated as a matter of personal preference rather than a public responsibility? What if parents were free to opt their children out of immunization requirements before school entry? The consequences would ripple through society: herd immunity would collapse, vulnerable populations would lose protection, and previously viruses would roar back, perhaps even in mutated, more dangerous forms. Our health depends on vaccination, how herd immunity functions, what history has taught us about disease resurgence, and why mandatory immunization is essential for safeguarding present and future generations.

School vaccination requirements

Recognizing this responsibility, public health authorities established vaccination requirements for children entering school. These laws, which exist in every U.S. state and many countries worldwide, ensure that children are immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, and other diseases before they join crowded classrooms.

The logic is clear: schools are breeding grounds for contagion. Children interact closely, share supplies and spend long hours indoors. Without vaccination requirements, these institutions could become epicenters of outbreaks. History proves the wisdom of these laws. Where compliance is high, outbreaks vanish. Where exemptions proliferate, disease reemerges.

Consider measles. Declared eliminated in the United States in 2000, measles returned in 2025, fueled by communities with low vaccination rates. Hundreds of children became sick, some requiring hospitalization and some died. These outbreaks were not acts of nature. These resulted from policies permitting parents to opt out of immunizing their children.

Part Two will be printed in the September 18 issue of the **River Reporter**. You can read the entire piece online now at riverreporter.com/stories/turmoil-at-the-centers-for-disease-control-cdc,215466.

Michael Kossove is professor emeritus and an adjunct professor of microbiology at Touro University's School of Health Sciences.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bresnahan can step forward, report abuse

Decades ago, the late Sen. Michael O'Pake (D-Berks) gathered a group of teachers, counselors and social workers who had been "making noise" about child abuse. The senator frustratedly noted that Pennsylvania's laws forbade the abuse or neglect of animals, but not children. He asked us to help develop what became the Child Protective Services Law of 1975, which Gov. Milton Shapp signed into law 50 years ago this year.

One of our concerns back then was that some people were afraid to report, so we suggested both immunity and the concept of a "mandated reporter." For example, teachers who should have reported but didn't could be prosecuted and might lose their jobs. The senator's law has been updated, but the mandate remains.

The law specifies who is mandated to report, but arguably anyone who suspects abuse or neglect should report. For example, elected officials might not be legally mandated, but they at least have a moral responsibility to "make noise."

Jeffrey Epstein did not have any hideouts in Pennsylvania, so none of us have standing to report. However, reportedly Republican members of Congress have been briefed on the matter, thus they know. That they do mandates them to do the right thing.

Clearly demonstrating that he knows, Rep. Ron Bresnahan told me in a letter that he'd support a motion to release the files—though when he had a chance to do so, **he did not object when Republicans voted to block** debate on the matter.

Now, he has another chance. He can support the effort by Reps. Thomas Massie and Ro Khanna.

Republicans decry "leading from behind." Rep. Bresnahan needs to step out. Instead of hiding behind procedural issues, as he did with other issues, he should loudly support the release of the whole set of files. To do otherwise makes him complicit.

Joe Rogan

Eynon, PA

The CDC purge is a national disgrace

Robert Kennedy Jr.'s purge of experts at the Centers for Disease Control is nothing less than a national disgrace. The CDC has long stood as the world's premier public health agency, the place where our nation—and often the world—has turned in moments of crises, from polio to Ebola to COVID. By hollowing it out of scientific expertise, Kennedy is deliberately crippling our ability to respond to the next all-but-certain health emergency.

This is not just reckless—it is a direct threat to American lives. Weakening the CDC does not make us safer or stronger; it leaves us more vulnerable to disease, panic and unnecessary death.

The irony could not be starker: Donald Trump, in his wisdom, chose an anti-vaccination activist with a history of heroin addiction, who is neither a scientist nor a doctor, to lead the world's premier public health organization. I hope that American voters realize the danger we are in and will, at long last, vote out of power those who might plunge our nation into the medical Middle Ages.

Edward Kornbluh, DDS

Schodack Landing, NY

Regarding a congressman's financial statement

While financial disclosures may not be intended to "cover every detail of a person's financial picture, or the businesses which they own," this is what they are intended to cover:

"As amended, the EIGA (5 U.S.C. §§13101-13111) requires, among other things, covered employees to file annual financial disclosure statements that report "income, gifts, liabilities, property—both real property and business-related personal property—positions in business enterprises and other organizations and also any agreements relating to post-Government employment." (Source: End Citizens United press release)



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Rep. Rob Bresnahan does not deny ownership, per the Citizens Voice in Wilkes-Barre, PA:

“The financial disclosure covers all transactions and owned property from the full 2024 calendar year, covering the date of the helicopter purchase. Hannah Pope, a spokesperson for Rep. Bresnahan, confirmed the Congressman’s ownership of the helicopter.”

“Bresnahan strongly disputed the assertion that he tried to conceal his helicopter purchase and usage. He explained why his business, RPB Vetures LLC, purchased the helicopter last September.

“Well, you have to also understand the background of why I got into aviation,” Bresnahan said. “My mom was a pilot. My cousin is a pilot... My plan was to be able to provide an additional service for my company to be able to do thermal inspections, UPC topographical mapping, because it was a growing part of the industry. So as to why it’s a secret is beyond me.”

If he used it for campaign purposes, it’s an ethics violation. I have not seen any comment from Bresnahan on this aspect of the complaint, i.e., campaign usage:

“[C]ampaign travel by Rep. Bresnahan using the helicopter would require the filing of an in-kind contribution from RPB Ventures LLC. Despite efforts by Rep. Bresnahan to obscure the whereabouts of the helicopter by blocking public access to the helicopter’s travel history on several flight tracking websites, ECU states the helicopter has made over twenty flights, including to New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. The helicopter made regular flights around Bresnahan’s district during the lead-up to the November 2024 General Election, and has, on at least three instances since May 2025, flown out of Pennsylvania. If any of these trips were for campaign related purposes, Rep. Bresnahan’s failure to report the in-kind contributions would be a violation of campaign finance laws.”

Pamela Arnold

Equinunk, PA

There is a way

Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk died last summer. His memory and the world’s well-being could be served by heeding his proposal nearly a quarter-century ago to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Its beauty lies in its simplicity: nothing new need be created. The U.N. Trusteeship Council, still extant despite being moribund since 1994, could be revived to take over administration of all territory assigned to the Palestinians by partition, with a nation or nations as trustee(s). Saudi Arabia would seem like the choice as lead trustee, not for its trustworthiness but because Israel views normalization with the Saudis as the pathway to its becoming a regional player and as a shield against what will likely become a nuclear Iran.

The Trusteeship Council is also authorized to employ force, provided by trustee-nations, as well as any other cooperating U.N. member state. Other mechanisms for peace have been paralyzed by Security Council veto; the Trusteeship Council, while including permanent Security Council members, can be activated by a majority of the General Assembly.

Obviously, for the Trusteeship Council to function well, the good faith efforts of all states will be required, in particular the U.S., which will have to convince Israel that stabilizing Palestine is in its best interests. The alternative would seem to be escalating conflict.

John A. MacKinnon

Lackawaxen, PA

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

Letters are printed at the discretion of the editor. It is

■ MIXED GREENS
BY CAROL ROIG

Guilty pleasure

Ah, that first messy bite of local sweet corn, fresh from the farm stand, farmers’ market or your own backyard. Boiled, steamed or roasted on the grill—it’s a cherished ritual signifying the final flourish of summer.

“Maize” is the correct name for this remarkable species of grass, although “corn,” an 18th-century English word that was used generically to describe any staple grain or cereal food crop—including oats or wheat—persists in the English-speaking world.

Maize has been cultivated by humans for more than 9,000 years, starting in the highlands of central Mexico. It was one of the noted food contributions of the New World to the old, along with potatoes, tomatoes, chili peppers and sweet potatoes. In the Native American tradition, maize was planted with beans and squash in a polyculture called the Three Sisters, which maximized resources and helped replenish the soil.

Nowadays, maize provides a staple food source around the world, and more is grown worldwide than wheat or rice. In 2020, the U.S. produced almost a third of the global crop, followed by China, Brazil, Argentina and Ukraine. Maize is transformed into a wide variety of foodstuffs, from cornstarch, corn syrup and corn oil to bourbon whiskey. Field corn and silage are important animal feeds. Ethanol fuels are a more controversial corn product, accounting for about 40 percent of the U.S. crop.

Corn has become an environmental and nutritional battlefield, mainly because of the ways we have messed with it over the centuries, from conventional growing methods to genetic engineering. In the 1970s, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz famously reversed New Deal-era subsidies for corn, which had encouraged farmers to limit corn production in order to prevent gluts and price collapse. Butz’s maximalist corn policy led to the decline of small family farms and the industrialization of the U.S. food system. In turn, industrialized farming methods have accelerated global warming, and corn is right in the middle of the problem, with environmental impacts that include high GHG emissions, groundwater depletion, overuse of fertilizers and runoff that causes “dead zones” in rivers and oceans, pesticide and herbicide use, degraded air quality and soil erosion due to intensive monoculture.

In 2019, researchers from the universities of Minnesota, New Mexico, Washington and California, as well as the University of Oxford, published a study that used county-level data on agricultural practices and production to develop a comprehensive life-cycle-emissions inventory for maize. It was the first major study to quantify the damaging effects of particular methods of food production on air quality and the associated health risks. In particular, the study examined pollution from atmospheric particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers (PM2.5), which has been linked to respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some birth defects. Correlating emissions data with census and public health data county by county, the researchers concluded that corn production accounts for 4,300 premature deaths related to air pollution every year in the United States, and even pinpointed the Corn Belt counties that bear the brunt. Air pollution associated with corn production is largely due to the intensive use of nitrogen fertilizers that release ammonia into the atmosphere, where it reacts with nitrogen and sulfur oxides to produce PM2.5. The researchers estimated that

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

For more letters, visit riverreporter.com/opinion.

Learn more

About corn

www.newrootsinstitute.org/articles/corn-farms#:~:text=Industrialized%20corn%20farms%20use%20a,are%20harmful%20to%20marine%20life.

Air quality-related health damages of maize

www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2019/04/01/708818581/growing-corn-is-a-major-contributor-to-air-pollution-study-finds

www.nature.com/articles/s41893-019-0261-y

Penn State study

www.psu.edu/news/research/story/warming-climate-result-reduced-corn-production-irrigation-blunts-effect

Climate change and corn cultivation

apnews.com/article/corn-pollination-climate-change-extreme-weather-heat-4762f4eedaa22d0d3cbe41164319f4f3

the resulting health damages cost the U.S. \$39 billion a year. Their recommendations include changing the fertilizer type and methods of application, and reallocating the geographic distribution of maize production to reduce the intensity of industrialized monoculture.

Climate change may speed that geographic reallocation. In 2022, researchers at Penn State published a study of the future impacts of global climate change (global warming) on both irrigated and rain-fed corn yields from the 2020s to the 2090s. The study focused on the Corn Belt states of the Midwest, but its conclusions have repercussions for the northeastern U.S. and for the rest of the world, because corn and its various products are so integrated into the world food supply and economy.

The team analyzed potential U.S. corn crop decline based upon 18 different climate-warming scenarios, and found that yields for rainfed corn crops were likely to drop by as much as 21.5 percent, depending on the specific concentrations of GHG emissions and subsequent warming projected under the different scenarios. Declines for irrigated corn crops were slightly lower but still significant, ranging as high as 15.6 percent over the study timeframe.

Depleted and degraded water supplies in the traditional corn-producing states, combined with the ongoing increase in air temperature, warmer overnight temperatures and atmospheric moisture demand, could cause a significant shift in corn production to the eastern U.S., including Pennsylvania. The study urged policy-makers to prepare for that eventuality.

Will we have the wisdom and forethought to avoid the problems that intensive monoculture, groundwater depletion and the air pollution associated with industrialized farming have created in the Midwest?

■ QUOTE OF THE WEEK

VISIT RIVERREPORTER.COM/QUOTE FOR A REFLECTION AND MORE QUOTES

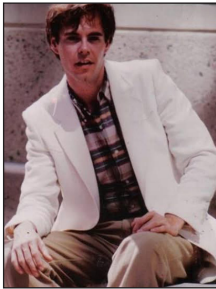
"A lack of transparency results in distrust and a deep sense of insecurity."

— Dalai Lama

■ OBITUARIES

MICHAEL DAVID POLLEY

Michael David Polley, 71, of Phoenix, AZ and formerly of Honesdale, PA, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at his home in Phoenix. He had resided in Phoenix since the age of 19.



Michael graduated from Honesdale High School with the class of 1972 and studied at Salem College in Salem, WV.

He worked at Best Western Resorts and Hotels for 37 years in Phoenix. He was known for his exceptional memory, often recalling numerous stories and family history.

He will be remembered by his many cousins.

A graveside service will be held Wednesday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Indian Orchard Cemetery in Honesdale.

Local arrangements are attended to by the Arthur A. Bryant Funeral Home, Honesdale.

■ DEATH NOTICES

Robert Joseph Hild

Robert Joseph Hild, 66, of Mount Pleasant Township, Wayne County, PA, passed away August 16, 2025 at home. Robert was born May 19, 1959 in Manhattan, NY. Memorial services will be private and held at the convenience of the family at a later date.

Charlene Louise Penchosky Jeko

Charlene Louise Penchosky Jeko, 86, of Escondido, CA and formerly of Honesdale, PA, passed away February 27, 2025. Charlene was born May 27, 1938 in Johnson City, NY. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated September 6 at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale. Interment of the cremated remains of Charlene and her husband Robert followed in St. Mary's Cemetery in Honesdale.

William Henry Potter

William Henry Potter, 76, of Hickory, NC and formerly of Callicoon Center, NY, passed away July 28, 2025 at Valley Nursing & Rehab in Taylorsville, NC. William was born December 26, 1948. No services will be held at this time.

Thomas 'Tom' Harold Snyder

Thomas "Tom" Harold Snyder, 89, of Callicoon, NY, passed away August 29, 2025. Thomas was born in Callicoon. Tom requested a private family service.

Nioma Jean Bolduc Specht

Nioma Jean Bolduc Specht, 98, of Callicoon, NY, passed away August 29, 2025 at home. Nioma was born August 22, 1927 in Middletown, NY. The funeral Mass was held September 4 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Monticello, NY. Burial followed at the Rock Ridge Cemetery in Monticello.

Build-a-bird to save-a-bird

WURTSBORO, NY — Recently, the Sullivan County Audubon Society partnered with the Mamakating Environmental Education Center (MEEC) in a joint effort to heighten public awareness of the increasing danger of the often fatal collisions that building windows are presenting to wild birds, especially during their migration periods. A coordinated, nationwide conservation effort focusing on this problem first began in Chicago.

Sullivan County Audubon is currently engaged in a project to bring welcome attention to the bird-window collision issue.

It is estimated that up to a billion birds die and countless others are injured each year in North America as a result of window collisions. The worst offender was the McCormick Building in Chicago; where in just one October morning 966 migratory birds struck that glass building on Chicago's lakefront and died.

Holly Greenberg, artist, painter and printmaker, convinced the owners to install a special film on all of the glass windows of the highrise, thereby preventing a vast majority of the bird strikes that had been so devastating.

Greenberg also created an art/conservation program titled "Bird Collisions in the Anthropocene." The MEEC helped to build a small portion of the over 10,000 bird replicas that will ultimately become part of a finished artwork, becoming a "red carpet" of birds measuring the length of a football field. This will be exhibited throughout the city to raise awareness about bird-safe windows. The types of birds replicated in the work will celebrate the over 300 species of birds that typically fly through the city.

During the first part of the program, each participating "artist" was given a blank bird "body" to use as a sculptural form to modify with fabric to represent either a specific species of bird that may have died in 2023 or to create a fantasy bird.

All of the materials as well as the program were provided free of charge to participants.



Contributed photos

Kids get involved in building a bird.



Research suggests that deaths from collisions with windows far exceed one billion birds in the U.S. each year. Artists are working to bring that number down.

Each bird is labelled with the owner's name and email to provide tracking once the exhibit commences.

The collection of works will be shipped after the final installment of the program, which will be repeated for both children

and adults on September 16. The next phase will be at the Mamakating Library. Those who would like to register can call the Mamakating Library at 845/885-8004 (limit 15 participants).

Penn State Extension to offer webinar series on septic system management

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA — Homeowners, renters, property managers and real estate professionals can learn best practices for managing and extending the life of septic systems by attending a free, six-part webinar series hosted by Penn State Extension in September, October and November.

The "Septic System Series," all scheduled from noon to 1:30 p.m., will include the following webinars in September:

"Septic System Basics," September 16. Designed for homeowners, property managers and anyone new to septic systems—or

those in need of a refresher—the 90-minute session covers the essential components of septic system function, care and maintenance. Participants can gain a clear understanding of how a septic system works and practical tips to help extend its life and protect property and the environment.

"Alternative Septic Systems," September 30. In this webinar, participants will examine the types of alternative systems available, how they differ from standard systems and the unique maintenance considerations they require. The session also will highlight key factors to evaluate before installation, help-

ing homeowners and professionals make informed decisions.

Penn State Extension offers these events at no charge, but registration is required to receive the link to access each webinar. A link to the recorded webinar will be emailed to registrants within 10 business days after the live event. The recording will be accessible for six months from the event date.

More information about the series is available on the Penn State Extension website at www.extension.psu.edu/septic-system-series.

Veterans' breakfast to be held at Belle Reve

MILFORD, PA — Local military Veterans are invited to a complimentary breakfast at Belle Reve Senior Living, 404 E. Harford St. in Milford on Tuesday, September 23 at 9 a.m. An RSVP is required by Tuesday, September 16.

"We're pleased to honor those who have served our country by providing breakfast and an opportunity to connect with fellow veter-

ans," a press release reads. "Enter our raffle drawing for an American flag. Bring a friend who hasn't been here before and double your chances for you and your friend!"

To RSVP, call Heather at 570/409-9191 or email HMarrocco@bellerevesl.com.

Free Book Share returns to fairgrounds

Contributed by SEEDS

HONESDALE, PA — SEEDS of Northeastern Pennsylvania (SEEDS) announced the return of the Free Book Share to the Wayne County Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, September 13 and 14. This is the only event in Wayne County that has no limit. Bring as many as you want. Take as many as you want. The goal is to see every book into a new home.

Whether you bring 10, one or none, you are welcome to browse the red metal building on the fairgrounds and fill your arms (bags and boxes) with literary loot.

The book share invites everyone—community neighbors, families, visitors, organizations, agencies, businesses, groups, artists, collectors, anyone. Create a home library, leave some in a waiting room or lobby, offer them in a Little Free Library, repurpose for arts and crafts projects.

Over the past several years, this annual free event has relocated 150,000 books, and many went to new homes and families here in NEPA. It is one of the single largest recycling events in our area. The book share won an Environmental Partnership Award in 2019.

Do you have “a whole bunch of books” to drop off? Box ‘em up and bring them early. Donation times begin on Thursday, September 11 and run through September 13 at the fairgrounds. Write the number of



Photo contributed by SEEDS

Community members participate in last year's free book share.

books included in each bag or box on the outside for quick calculating.

Book donations accepted

September 11 from noon-6 p.m.

September 12 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

September 13 from 9 a.m.-noon

No donations will be accepted after noon on Saturday.

Every book is counted and sorted into genres for community friends and neighbors to find and take home. Every year, we rehome more than half of the donations locally. Any leftover books are sorted for resale with an outside company or properly recycled due to age and condition. We ship around 20 boxes to domestic military families.

Monetary, tax-deductible donations to

SEEDS are appreciated.

The goal is for no books to end up in a landfill.

Do not bring VHS tapes, DVDs, CDs, PC games, encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauruses, binders, folders, notebooks, stationary, calendars, sheet music, appliance instruction manuals or information directories. We do not have an environmentally responsible outlet for some of these items, and a very small percentage find a new home. Recycle these items with your home waste service, or directly at the Wayne County Recycling Center.

For more information about SEEDS, visit www.seedsgroup.net.

Lackawaxen Fall Market to debut

LACKAWAXEN, PA — Growing Lackawaxen, a nonprofit organization with a stated mission of enhancing the quality of life in Lackawaxen Township by creating opportunities for connection, celebration and community support, has announced the first-ever Lackawaxen Fall Market.

The market will be held on Sundays in September from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, 109 Scenic Dr. The event will be held rain or shine and promises to bring neighbors, families and visitors together to shop local, discover unique goods and celebrate community.

The market will feature a variety of local vendors offering everything from farm-fresh produce and homemade baked goods to crafts, handmade décor, specialty products and more. A full vendor list, along with details on which vendors will attend each date, can be found on Facebook, @LackawaxenFallMarket.

“This market is about more than shopping,” said a spokesperson for Growing Lackawaxen. “It’s about supporting small businesses, celebrating our township, and giving residents and visitors alike a chance to connect with one another.”

With community spirit, fresh local offerings and a scenic park setting, the Lackawaxen Fall Market is set to become an annual tradition for the township.

More information and full vendor details are available at www.growinglackawaxen.com/lackawaxen-fall-market.

Last guided bird hike of season scheduled

BARRYVILLE, NY — The community is invited to flock to Minisink Battleground Park with Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River for a feathered farewell. The last guided bird hike of the season will educate participants on the birds that can be heard and seen in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

On Sunday, September 14, the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Sullivan County Audubon Society will take attendees birding through the wooded trails of the Minisink Battleground Park. The hike will begin at 8 a.m. to give participants the best opportunity to hear birds as they begin their day with the dawn chorus.

The Minisink Battleground Park is located at 58 County Road 168. The trails to be walked are wooded and relatively flat with some slight inclines, perfect for people of all hiking abilities. The hour-and-a-half-long guided hike will feature helpful tips and tricks for identifying local birds. Participants are asked to bring plenty of water and snacks. Binoculars and tick and bug spray are recommended.

The Upper Delaware Region is an important area for hundreds of bird species. The river itself is noted for its free-flowing nature and exceptional water quality. A diverse array of birds relies on the high-water quality and habitats for the food and nesting areas they need. These attributes also allow the river to support abundant fish populations, an important food source for many birds who inhabit the river valley. Extensive mixed hardwood and hemlock forests can be found along the river and offer even more high-quality habitat.

More information about Upper Delaware S&RR and this hike is available at www.nps.gov/upde, and for Sullivan County Audubon Society, www.sullivanaudubon.org.

Music and art honor survivors, rescuers

MONTICELLO, NY — The community is invited to an exhibit at Temple Sholom honoring survivors and their rescuers. An event highlighting the exhibit will take place Sunday, September 14 at Temple Sholom—5 Dillon Road in Monticello—at 2 p.m.

The exhibit, titled “Honoring Survivors and Their Rescuers Through the Generations,” features a diverse array of artworks, including paintings, poetry, prose, books, photographs and more reflecting a broad range of experiences and emotions.

On September 14, through the songs performed by Lourdesa Hunt and the artistry painted on location by Allison Luci, attendees can smile, tear up, hug and share, an organizer said. Both Hunt and Luci will engage with the audience, share their connections with the theme of the exhibit, and the audience will be invited to do so, too.

Hunt is a classically trained vocalist and performer whose artistry is described as rooted in her unwavering belief in the power of love and humanity to bridge divides. She said she is deeply honored to participate in this event, celebrating the extraordinary legacies of survivors and rescuers. To her, this opportunity is not only powerful and meaningful but also a chance to amplify the stories of resilience and courage that continue to inspire generations.

Luci is described as a joy-driven artist who celebrates animals and color



Photos contributed by Temple Sholom
Lourdesa Hunt is a classically trained vocalist and performer.

through vibrant, feel-good art. As a two-time cancer survivor, she believes in the power of positivity and lives by her motto: “Make your own happy!” Luci’s work aims to uplift, inspire, and spark smiles with every brushstroke. Her artwork can be viewed at www.allisonluciar.com.

This artist-singer program is part of a collaboration between Hope’s Compass, a local nonprofit, and Temple Sholom. A \$15 suggested donation will help Hope’s Compass Fund and Temple Sholom



Allison Luci describes herself as a joy-driven artist who celebrates animals and color through vibrant, feel-good art.

continue bringing artists, musicians, panel discussions and exhibits to the community.

Funding for Music and Art has been provided by Sullivan 180’s Community Development Grant, Resorts World Gives and individual donations. More information on how to support the continuation of Honoring Survivors programming can be found at www.HopesCompass.org.

Youth RREPORTER

Sullivan West FFA students earn top honors at NY State Fair



Contributed by jenn_inthewoods
SW FFA competed at the state fair.

ALBANY, NY — On August 29, five student members of the Sullivan West FFA chapter proudly represented the district at the New York State Fair by competing in the Wildlife ID and Tree ID Career Development Events (CDEs).

Junior Division achievements

Lillian Bressler, Rachel McCarthy and Victoria Skuthan participated in the Junior Wildlife ID contest, demonstrating their knowledge in species identification and conservation.

Junior Division

Lillian Bressler earned second place; Rachel McCarthy secured fourth place and Victoria Skuthan achieved 10th place. All three received individual ribbons, and the team of Lillian and Rachel earned first place overall as a team.

Senior Division

Alison McCarthy and Mackenzie Bernas competed in both the Senior Tree ID and Senior Wildlife ID categories, showcasing an advanced understanding of New York's forestry and wildlife systems. In Senior Tree ID, Alison placed fourth; in Senior Wildlife ID, Alison placed second, with Alison and Mackenzie's team securing second place overall.

"These students exemplify the dedication, skill and passion that define Sullivan West's agricultural education program," said Padraic McCarthy, agriculture and science teacher and FFA advisor. "We are incredibly proud of their performance and professionalism at a statewide level." The CDEs at the New York State Fair offer real-world challenges and experiences, helping FFA students strengthen skills that support future careers in agriculture, environmental science and natural resources.

The Sullivan West FFA Chapter is part of the national FFA organization, which promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



Contributed photo

Members of the Bethany 4-H Club are pictured with water and Gatorade donations. They are with members of the Waymart Volunteer Fire Company.

A busy summer for Bethany 4-H

By TRULY ZABLOCKY, News Reporter

BETHANY, PA — Members of the Bethany 4-H Club have had a busy summer! In July, we held two meetings in order to get ready for the Wayne County Fair.

We also collected water and Gatorade for the Waymart Volunteer Fire Company. Two members of the fire company brought a fire truck to our meeting and talked to us about fire safety and how items on the fire truck are used.

In August, our members had various projects exhibited at the Wayne County Fair. Our club display placed seventh and our club scrapbook placed third.

Our club would like to thank our extension office staff, the fair board, 4-H leaders, parents and volunteers who help make the fair a success each year.

If you're interested in joining 4-H in Wayne County, call the Penn State Extension Office at 570/616-0880.

Horsin' around with a Sullivan County 4-H Club

By TED WADDELL

GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — To kickstart the 145th annual Little World's Fair, on Thursday, August 14, the Diehl Us In 4-H Club of Callicoon, NY staged the fascinating Sullivan County 4-H Fun Horse Show in the fairground's main ring.

The show featured the horse-handling talents of 20 young horsewomen and a lone youthful horseman under the watchful tutelage of Megan Diehl-Blumenthal, proprietor of Diehl Me In Performance Horses in Callicoon, an equestrian-training program.

During the show, the young riders performed a series of interlocking exercises—such as "sit-a-buck, a toilet paper race, an egg-and-spoon race, musical poles and costume"—all designed to demonstrate their mastery of horsemanship.

The Little World's Fair is hosted by the Neversink Agricultural Society during the third weekend in August each year. The mission is "to provide a venue for farmers and craftspeople to gather and display their produce, livestock and creations while providing community fellowship with music and entertainment." And of course, it always showcases horses.

The Grahamsville Fair was founded in 1878 in the small, closely knit, agriculturally rich community. It has been a popular feature in the area every year since it was

established—except in 1928, when a devastating flood washed out the bridge leading to the fairgrounds, and in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Sullivan County Youth Development program "provides fun, experimental learning opportunities to help young people grow to be healthy, happy, contributing global citizens."

According to the CCE website, "In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us. We are the local branch of America's largest youth development organization—empowering nearly six million young people across the U.S. with the skills to lead for a lifetime."

Diehl Me In Performance Horses offers horse care and riding instruction for people of all ages and abilities, its website says. The focus is on "developing the full potential of every equestrian and their mount."

The following young riders participated: Blake and Clare, Bailey Carlucci, Harper



RR photo by Ted Waddell

A trio of young horsewomen (Skye Cruz, 16; Sandra Hanofee, 18; and Maci Berlingri, 11), pose with a horse named Stranger before taking to the main ring at the 145th annual Grahamsville Fair, which is known far and wide as the Little World's Fair.

Krause, Aria Schanil, Lux Seibert, Kensi Farrand, Kali Dutcher, Kylie Houghtaling, Mia Powell, Shae Seibert, Maci Berlingeri, Saive Caycho, Harper Ryder, Harper Eggleton, Skye Cruz, Sandra Hanofee, Penelope Hanweck, Mya Bury, Roz Passante and Natalie Westergreen.

Learn more about Diehl Us In 4-H Club on Facebook.

For information about another local 4-H program, Small Town Country 4-H in Hortonville, find it on Facebook at Small Town Country 4-H.

For more photos, visit www.riverreporter.com.



Photo contributed by the 4-H Explorers

The 4-H Explorers and Cherry Ridge 4-H clubs paint the Red Metal Building in preparation for the Wayne County Fair.

4-H Explorers paint Wayne County Fair building

By KYLIE BOLLING

HONESDALE, PA — On July 12, the 4-H Explorers Club and the Cherry Ridge 4-H Club cleaned and painted the Red Metal

Building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. The club members helped sweep the floors and wipe down the benches to get the building ready for the Wayne County Fair.



Photo contributed by the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters

The Go-Getters learn to save lives.

Go-Getters learn CPR

By JONATHAN NEBZYDOSKI,
4-H Club News Reporter

PLEASANT MOUNT, PA — At a recent Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H meeting, Steve Piotrowski from the Maplewood

Fire Company in Lake Ariel instructed the large group of attendees in how to perform CPR in emergency situations. Each member participated in the training by practicing on the CPR mannequin that the fire company supplied.

Tri-Gal 4-H Club participates in Wayne County Fair

By CHANNING RUTLEDGE, Club News Reporter

HONESDALE, PA — For 4-H members, the fair season begins as soon as the last one ends. From choosing new livestock projects to beginning non-livestock projects and planning our club display, scrapbook and club project, we are always busy.

The 163rd Wayne County Fair was held August 1-9 and was no exception. Our club started off the fair week with our club president, Olyvea Burke, being named one of the county's 2025 Outstanding Senior Members. Congratulations to Olyvea and also to Nicole Non, who was also named an Outstanding Senior Member.

The Tri-Gal 4-H Club had a great run, receiving 1st Blue with our club display, which had the county theme "Flying into 2025...4-H Has the Supplies to Thrive."

We took the theme one step further and added "in Agriculture and Beyond," because it is important to know that 4-H is a lot more than just animals. Anyone who visited the Red Metal Building at the south end of the fairgrounds had a firsthand look at all the non-livestock opportunities 4-H offers. From baking to woodworking, there is something for everybody.

We also received a blue award for our 2025 club scrapbook. Our scrapbook and remodeled portable display will be on public display during National 4-H Week in October at the Dime Bank in Damascus.

Like many of the county's 4-H members, our club has members who commit to raising quality livestock projects that are then sold at the annual livestock auction on the last day of the fair.

They must learn to care for the animals with minimal assistance and keep record books on their projects.

This year, our club had at least one member who had a project in every offering, including sheep, goats, beef, hogs and rabbits, and many showed dairy goats and cattle, which do not get sold. Showmanship of the projects, as well as the market show, is part of the experience.

Our members showed exceptional showmanship skills and sportsmanship in the show ring all week, many taking home top honors.

The show results will be published in local newspapers (see page 12) and online in the coming days to weeks. Congratulations to everyone!

During the opening ceremonies for the auction, held on August 9, Club President Olyvea and Club Treasurer and News Reporter Channing each received a Nebzydoski-White Memorial Scholarship.

Thank you to the generous business owners and private buyers who know that when you purchase a 4-H livestock animal, you purchase locally grown, quality meat products and are supporting the future of agriculture in our area.

We would also like to thank everyone who purchased ice cream from the 4-H ice cream booth. This is the program's biggest fundraiser each year, and it sold out again this year.

For more information on how you can join 4-H or become a screened volunteer, call the Penn State Extension Office at 570/616-0880.



Contributed photo

Tri-Gal 4-H Club received a blue award for the 2025 club scrapbook.

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Money for scholarships

Wayne 4-H, FFA livestock sale nets \$600,000-plus

HONESDALE, PA — On August 9 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Honesdale, supporters of 4-H and FFA gathered for the Junior Livestock Sale, held in the show ring.

By the end, the sale tallied \$634,855.50 in support of local 4-H and FFA members’ livestock projects.

This year’s sale saw 396 market steers, hogs, lambs, goats and pens of meat rabbits cross the auction block. The resale of animals, aka buy-backs, ensured scholarships for the coming year, plus a \$33,208.80 jumpstart toward next year’s fund.

Prior to the start of the sale, 4-H and FFA members marched into the arena and recited both the 4-H pledge and the FFA pledge. Madison Franckowiak led the crowd in the singing of the national anthem.

Eleven 4-H and FFA Livestock Scholarship recipients, who will seek higher education or enter agribusiness in the coming year, were

Auction results

The first animal offered for sale was Rylan Montgomery’s 257-pound Grand Champion Market Hog. Rylan is a member of the Calkins Ag 4-H Club. Roger Dirlam of Dirlam Brothers Lumber Company successfully bid the hog to \$38/pound.

The 285-pound Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog was sold by Brooke Kellogg, a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club. The winning bid of \$22/pound was placed by Michael Cavage of Pioneer Construction.

The 143-pound Grand Champion Market Lamb was raised by Hailey Wasman of the Explorers 4-H Club. Mike Cavage of Pioneer Construction bid this champion to \$42.50/pound.

Olivia Jonas raised the 150-pound Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb. Olivia is a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club. Earl Marshall of Marshall Machinery bought this animal for \$17.50/pound.

Cora Freidenstine exhibited the 81-pound Grand Champion Market Meat Goat. Cora is a member of the Tri-Gal 4-H Club. Earl Marshall of Marshall Machinery successfully bid \$47.50/pound to purchase this champion.

Andrew Freidenstine won Reserve Grand Champion Market Meat Goat honors with his 63-pound market meat goat. Andrew is a member of the Tri-Gal 4-H Club. Adam Henning of Narrowsburg Feed and Grain Company bid this champion to \$41/pound.

Jeremiah Burleigh’s 1,445-pound Grand Champion Market Steer was purchased by Rob and Karla Grimm of Grimm Construction for \$8/ pound. Jeremiah is a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club.

Olivia Jonas exhibited the 1,280-pound Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer. The steer was successfully bid to \$5/pound by Grimm Construction. Olivia is a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club.

Showing the 1,070 lb. Grand Champion Grass-Fed Market Steer was Jenna Eccles of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club. Thomas Eccles of Impact Building Solutions bid this animal to \$3/pound.

Truly Zablocky sold her pen of Grand Champion Market Meat Rabbits to Dan Moran of Wood Duck Electric. Truly is a member of Bethany 4-H. Cortland Green sold the Reserve Grand Champion pen to the Honesdale National Bank. Cortland belongs to the Calkins Ag 4-H Club.

introduced. Scholarships of \$2,500 each were awarded to Olyvea Burke, Johnathan Conlogue, Paige Gries, Rylan Montgomery, Clara Murphy, Laura Nebzydoski, Nicole Non, Michaela Reed, Channing Rutledge and Clara Stackhouse.

The scholarship program became a part of the Junior Livestock Sale in 1998. Scholarship funds have grown in recent years, mainly as a result of buy-backs, when animals are purchased at the auction, then donated back for resale to benefit the scholarship fund. Direct donations to memorialize a death or milestone occasion are also a means of adding to the scholarship fund.

Contributions and memorials can be directed to the Wayne County 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale Scholarship in care of Rosalind Williams, secretary and scholarship fund manager, 409 Stock Farm Road, Lake Ariel, PA, 18436.

Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Homebred Livestock results:

Market hogs were exhibited by Olivia Jonas and Haley Jonas.

Market lambs were exhibited by Piper Williams and Jenna Eccles.

Market goats were exhibited by Abby Wasman and Wynn Maciejewski.

Market steers were exhibited by Jason Vass and Rose Burleigh.

Mike Cavage of Pioneer Construction outbid all other buyers at the sale, spending nearly \$89,000 on market animals. Following Pioneer was Grimm Construction, spending over \$36,000 on livestock. Next in order were Macky Burleigh of Burleigh Construction, with nearly \$22,000 spent on livestock and Kyle Salvatore of Delaware Valley Farm and Garden, approaching the \$20,000 mark.

Other significant buyers, in order of buying power:

\$17,000 to \$12,000: Cohecton Mills, Inc.; Narrowsburg Feed and Grain; Grossman Farms; Marshall Machinery; Dirlam Brothers Lumber Company; and Waymart Milling Company.

\$11,999 to \$7,000: Pleasant Mount Welding, Rutledge Excavating, Leeward Construction, Maciejewski Landscaping Inc./360 Hunting Blinds, Ellis Law Group, Rusty Palmer Inc. and Zablocky Excavating LLC.

\$6,999 to \$5,000: Paul’s Custom Butchering; Diehl Trucking, Inc.; Dave Vanderwark; Down to Earth Equipment Rentals; Ron and Tammy Scull dba RTS Truck Center/Valley Sand and Gravel/Valley Farm; Tim Wright/Cold Creek Farm; Carbondale Veterinary Hospital; Jen Rutledge Materials; Wallenpaupack Veterinary Clinic; Remax of Wayne County-Remax Best; and Case Tire Service, Inc.

\$4,999 to \$4,000: Olsommer-Clark Insurance; Five Star Equipment; A & A Excavating; Mander Fire and Safety; Watson Timber Harvesting; Rutledge Livestock; Apple Day Spa and Salon; TZS Construction LLC; Meagher Insurance; Beck, Gogolski and Co.; Medico Construction Equipment; Dry Creek Farms/Logan Hall; Dr. Jessica Sheruda and Dr. Adam Ryan; and the Wayne Bank.

\$3,999 to \$3,000: Dyberry Sand and Gravel Co.; Gina Farrachi; Nick Lauersen; Jim Histed’s Plumbing and Heating; G5 Insurance; Wayne County Ford; Hook Well Drilling; the Dime Bank; Eddie Ware; Boyce Products, LTD; Matt and Beth

Fair funds future farmers

By ORLEY MAE WHITE

HONESDALE, PA — Scholarship funds raised during this year’s livestock auction at the Wayne County Fair will be distributed to 11 senior Future Farmers of America and 4-H members, who will each receive \$2,500.

Members of 4-H clubs and the Future Farmers of America chapters of Wayne County enroll in Market Animal programs. Along with parents and the personnel of the Wayne County Penn State Extension Office, the clubs guide and educate young people to carefully raise their market steers, hogs, sheep, goats and rabbits. Projects are complete only when the members 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 and added them to breeding stock, slaughtered them or, in an attempt to recoup the monies they spent raising the animals, found private buyers. In 1998, a few long-time supporters of the program created an auction. The Wayne County sale has become highly successful: it is frequently the second- or third-highest-grossing sale in

Pennsylvania, next to the Harrisburg sale.

The first auction began with about 10 animals; this year, 450 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 it 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 in the future to a senior member to assist with them in their future plans.

At the close of the 2025 sale, the committee will have donated 423 scholarships totaling \$598,933. See below for the recipients.

Scholarship profiles: Recipients of scholarships from the 2025 auction

Olyvea Burke, daughter of Michael and Rozalyn, is a member of the Tri-Gal 4-H club. She plans on attending the University of Pittsburgh.

A member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club, **Jonathan Conlogue**, will be attending Penn State, University Park. He is the son of Dan Conlogue.

Paige Gries, a member of Laurella 4-H Club, plans on attending Johnson College. Her parents are Danielle Vanstone and William Land.

Rylan Montgomery will pursue studies at Penn State. He is the son of Jay and Emily Montgomery and is a member of the Calkins 4-H Club.

Clara Murphy is the daughter of Brendan and Heather Murphy. She is a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club. She has been accepted to DeSales University.

Mark and Aubrey Nebzydoski’s daughter, **Laura Nebzydoski**, is a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club.

She will be attending the University of Scranton.

Nicole Non, a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club, is the daughter of Stephen and Carolyn Non. She has been accepted at Penn State University.

Michaela Reed is the daughter of Harley and Barbara Reed. A member of Creamton Area Ag 4-H Club, she will attend Lackawanna College.

Channing Rutledge, the daughter of Bruce and Melissa Rutledge, will be studying beet production. She is a member of the Tri-Gal 4-H Club.

Leah Salzameda is the daughter of Tanya Dutton and Matt Salzameda. She is a member of the Maple Line and Horse Lovers 4-H Clubs and has been accepted at Bucks Community College.

Clara Stackhouse, a member of the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters 4-H Club, plans to attend Marywood University. She is the daughter of Jocelyn Finnerty.

Salzameda; Aleckna Farms; Dexter Construction Co.; Kretschmer Excavating LLC; Impact Building Solutions; Eccles Family Farm; Shursky Companies; and Dakan Enterprises, Inc.

\$2,999 to \$1,500: Komar Farm and Meats, Finally Able Farm, the Honesdale National Bank, Honesdale Farm and Garden, R.O.W. Resources, Jake and Charlotte Turner, Northeast Firearms, Roger and Kathryn Dix, Cherry Ridge Veterinary Clinic, Steve Adams, Wood Duck

Electric, Hometown Family Farm, Andrew Krompasky, Henderson Trucking, Central Clay, New Milford Hardware, Fox Hill Farm, Blue Stone Environmental Inc., Calkins Creamery, Highlights Foundation, Dry Brook Farms LLC, Judge Matthew Meagher, Joel and Betsy Turner, Cleveland Brothers, Honesdale Spreading Service, Vicky L. Bryant-LaTourette and Lantzsch Farm.



Contributed photo
The Waymart Horizons 4-H Club helped build this excellent table for the Waymart supervisors.

Using our hands for larger service

Waymart Horizons members build a table and exhibit projects at the Wayne County Fair

By CALLY NON, News Reporter

[Ed. note: This story was sent on August 8. Sorry it had to wait! Hopefully all our readers got to the fair.]

WAYMART, PA — The Waymart Horizons 4-H Club has been very busy this year. We had several new members join our club and we moved our meeting space to the Clinton Township meeting room.

We noticed right away that the table where the supervisors sit for their meetings was older and in rough shape. We spoke with Supervisor Non, whose kids are members of the club, about helping them build a new table.

The supervisors and Mr. Larry Wildenstein, a wood craftsman, showed us how to properly use the tools needed and

how to put the pieces together to construct the new table. We even got to put our handprints on it!

We are currently at the fair with all of our projects. Animal projects are in the barns and non-animal projects are in the Red Metal Building. Also in the Red Metal Building are the 4-H club display, our scrapbook, a poster about making the new table and our Cloverbuds insect display.

Everyone should come take a look at all of our projects.

The fair ends on Saturday the 9th, when we auction off our market projects at 10 a.m. in the arena by the barns. There are sheep, goats, hogs, steers and rabbits to be bid on. We hope to see you there!



Photo contributed by the Pleasant Mount Go-Getters

Go-Getters show their patriotism

By JONATHAN NEBZYDOSKI, Club News Reporter

PLEASANT MOUNT, PA — The Pleasant Mount Go-Getters showed patriotic spirit in

the line of march with their annual float in the Pleasant Mount Fourth of July parade. Leader Jeremy O'Neill chaperoned the club on the parade route through the village.



Photo contributed by the 4-H Explorers
The 4-H Explorers Club meets the Hamlin Fire and Rescue Company.

4-H Explorers visit Hamlin Fire and Rescue

By KYLIE BOLLING

HAMLIN, PA — On June 22, the 4-H Explorers visited the Hamlin Fire and Rescue Company to learn about fire safety, trucks and ambulances. They were taught

how to roll a fire hose properly, and the club members were educated on the responsibilities of firefighters. Some members were able to put on the heavy gear that firefighters are required to wear on the job.

Kids and teens: Study drama with River Rep Theatre

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Attention young performers! If you're between the ages of eight and 18 and interested in acting and stagecraft, River Rep Jr. might be for you.

The River Rep Jr. Fall 2025 Workshop is a fun and exciting way for kids to explore their imagination and develop essential life skills that extend far beyond the stage.

Work with the theatre's professionals, learning the fundamentals of theater arts.

Learn how to connect with your emotions to create characters, boost self-confidence and build communication skills.

Learn how to collaborate with a group to bring stories to life.

Experienced instructors create a nurturing and supportive environment. The workshop

is led by River Rep artistic directors Arthur Aulisi and Christopher Peditto, as well as guest artist instructors, exploring a wide range of theater techniques.

The workshop concludes on December 6 with a performance for friends and family, of scenes and devised pieces worked on over the course.

The River Rep Jr. Fall 2025 Workshop runs 10 weeks, on Saturdays from September 27 to December 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is no class on November 1.

All classes take place at the Delaware Valley Opera Center, 6692 Rte. 52.

The cost of tuition is pay-what-you-can, although a suggested donation is \$125.

To register, visit riverrep.org.
Contributed by River Rep Theatre.



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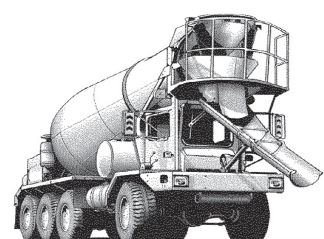
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8:45 a.m. Liberty Elementary School, 201 N. Main St.

Mongaup Valley

8 a.m. lineup at the Smallwood-Mongaup Valley Fire Department. Service at 8:30 a.m. 181 Ballard Road, Mongaup Valley.

Monticello

7 p.m. Monticello Firehouse, 23 Richardson Ave. Sponsored by the Monticello Fire Department.

Smallwood

Lineup at 8 a.m. at the Smallwood Firehouse. Service at 8:30 a.m. 181 Ballard Road, Mongaup Valley. Sponsored by the Smallwood-Mongaup Valley Fire Department.

Wurtsboro

6:45 p.m. lineup at the Wurtsboro Firehouse, 54 Pine St. Sponsored by the Wurtsboro Fire Department and the American Legion Mamakating Post 1266.

List provided by the Committee for Equity and Justice, and the Sullivan County Government Center.

Pennsylvania

Matamoras

6 p.m. 911 memorial candlelight ceremony. Veterans Memorial Park & Education Center, 701 Ave. Q.

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Animals are always worth celebrating

But if you need a reason to do so, here are some suggestions

BY ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

NATIONWIDE — Are you an animal lover? Are you looking for a collection of animal-themed days to celebrate?

Or acknowledge, depending on the theme.

One doesn't celebrate Pet Birth Defect Awareness Day (Saturday, September 13). Let's start with that.

According to smoochie-pooch.com, birth defects in pets can happen because of genetic abnormalities, because of nutritional deficiencies in the mother, or due to environmental causes, such as toxins.

New rainwater-harvester system, livestock wash rack at O.C. fair

OTISVILLE, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Orange County held a ribbon cutting on two infrastructure projects recently—the rainwater harvester collection system (RHCS) and the livestock wash rack.

After years of planning and hard work, the RHCS is now fully operational, the cooperative extension said. Featuring a 70,000-gallon cistern, the system captures and reuses roof rainwater for flushing toilets, animal washing, hydration, arena dust control and garden irrigation throughout the 4-H park.

The system includes hydrants at each barn, a processing skid, and piping throughout the grounds.

The project was made possible with funding through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, as well as a generous donation from an anonymous donor.

The livestock wash rack was finalized

Sunday, September 14 kicks off Adopt a Less Adoptable Pet Week, which takes place each year during the third week of September.

Which pets are less likely to be adopted? The Hinsdale Humane Society lists black dogs and cats (maybe due to superstition), senior pets, special-needs pets and more. Visit www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/blog/spreading-awareness-this-adopt-a-less-adoptable-pet-week to learn why you should consider a less adoptable pet.

Other worthy and celebratory days:

Wednesday, September 17: National Pet Bird Day. “Created in 2019 by the Bird Enjoyment & Advantage Coalition (BEAK), National Pet Bird Day is a time for bird lovers across the United States and beyond to celebrate the joys and benefits of owning a pet bird,” according to myrightbird.com.

September is Happy Cat Month, according to avma.org. If your cat is anything like my cat, food makes them happy. And attention. And talking to humans on Discord.

Also the chipmunk.

September 28 is International Rabbit Day.

That one's self-explanatory.

It's also World Rabies Day.

Rabbits are good if you don't have a yard-full; rabies is unequivocally bad. Vaccinate your pets.

And I leave you with this:

Even if you aren't in the U.K., you can celebrate Small Pet Rodent Awareness Week, September 15-21. And it's no coincidence (because I just invented this holiday, so I know for sure), but Friday, September 19 is Talk Like a Rat Pirate Day.

You're welcome.

just in time for the fair. Special thanks go to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) and state Sen. James Skoufis for their role in securing critical funding support, the cooperative extension said. “The new wash rack provides a safe, efficient, and sanitary space for animals to be cleaned and cared for during events and exhibitions.”

Volunteers Gary Johnson and Bob Nywening were also acknowledged; their commitment and hands-on contributions helped bring the RHCS over the finish line, according to the cooperative extension. “Their work stands as a testament to the power of volunteerism in building community infrastructure.” The Rainwater Harvester System was also ceremoniously dedicated to Kevin Demarest, a CCE volunteer and husband of Maire Ullrich, CCE Orange County's agriculture issue leader, who passed away earlier this month.

The success of these projects also relied on the dedication and expertise of several key contractors and partners, including TAM Enterprises, Wahaso Harvesting Solutions, Harry F. Rotolo & Son, LaBella Associates and Fusco Engineering.

Additionally, the grounds feature the Justin Terrace in Memory of Mia, a garden and gathering space designed by Doug Milne, master gardener and volunteer. The space includes a children's hand pump and serves as a meeting spot within the park.



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Contributed photo
The ribbon cutting ceremony for the rainwater harvester at the recent Country Fair in Otisville, NY.



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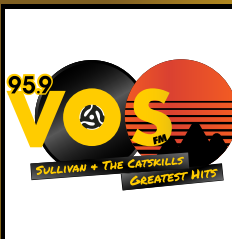
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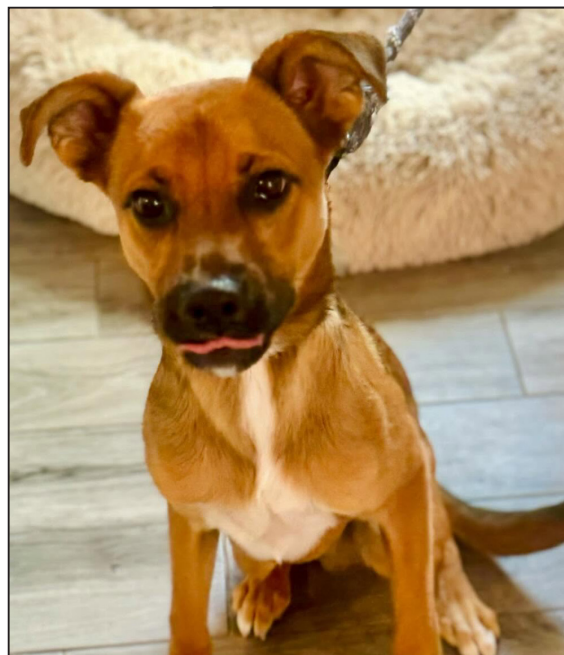
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Nurturing in nature by Lake Joseph

By BENITA GOLDSTEIN

FORESTBURGH, NY — A few months ago, I interviewed John Harvey, author of “Nature’s Pathways to Mindfulness.” At the time, I was intrigued by his in-depth research into the effect nature has on people. As a psychologist, John brought a bit more to the table, analyzing the ways in which nature’s beneficial effects have on our human well-being physically, emotionally, cognitively and even spiritually.

The end of the summer seemed to be a good time to experience just what the book and author cover, specifically the concept of a Sit Spot. The meaning of it is to pick a spot in nature and sit there for up to an hour and observe, using our full sensory awareness. The purpose of it exceeds the definition in that we as people are actually allowing ourselves to reap the benefits that the birds, butterflies, trees and so forth, have already discovered.

Covered from head to toe with warm-enough clothing (it is after all the Catskill Mountains) that is as comfortable as it is protective, we set out into the woods surrounding Lake Joseph in Forestburgh, a small town with more forest than people.

We left the car in an open area of grass after John unpacked the two stools for our eventual Sit Spot. We followed the first path, which didn’t seem too woodsy at first—until we veered away from the sign pointing toward the lake. We kept walking and approached a thicket that seemed appropriate for woods.

John pointed out various flora, such as the fireweed, which resembled more flower than weed in my opinion, especially as it glistened in the sunlight.

I kept my eyes peeled for anything that breathed and moved—specifically a member of the local bear family, as I wondered just how fast I could climb a tree.

As my gaze went downwards to step over the brush, I noticed a pen that blended in with the blues and greens of the flora on the trail. I added it to my backpack just in case I needed an extra.

The lake was very far off in the distance and not visible; this was something we hadn’t expected. The trick was how to navigate our way toward the lake. Fortunately, John’s phone came equipped with all kinds of info as it guided us forward and left. Clearly, the phone didn’t realize how thick the forest would get, as we also had to climb over some boulders and through a thicket of mountain laurel as we advanced to our destination.

Close to an hour had passed by the time we arrived and perched ourselves on a large rock that literally sat at the water’s edge. As John unfolded the stools, I thought maybe we were a bit hemmed in to what was our Sit Spot. Good balance was key for sitting on the three-legged stool and keeping a view of water, sky and forest—which were all the elements that we needed to observe nature.

Now came the fun part, during which we used our natural senses to bring us closer to our environment. We were listening for



Photos contributed by John Harvey

We continued to hear the waves lapping along as the wind picked up; along with a leaf’s orange hue, it indicated that fall was on its way. Which way would the confused leaf blow now? I wasn’t sure, but thought that it would figure it out.

sounds, whether of lapping waves from the wind, inhaling the fragrances of trees and plants, or just feeling the cool breeze glide over our fingers.

We took notes every 10 minutes per John’s direction. The sky was truly sky-blue above us with wisps of clouds passing by.

Suddenly, we heard an unusual sound, a “Mew, mew, mew.” John affirmed that it was a catbird, and I was surprised that a bird took on a name for an animal that regarded birds as prey. There was a slight distraction by the obvious growl of a garden tractor that maybe didn’t want to be working that day. We ignored the noise and continued to tune in and hear more bird songs and calls in the distance.

The leaves around us flickered in the breeze while a mini insect was seen crawling in the grass. We continued to hear the waves lapping along as the wind picked up; along with a leaf’s orange hue, it indicated that fall was on its way. Which way would the confused leaf blow now? I wasn’t sure, but thought that it would figure it out.

Just when you think there are no surprises, a tiny bird nestled on a plant branch on my left before taking flight. John heard its husky tchep-tchep call and thought it was probably a common yellowthroat. He also had his binoculars out to seize the moment of a bird on a top branch above us, which he identified as a kingfisher. I had a glimpse of it and wondered how a bird could have such a regal name.

With so much to observe, our one hour

dissipated quickly. We were now going to exit the forest, or so I thought. I suddenly realized that without a breadcrumb trail to follow, where are we going?

Interestingly, the earlier thoughts of worry I had about what we would encounter were now gone. It was easy to accept where we had been and believe nature would ensure our way out.

That said, our journey away from the water was a bit complicated by an even thicker brush. Stepping over logs and shooing away the many branches blocking our path, we continued moving. Suddenly realizing we were back on a familiar welcoming path, we then saw the sign for the lake, and knew we were almost there.

And yes, the fireweeds were now in view, greeting us with what I thought was a sign: “We knew you could do this.”

We high-fived it when we noticed the car, and for a brief nostalgic moment, wondered when we could go back for another hour. There is a deep feeling of gratitude after being nurtured by nature while reflecting on one’s own personal experience.

I believe rereading this story on September 11 will keep me grounded, knowing nature will welcome me back when I need to ease my mind. Consider taking the time to be in or near nature, and discover how restorative and soothing it is, providing a sense of peace for all of us.

Learn more about John Harvey on Facebook at John Harvey Author.



John Harvey takes a photo of himself and the author.

‘Confluence of Dreamers’ takes Art’s Nest stage

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Kazzrie Jaxen and Eric Baylin will collaborate in an evening of original music and poetry titled “Confluence of Dreamers” on Saturday September 13 at 7 p.m. at the Art’s Nest at the Delaware Valley Opera Center.

“In uniquely blending their words and music, the two artists will invoke the possible, improbable, outlandish and wild with a nod to other dreamers of worlds that can be imagined, including the great Sufi poets Rumi and Hafiz. Expect some improvisational flourishes, mesmerizing drumming, and captivating storytelling. Even tap dancing and tutus might find their way into the stream of these two artists’ ever-evolving creative flow,” a press release reads.

Jaxen is an improvising pianist, vocalist and composer. Known for her playful exuberance, originality, virtuosity and ability to transport an audience, her musical expression ranges from free improvisation to jazz standards, from original songs to vibrational journeys into the dreamtime. She has recorded for the Jazz Records and New Artists labels, as well as independently.

Eric Baylin, poet, storyteller and spo-

ken-word artist, served as Sullivan County Poet Laureate for 2021-22. Known for his wit and love of wordplay, he has given numerous readings throughout the county in the last several years, including at the Tusten Theatre, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, Catskill Art Space and Bethel Woods. He was the featured poet in the Western Sullivan Library’s First Friday Series in Callicoon last October and will return for another evening at the library on November 7.

As part of DVAA’s 2025 Salon Series, Baylin presented an afternoon event entitled “It’s About Time,” sharing some of the work that he created with Kazzrie Jaxen and Kevin Graham, poet, musician and the current Sullivan County Poet Laureate. Jaxen and Baylin have continued to collaborate for more than a year. The performance at the Art’s Nest will showcase the results of their recent work together.

The Art’s Nest is located at the Delaware Valley Opera Center, 6692 Rte. 52 in Lake Huntington.

Learn more and purchase tickets at myrivertickets.com/events/arts-nest-kazzrie-jaxen-eric-baylin-9-13-2025.

Comedian Judy Gold takes stage at Eldred Preserve

ELDRED, NY — The Eldred Preserve will soon welcome Emmy Award-winning comedian, actor and author Judy Gold to the Bradstan Cabaret Series on Sunday, September 14 at 7 p.m.

Known for her bold, brash and unapologetically honest comedy, Gold delivers a “high-energy performance that is equal parts hilarious and thought-provoking,” the Eldred Preserve wrote. Her stand-up blends personal storytelling—drawing from her Jewish identity, family life and LGBTQ+ experience—with sharp political humor and cultural commentary. With her animated delivery and no-holds-barred approach, Gold tackles topics like gender roles, religion and homophobia.

“Judy Gold’s reputation for witty, intelligent comedy precedes her,” said Scott Samuelson, COO at The Eldred Preserve. “Her fearless style and unique voice make her a perfect fit for the Bradstan Cabaret Series.”

A mainstay of the New York comedy scene for decades, Gold has earned two Emmy Awards for her work on “The Rosie O’Donnell Show,” and her stand-up specials have aired on HBO, Comedy Central and LOGO. She was also featured in Netflix’s “Stand Out: An LGBTQ+ Celebration,” the Hulu documentary “Hysterical,” and the new Netflix documentary “Outstanding: A Comedy Revolution.”

In addition to her work on stage and screen, Gold is the author of “Yes, I Can Say That: When They Come for the Comedians, We Are All in Trouble,” a book that examines the importance of free expression in comedy—and why it matters now more than ever.

Tickets are available at www.theeldredpreserve.com/cabaret. Doors open at 6 p.m., with cocktails and light fare available. Guests can also enjoy dinner at The Homestead Restaurant + Lounge and receive 15 percent off their meal.

Crawford Library presents music and tarot

MONTICELLO, NY — On September 18 at 6 p.m., the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library invites all to a special evening of live music featuring Cris Spinner, a Monticello-based vocalist and active member of the community.

Spinner will be accompanied by musicians Stephen Schwartz and Ken Windheim for a performance of popular music spanning the 1960s to the present day.

Those interested are asked to call 845/794-4660 ext. 9 for more information.

The performance will be held on the outdoor stage, weather permitting.

Attendees are asked to bring their own chair or blanket. Fixed seating is limited. If the weather is bad, the concert will be held in the Robert D. Norris Community Room.

At the library on Tuesday, September 16 at 6 p.m., locals interested in tarot are invited to a beginner-friendly class with Nicole.

Participants will learn the basics of tarot cards, including the Major and Minor Arcana, and explore their symbolism, structure and uses. No experience needed.

Call the number above for more information.



Contributed photo

Audrey Shannon, a student from The Dance Center in Sparrowbush, completed the Summer Dance Program at Boston Ballet this summer.

Local teen completes Boston Ballet pre-professional training

BOSTON, MA — Port Jervis teen Audrey Shannon, 16, is one step closer to making her dreams of becoming a professional ballerina a reality.

She attended Boston Ballet School’s Summer Dance Program, auditioning and getting into the five-week program. There she lived in dormitories and attended classes at the renowned dance company’s studios.

The program offers an unparalleled experience for serious-minded, high-level ballet students between the ages of 12 and 18. Each summer, students from around the world immerse themselves in a professional training environment.

Audrey has been dancing since she was four years old and is currently a student at the Dance Center in Sparrowbush, NY, where she takes classes in ballet, pointe and contemporary, and is a teacher for Ballet 1 and Ballet 3. She appears annually in the Delaware Valley Dance Company’s production of “The Nutcracker” and spring full-length classical ballet.

Audrey says she enjoyed learning new perspectives and teaching standpoints at the summer intensive.

PEEC events feature birds, brews, beavers

DINGMANS FERRY, PA — The Pocono Environmental Education Center recently announced the following events to take place this coming weekend:

Fall Flights: Birds & Brews

September 12-14

\$230/Call for day rates

“Come out for a wonderful weekend of bird watching and beer tasting. Enjoy guided hikes that teach how to identify birds by sight, sound and habitat. Program is geared towards beginners and experts alike. Saturday night we’ll provide beverages from local breweries while you relax around our campfire.”

Nature at Night

Saturday, September 13, 7 p.m.

\$5 per person

“I especially loved taking classes from professional dancers at Boston Ballet,” she said. “I think the whole experience was a great opportunity to advance my training as well as understand the different pathways and work it requires to become a professional dancer.”

The Summer Dance Program is designed to develop each student’s ballet technique, while also offering supplemental curriculum such as character, jazz and modern dance.

“My character [dance] teacher Mrs. Ala was one of my favorite teachers because of her brutal honesty. She was very hard on us even though most of us had never taken character before, but because of that I improved drastically from the first class to the last,” Audrey said.

In addition to dance, Audrey also enjoys reading, art, knitting and crocheting, and spending time with her family and dogs. She is also a top student at Port Jervis High School, where she will be a junior this year and performs in the school’s musical theater productions.

“A pleasant fall evening is the perfect time to head outside. Take a walk in the woods to listen for owls, look at stars, and enjoy the music of the night. Enjoy fun activities that test your night vision. We recommend you bring a flashlight! Please call to register.”

Beaver Ecology Hike

Sunday, September 14, 10 a.m.-noon

\$5 per person

“Learn about these charismatic critters and explore our indoor beaver lodge replica, then hit the trail to see the current beaver activity on campus. Please call to register.”

PEEC can be contacted for further information and registration at 570/828-2319, www.peec.org and peec@peec.org.

Joel Mill Sawmill offers tours

EQUINUNK, PA — On Saturday, September 13 and Sunday, September 14, members of the public are invited to tour Joel Mill Sawmill, a water-powered, Civil War-era sawmill, and the Cleveland

Museum, which houses late 19th-century vintage tools and (mostly) operational industrial machinery.

“Come see a demonstration to see how

logs are cut into lumber by the water-powered 36-inch saw blade,” a press release reads.

The sawmill and museum are located

at 736 Duck Harbor Road, Equinunk. On Saturday, tours begin at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and on Sunday, tours begin at 1 p.m. For more information, call 570/798-2420.

Forestburgh Playhouse unveils Tavern Fall Series

FORESTBURGH, NY — The Forestburgh Playhouse announced its 2025 Tavern Fall Series, a run of weekend events showcasing bands, themed entertainment and community fundraisers—paired with the Tavern's signature food, craft beverages and convivial vibe. Doors open each event night at 7 p.m. for snacks and drinks; shows begin at 8 p.m.

Fall series lineup

Far Beyond Gone—Friday, September 12. Hits from the 1960s through the early 2000s. \$15 cover.

Somerville—Friday, September 19. Contemporary country with rock, blues and roots flair from veteran touring musicians.

Trivia Night—Saturday, September 20. Team up for a lively, prize-filled night of brain-teasing fun.

Band Night—The Narrative with Steve Schwartz and Cris Spinner, Friday,

September 26. Pop favorites from the '60s to today; \$20 cover; fundraiser for the Sullivan County Rotary Clubs.

Paige Turner in "AS IF!! It's the 90s!"—Saturday, September 27. An all-live-sung, totally '90s throwback—Madonna, Britney, Spice Girls, costume changes and audience participation. A fundraising night for Catskills Pride (CP), with special tickets available; a portion of the proceeds benefits CP.

Tickets for all Fall Series events are available now. For the full schedule and to purchase, visit forestburghtavern.com/fall-series.

The Forestburgh Tavern is located at 39 Forestburgh Road.

To learn more, call 845/794-1194, or email info@FBplayhouse.org.

The tavern says: "Proudly serves local libations from regional partners."

Bid on a chair and help the WCAA

HONESDALE, PA — The Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA) announced that the online auction began Wednesday, September 10 for the Art Chairs auction. The chairs were created as the 2025 summer outdoor art project.

See photos of all 33 chairs on the auction site or the WCAA website below.

The auction is only available through Wednesday, September 24. Bids can be placed at new.biddingowl.com/WCAACHairs.

All summer long, the Art Chairs have been seen and enjoyed by everyone in our community and county, the arts alliance said. Now you have the opportunity to own your favorite Art Chair. Display it in your garden, on your porch, or wherever you wish.

Each chair is unique and was designed and created by a local artist. Your purchase will help support the Wayne County Arts Alliance and its ongoing projects. Winning bidders will be contacted following the end date of the auction, September 24, to coordinate pick-up of their chair.

The project was organized by Nadine Kloss-Gannon, and local businesses and friends sponsored chairs all over the county. View the map and details about artists and sponsors at waynecountyartsalliance.org/summer-art-2025.

For more information, visit waynecountartyartsalliance.org.

Contributed by the Wayne County Arts Alliance.

Katherine Bucknell talks Christopher Isherwood

NARROWSBURG, NY — On Saturday, September 13 at 4 p.m., One Grand Books will sponsor the discussion "Fear, Love, and Sally Bowles: Katherine Bucknell on Christopher Isherwood," held at the Gloria Krause Recital Hall at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

Bucknell, a novelist and scholar, is the editor of Isherwood's diaries and letters. She'll talk about her new biography, which is titled "Christopher Isherwood: Inside Out." The book covers Isherwood's life: from Weimar Berlin and the creation of "Goodbye to Berlin" (and the character

Sally Bowles), to Hollywood, queer liberation and spiritual seeking.

Bucknell will explore the challenges and insights of writing about a man whose work is described as reshaping 20th-century literature.

There is no admission fee.

The arts alliance is located at 37 Main St.

Reserve seats at www.eventbrite.com/e/fear-love-and-sally-bowles-katherine-bucknell-on-christopher-isherwood-tickets-1661195944789.

September meeting of the FCAHS

FOREST CITY, PA — The Forest City Area Historical Society (FCAHS) will meet at 6 p.m. on Sunday, September 14 at the society's headquarters at the corner of Dundaff and Main streets.

The FCAHS is now accepting applications for 2026 membership and membership renewals for 2025.

The historical society was organized on February 21, 2010; it has incorporated and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

The FCAHS encompasses Browndale, Forest City, Richmondale, Vandling and the surrounding areas.

Memberships are for one year and one can have an individual membership for \$25 or a family membership for \$50. A lifetime membership for \$150 is also available.

To join, call Juliann Doyle, the membership chair, at 570/499-4908 or email jdoyle@nep.net.

Membership applications are available on the website below and should be sent to Doyle at 305 Martin St., Browndale, PA 18421. New members are always welcome.

To learn more, visit www.forestcityareahistoricalsociety.org or find the Forest City Area Historical Society on Facebook.

Alexander Markov in concert

MILFORD, PA — Kindred Spirits Arts Programs (KSAP) will present a performance by violinist Alexander Markov on Saturday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Grey Towers National Historic Site.

Markov will perform favorite classical masterpieces by Bach, Tartini, Paganini, Sarasate and others. Joining Markov with be pianist Heike Doerr and cellist Yosif Feigelson, Kindred Spirits artistic director and co-founder.

"It has been my great honor to know Alex and his illustrious family for more than three decades," said Feigelson. "Growing up in the footsteps of his violin-virtuoso father Albert, Alex has become one of the greatest and most original musicians of our time. His last year's visit to area schools was a tremendous success and a big shot of inspiration for the young. I am delighted he has found time to come again to Milford!"

This performance is the fourth and final presentation in this year's Kindred Spirits Summer Concert Series, held under the enclosed canopy at the pool pavilion.



Contributed photo

Kindred Spirits Arts Programs (KSAP) will present a performance by violinist Alexander Markov on Saturday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Grey Towers National Historic Site.

Tickets for the concert cost \$25. Tickets for both can be purchased in advance on www.Eventbrite.com. They can also be purchased in person at Broad & Pear Gifts, 216 Broad St. Call 570/776-3933.

Seating is limited.

More details are available at www.kindredspiritsarts.org or call 570/390-8699.

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■ **IN MY HUMBLE OPINION**
BY JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

Stop saying that!

I've been at this writing thing for more years than I care to admit, and have always copped to "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" when hearing that my use of certain words and phrases I've often bandied about are, well, just not cool.

Still, I'm not a "boor" (look it up), and if I want to stay relevant—much less employed—I had better "get with the program," which more than likely has something to do with AA.

But I'm too distracted to check, mostly because I've stumbled across more than my fair share of things I can no longer say, much less put into writing.

What's that? You'd like some examples? Fasten your seatbelt...

1. "No comments from the peanut gallery!"

This one hurts, since I started my preschool mornings with a famous puppet, and have used the term liberally for decades. "For many Americans who were born in the 1940s or 1950s," the Wikipedia informs me, "this phrase conjures up fond memories of the 'Howdy Doody' show. On that show, Buffalo Bob Smith, the host; his marionette sidekick, Howdy Doody; and Clarabell the clown entertained children who sat in bleachers onstage.

"Each episode opened with the kids singing the 'It's Howdy Doody Time' theme song and were then filmed reacting to the performers' antics. Buffalo Bob referred to them as the 'peanut gallery,' but the term didn't originate with his show."

In fact, I learned from author Roger J. Kreuz of www.theconversation.com that "peanut gallery" predates Howdy Doody by at least 80 years. "Its first reference," Kreuz explains, "dates to an 1867 review of a vaudeville show published in the New Orleans Times-Picayune—and the term has a surprisingly controversial history."

Just like Broadway shows or concerts today, ticket prices varied according to the location of the seats, with the most expensive up front. "Those who sat in the most inexpensive seats in the back had a habit of throwing concession snacks at any performers who displeased them. During vaudeville's heyday," I read, "the cheapest seats were usually high up in a balcony, a section often reserved for Black patrons. As a result, 'peanut gallery' is now among a long list of terms becoming socially unacceptable because of apparently racist origins."

I'm saddened that a childhood memory has been sullied (look it up) but—got it.

And then there's Morgan Greenwald, who weighs in on a website called www.bestlifeonline.com with a few choice words and phrase explanations of her own.

2. Spaz

This one needs no clarification and the reason not to use it goes without saying, right? Sadly, the stigma "stems from the word's association with cerebral palsy, a disease that was once referred to as spastic paralysis," wrote Greenwald. 'Nuff said.

3. Hooligans

Greenwald has this to say about that, which I kinda, sorta, peripherally knew: "The word 'hooligans' derives from a family of cartoon characters of the same name. In the 19th century, 'The Hooligans' were a family of Irish immigrants struggling to fit in in London. Not only were the cartoons racist," Greenwald informs me, "but they also depicted a harsh stereotype of urban immigrants."

4. Mumbo-jumbo

This one has me scratching my head, because I always thought it referred to unintelligible nonsense, but the Best Life (dot com) states that the phrase "'mumbo jumbo' likely comes from the West African god Maamajombo." Why is it offensive?

"Apparently, Mandinka males would dress up like the god to solve domestic disputes and abuse their wives."

"Apparently, likely?" I'm confused and unsure how to proceed. I always liked "mumbo-jumbo," possibly because it refers to my often nonsensical turn of phrase. Sigh.

5. No can do

Not sure folks use this one much anymore (it smells like the '80s), and I can't say that I ever did, but I just now learned that "There's a reason that the phrase 'no can do' sounds like broken English. The saying cropped up in the mid-1800s—a time when Westerners widely held a racist attitude toward the East—as a way to mock simplified Chinese pidgin English." Who knew?

5.5. "Long time no see" has been attributed to a Native American. Like "no can do," "long time no see" in reality mocks broken English. Honestly, until now, I never gave either of these phrases a moment's thought.

Before moving on from Greenwald's essay, I came across a more modern (think: in my lifetime) phrase that has resurfaced recently: In the 1970s, members of the Peoples Temple, led by Jim Jones, committed mass suicide by drinking a soft-drink laced with cyanide and various prescription drugs. Some were murdered. "Thus, today," Greenwald says matter-of-factly, "people use the phrase 'to drink the Kool-Aid' to refer to someone with unwavering and unconditional loyalty." This one seems insanely appropriate, IMHO.

But wait! There's more! It's not looking good for me and my penchant for employing words and phrases that I grew up using, completely ignorant of their origin. I had to force myself just now to climb out of the rabbit hole before slumping over my keyboard in tears. That said, I was absolutely aware of some, including...

6. Gyped

"It has long been tossed about in casual speech," wrote Brad Phillips for www.throughline.com back in 2021, "to describe someone who has been cheated, ripped off or conned, but the word comes from the word 'Gypsy,' which is considered a racial slur among the Romani or Roma people."



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Speak no evil.

7. Master/slave

You'd have to be literally living under a rock to not understand why using those two words are completely unacceptable, but as far as the truck is concerned I did not know that "Largely used in the tech industry, master and slave signifies the relationship where one device has control over and initiates the commands of another." (Think "master cylinder.") I had no clue until mine failed and I learned that it controlled the "slave plate."

Additionally, it's also considered no longer cool in real estate to describe the "master" bedroom. Yup. No more master bath, either. Wow, man.

On a final note, this one strikes a nerve.

8. Old people

Really? "The term 'old' can be seen as pejorative—something that is obsolete and decrepit," Throughline informed me, as I looked in the mirror and winced.

"Some don't like the words senior or elderly, either. Of course, connotations are formed by how a culture sees aging," the website rudely states, thus adding insult to injury.

"Simply adding '-er' at the end of old (as in 'older adults') can soften it. Also, signifying the actual age range you are talking about, '75 and older,' say, negates the need for words like 'old' or 'senior.'" Well, I'm not "negated" yet, so there's that.

And this: I'll let you do some exploring online to find out why phrases like "fuzzy wuzzy," "basket case," "tipping point," "Cat got your tongue" and "rule of thumb" are no longer acceptable in polite society, but be warned—some of them are downright terrifying.

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Where & When

FOR MORE EVENTS VISIT [RIVERREPORTER.COM/CALENDAR](https://riverreporter.com/calendar)

Thursday, September 11

Photographing Nature @ WSPL-J

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — The Jeffersonville Branch of the Sullivan West Public Library, photographing nature session #2 with Elisabeth Sinsabaugh, 10am, 19 Center St. Register wsplprograms@rcds.org.

Senior Cinema Social @ HPAC

HURLEYVILLE, NY — The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre Senior Cinema Social, 2pm, 219 Main St. hurleyvilleartscentre.org.

Senior Gathering @ TCP

HONESDALE, PA — The Cooperage Project senior gathering & mobile market, 1:30pm, 1030 Main St. Ally 570/213-3899.

Friday, September 12

Four One Act Plays @ SCDW

SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop, “The Finale: Four One Act Plays,” Fri. & Sat. 8pm, Sun. 2pm, 5243 Main St. scdw.net.

Old Time Fiddlers @ Galilee

GALILEE, PA — The Old Time Fiddlers performance, 7:30pm, 554 Galilee Rd. Benefit for Callicoon UMC, 570/251-0718.

Readers & Writers Festival @ Milford

MILFORD, PA — Milford Readers & Writers book festival, Sept. 12-14, all about town, schedule of events, milfordreadersandwriters.com.

Saturday, September 13

5K Trail Run/Walk @ YMCA

HONESDALE, PA — The Wayne County YMCA 16th annual 5K trail run/walk, register 7am, start 8:30am, 55 Suydam Dr. facebook.com/ymcawayne.

Markov @ Kindred Spirits

MILFORD, PA — Kindred Spirits presents Alexander Markov, 5:30pm, pool pavilion 151 Grey Towers Dr. kindredspiritsarts.org.

Cars & Coffee @ S-MVFD

MONGAUP VALLEY, NY — Smallwood-Mongaup Valley Fire Department Cars & Coffee, 9am-noon, 181 Ballard Rd. facebook.com/SmallwoodMongaupValleyFireDepartment.

Fall Dinner Dance @ Damascus

DAMASCUS, PA — The Unity Grange fall dinner dance & Old Time Fiddlers, 6-9pm, 554 Galilee Rd. mmrutledge@verizon.net.

Fall Music Festival @ DSWS

WHITE MILLS, PA — Dorflinger Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary fall music festival, 11am-9pm, 55 Suydam Dr. myrivertickets.com.

Fiber Arts Presentation @ CAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Art Space fiber arts residency presentation & conversation with Rose Chiarello, 4pm, 48 Main St. catskillartspace.org.

Fly Tyers Series @ CFFCM

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Fly tyers series, 11am-3pm, 1031 Old Rte. 17. cffcm.com.

Free Book Share @ SEEDS

HONESDALE, PA — Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support annual free book share, Sat. 9am-4pm & Sun. 9am-3pm, 270 Miller Dr. seedsgroup.net.

Golf Tournament @ CHS

HAWLEY, PA — The Can't Hurt Steel Community Foundation. 4th annual golf tournament, 1:30pm, 176 Cricket Hill Rd. Register cfsuite.com.

Jeff Jamboree @ JEMS

JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Jeff Jamboree, 7:30am, Main St. Sue 845/796-6966.

Joel Hill Sawmill Tours @ EHS

EQUINUNK, PA — Equinunk Historical Society open house, Sat. 10am & Sun. 1pm, 736 Duck Harbor Rd. 570/798-2420.

Kazzrie Jaxen @ DVO

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Delaware Valley Opera Arts Nest, Kazzrie Jaxen & Eric Baylin, 7-9pm, 6692 Rte. 52. myrivertickets.com.

NED @ FAC

DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective live music with NED, 7-9pm, 38 Hickory Ln. Reserve myrivertickets.com.

Pancake Breakfast @ DMCC

DAMASCUS, PA — The Damascus Manor Community Center pancake breakfast, 8am-noon, 60 Conklin Hill Rd. Linda 570/729-7270.

Repair Café @ Narrowsburg

NARROWSBURG, NY — Repair Café, 10am-1pm, 210 Bridge St. repaircafetusten@gmail.com.

Summer Jubilee @ LBCH

LEW BEACH, NY — Lew Beach Community House, summer jubilee in celebration of WJFF Radio Catskill, 5-6pm, 32 Shin Creek Rd. info@beaverkill.org.

Tea Tasting @ Hall Space

ELDRED, NY — Hall Space by Nonneta & 2Queens ceremonial tea tasting and teaswares making, noon-2:30pm, 550 Rte. 55, hallspaceny.com.

Sunday, September 14

Annual Awards Ceremony @ UDC

BEACH LAKE, PA — The Upper Delaware Council 37th annual river valley awards ceremony, 3pm, 81 Milanville Rd. upperdelawarecouncil.org.

Nature Walk @ SCAS

LACKAWAXEN, PA — Sullivan County Audubon Society nature walk, 8am, 135 Scenic Dr. RSVP Maura Muller 845/707-6088.

NED @ DVO

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Delaware Valley Opera Arts Nest, NED, 2-4pm, 6692 Rte. 52. myrivertickets.com.

River Clean-Up @ Kittatinny

BARRYVILLE, NY — Kittatinny 34th annual Ruth Jones Memorial on & under Delaware River clean-up, 3799 Route 97, register kittatinny.com/river-clean-up.

Yarnslingers @ FAC

DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective, Yarnslingers “From the Mouths of Babes,” 1-3pm, 38 Hickory Ln. farmartscollective.org.

Tuesday, September 16

Self-Defense @ DYC

CALLICOON, NY — The Delaware Youth Center & Weapon Brand, self-defense abduction prevention, 6pm, 8 Creamery Rd. Register weaponbrand.com.

Wednesday, September 17

Author Talk @ EBCPL

ONLINE — Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library author talk “Our Failed Attempts to Make English Easier to Spell,” with Gabe Henry, 2pm. Register, library.org/ebcpl/upcoming.

Dinner & Creature Feature @ PCHS

MILFORD, PA — Pike County Historical Society dinner & creature feature, “Night of the Blood Beast,” 5pm, 608 Broad St. Reservations 570/296-8126.

D.I.Y. Solar Workshop @ SEEDS

HAWLEY, PA — Sustainable Energy Education & Development, D.I.Y. solar workshop, Wed.-Thurs. 7-9pm, 135 Pike Cty. Blvd. Register seedsgroup.net.

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day @ PCCoC

MILFORD, PA — The Pike County Chamber of Commerce halfway to St. Patrick's Day dinner & fundraiser, 6pm, 101 E. Harford St. business. pikechamber.com.

Seed Saving @ Rowland Co-Op

ROWLAND, PA — Rowland Cooperative & Hickory Heart Meadow Farm seed saving, 1:30pm, 101 Solversen Rd. 570/685-9500.

Thursday, September 18

First Fall Meeting @ SCAS

WHITE LAKE, NY — Sullivan County Audubon Society first fall meeting & potluck dinner, speaker Gwenn Schantz, 6pm, 19 Mattison Rd. sullivanaudubon.org.

Meet the Candidates @ BDC

KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY — Sullivan County NY Democratic Committee, meet the candidates in Bethel pizza party, 6-8pm, 3562 NY-52, scnydc.org.

Sage Sessions @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — Tusten Social & Growing Old Together Sage Sessions, 1:30-3:30pm, 37 Main St. tustensocial.org.

Friday, September 19

21+ Line Dancing @ DVO

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — 21+ over line dancing with April Michelle, 7-10pm, Delaware Valley Opera Center, 6692 Rte. 52. myrivertickets.com.

‘Alone Together’ @ FAC

DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective, “Alone Together” solo play festival, Fri.-Sun. 7pm, 38 Hickory Ln. myrivertickets.com.

Burlesque @ The Parlor

NARROWSBURG, NY — The Parlor burlesque & cabaret, Fri. & Sat. 8-9:30pm, 90 Main St. Age 21+, myrivertickets.com.

Through the Looking Glass @ Arrowhead

PARKSVILLE, NY — Arrowhead Ranch Rescue Through the Looking Glass music fest, Fri.-Sun., 4pm, 461 Cooley Rd. arrowheadranch.org.

Zeppelin Reimagined @ Milford Theater

MILFORD, PA — Milford Theater & Performing Arts Center Magical Mystery Doors: Zeppelin Reimagined, 2pm, 114 E. Catherine St. themilfordtheater.com.

Saturday, September 20

Community Luncheon @ Cold Spring Chapel

COLD SPRING, PA — Cold Spring Chapel Community Kitchen luncheon, 11:30am-1:30pm, Upper Woods Rd. & Great Bend Turnpike. 570/253-4033.

Cornhole Tournament @ HFH

HONESDALE, PA — Habitat for Humanity, cornhole tournament fundraiser, 1pm, 270 Miller Dr. hfhwcpa.org.

Fall Festival @ Liberty

LIBERTY, NY — Town of Liberty Parks & Recreation & Liberty Central School, fall festival, 11am-4pm, & 5K run, 8-11am, 73 Walnut Mtn. Rd. townofliberty.org.

Joe Crookston @ DVO

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Delaware Valley Opera Arts Nest, Joe Crookston, 7-8pm, 6692 Rte. 52. myrivertickets.com.

Lackawaxen River Sojourn @ TLRC

HONESDALE, PA — Lackawaxen River Trails hosts Lackawaxen River Sojourn, a guided paddle, Sycamore Point to Bingham Park, 8am-7pm, lackawaxenrivertrails.org.

Moon Festival @ Port Jervis

PORT JERVIS, NY — The New Century 10th annual Moon Festival, Sat. 11am-9pm & Sun. 10am-6pm, 517 Neversink Dr. newcenturyfestivals.com/events.

‘My Evil Wife’ @ NACL

HIGHLAND LAKE, NY — North American Cultural Laboratory “My Evil Wife” by Two Sisters, 7:30pm, 110 Highland Lake Rd. nACL.org.

Opening Reception @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — Delaware Valley Arts Alliance opening reception for “Rhythmic Allure” & “Picasso Was Right” 4-6pm, 37 Main St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

Poetry Festival @ LMAC

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Museum & Arts Center 16th annual poetry festival, 1pm, 46 S. Main St. 845/292-6628.

Ricky Ford Quartet @ CAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Art Space, Ricky Ford Quartet with Thurman Barker, 5pm, 48 Main St. catskillartspace.org.

Septemberfest @ Milford

MILFORD, PA — Milford Septemberfest, 5pm, downtown Milford, milfordpa.us/events.

Sunday, September 21

Annual Dinner @ TLRC

LACKAWAXEN, PA — Lackawaxen River Conservancy, annual board meeting & dinner, 4-7pm, 188 Scenic Dr. 917/951-6746.

Closing Reception @ DVO

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Delaware Valley Opera Arts Nest, closing reception for “The Alchemy of Gilded Perspectives” art exhibit by Marie Rauso, 1-3pm, 6692 Rte. 52. delawarevalleyopera.org.

Coffee, Tea & History @ CPS

COCHECTON, NY — Cochection Preservation Society 19th annual Coffee, Tea & History with Evan Pritchard, 1pm, 8537 Route 97. 845/932-8104.

Live Music Fundraiser @ Hancock

HANCOCK, NY — Town of Hancock, live music fundraiser to benefit the Larry Judd Scholarship for Music, 2pm, 1488 Warren Rd. facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064372016080.

Opening Reception @ ReMax Wayne

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance & ReMax Wayne, opening reception featuring artwork by Dagmar Buccì, 1-3pm, 416 Main St.

Ronny Whyte @ PCHS

MILFORD, PA — Pike County Historical Society jazz legend Ronny Whyte & friends, 3-5pm, 608 Broad St. pikehistorical.org.

‘Thomas Jefferson Declares’ @ DFHS

DINGMANS FERRY, PA — Dingmans Ferry Historical Society “Thomas Jefferson Declares,” the story of the Declaration of Independence with Jonathan Kruk, 2-3pm, 116 Wilson Hill Rd. 845/216-9087.

WEEKLY

Bingo @ Monticello Elks

MONTICELLO, NY — The Monticello Elks Lodge #1544 Bingo, Tuesdays, doors 5pm, calling 7pm 46 North St. 845/794-1544.

Community Yoga @ DMCC

DAMASCUS, PA — Community yoga, Wednesdays 5:30pm through Sept. 24, Damascus Manor Community Center, 60 Conklin Hill Rd. RSVP pa-dmcc.org.

Pickleball @ YMCA

HONESDALE, PA — The YMCA Pickleball Tues. & Thurs. 7-8:15pm, 105 Park St. Open to all, facebook.com/ymcawayne.

Sunday Bingo @ Liberty Elks Lodge

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Elks Lodge #1545 Sunday bingo, 1:30pm, calling 2:30pm, 21 John St. facebook.com/libertyelks1545.

ONGOING

Art Exhibition @ CAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Art Space, art exhibition featuring Christensen, Rychlak & Schlatter, Fri.-Sat. 11am-5pm, Sun. until 3pm, 48 Main St. catskillartspace.org.

‘Artistic Curiosities’ @ ARTery

MILFORD, PA — ARTery Gallery, “Artistic Curiosities,” featuring Barbara Alice Moir & Bill Rabsey, Thurs.-Mon. 10am-6pm, 210 Broad St. arterygallerymilford.com.

‘Crossing America’ @ Ruffed Grouse

NARROWSBURG, NY — Ruffed Grouse Gallery “Little Walt Dog: Crossing America” exhibition Sat-Sun 11am-4pm through Sept. 21, 144 Main St. ruffedgrousegallery.com.

Five Gallery Exhibit @ NU

NARROWSBURG — Narrowsburg Union five gallery exhibit 8am-8pm, 7 Erie Ave. narrowsburgunion.com.

‘In Stillness’ @ BCA

KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY — Bethel Council of the Arts, “In Stillness” art exhibit, Fri. 4-8pm, Sat.-Sun. noon-8 through Sept. 20, 1 Horseshoe Lake Rd, facebook.com/BethelArt.org.

Irene Lanzilotta @ WCAA

HAWLEY, PA — Wayne County Arts Alliance, art exhibition featuring artwork by Irene Lanzilotta, 409 Main Ave. Hours 570/561-3629.

Late Summer Show @ UpFront

PORT JERVIS, NY — UpFront Exhibition Space, late summer art show, Fri.-Sun. 1-6pm, 31 Jersey Ave. 845/754-1808.

‘Painting’ @ DVAA

NARROWSBURG, NY — Delaware Valley Arts Alliance “Painting” art exhibition by Candy Spilner, Thurs.-Sun. 11am-4pm, 37 Main St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

Photography Exhibition @ LPL

LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Public Library, “As I See It” nature photography exhibition by Barbara Ward-Blank, 189 North Main St. libertypubliclibrary.libcal.com.

Pickleball @ YMCA

HONESDALE, PA — The YMCA Pickleball Tues. & Thurs. 7-8:15pm, 105 Park St. Open to all, facebook.com/ymcawayne.

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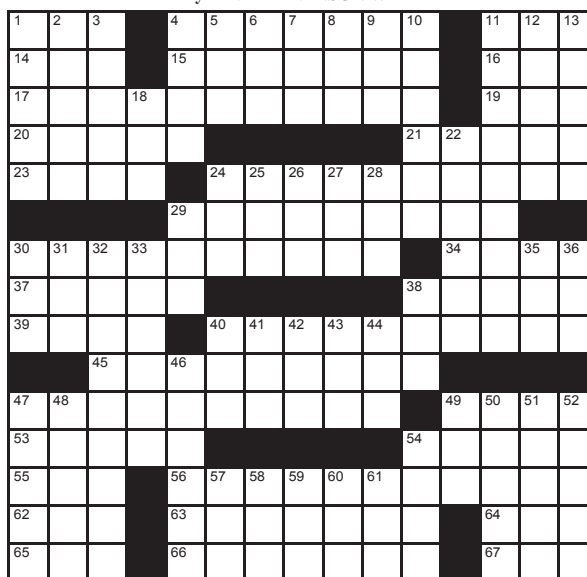
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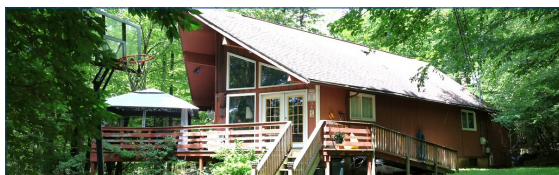
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ACROSS

1. Apt. coolers
4. Filly : horse :: _____ : sheep
11. Something to land
14. Poker game memento, maybe
15. Retton who was the first woman to appear on the front of a Wheaties box
16. Ruckus
17. "Visit Stockholm, where you'll only have ...!"
19. _____ Tin Tin
20. Longshoreman, e.g.
21. Dangerous toy
23. Cabinet dept. with a lightning bolt on its seal
24. "Visit Italy, a place where you are always ...!"
29. Tony-nominated "Pippin" actress
30. "Visit Cuba, where everyone is ...!"
34. Nick at _____
37. Like some openings
38. Author Ferber and others
39. Color lightly
40. "Visit Nairobi, ...!"
45. Lack of harmony
47. "Visit Prague, you've got to ...!"
49. Ole Miss rival
53. Model glider material
54. Esau's twin
55. Architectural addition
56. "Visit Bulgaria, because ...!"
62. Stephen of "Michael Collins"
63. Ruby of song
64. Sch. whose yearbook is the Gumbo
65. Griddle sound
66. Decorative bands
67. Tierra _____ Fuego
6. Miscalculate
7. Drano component
8. _____ carte
9. Pop's partner
11. Table clearer
11. Infant's babbling speech that starts to mix in real words
12. Intense dislike
13. _____ nut!
18. Architect Mies van _____ Rohe
22. Chastain who flashed her sports bra at the 1999 Women's World Cup final
24. Lobster _____ Diavolo
25. Yank's foe
26. "Bambi" aunt
27. Shocking swimmer
28. Carson Daly hosted it on MTV
29. Neither Rep. nor Dem.
30. Elev.
31. John-John's stepfather
32. Martha's 1960s backup group
33. Tomfoolery
35. _____ chi
36. Ballpark fig.
38. Deg. held by Jill Biden
40. China's Chiang _____shek
41. Outer: Prefix
42. Cpl. or sgt.
43. "_____ don't say!"
44. Works at a museum
46. Cascade Range peak
47. Many truckers
48. Big name in retail jewelry
49. Sack
50. "It'll be _____ day in hell ..."
51. Maine's state animal
52. Reality TV judge whose last name means "servant of God" in Arabic
54. Delights
57. Sharer's word
58. Not masc.
59. Cuba or Aruba: Abbr.
60. Summer drink
61. Rested

DOWN

1. Bridal path
2. Lee of NBC News
3. Upholstery material
4. Part of EMT: Abbr.
5. Glob of gum



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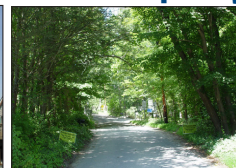
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83 Mountain Woods Holdings LLC. Filed 8/4/2025. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 457 Willoughby Ave, Brooklyn, NY, 11206. Purpose: General.

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DANNY'S PLUMBING, HEATING & A/C LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/12/25. 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, 105 Polster Road, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of Zayas & Son Trucking LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on Aug 09, 2025. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC: 7014 13TH AVENUE SUITE 202 BROOKLYN NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Yennum Holding LLC, filed 8/4/25. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 17 Countryside Way, Fallsburg, NY 12733. Purpose: General.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of Culinary Companion LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/25/2025. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Zoriana Gingold: gingoldz74@gmail.com. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

MP MOBILE ESTHETICS, LLC

Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company, ("LLC"), Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY ("SSNY") on June 24, 2025. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to 135 Covered Bridge Road, Livingston Manor NY 12758. Purpose: to engage in any act or activity for which a LLC may be organized under the NY LLC Law.

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Yennum Management LLC, filed 8/5/25. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 17 Countryside Way, Fallsburg, NY 12733. Purpose: General.

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Notice of formation of ZIV EQUITIES LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 08/21/2025. Office located in Sullivan. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC: 835 Bedford Ave #1A, Brooklyn, NY, 11205 Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
LOCAL LAW

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND
LOCAL LAW 4 OF 2021 AND
LOCAL LAW 4 OF 2024

Explanation: This Amendment to Local Law No. 4 of 2021 and Local Law No. 4 of 2024 shall be for the purpose of extending the sunset date of the Local Law from December 31, 2025 to coincide with the date on which Section 11-0935 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law expires. The Amendment will extend the hunting opportunities afforded to twelve (12) and thirteen (13) year old individuals pursuant to Section 11-0935 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, which currently expires and is deemed repealed as of December 31, 2028.

Legislative Intent: The Sullivan County Legislature, after consideration, declares that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Sullivan County to amend Local Law No. 4 of 2021 and Local Law No. 4 of 2024, by extending its sunset date to coincide with the expiration of Section 11-0935 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law. Said changes to Local Law No. 4 of 2021 and Local Law No. 4 of 2024, are detailed below:

Amendments:

- (1) Delete the following language in line six (6) of Section 1: "December 31, 2025" and insert the following language in its place: "the expiration of Section 11-0935 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law".
- (2) Delete the following language in line three (3) of Section 2: "December 31, 2025" and insert the following language in its place: "the expiration of Section 11-0935 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law".

All other language remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

Effective: This Local Law shall become effective as of the date of filing with the Secretary of State.

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RIVER REPORTER.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Ycon Group LLC, filed 7/30/25. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 17 Countryside Way, Fallsburg, NY 12733. Purpose: General.

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Ycon Holdings LLC, filed 8/1/25. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 17 Countryside Way, Fallsburg, NY 12733. Purpose: General.

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

Ycon Realty LLC, filed 7/31/25. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 17 Countryside Way, Fallsburg, NY 12733. Purpose: General.

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

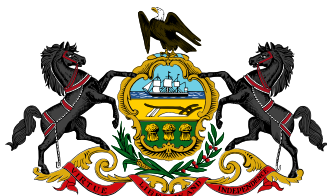
ROUTE 42 NORTH LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/02/25. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 42 Carlton Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

BENNY'S PIZZA NY LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 8/12/25. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY design. Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Arben Narkaj 728 Budd Rd Woodbourne NY 12788. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT



OF TRANSPORTATION

Wayne County
Damascus Township

STATE ROUTE 1002 SECTION 651

Skinnners Falls Bridge over The Delaware River

**A VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING IS SCHEDULED
FOR THE SKINNERS FALLS BRIDGE PROJECT:**

PLACE: ZOOM: bit.ly/SkinnersPEL

DATE: September 25, 2025

TIME: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING IS TO PRESENT THE REVISED PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES STUDY (PEL) FOR SKINNERS FALLS BRIDGE AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ON PENNDOT'S WEBSITE FOR REVIEW, HYPERLINK "<http://www.penndot.gov/RegionalOffices/district-4>" PENNDOT.PA.GOV/DISTRICT4, BY CLICKING PROJECTS NEAR YOU, THEN DISTRICT 4, AND CHOOSING THE TILE MARKED SKINNERS FALLS BRIDGE PROJECT.

ANY PERSONS HAVING SPECIAL NEEDS OR REQUIRING SPECIAL AIDS ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT AMY M. LOLLI at 570.614.2958 OR AMLLOLLI@PA.GOV PRIOR TO THE MEETING EVENT IN ORDER THAT SPECIAL DISABILITY NEEDS MAY BE ACCOMMODATED.

THE REVISED PEL REPORT AND COMMENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

WAYNE COUNTY LIBRARY (HONESDALE)
1406 NORTH MAIN STREET
HONESDALE, PA 18431

WESTERN SULLIVAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
TUSTEN-COCHECTON BRANCH
198 BRIDGE STREET
NARROWSBURG, NY 12764

■ THE WAY OUT HERE BY HUNTER HILL

A weary waxwing

My family puts a lot of miles into the logbooks each week: Running here, running there, school, work, errands, family, church, the list goes on. To be clear, this isn't a complaint, gripe or pity-seeking effort. Rather, I can empathize with a lot of travel.

It was on our way out to another errand this week when something caused us to stop and check on a weary traveler who happened to cross our path. We were bustling out the door, juggling hats and snacks and loading the car to go to town. The boys finally succumbed to being strapped into their seats, and my wife was ready and waiting in the passenger seat. I just had to grab my sunglasses from my truck and we could leave.

As I stepped past her car towards my truck, my peripheral vision caught a slight movement in the gravel just ahead. I slowed and looked closer before the momentary opportunity fled away. To my surprise, there was a small brownish songbird sitting right there on the ground in my driveway. It looked like its eyes were closed, and it was practically resting its head on its chest.

Without really thinking about it, I stepped up smoothly and reached down behind its back, and quickly and loosely grasped the small bird, my hand creating a cage. I held it just firmly enough to prevent it from hurting itself or getting away.

It seemed that it was sleeping when I caught it off guard, but now that I held it, it was thoroughly awake. I did feel bad for disturbing it, but I would have anyway if I had left it alone when I walked past. At least this way I could make sure it was OK before I let it free again.

I've always enjoyed looking at birds, especially those with unique traits. If you don't believe me, you should know my wife's family nickname is "Birdy." In any case, my mom has always been somewhere between an amateur and professional ornithologist, and despite my own curiosity, I had almost an obligation to provide her with something to test her skills.

Walking back to the car, the kids were suddenly out of their seats and hopping up and down in front of me, aware that I had just caught something of interest. Chelsea helped me take some pictures so that we could definitely identify the bird later. I gently cupped the bird as I spread its wing and tail, looking at the delicate red teardrop feathers on the back of the wing and the yellow-tipped tail.



RR photo by Chelsea Hill

Songbirds have such fine details that it is a privilege to witness them in close proximity.

I looked it over for any sign of injury or why it would have been so lethargic before setting it upright in my hand and allowing it to flit away to a nearby bush. It must've still been tired because it didn't go far, and even once in the bush, it allowed us to approach closely enough to take some fantastic pictures.

We left to do our errands, which happened to include seeing my mom, who instantly identified it as a cedar waxwing. I later confirmed this with an Audubon reference and a Google search. She even explained the lethargy to me. It turned out to be fairly simple, actually. Because birds are beginning to migrate south for the winter, they of course use a lot of energy and can overdo it sometimes. As a result, they will occasionally choose a less-than-ideal place to land, such as our driveway, and require some refreshment before continuing their sojourn. She told me that sometimes a little sugar water will help them recover more quickly.

When we got home, the bird had moved on, hopefully not with the help of our cat—but no crime scene seemed evident where we had left it. We weren't able to provide any sugar water this time, but given the experience, the boys thought we should place a tray outside for any others.

The way out here surprise guests are a part of country living. While I don't usually go out of my way to disturb nature, this was a special instance. Had it been a skunk, you can imagine this story would have been a little different.

SOUNDINGS: TAKING THE PULSE OF THE UPPER DELAWARE WATERSHED

For river gage, height and more information, visit bit.ly/TRR-soundings.

Reservoir levels

September 5, 2025

Cannonsville: 69.6%

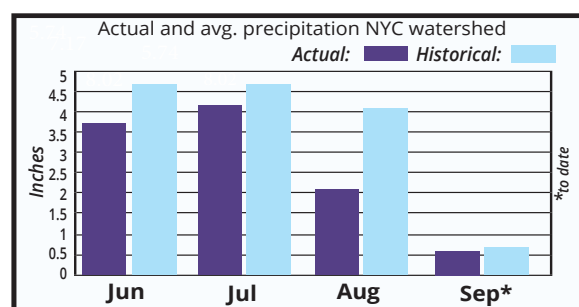
Pepacton: 80.4%

Neversink: 79.2%

Total: 80.9%

Normal Total: 82.6%

Total in 2024: 99.8%



RIVER TALK BY SANDY LONG

Miraculous monarchs

To a Monarch

Not many more days like this,
sitting by the garden we built on the hill,
checking the pumpkins
that spilled through the fence
toward freedom, toward risk.

You flew today,
leaving behind the shriveling vines.

Through these weeks
we watched you transcend form,
making the miracle of chrysalis real,
purest green amulet necklaced in gold,
papered skin bursting as pale wings
unfold.

While I dream, you driffle southward
as you heed the timeless stir,
seeking sustenance from fall's last flowers,
split and spilling toward the soil,
finding tattered flags of blooms,
I hope the frost will spare.

© Sandy Long



Just before pupating (the resting stage known as the chrysalis), a mature larva assumes the J position seen here.



The chrysalis is a delicate and beautiful jade capsule dotted with gold spots. Within it, the larva will transform into a monarch butterfly.



RR photos by Sandy Long

The adult monarch butterfly emerges from the chrysalis and inflates its wings before taking flight.



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BethelWoodsCenter.org/Harvest

SEPTEMBER 14

Live Music:
Fishercat
Beach Tower

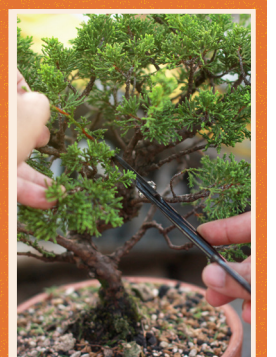


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Visit BethelWoodsCenter.org for more information

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit cultural organization located at the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock festival.