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NYSEG, RG&E get temporary rate increases

By LIAM MAYO

NEW YORK STATE — In a press release dated May 14, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) announced that it gave temporary rate increases to New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E), allowing the PSC more time to work toward a full rate increase resolution.

The temporary rates, which will go into effect starting June 1, equate to a 3.7% increase for NYSEG electric, an 0.5% increase for NYSEG gas, a 4.0% increase for RG&E electric and a 1.5% increase for RG&E gas. According to PSC, that amounts to the following estimated impacts for residential customers: 0.2% for NYSEG electric, 1.7% for NYSEG gas, 2.9% for RG&E electric and 1.2% for RG&E gas.

By law, PSC has to make a decision within 11 months of a rate request being filed. Otherwise, the requested rates automatically become effective. The NYSEG & RG&E rate increase requests were filed on June 30, 2025.

"By setting temporary rates, the commission is protecting customers from rate hikes that would be compounded by a delay, allowing the utility to continue making necessary investments for safety and reliability and providing all parties involved with additional time to review a complex record and establish permanent rates," reads the release.

According to the PSC, initial settlement discussions did not lead to a resolution, requiring the Department of Public Service (DPS) judges to complete a litigated record. The temporary rates give the DPS time to complete the case, and allows for resumed settlement discussions. ¬ Page 4

Photo provided by Kristina Snedeker

Seen here is Keith Krauss, quartermaster at H. Russell Kenyon VFW Post #5808, with grandson Alex Snedeker, helping remove old flags and putting up new flags for all Veterans in honor of Memorial Day. The VFW Post #5808 puts up over 800 flags throughout the towns of Cochecton, Delaware, and Callicoon, with the help from their VFW Members, families, and friends.

If anyone would like to send a monetary donation for flags, please make checks payable to H.Russell Kenyon VFW Post #5808- mail to Keith Krauss quartermaster, 6152 SR 52 Cochecton NY 12726. **For a listing of Memorial Day services in the area, see Pages 14 and 15.**

Clinton to work with concerned residents on data center ordinance

By LIAM MAYO

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, PA — The regular meeting of the Clinton Township Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, May 13 started with a discussion of regular township business: roadwork, office hours, EMS providers and the like. Very quickly, it became clear that these were no regular times.

As the supervisors discussed the $80k price tag on a chip-and-seal project, resident Dr. Katie Zefran spoke up and asked if the township could hold off on funding it. "I think you have more pressing issues in the township as of this moment that should be decided upon. You may need those funds for something else," she said.

Board chair Mark Lopatofsky pushed back, saying, "We've got to continue to take care of our roads for our residents. I think that's important." However, the board did end up halving the proposed project, and tabling a separate roadwork project that had come in over budget to try and ask about getting additional grant funding for it.

Then, the meeting moved to the subject that the roughly 200 people in the audience had come to discuss: a proposed ordinance amendment to regulate data center development.

The ordinance

The Clinton Township Planning Commission received a proposal for a data center and power-generating facility on April 30. It was on the agenda for the commission's Thursday, May 2 meeting, but as it was received too late for consideration, it will be heard at the commission's June 4 meeting. ¬ Page 3

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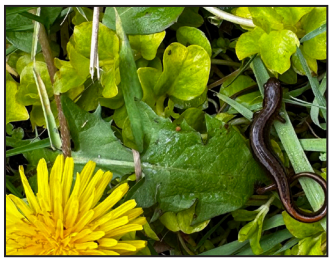

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IN BRIEF

Riley crime bill passes House

WASHINGTON, DC — On May 13, Congressman Josh Riley (D, NY-19) announced House passage of his bipartisan bill, the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (CORCA). Riley's legislation will crack down on organized theft rings, strengthen law enforcement, and protect upstate families and small businesses from rising crime and higher costs, his office said.

"Working families and small businesses across upstate New York are already stretched thin, and organized retail crime is making it worse," said Riley. "These criminal networks drive up prices and put a massive strain on the small businesses and local job creators our communities depend on. This bipartisan bill gives law enforcement stronger tools to crack down on organized crime, keep costs low for hardworking families, and ensure criminals who prey on our communities are held accountable."

The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act would:

• Expand federal prosecution authority over organized retail and supply chain theft by allowing prosecutors to aggregate stolen goods over a 12-month period;

• Strengthen anti-money laundering laws targeting criminal enterprises profiting from organized theft;

• Authorize criminal forfeiture of assets gained through organized retail and supply chain crimes;

• Crack down on prepaid cards and gift cards used to launder criminal proceeds; and

• Establish a Department of Homeland Security coordination center to improve federal enforcement efforts.

Weigh in by June 6 on Sullivan County's Hazard Mitigation Plan

MONTICELLO, NY — Sullivan County's planners seek everyone's input on an update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In cooperation with New York State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), the county is in the midst of updating its hazard response plan so that local communities together can identify risks, evaluate vulnerabilities and develop strategies to reduce those risks. Following review by the state, local towns and villages will be asked to formally adopt the plan, so that everyone is on the same page when responding to hazards, the planners said.

"We are asking all the residents of Sullivan County to review the final draft of the plan and give feedback," adds planning commissioner Heather Brown. "The projects and information included in the plan will allow your communities to remain eligible for grant funding opportunities to minimize losses from natural disasters. The public review period is open only until June 6, so don't miss this last chance to have your voice heard! Your support and responses are appreciated."

How to participate

Sullivan County developed a Public Preparedness Survey, which can be answered quickly and anonymously, at www.sullivan2026.devmny.org/public_review_survey.

Find out more about the entire plan and updating process at www.sullivan2026.devmny.org/.

Olsommer to host concealed carry seminar in Wayne County

HARRISBURG, PA — State Rep. Jeff Olsommer (R-Pike/Wayne) will be hosting a concealed carry seminar to better inform area gun owners regarding their rights under state law.

The Wayne County Concealed Carry Seminar will take place on Thursday, May 28, from 6-8 p.m. at the Lakeville Volunteer Fire Company, 10 Daniels Road, in Lakeville. Presenters will be Wayne County District Attorney A.G. Howell and Wayne County Sheriff Chris Rosler.

"This seminar gives residents the opportunity to become informed and educated, as well as remain aware of their rights as gun owners," Olsommer said. "Attendees will be able to learn exactly what their rights are under Pennsylvania law and ask any questions they may have about them."

The seminar will feature information about the state's firearms laws and the Castle Doctrine, which allows a homeowner to use deadly force, if necessary, when threatened by an armed intruder; how to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon; and other information regarding the state's gun laws.

Registration is required and can be made by going online at RepOlsommer.com/events. Seating is limited.

Bresnahan and colleagues unlock held-up FEMA funding for PA hospitals

WASHINGTON, DC — On Wednesday, May 13, U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan, Jr. (PA-08) announced the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released $600 million in previously unobligated FEMA Public Assistance funds related to COVID-19 response costs. This announcement comes less than two months after Bresnahan sent a letter to DHS urging the release.

"This is a welcome announcement for the hospitals and providers who care for our families daily," said Bresnahan. "Pennsylvania hospitals stepped up during COVID-19 and did everything asked of them and more to protect patients and support frontline workers. This funding is going to go right back into the system, meaning more support for patients and medical professionals alike."

Almost $200 million was awarded to the Geisinger system. Additionally, $7.8 million was awarded to the Pocono Medical Center dba Lehigh Valley Hospital in East Stroudsburg and over $2 million was awarded to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Corporation in Luzerne County.

During the COVID pandemic, FEMA offered public assistance grants to help offset the significant costs to hospitals. While a significant portion of that funding was distributed, close to $600 million in reimbursements to Pennsylvania health care providers remain outstanding.

Pike County Medical Foundation Fund receives $350K donation

MILFORD, PA — The Pike County Medical Foundation Fund, administered by the Greater Pike Community Foundation, received a $350,000 contribution from Sen. Lisa Baker and Rep. Jeff Olsommer to support the advancement of medical services for Pike County residents.

Established in 2023 by the Pike County Board of Commissioners, the Pike Medical Foundation Fund was created to raise and distribute funds to support, sustain and enhance existing and future medical services within Pike County. To begin the fund, the commissioners allocated $2 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide a stable financial foundation for long-term efforts to address the growing medical needs of the region. Since its inception, the fund has received grant funding and donations that have helped it to grow to over $3 million.

Pike County remains the only county in Pennsylvania without a hospital, a challenge that has contributed to long-standing disparities in healthcare access. Continued support from community partners and state leaders is helping to close this critical gap and strengthen health equity across the region.

Meetings this week

Thursday, May 21

Shohola Planning Committee
SHOHOLA, PA — 6:30pm, 159 Twin Lakes Rd. 570/559-7394.

Town of Rockland Board
ONLINE/LIVINGSTON MANOR — 7pm, 95 Main St. & Zoom. 845/439-3775.

Village of Hancock Planning Board
HANCOCK, NY — 5pm, 85 East Front St., hancockpartners.org.

Village of Liberty Board
LIBERTY, NY — 7pm, 167 North Main St. 845/292-2250.

Monday, May 25

City Common Council
PORT JERVIS, NY — 6:30pm, 20 Hammond St. 845/858-4000.

Honesdale Borough Council
HONESDALE, PA — 6pm, 958 Main St. Judith 570/253-0731 x10.

Texas Township Planning Commission
HONESDALE, PA — 7pm, 506 Old Willow Ave. 570/253-6216.

Tuesday, May 26

Tusten Planning Board
NARROWSBURG, NY — 7:30pm, 210 Bridge St. 845/252-7146 x 1001.

UDC Committee
NARROWSBURG, NY — 6:30pm, Upper Delaware Council, 211 Bridge St. 845/252-3022.

Wednesday, May 27

Town of Bethel Board
WHITE LAKE, NY — 7:30pm, 3460 Route 55 or Zoom. townofbethelny.us.

Town of Fallsburg Board
SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — 6pm, 19 Railroad Plaza. 845/434-8810, x1.

Town of Fremont Planning Board
FREMONT CENTER, NY — 7pm, 12 County Rd. 95, 607/498-6198.

Town of Highland Planning Board
ELDRED, NY — 6pm, 4 Proctor Rd. 845/557-6085.

[Publisher's note: Interested in attending one of these meetings regularly as a trained observer? Email social@riverreporter.com or call 845/252-7414, ext. 127. Visit riverreporter.com/news-reports to check out meeting coverage.]

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NEWS from SEN. ROSEMARY BROWN

Brown announces enactment of Greg Moyer's Law

HARRISBURG, PA — Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R-40) announced that Senate Bill 375, known as Greg Moyer's Law, has officially been signed into law as Act 17 of 2026 after more than a decade of her advocacy.

The legislation, championed by Brown and initiated by the legacy of Greg Moyer, who passed away from sudden cardiac arrest during a high school basketball game, will require automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to be present at all PIAA-sanctioned athletic events and practices. The law also requires schools to develop and rehearse emergency action plans for cardiac incidents.

"The enactment of this legislation represents more than a decade of advocacy, collaboration, and determination to better protect student athletes across Pennsylvania," said Brown. "Sudden cardiac arrest remains the leading cause of death among young athletes, and we know that immediate access to an AED can save lives. This law ensures schools are better prepared to respond in an emergency and helps make these critical protections standard in every community."

Brown credited the advocacy and dedication of Greg's family throughout the legislative process.

"I'm incredibly grateful to Greg's parents, Rachel and John Moyer, and his sisters, Abbie and Katie Moyer, whose advocacy, strength and dedication were the driving force behind this legislation," Brown said. "I also want to thank my colleagues in both the Senate and House, along with the many stakeholders who supported and advocated for this important initiative."

Rachel Moyer, Greg's mother and a leading advocate for AED access in schools, praised the bill becoming law.

"This law honors my son Greg and ensures that his legacy will continue to save lives," Moyer said. "We are grateful to everyone who recognized the importance of protecting our children and ensuring schools are prepared to respond when every second matters. To all the families I have worked with who have lost a child to sudden cardiac arrest, or whose child was saved because an AED was available, this law is for you and for every child who deserves the chance to come home safely."

"Not only does this law help protect student athletes, but it also provides important protections for coaches, spectators and all visitors in the event of a cardiac emergency," Brown said.

CLINTON

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The board of supervisors, during its regular meeting on April 8, had passed a six-month moratorium on data center development, to give the board time to consider and adopt an ordinance to govern that type of development. (Township solicitor Jeffrey Treat had previously stated that the moratorium went into effect the same day as the application; he corrected himself at the May 13 meeting, explaining to the **River Reporter** that he had gotten his meeting dates confused.)

Clinton Township doesn't have zoning, which would allow the municipality to govern where a data center could and could not be placed. The township does have a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO), which imposes design requirements on developments within the municipality. The proposed ordinance would amend the SALDO to add specific data center requirements.

RR photos by Liam Mayo

Clinton Township Board of Supervisors members Brad Bates, left; Brian Non; and Mark Lopatofsky preside over a Wednesday, May 13 board meeting.

A crowd turned out to Clinton Township on Wednesday, May 13 to offer its thoughts on a proposed data center amendment.

A work in progress

The concerned public attended the Wednesday, May 13 supervisors' meeting to offer its thoughts on an eight-page draft SALDO amendment, released in advance of the meeting. At this meeting, as it had at the planning commission meeting before, the public made clear its views that the ordinance was inadequate.

Township officials agreed. Data centers are a relatively recent land-development concern, with technologies and regulatory best practices evolving quickly, they said; they acknowledged that they were still learning about the topic, and that the draft ordinance had significant gaps.

Township treasurer Lisa Lopatofsky said that, when she and other township officials attended the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors conference, she "basically sat through every session that they had involving data centers." She said she has gone through and reviewed a wide range of example SALDO ordinances, and that she had compiled a list of items missing from the Clinton Township draft ordinance.

"It's nine pages right now, but I've got probably five or six more SALDOs to go through," she said.

Treat said that new developments have continued to happen even in the months since he first drafted the ordinance.

The discussion is "ongoing," [from] a very little knowledge base to obviously an increased knowledge base… In the last few months since I drafted this, there are several things that I would suggest we add to it based on information that I've learned."

Citizens input

The residents in attendence came with ideas on how to help the township meet the moment. Township officials welcomed their input, and pushed to formalize a working partnership between concerned citizens and the municipality.

Board member Brian Non said a township resident had brought to his attention the question of whether to get advice from a specialized wildlife or conservation attorney.

Treat said he would welcome the advice from a specialized attorney, and suggested that the board also consider hiring a biologist.

Katie Zefran said that her father, Richard Zefran, had established a $30,000 emergency fund when he had been chair of the board of supervisors. She suggested the township reallocate those funds to help pay for hiring specialists.

The board couldn't accomplish that action at that meeting—as it was not on the agenda, the board couldn't act on that suggestion. However, the board pushed to hold a special meeting as soon as possible (within the restrictions of public notice requirements) to accomplish that and other public suggestions.

The meeting as advertised will be held on Friday, May 29 at 7 p.m. The township will consider the $30,000 fund as well as the establishment of a mechanism to accept donations from the public for the data center issue, and the creation of a volunteer advisory committee made up of township residents, to coordinate and provide to the township public knowledge and input. Volunteers for the committee are asked to submit a letter of intent and CV to clintontwplanddev@gmail.com by Tuesday, May 26.

Supervisor chair Mark Lopatofsky encouraged residents to also contact their elected officials, from the statewide (including Rep. Jonathan Fritz, Sen. Lisa Baker and Gov. Josh Shapiro) to the national (Sens. Dave McCormick and John Fetterman). The current situation started with President Trump signing an executive order fast-tracking data centers in July 2025, he said. "He's calling it a national emergency. That's why you're seeing all these things happen… Every letter, whatever, email, it counts. They don't hear from you folks, they just enact the laws and then they expect us to be thrown under the bus and [be] supportive. We're not for that. We want a good SALDO ordinance on this. It has to be fair."

Honesdale gets $600,000 for Cliff Street steps

By LIAM MAYO

HONESDALE BOROUGH, PA — On Wednesday, May 18, Sen. Rosemary Brown and Rep. Jonathan Fritz announced that Honesdale Borough is set to receive $600,079 for a pedestrian safety improvement in the area of Riverside Drive.

The money is designated to remove and reconstruct a set of pedestrian stairs linking Riverside Drive, Cottage Street and Cliff Street. According to a press release from Brown and Fritz, the project will replace unsafe steps with new reinforced concrete stairs and full-length railings, restoring a vital pedestrian connection in the borough's hillside network.

Borough officials contacted by the **River Reporter** expressed surprise at receiving the funding.

Former interim borough manager Kevin Kundratic told the **River Reporter** the borough had previously had discussions and made an application for the assistance. "It was so long ago, I was surprised when I saw the announcement," he said.

When the steps were discussed in early 2025, the borough council had not decided whether to repair the steps in whole or in part, with the potential removal of the Cottage Avenue to Cliff Street section being discussed. Community members subsequently spoke in support of the stairs, testifying as to their importance to pedestrian access in the area.

In announcing the funding, Brown said, "This investment will improve pedestrian safety and connectivity throughout Honesdale Borough. These stairways are an important part of the community's infrastructure, providing access to neighborhoods, schools, businesses and downtown amenities. I'm pleased to see this funding secured to help enhance walkability, accessibility and quality of life in Honesdale."

RR file photo by Liam Mayo

Honesdale's Cliff Street stairs have been periodically closed due to damage.

"Honesdale's downtown is buzzing with business growth, a multitude of services and recreation opportunities, along with an impressive array of restaurants, breweries and taverns," Fritz said. "Ensuring that we have maximum means for all residents to enjoy those realities is the goal."

The stairs have been in a state of disrepair for years, with the damage necessitating periodic closures.

RATE

¬ Page 1

NYSEG & RG&E originally requested the following rate increases: $464.4 million for NYSEG electric, $220.2 million for RG&E electric, $93.0 million for NYSEG gas and $72.9 million for RG&E gas.

The PSC release indicates that DPS staff will recommend increases, though said increases are smaller than those originally requested. The projected increases recommended by DPS are as follows: $66.9 million for NYSEG electric, $68.9 million for RG&E electric, $26.4 million for NYSEG gas and $21.6 million for RG&E gas.

"But the DPS experts also noted that these calculations must be reviewed in the context of current economic difficulties customers are experiencing and noted the commission may need to consider further reductions," reads the release.

Affordability

The rate increases are being discussed in a political climate where "affordability" is the buzzword of the moment. Rising energy prices, specifically, have been identified for political talking points, with rising gas prices from the Iran war and the projected costs of a green energy transition coming under fire.

When NYSEG and RG&E initially requested their increases, Gov. Kathy Hochul issued a statement saying, "At a time when New Yorkers are struggling to meet everyday costs, New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) and the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E) must find a way to avoid these unacceptably high rate hikes. "I am calling on the Department of Public Service to scrutinize these proposals to ensure these companies have the resources to keep our energy grid going but are not making additional profit off the backs of ratepayers."

"Those of us living in reality know that if we do what the governor is proposing and roll back CLCPA, it will do absolutely nothing to reduce energy costs for New Yorkers."
— Liz Krueger, State Senate Finance Committee Chair

In the press release announcing the temporary rates, PSC chair Rory M. Christian said, "Gov. Hochul is demanding strict fiscal discipline from the utilities and has directed the Department of Public Service to prioritize affordability for ratepayers while scrutinizing any rate increase proposals to ensure the lights and heat stay on."

NY-19 Rep. Josh Riley has advocated for affordability throughout the rate request process. In a Facebook post following the announcement, he slammed the PSC for the temporary rates.

"The Public Service Commission just kicked the can down the road on NYSEG's latest rate hike, and in the meantime they're telling Upstate New Yorkers to pay $50 million MORE," Riley said. "Bureaucrats in Albany don't need another six months to understand what's obvious to everyone else: the rates are too damn high, and Upstate New Yorkers can't afford it."

In a separate move, on Friday, March 20, Hochul proposed postponing elements of New York's flagship climate law, which required the state to issue regulations by the end of 2024 aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions 40% from 1990 levels by 2030. According to NY Focus, the proposal would push back the 2024 deadline (which the state did not meet) until 2030, and link them to a new emissions target in 2040.

Hochul pitched the proposal in affordability terms, saying, "We will be dealing with a White House outright hostile toward renewable energy for at least another three years, making it impossible for us to meet our targets without imposing higher costs on homeowners, renters and businesses."

According to NY Focus, State Senate Finance Committee Chair Liz Krueger reframed the proposal in a statement to the newsroom, saying, "Those of us living in reality know that if we do what the governor is proposing and roll back CLCPA, it will do absolutely nothing to reduce energy costs for New Yorkers. The only problem it would solve is the manufactured political crisis that the governor has created for herself. But it will absolutely deepen and lengthen our reliance on fossil fuels in the middle of yet another oil crisis draining New Yorkers' wallets." (For more, see https://nysfocus.com/2026/03/20/hochul-clcpa-climate-law-roll-back)

Sullivan County's financial reporting continues to win awards

MONTICELLO, NY — For the 35th consecutive time, the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office has been accorded the Financial Reporting Achievement Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The county also received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the GFOA.

The award was given after an impartial panel of judges determined the county's 2024 annual Comprehensive Financial Report met GFOA's standards, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" in communicating financial details and motivating people to read it, the county said. The report can be found at sullivanny.gov/Departments/Managementandbudget/Audits.

"My team and I are thrilled we won this award again, carrying on a long and proud tradition in the Sullivan County Treasurer's Office," said county treasurer Kathleen Lara. "Credit must go to my staff, led by senior fiscal administrative officer Shannan Armbrust, under whom this achievement was realized."

"We hope that your example will encourage other government officials in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence in financial reporting," concluded Michele Mark Levine, the GFOA's director of technical services.

The GFOA is a national nonprofit association serving approximately 21,000 government finance professionals, with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

NEWS from UDC

NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission plans for Upper Delaware river crossings

By LAURIE RAMIE

UPPER DELAWARE RIVER, NY & PA — The New York-Pennsylvania Joint Interstate Bridge Commission approved nearly $20 million to complete major rehabilitations of the Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA and Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA bridges, while taking no action on any potential future replacement of the demolished Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA bridge.

The commission held its annual meeting on May 13 at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation headquarters in Dunmore to review capital expenditures, inspection findings, and maintenance work for the nine remaining Upper Delaware River bridges under their jurisdiction.

Approved was $11,550,000 for the Callicoon-Damascus Bridge and $8,360,000 for the Port Jervis-Matamoras Bridge, totaling $19,910,000 that will be equally split between PA and NY under the April 1, 2026-March 31, 2027 budget.

After awarding the $17,859,059 contract to refurbish the 1961 Callicoon, NY-Damascus, PA Bridge to Bette & Cring LLC of Latham, NY on March 28, 2024 and starting work that fall, November 2027 was the targeted completion in consideration of keeping one lane of traffic flowing, except for requiring up to six 24- to 48-hour temporary detours to pour the new concrete lanes.

However, after crews kept working throughout this past winter, the project appears to be ahead of schedule.

"The contractor is motivated to try to get everything done to be substantially complete this year," said NYS DOT Regional Structures Engineer Jacob Hamlin.

Remaining repairs to steel members will take place in late July, normal traffic patterns are anticipated to resume by late August, then the contractor will return next spring for final touch-ups, Hamlin added.

NYS DOT Region 9 has announced that the bridge's next closure to vehicular traffic would be on May 19 at 10 a.m., weather permitting. Pedestrian and bicycle access is unaffected. The motorist detour may last up to 48 hours. Wednesday and Thursday, May 27 and 28, are back-up closure dates.

In 2021, the commission had approved $2,212,000 to design the major upgrade to the Callicoon-Damascus Bridge.

Replacement of the open steel grid deck with lightweight concrete and other work on the 1939 Port Jervis, NY-Matamoras, PA bridge that is under PennDOT's supervision is projected to fully wrap up in October 2026.

JD Eckman of Atglen, PA won that July 2024 contract to be conducted in three phases while maintaining traffic flow. Westbound Phase 2 is due to finish in three weeks. Phase 3, consisting of replacing stringers and finalizing the new deck, should end in early June.

The total project cost was tagged at approximately $14.55 million for superstructure and substructure work as of last year. In 2024, the commission had approved $5,899,000 to repair the bridge's steel members.

Skinners Falls Bridge

No capital project plans were on the agenda for the former 1902 Skinners Falls, NY-Milanville, PA bridge, which was intentionally knocked down in April 2025. It had been closed to all uses since October 2019 following an emergency inspection.

After initial plans announced on Nov. 14, 2024 to dismantle and salvage the bridge's components for potential re-use, PennDOT secured a Dec. 16, 2024 declaration from PA Gov. Josh Shapiro stating that the agency had "identified an emergent need to remove the bridge" for public safety. An independent analysis rated its substructure as "failed" and the superstructure in critical condition.

The cost for the bridge's demolition was $5,024,946.

Since 2020, the commission had authorized spending $4,774,476 for a Planning and Environmental Linkages study to evaluate options (typically repair, replace or remove) as required by the bridge's 1988 National Register of Historic Places listing.

That study, updated in Sept. 2025 to reflect the bridge's loss, cited a lack of available funding and a low cost-benefit analysis ratio to currently advance a replacement scenario estimated to cost anywhere from $13-$28.5 million depending on design options and alignments.

All that remains of the rare ornamental truss, single-lane, timber-decked bridge is one abutment in Milanville, PA for which a custom railing was fabricated and installed.

Originally conceived to serve as a scenic river overlook, that project status is now in question due to a federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act best management practice to completely remove abutments, piers, and foundations if the associated bridge no longer exists to restore the property to a natural state. The development is also subject to a potential legal challenge by an adjacent property owner.

An on-site meeting will take place in mid-June for federal and state consulting parties to discuss the cultural resources adverse effects mitigation memorandum of agreement that had been put on hold in January for re-evaluation of the expanded project scope.

Bridge inspections occurred on April 14, with reports given on the deficiencies observed, work performed, and 2026 plans.

The commissioners earmarked $44,000 for general maintenance and snow-and-ice control, compared to the $46,622 spent in 2025-26.

The other Upper Delaware River interstate bridges and the dates of their establishment or most recent major rebuilds are the Pond Eddy, NY-Pond Eddy, PA bridge (2018), Barryville, NY-Shohola, PA bridge (2006), Narrowsburg, NY-Darbytown, PA bridge (2018), Cochecton, NY-Damascus, PA bridge (2024), Kellams, NY-Stalker, PA bridge (2018), Lordville, NY-Equinunk, PA bridge (1992) and Hancock, NY-Buckingham, PA bridge (1937).

NEWS from CIVIL AIR PATROL

Civil Air Patrol Aircrew identifies active structure fire during training mission

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — A Civil Air Patrol (CAP) aircrew participating in a training exercise at Sullivan County International Airport recently identified and reported an active residential structure fire.

At 1:09 p.m. on May 2, CAP aircraft launched as part of Mission Aircrew School operations. The crew included Capt. Randy Lewis (mission pilot, New York Wing), 2nd Lt. William Spence (mission observer trainee, Long Island Composite Squadron), and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Randy Albertson (mission scanner trainee, Schenectady Composite Squadron).

At 2:01 p.m., the mission scanner observed visible smoke and flames on the ground off the aircraft's left wing. Both the mission observer and mission pilot quickly confirmed the observation.

The crew identified the location and relayed the information to Sullivan Mission Base, where Lt. Col. Wayne Smith from the New York Wing subsequently notified emergency services via 911.

The aircrew reported a residential structure fully involved in fire, with no visible occupants and no emergency response units on scene at the time of initial observation. The crew briefly descended to safely verify their assessment before departing the area after receiving confirmation that local fire services were en route.

The aircraft returned to base at 2:18 p.m.

Subsequent reports confirmed the incident as a residential structure fire in Milford, located in Pike County, PA. Emergency responders classified the incident as a second-alarm fire, with mutual aid units responding to support operations.

During the mission, Albertson captured still images and a brief video of the incident.

This incident highlights the critical role Civil Air Patrol aircrews play in supporting community safety through vigilance, training and coordination with local emergency response agencies, according to Civil Air Patrol.

Photo from Civil Air Patrol

While on a training flight on May 2, a Civil Air Patrol aircrew observed visible smoke and flames on the ground off the aircraft's left wing.

MY VIEW

BY PAUL N. KOWALCZYK

Words and actions make the difference

I agree with much of the My View article (**River Reporter**, May 7-13), stating that words mean something. I do not agree that if my words make others resort to violence, I have crossed a line, making me unworthy of the "honor of expressing the liberty" of free speech. That act of violence does not fall on me.

First, freedom of speech is a constitutional right protected by the First Amendment. Freedom to use words by Americans, both left- and right-leaning, is important in a free society. This freedom of speech ensures that even uncomfortable and unpopular ideas can be aired, contributing to an open society. If my words do not agree with the current administration's actions, it does not make me less of an American.

Conversely, the Trump administration uses words as dog whistles. We have all heard ad nauseam the President use words like "woke," "radical left," "Marxists," "communists," "human garbage," "traitors," "snowflakes," "owning the libs," "vermin" and other dehumanizing language to attack his opponents on the political left.

Secondly, actions speak louder than words. We are skeptical of the intent when words are used by the current administration lobbying for "voter ID" and wanting fair elections, then it takes actions to install massive gerrymandering schemes—usually only held on census years—to arrange voting districts to favor their party in power. This is not the American Way.

Saying words like "protect the men in blue" rings empty when 1,500 members of a violent mob that injured 140 police officers when they attacked the Capitol were pardoned, many of whom pleaded guilty to an offense. This doesn't sound like the American Way.

Saying that Veterans are important, then DOGE cuts funding for their special needs and program managers is definitely not the American Way.

Saying "a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again" in regards to the people of Iran is not the American Way. Neither is denying the children, now adults, who survived the Epstein debacle their day in court, with Trump saying it is "really time for the country to get on with something else."

Assassination attempts are a result of a sick mind. Violence against anyone in office is wrong, like the 700 death threats that Marjorie Taylor Greene received since her split with Donald Trump.

I too agree with the writer that the hyperbole has crossed the line and it is time to dial it back. I just think he is looking in the wrong direction. The side that marches peacefully for change across the country is not the problem.

Paul N. Kowalczyk is a proud American who lives in Wayne County, PA.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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

"They who for their country die, / shall fill an honored grave. / For glory lights the soldier's tomb, / and beauty weeps the brave."

— Joseph Rodham Drake

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stand up for our beautiful towns

Elected officials are supposed to work for us—not data centers.

There is overwhelming agreement among local citizens, who state they do not want data centers in our area; it would seem our town officials shouldn't even be considering the possibility.

But they are. Why? Who are they really working for? How do they benefit by ignoring their own constituents? What are they getting out of it, while all of us could lose the quality of our natural resources, air, water and peaceful quiet?

Data centers are massive energy-draining and health threats to all of us and to our natural environment. It's super critical that as many of us stay informed, talk to each other and show up at our local town and township meetings and put pressure on our elected officials and stand up for our beautiful towns based in nature.

The only positive thing about data centers is that they are uniting us, as people from both sides of the political aisle are working together to stop this. Let's join together in the fight to protect our natural area and our health and strengthen our community in the process.

We can do this!

Kathy Morawski

Town of Fremont, NY

Sick at heart

For most of my long life, I had faith that America was moving gradually towards greater justice, equality and inclusion. As a white male American, I benefited from advantages denied to many others but naively believed that my nation, however imperfectly, and often painfully, was forever trying to widen rather than to restrict democracy.

The Supreme Court's dismantling of the Voting Rights Act has badly shaken my faith. The bitter irony is unmistakable: the southern and southwestern states that will gain congressional seats after the next census owe most of their population growth to the black, Hispanic and immigrant communities whose political power they are now trying to dilute and suppress. In short, these communities will be counted for congressional representation while increasingly denied meaningful representation.

This recalls the painful logic of the Jim Crow era, when the presence of people of color strengthened states politically while they were excluded from political power. With more than two years remaining in the Trump era, I wonder if the millions who supported him will awaken to the real possibility that the whole American experiment is at serious risk. I fear we are moving backward, not forward, and am sick at heart. My only hope is that huge majorities share these fears and will express them where it matters most—at the ballot box.

Edward Kornbluh, DDS

Schodack Landing, NY

On hate speech and its effects

The My View, "The words we use make a difference" (**River Reporter**, May 7-13), is a confused and confusing word salad. Instead of picking it apart, I will just quote from the Conclusion of Perspectives on Terrorism (Volume 14, Issue 5) in "Donald Trump: Aggressive Rhetoric and Political Violence":

"Donald Trump's hate speech and demonization of non-Whites, mainstream media, and oppositional politicians, and his implicit and explicit praise of violence resulted in many verbal and corporal attacks against members of the denigrated groups. School bullying increased, with many young bullies using Trumpian hateful terminology and/or referring to his discriminatory policies. Particularly in minority communities, there was heightened anxiety and fear. Just as important, Trump stirred fear, hate, and anger among his core supporters by warning them of dangerous "others" threatening "America as we know it" in terms of history, culture, values, and racial dominance. Whether by dog whistle or bullhorn, he spread online and off-line a divisive propaganda that in many respects resembled right-extremists' ideology and glorification of violence... Trump became the first U.S. president who in public statements expressed sympathy and support for violent right-extremists and thereby pulled them into mainstream politics."

If the author believes that "Not valuing the sanctity of an informed legal vote is not the American way," then he surely must believe that Trump's claims of a stolen election in 2020 are pure BS.

Norman Starr

Beach Lake, PA

Volunteer firefighter bill passes Assembly

The Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) applauded the New York State Assembly for passing landmark legislation to quadruple the state's volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker income tax credit from $200 to $800—the first increase since the program was established in 2006—while also eliminating restrictions that currently prevent volunteers from receiving both the state tax credit and any locally authorized property tax exemptions.

The Senate, a longstanding supporter of volunteer emergency services that has previously passed versions of the legislation multiple times, is expected to advance the measure again in the coming days before adjournment.

The legislation, S.6233-A/A.6790-A, represents one of the most significant statewide investments in volunteer emergency services in decades and comes as volunteer fire and EMS departments across New York continue facing severe recruitment and retention challenges.

For two decades, the statewide volunteer income tax credit has remained unchanged at $200 despite rising gas and tolls, increasing emergency call volumes and declining volunteer membership statewide. According to findings cited by FASNY, 76 percent of volunteer fire departments have experienced membership declines in recent years.

"This is a transformational moment for volunteer emergency services in New York State," said FASNY Vice President Donald Farrell. "Quadrupling the volunteer firefighter and EMS tax credit from $200 to $800 sends a powerful message that New York recognizes the critical role volunteers play in protecting communities every day. Combined with allowing volunteers to receive both the state income tax credit and local property tax exemptions, this legislation delivers meaningful, long-overdue support for the tens of thousands of volunteers who sacrifice their time, leave their families, and answer emergency calls at all hours."

In addition to increasing the statewide income tax credit, the legislation removes what FASNY described as an outdated statutory barrier that currently forces volunteers to choose between receiving the state income tax credit and benefiting from locally authorized property tax exemptions. The legislation would allow volunteers to receive both incentives simultaneously, restoring flexibility for local governments and strengthening local recruitment and retention efforts.

FASNY noted that volunteer firefighters save New York taxpayers an estimated $3.8 billion annually in salaries and benefits alone, while replacing the volunteer system with a fully career workforce could cost as much as $4.7 billion annually, in addition to billions in capital expenses and substantial local property tax increases.

Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY)

Albany, NY

Energy-affordability bills shot down

The Assembly Corporations Committee, of which I am a member, voted down multiple Republican bills that would have made life more affordable and created more transparency for New Yorkers.

The bills voted down by Democrats deal with energy affordability; specifically, they voted against requiring utility companies to show consumers how much of their utility bill is going toward Albany's green energy policies (A.7021) and requiring utility bills to show a breakdown of infrastructure costs, contributions to the New York Power Authority and other public utility investments (A.9096).

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■ MY VIEW
BY STEVEN GOLDSTEIN, MD

The dirt on incinerators

[*Ed. note: What follows are Dr. Goldstein's remarks to the Sullivan County Public Works Committee.*]

My name is Dr. Steven Goldstein. This July, I celebrate 45 years in pediatrics. I work part-time for the Northwell Health System, and I dedicate my remaining energy to environmental initiatives that protect children and our planet. As a homeowner in White Lake, I was drawn here by the rural beauty, clean air and pristine waters.

I serve as chair of Chapter 2 of the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health and Climate Change and am a New York State Children's Environmental Health Center Scholar. The opinions I express are my own.

I want to address the ill-considered proposal to bring a solid waste incinerator to Sullivan County. While companies market these facilities as "waste-to-energy" solutions, the reality is that their environmental impact is often greater and dirtier than that of a coal-burning power plant.

The promise of easy waste management and revenue is a pipe dream. Many communities have been burdened by "minimum waste guarantees" through contracts that force counties to pay even if they don't produce enough trash. To meet these quotas, waste is often trucked in from elsewhere, increasing air pollution from diesel exhaust. History shows the danger of this path; a failed incinerator initiative played a role in the bankruptcy of Detroit.

As a pediatrician, my gravest concern is what this process releases into our environment. Incineration creates toxic ash that is far more dangerous than raw garbage. This ash contains "forever chemicals" like PFAS, PFOS and dioxins, and heavy metals like mercury. When these are released into the air or leach into groundwater, they enter our food supply.

These compounds are linked to cancer, reproductive harm and endocrine disruption. Children are at the highest risk. Because of their lower body weight, developing organs and proximity to the ground, small exposures can have lifelong consequences. We have a collective responsibility to protect the health of the next generation.

Furthermore, Sullivan County prides itself on hunting, fishing and tourism—industries that fuel our economy. New York State already warns that many bodies of water are contaminated; allowing an incinerator puts our local wildlife and recreational economy on the "endangered list."

We must also look at the track record of Reworld, a company responding to the county's request for proposals. It has a long history of environmental violations. In 2025, New York State fined it $558,000 for mishandling ash transport on Long Island. For many such companies, these fines are simply the cost of doing business, while local citizens pay the price with their health.

Finally, we must address environmental justice. New York designates disadvantaged communities based on their environmental burdens. In Sullivan County, this includes Liberty, Monticello, South Fallsburg and several others. Positioning an incinerator near these census tracts would compound existing vulnerabilities, disproportionately impacting minority and low-income residents.

The tide is turning against this technology. In 2025, California closed its last municipal incinerator. New York should follow that lead rather than poison its populace. There are sustainable waste management alternatives that do not carry these staggering health and financial risks, and I would be happy to provide resources on those solutions.

In 2020, a team of 10 researchers with the Australian National University Medical School published a review paper about the health effects of incinerators. Their conclusion: "While the results were not consistent across the literature, based on a precautionary principle, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that any incinerator is safe." (www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S132602002300732X)

In summary: An incinerator in Sullivan County would be toxic to our future, our children and our solvency. It is time to close the book on incineration and seek smarter, safer solutions.

Steven J. Goldstein, MD, lives in White Lake, NY.

LETTERS

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In procedural terms in the state Legislature, when a bill is "held" in committee, that amounts to the legislation being blocked from advancing for a full vote of the state Assembly.

For months, I've been responding to constituents' concerns about increasing power costs. Not everything in their electricity bill is for the actual power. New Yorkers are being forced to pay for the state's expensive green new deal, and they deserve to know just how much they are giving to support it. From the beginning, we were told these policies would save consumers money. If that's the case, why are committee members afraid of letting New Yorkers know just how much money they are saving?

The answer is they aren't saving money; in fact, just the opposite: utility bills are skyrocketing. So instead of supporting transparency, they are leaving New Yorkers in the dark to save their political futures in an election year. New Yorkers want and deserve answers to why their bills are rising.

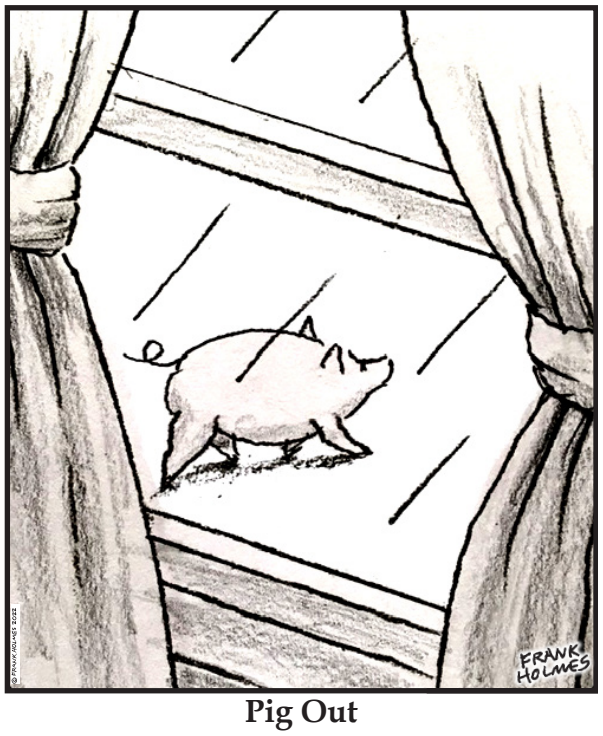
Assemblyman Joseph Angelino (R,C-121)
Norwich, NY

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

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

For more letters, visit riverreporter.com/opinion.

DR. PUNNYBONE



Pig Out

A free society depends on a free press. Honor 1776 by supporting Spotlight PA.

The self-governance our founders enshrined in Philadelphia cannot and will not function with independent, unbiased reporting.

By CHRISTOPHER BAXTER

Two hundred fifty years ago this summer, delegates met in Philadelphia and signed their names to a document that risked everything. The Declaration of Independence was a bet that ordinary people, given truthful information about those in power, could govern themselves.

That promise is harder to keep with every passing year. Though we're overloaded with information, it's more difficult to know what to trust, and there are fewer independent, unbiased reporters demanding government transparency and holding our officials to account.

That's why I'm writing to ask for your support of Spotlight PA, a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom delivering the fact-based information "We the People" need to keep our republic.

A free society is not self-sustaining—it depends on Pennsylvanians knowing what their governor is doing, how their tax dollars are spent, whether their elections are run fairly, and what deals their lawmakers are making in Harrisburg.

That's exactly what Spotlight PA delivers.

A recent independent statewide survey of 1,659 adults in Pennsylvania found 1 in 5 now read Spotlight PA at least occasionally. Of those, 46 percent said our reporting made an impact on them, such as changing how they thought about an issue or prompting them to take action.

That is the work of accountability journalism—reminding people of their right to self-governance, giving them factual information on what's happening and why, and inspiring them to get civically engaged and drive real, tangible change for the better.

This kind of investigative reporting is expensive and time-consuming. Our journalists file requests for public records that take months to pry loose, spend hours in courthouses and committee hearings, and file lawsuits when officials obstruct the people's right to know.

We publish what some in power would rather see buried—and then make it available at no cost to all Pennsylvanians and our network of more than 125 partner news organizations, including this one.

The reporting, like our country, belongs to the public, and it is paid for by readers like you who believe a free society in Pennsylvania is worth defending for the next 250 years. Make a gift in support of Spotlight PA at spotlightpa.org/donate, and for a limited time, your tax-deductible gift of any amount will be doubled by the Lenfest Institute for Journalism.

You can also send a check, donor-advised fund contribution or qualified charitable distribution to Spotlight PA, 312 Market St. #11728, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

Thank you for recommitting to our free country and the free press it requires.

Christopher Baxter is president and CEO of Spotlight PA, an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit newsroom producing investigative and public-service journalism that holds power to account and drives positive change in Pennsylvania.

BEFORE YOU GO… If you learned something from this article, pay it forward and contribute to Spotlight PA at spotlightpa.org/donate. Spotlight PA is funded by foundations and readers like you who are committed to accountability journalism that gets results.

OBITUARIES

THOMAS GENE BARNES

Thomas Gene Barnes passed away peacefully on April 22, 2026.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife of over 57 years, Deborah Tegeler Barnes; his sons: Daniel, Christopher and Brett; and his daughter Melanna and her husband Jim. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Garyn and Mikayla, children of Melanna; and Noah and Paige, children of Brett; and his great-grandchildren, Dayton and Skylar Barnes, children of Mikayla. He is further survived by his brother Howard Barnes and his wife Cindy Sue, and their family; his sister-in-law Sue Tegeler Nordenhold and her husband David, and their family; and his brother-in-law William Tegeler and his wife Joanne, and their family; and Wendel Barnes' family.

He was preceded in death by his parents Marvin and Mary Barnes, and his brother Wendel Barnes.

A devoted family man and a pillar of his community, Tom's legacy lives on through the love of his family and the many lives he touched with his selfless nature.

Born in Callicoon, NY, on December 16, 1947, Tom was a man of deep faith and unwavering optimism. A devout Christian, he was known for always doing for others, approaching life with a generous heart and a positive spirit.

Tom's professional life was rooted in the lumber and kitchen design industry. He was a part-owner of the Narrowsburg Lumber Company and later brought his expertise to Edenton Mills in North Carolina, Wickes Direct and 84 Lumber. He also proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army.

Outside of work, Tom was a lifelong sports enthusiast. He was a key member of the Narrowsburg Indians Men's Basketball team that secured a District 9 Championship. Tom nearly completed a book documenting his journey with his teammates titled "Hoops to Hanoi to Home." His family plans to complete the book in his honor. Whether on the golf course or at the ping pong table, his competitive spirit and athletic talent were always on display. Tom was also a longtime member of the Lions Club and a dedicated Freemason.

His kindness, integrity and devotion to his loved ones will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 31 Erie Ave. in Narrowsburg, NY on Sunday, May 31 at 1 p.m.

While flowers are welcome, the family suggests that memorial contributions can be made to:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 31 Erie Ave., Narrowsburg, NY 12764, or

Damascus Township Volunteer Ambulance Corps, 1290 Cochecton Tpk., Tyler Hill, PA 18469.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Harrison Rasmussen Funeral Home of Barryville, 3412 Rte. 97, Barryville, NY, 845/557-8010

ANNA M. GREF

Anna M. Gref of Jeffersonville, NY, a lifelong area resident, died unexpectedly Monday, May 4, 2026, at her home. She was 36.

Anna was born July 8, 1989, in Middletown, NY, to Kevin and Barbara Gref, who loved her dearly. An artist of deep natural talent and a treasured sister to her siblings, she was the proud mother of Colby, now 11, a kind and caring boy who was the center of her universe.

Anna attended Jeffersonville-Youngsville Central School, later Sullivan West. She attended college at SUNY Sullivan, where she pursued studies in nursing and liberal arts. Persevering through the COVID pandemic and her own health challenges, she earned her AAS degree with distinction on the President's List in May 2022.

Anna was loved by many for her brash sense of humor, her strength of character, and her compassionate approach to those less fortunate, an approach she applied to the many elderly and ailing patients she served as a home health aide.

Her greatest talent was her skill as a visual artist, something that seemed to come as naturally to her as breathing did to everyone else. She was never without her sketchbook and leaves behind a varied and often uniquely stylized body of work, mainly drawings on paper in pencil and marker. Most recently, she was studying to become a licensed tattooist.

Anna is survived by her parents Kevin and Barbara Gref of Jeffersonville; her son Colby Gonzalez, at home; her sister Emily Gref of Jeffersonville; her brother Joseph Gref of Monticello, NY; several beloved aunts, uncles and cousins and a wide community of friends considered family. She was predeceased by the love of her life, Carlos "CJ" Gonzalez Jr.

A celebration of life, "The Art of Anna Gref," will take place on Sunday, June 28, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Delaware Youth Center, 8 Creamery Road, Callicoon, NY. The exhibition of her work will include interactive art stations for adults and kids plus the participatory completion of a mural she had only just begun at the time of her death. All who knew and loved Anna are welcomed to attend and belong.

The family would like to thank the many people who have shown their remarkable support. The outpouring of love and generosity has been a genuine comfort.

Donations honoring Anna can be made to the Delaware Youth Center, 8 Creamery Road, Callicoon, NY 12723 or through the donation portal at delawareyouthcenter.org.

Dignified cremation has been provided by Harris Crematorium, LLC.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Harris Funeral Home West Street at Buckley, Liberty, NY 845/292-0001 or 845/439-5200 or www.Harris-FH.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Helene Shiko Burgess

Helene Shiko Burgess, 88, of Hawley, PA and formerly of Clifton, NJ, passed away May 14, 2026 at Julia Ribaudo Extended Care Center in Lake Ariel, PA. Helene was born May 14, 1938 in Shamokin, PA. The funeral service was held May 18 at Teeters' East Chapel in Hawley. Burial will be in Green Gates Cemetery in Hawley.

Mildred Flaherty

Mildred Flaherty, 99, of Lackawaxen, PA and formerly of Staten Island, NY, passed away May 11, 2026. Mildred was born February 24, 1927 in Brooklyn, NY. Funeral services were held May 16 at Harrison Rasmussen Funeral Home in Barryville, NY. Burial followed at St. Ann's Cemetery in Shohola, PA.

Harold 'Harry' J. Fox

Harold "Harry" J. Fox, 85, of Poughkeepsie, NY and formerly of Jeffersonville, NY, passed away May 6, 2026 at Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie. Harold was born May 16, 1940 in Bronx, NY. Funeral services were held May 19 at Harris Funeral Home in Liberty, NY. Burial will be held in the Calvary Cemetery in Youngsville, NY.

Kenneth 'Ken' Michael Kellar

Kenneth "Ken" Michael Kellar, 67, of Hamlin, PA, passed away May 16, 2026 at home. Kenneth was born March 18, 1959 in Ewing, NJ. A blessing service will be held Friday, May 22 at noon in the James Wilson Funeral Home, 143 Gravity Road in Lake Ariel, PA. Friends and family are invited to call Friday morning from 10 a.m until the time of the blessing service. Interment will follow in the Lake Region Crematory at the funeral home.

John McCormack

John McCormack, 60, of Jeffersonville, NY and Byron, MN, passed away April 26, 2026. John was born December 16, 1965. A celebration of life will be held at a future date.

Karen L. Mehrtens

Karen L. Mehrtens, 65, of Hawley, PA, passed away May 6, 2026 at home. Karen was born December 30, 1960 in Bergenfield, NJ. Services will be held until a later time for the convenience of the family. Final interment will be held at the Green Gates Cemetery in Hawley.

Rosemary Ostrelich

Rosemary Ostrelich, 67, of Waymart, PA, passed away May 13, 2026. Rosemary was born June 20, 1958 in Meshoppen, PA. A Mass of Christian burial took place May 18 at Saint Thomas More Church in Lake Ariel, PA. Interment is private and at the convenience of the family in the Mount Olivet Cemetery in Aliquippa, PA.

Aaron William Sweitzer Jr.

Aaron William Sweitzer Jr., 79, of Glen Lyon, PA, passed away May 3, 2026 at Geisinger Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Aaron was born March 26, 1947 in Honesdale, PA. Private cremation was held at Lake Region Crematory in Lake Ariel, PA.

Catherine S. Turner

Catherine S. Turner, 90, of Lookout, PA, passed away April 19, 2026 at Wayne Woodlands Manor in Waymart, PA. Catherine was born September 1, 1935 in Callicoon, NY. A graveside service will be held Saturday, May 23 at 11 a.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery in Galilee, PA.

Summer hours in area Episcopal churches

NORTHEAST PA — The three Episcopal churches in the Carbondale/Dundaff/Forest City area will share the Rev. Dr. William McGinty for the summer.

Summer services will be as follows: Christ Church, Delaware Street, Forest City: service at 8:30 a.m.; St. James Church/Chapel, Route 247, Dundaff: service at 10 a.m.; and Trinity Church, River Street, Carbondale, with a service at 11:30 a.m.

We welcome and serve all in Christ's name. Faith, Food and Fun! Consider joining us!

Contributed by Juliann Doyle.

Take care of yourself

HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County System of Care will be hosting the fourth annual Self-Care Day on Friday, May 22 at the Park Street Complex, 648 Park St. from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The event was developed to promote and celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month.

Over 22 different local vendors will be participating to provide the public with not only resources on mental health and self-care but also self-care experiences such as massage therapy, yoga, exercise, nutrition and mindfulness activities.

This is a free event that is open to the public.

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LAKE HUNTINGTON NEWS

BY JENN POWELL

History programs shine

May is quickly filling up with all the excitement that comes with this time of year—baseball and softball games, planning summer gardens, concerts, celebrations and end-of-school-year events. The days are flying by, and before we know it, summer will be here in full swing.

Here are some events happening in our community and beyond:

There will be a Sausage and Pepper Lunch Fundraiser at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 6590 Rte. 52 in Lake Huntington, NY on Saturday, May 23. There is a suggested donation of $15 per lunch. Call MaryJane at 845/798-8586 or Ann at 315/727-4446 for more information and tickets.

The Lake Huntington Presbyterian Church Ladies Aid Society would like to thank the community for supporting their recent penny social. The society had another great turnout! Many thanks to all who supported, donated items, baked cakes and volunteered to help.

The opening of the 1976 time capsule at the lower level of the Cochecton Town Hall has been postponed until July, with a new date to be announced soon. While the community eagerly awaits this special event, a full lineup of engaging historical programs and gatherings is planned throughout the summer.

On Sunday, June 7 at 1 p.m., the focus will be on the Hamlet of Skinners Falls, presented at the Erie Depot on Route 97, followed by a program on the Hamlet of Cochecton Center on Sunday, June 21 at 1 p.m. at Heinle's Ball Field, located at the intersection of Route 52 and Old County Road.

The series continues on Sunday, July 12 at 1 p.m. with a program on the Hamlet of Fosterdale at Cochecton Town Hall, 74 Smales Road in Lake Huntington, NY, and on Sunday, August 9 at 1 p.m., the spotlight turns to the Hamlet of Lake Huntington itself, in a presentation at the Town Hall. On Sunday, August 30 at 1 p.m., the Hamlet of Cochecton will be featured at the Cochecton Men's Club and Ball Field on County Road 114. The season concludes on Sunday, September 20 at 1 p.m. with the 20th annual Coffee, Tea & History program at the Erie Depot on Route 97, featuring docent Glenn Pontier presenting "Wood, Coal and Water: Three Essentials that Changed the River Valley."

If you have a local business that you would like to have spotlighted in an upcoming column, get in touch. Email jenn@jennpowelldesigns.com with any news, events and happenings. You can also find me online at rustic-road.com/.

Recycling program educates and inspires

HONESDALE, PA — To celebrate Earth Day, Sustainable Energy Education and Development Support (SEEDS) hosted a recycling program featuring Cheryl and Stu Badner, co-founders of Corporate Waste Consultants. They offered a brief history of recycling, shared real examples of common "yes" and "no" items, and guided participants through a hands-on "to recycle or not to recycle" exercise, focusing on:

Which item(s) could be collected curbside,

Haulers to be used for recyclable items versus non-recyclable items and

Which item(s) could be dropped off at a "Source Separated" location, such as the Wayne County Recycling Center.

Details were also provided about how to prepare certain materials and items properly for commingled recycling. Recycling rules vary by hauler and location, so it's helpful to review your provider's guidelines—especially for items like plastic clamshells and trays, aluminum foil and bottle caps.

Here are some additional resources:

Wayne County Recycling accepted materials: www.casella.com/services/recycling/recycle-better/

Waste Management guidelines: www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right

Recycling services at Staples: www.staples.com/stores/recycling

Electronics and Appliances Recycling at Best Buy: www.bestbuy.com/site/services/recycling/pcmcat149900050025.c?

Neither SEEDS nor Corporate Waste Consultants endorses these companies; links are provided for educational purposes only.

Learn more about SEEDS at seedsgroup.net/.

Information from the SEEDS newsletter

Jazz on the Farm

DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective, based on Willow Wisp Organic Farm, announces the first 2026 "Jazz on the Farm" concert, to be held on Saturday, May 23. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and showtime is 7 p.m. The concert will be held at the Agri-Cultural Center on the 25-acre organic vegetable and flower farm, which is located at 38 Hickory Lane.

"Jazz on the Farm" features a night of world-class jazz musicians: Abraham Burton, Eric McPherson, Will Sellenraad and Ben Street, the collective said. The performances, now in the second year, are curated by Sellenraad, a New York City- and Catskills-based jazz guitarist.

Farm-fresh food and refreshments (the latter sponsored by Upward Brewery) will be provided. The event sold out last year, so this season, Farm Arts Collective is adding a second show to be held on Labor Day weekend.

Tickets must be purchased in advance as seating is limited.

Tickets cost $35 with a limited number of pay-what-you-can tickets available. Tickets can be purchased online at www.farmartscollective.org.

Photo by Laurie Ramie, Upper Delaware Council

Volunteers for the Upper Delaware Council's sixth annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep gathered at the Barryville, NY cul-de-sac on April 18 before dividing to conquer trash throughout the towns of Highland and Lumberland. Clean-ups took place in 13 New York and PA communities surrounding the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Record number of volunteers for litter sweep

REGION — Nearly 525 volunteers cleaned up roadsides, riverbanks and public spaces in communities surrounding the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River during the sixth annual Upper Delaware Litter Sweep.

Pick-ups were organized in all 13 of the Upper Delaware Council's (UDC) member municipalities, ranging from single individuals and couples to large groups, primarily during April to recognize Earth Month.

The UDC provided fluorescent T-shirts with original artwork and a "Keeping Our Country Beautiful: 250 Yrs." slogan by Jeff George Design and Salvage, as well as trash bags, pickers, gloves and safety equipment.

Printed by Platform Industries of Honesdale, PA, the team shirts sported the logos of 2026 media sponsor WJFF Radio Catskill 90.5 FM on the sleeve and the UDC Land-Water-People logo on the back.

The event was made possible entirely through contributions: the UDC raised $3,570.51 to add to its $2,544.01 in seed money from the 2025 Litter Sweep. Expenses were $4,093.01, leaving a balance of $2,031.51 heading into next year.

Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson and Town of Lumberland UDC Representative Nadia Rajsz allocated $2,000 of her Legislative District 2 discretionary funds to support the cause.

Donations were received from the Delaware River Basin Commission ($500); Upper Delaware Scenic Byway ($500); Grace Church, Callicoon, NY ($100); Aaron Ingram, Narrowsburg, NY ($97.01); Connie Lloyd, Beach Lake, PA ($75); The Cooperage Project Pop-Up Club, Honesdale, PA ($50); Robert H. Yurich, Andes, NY ($50); JoAnne Merritt, Tyler Hill, PA ($48.50); and anonymous ($30). The online auction for the framed, signed heron artwork by Jeff George netted a $120 contribution from Chris Hunt of Lackawaxen, PA.

Litter Leaders who rounded up crews of helpers and occasionally donations of services or food for their clean-ups, and the communities where they worked, are listed here.

Hancock, NY: Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Inc.

Town of Fremont, NY: Roscoe Family Outdoor Club.

Town of Delaware: Tess McBeath and UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie.

Cochecton, NY: UDC Representative Larry H. Richardson

Town of Tusten: Narrowsburg Beautification Group.

Town of Highland, NY: UDC Representative Christine Martin and Cathy Daboul.

Town of Lumberland, NY: UDC Alternate Frank Guzmán and the Homestead School.

Town of Deerpark, NY: National Park Service (NPS) Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Ranger Susie Kaspar with Boy Scout Pack 1071, UDC Representative and Alternate Ginny and Bill Dudko, and the Sparrowbush Engine Co.

Damascus, PA: UDC Town of Tusten Alternate Evan Padua, and Teresa Kehagias and the Wayne County Horse Lovers 4-H Club.

Berlin, PA: UDC Representative Al Henry.

Lackawaxen, PA: NPS Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Community Volunteer Ambassador Sophia McKinstry (with volunteer crews also sent to River Road in Beach Lake: Crawford Road in Tusten, NY; and the Towpath Trail in Minisink Ford, NY).

Shohola, PA: Homeschool Group, coordinated by Ashley Briggs, and UDC Representative Aaron Robinson and Juli Fuhse.

Westfall, PA: Junior Ranger Johnny Montana and mom Bethany Montana, with Patricia Russell and Jim Day.

Outside the river corridor in PA: The Cooperage Project Pop-up Afterschool Club performed Honesdale and Hawley clean-ups along the Lackawaxen River.

Visit the UDC's Facebook and Instagram pages for a multitude of photos from the litter sweep. For more information on the UDC and its activities, visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org.

FUDR wants presenters for River Rendezvous

CALLICOON, NY — The Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) is now accepting applications for presenters at the 2026 Upper Delaware River Rendezvous being held at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, NY on Wednesday October 21 and Thursday October 22.

Diverse applications from watershed advocates, environmental and community organizations, agencies, foundations and municipalities, businesses and academic institutions are encouraged. Applicants can operate on a local, regional, state or national level.

Visit bit.ly/494l2XN to fill out the RFP.

Email info@fudr.org if you have any questions or want to discuss a potential proposal.

GREEN & Simple

Editor's letter

In this issue of Green and Simple, we continue the exploration of the evolution of building standards and look at how the United States Green Building Council's work is embodied in its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

This edition is inspired and guided by the USGBC Impact Report of 2024.

There are two prominent LEED certified projects nearby, The Delaware Water Gap Visitors Center in Smithfield, PA (a 2008 project) is aligned with core values of the National Park Service, and the MacArthur Elementary School in Binghamton (certified in 2019) shines a light on how LEED addresses equity in the built environment.

Stephen Stuart, section editor

Stephen Stuart, CPHT, CPHC is a certified Passive House Tradesperson and Consultant and is the lead instructor for Yestermorrow Design/Build School's Certificate in Building Science andNet Zero Design course.

The birth of a standard:

The United States Green Building Council

By STEPHEN STUART

In the late 20th century, the way buildings were designed and constructed in the United States was undergoing a quiet but important shift. While building codes had long ensured minimum standards for safety—protecting occupants from structural failure, fire and other hazards—they did not address a growing concern: the environmental and human health impacts of buildings themselves.

By the early 1990s, architects, engineers and environmental advocates were beginning to recognize a troubling reality. Buildings were responsible for a significant portion of energy use, water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, many indoor environments were contributing to poor air quality, discomfort and even illness among occupants.

This realization birthed a new idea: What if buildings could be designed not just to meet minimum standards, but to actively improve environmental performance and human well-being?

This question led to the founding of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) in 1993.

The USGBC was not created by a single industry group. It emerged as a coalition—a diverse gathering of professionals from across the building sector. Architects, builders, product manufacturers, environmentalists and real estate developers came together with a shared goal: to transform the way buildings are designed, constructed and operated.

At the time, there was no widely accepted definition of what a "green building" actually was. Some designers focused on energy efficiency. Others emphasized materials, water use or indoor environmental quality. Without a common framework, it was difficult to measure performance or compare projects.

The founders of the USGBC saw the need for a unified approach.

Their purpose was ambitious but clear:

Establish a common language for sustainable building

Promote best practices across the industry

Encourage innovation beyond minimum code requirements

Educate both professionals and the public

Importantly, the USGBC was not a regulatory body. It did not create laws or enforce compliance. Instead, it operated as a voluntary, consensus-driven organization. Its strength lay in collaboration and leadership rather than mandates.

A key idea driving the organization was market transformation. If building owners and developers saw value in sustainability—through reduced operating costs, healthier spaces and enhanced reputation—they would choose to build better, even without being required to do so. This market-based approach has become a defining feature of the USGBC's work.

The growing awareness of climate change, although not as widely discussed as it is today, and the connection between buildings and carbon emissions was becoming increasingly clear. Improving building performance was seen as a critical strategy in reducing environmental impact.

Likewise, there was a growing awareness that the built environment affects people in deeply personal ways. Indoor air quality, access to natural light, thermal comfort, and acoustics all influence how people feel and function in a space. A truly "green" building should support both environmental sustainability and human health.

In its early years, as the USGBC focused on research, education and developing partnerships among stakeholders, it quickly became clear that something more tangible was needed—a tool that could guide design and provide measurable outcomes. That tool would become Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, (LEED).

The creation of the USGBC and the LEED certification platform marked a turning point in the building industry. For the first time, sustainability was being treated not as an optional feature or niche interest, but as a central design principle.

Today, the influence of the USGBC can be seen across the country and around the world. Green building practices have become mainstream, and many of the ideas that were once considered innovative are now expected.

At its core, the organization's founding vision remains the same: to move beyond the minimum, and to redefine what it means for a building to truly perform well—for both people and the planet.

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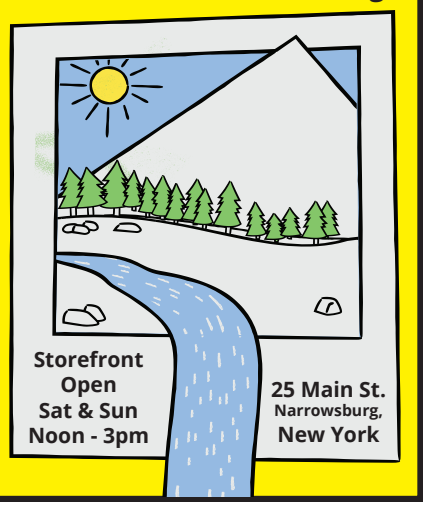
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What is LEED and how does it work?

By STEPHEN STUART

When the United States Green Building Council (USGDC) began its work in the 1990s, one challenge quickly became apparent: defining what exactly makes a building "green."

Without a clear standard, sustainability remained subjective. One project might emphasize energy savings, while another focused on materials or water use. There was no consistent way to measure or compare performance.

To address this challenge, the USGBC developed the rating system known as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Introduced in 2000, LEED was designed to provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating the environmental performance of buildings. It was not a building code, and it was not mandatory. LEED offered a voluntary system that design professionals, developers and construction companies could choose to follow in order to demonstrate higher levels of sustainability.

An important feature of LEED is its emphasis on documentation and verification. To earn certification, project teams must provide evidence that they have met the required criteria. This process is reviewed by a third party, helping to ensure consistency and credibility.

So, the doubtful might ask, "Why would a building owner or developer choose LEED over business as usual?" The answer is found in the potential benefits of LEED:

First, it can reduce operating costs. Energy-efficient systems and water-saving strategies often lead to lower utility bills over time.

Second, it can improve occupant experience and health. Better air quality, natural lighting and thermal comfort can enhance productivity and well-being.

Third, it can provide a market advantage. LEED-certified buildings are often seen as more desirable by tenants, investors and the public and can generate a higher return on investment.

However, LEED is not without its critics. Some have argued that the system can be complex and costly to implement. Others question whether point accumulation always reflects meaningful performance improvements. For example, a building might earn points in one category while underperforming in another. The USGBC has not shied away from these concerns, which is why the standard has evolved over its lifetime and has had a significant impact on the industry.

LEED has introduced a common language for sustainability and encouraged designers to think more holistically about building performance, and it has shifted expectations. What was once considered "green" is increasingly becoming standard practice. LEED serves as a tool—a structured way to move the industry toward better outcomes.

In doing so, the USGBC has helped redefine what it means to design and build responsibly in the modern era.

At its core

LEED works through a points-based system. Projects earn points by meeting specific criteria across several categories, including:

- Sustainable site development
- Water efficiency
- Energy and atmosphere
- Materials and resources
- Indoor environmental quality and
- Innovation in design.

Each category reflects a different aspect of building performance. For example, energy-related credits might reward efficient systems, renewable energy use, or improved insulation. Indoor environmental credits might address improved ventilation, lighting quality, including daylighting as a strategy or healthier materials.

There are four levels of LEED certification:

Certified • Silver
Gold • Platinum

This tiered approach allows for flexibility across the platform so that a project need not achieve the highest level to make meaningful improvements. This rating system acknowledges that even modest gains can contribute to better performance compared to conventional construction.

Strengths

One of the strengths of LEED is its adaptability. Over time, the system has expanded to cover a wide range of building types and phases, including:

- New construction
- Existing buildings
- Commercial interiors
- Schools
- Health care facilities
- Neighborhood development

This breadth allows LEED to be applied across much of the built environment.

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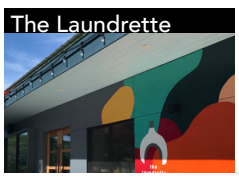
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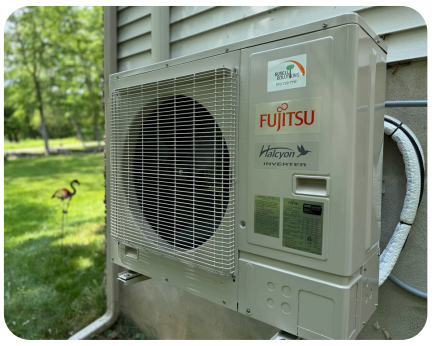

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LEED, equity and the built environment

By STEPHEN STUART

Equity in the built environment begins with a simple reality: buildings shape everyday life. They influence who has access to clean air, safe classrooms, affordable utility bills, shaded streets, reliable public services and welcoming places to gather.

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) holds the intention that its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification framework is to create buildings that reduce environmental impacts while improving human health and community quality of life. The USGBC has emerged as a leader in advocating that those goals cannot be separated from questions of equity.

People and places

In its 2024 impact report, USGBC places people and communities at the center of its sustainability agenda. The report highlights the organization's focus on accelerating both decarbonization and equity, reflecting a broader shift within the green building movement. Sustainability, many planners and policymakers now argue, is incomplete if environmental improvements fail to reach the communities most affected by high energy costs, pollution exposure or climate-related risks.

That shift is reflected directly in LEED v5, the newest version of the rating system. USGBC identifies equity, health, resilience and ecosystem protection as central priorities, grouping them within a broader "quality of life" impact area. The framework encourages project teams to evaluate not only environmental performance, but also how buildings affect the well-being of occupants and surrounding neighborhoods.

"A LEED-informed project can be evaluated not only by whether it achieves certification, but by whether it addresses documented local needs."

The emphasis represents a notable evolution in public conversations about green building. Earlier sustainability efforts often focused heavily on technical performance measures such as energy efficiency and water conservation. LEED v5 still prioritizes those goals, but it also asks broader civic questions: Who benefits from sustainable investment? Who participates in planning decisions? And which communities remain vulnerable despite environmental progress?

Role of local communities

For communities and municipal governments, those questions emerge in familiar settings. A school renovation may raise questions about whether students across all neighborhoods have equal access to healthy classrooms, effective ventilation and comfortable learning environments. A municipal building project may prompt debate about whether taxpayers will benefit from lower long-term operating costs and whether the facility can remain functional during severe weather or extended outages.

Housing developments present another example. Energy-efficient design can reduce monthly utility costs for residents, while improved indoor air quality and temperature control may reduce health risks linked to poor ventilation, excessive heat or damp conditions.

Green spaces can reduce urban heat and improve neighborhood well-being, but only if they are distributed fairly across a community. Mobility planning can reduce emissions and transportation costs, but only if residents can safely and reliably reach jobs, schools and public services. Public health metrics can help reveal whether environmental improvements are benefiting entire communities or only selected areas.

Photo by John Griebsch

MacArthur Elementary School in Binghamton, NY is certified LEED Platinum.

MacArthur Elementary School

By STEPHEN STUART

BINGHAMTON, NY — Located on the south side of the city, MacArthur Elementary School is located on the south side of Binghamton. The school was destroyed in 2011 when the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers flooded due to Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene. The decision by the Board of Education and the neighborhood residents to rebuild on the same site is a compelling story of how the design team, Ashley McGraw Architects, used the USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) framework to implement the project. That story is captured at www.ashleymcgraw.com/macarthur-elementary-school.

The project was certified LEED Platinum in 2019.

Equity and community needs

The equity story often begins with geography. Which neighborhoods contain the oldest public buildings? Which areas experience the highest flood risk or the least tree cover? Which households spend the largest share of income on utility costs?

A LEED-informed project can be evaluated not only by whether it achieves certification, but by whether it addresses documented local needs. LEED for Cities helps local governments collect data, benchmark sustainability performance and track progress over time. For residents, those measurements can provide greater transparency about whether sustainability investments are being distributed equitably and whether promised benefits are materializing after construction is complete.

Schools remain especially important in that conversation. USGBC reports that thousands of schools worldwide have pursued LEED certification, affecting millions of students. Because children spend much of their day indoors, classroom air quality, lighting and thermal comfort can directly influence concentration, attendance and overall well-being. The MacArthur Elementary School in Binghamton, NY is an amazing example of how impactful the LEED process is.

Equity also shapes who participates in planning decisions. Residents often understand local flooding patterns, unsafe walking routes, inadequate transit access or overheated playgrounds in ways technical consultants may overlook. LEED's growing emphasis on quality of life gives planners and local officials stronger justification for incorporating community experience into sustainability planning and connects building design to the lived experience of families, workers and students.

Equity in the built environment requires difficult questions. Certification alone does not guarantee affordable housing, fair labor practices or equal access to benefits. Meaningful local projects may examine whether green investments are reaching neighborhoods with the greatest need, whether residents were consulted during planning, and whether promised health or cost savings are being measured over time.

The strongest sustainability efforts increasingly combine climate goals with fairness. A building that uses less energy can reduce both emissions and operating costs. A resilient public facility can also provide healthier air, safer shelter and greater reliability during emergencies. LEED's growing focus on equity gives communities a framework for asking a broader question: not simply whether buildings are greener, but whether they are improving life for everyone.

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Memorial Day parades and services

New York State

Sullivan County

Saturday, May 23

Mamakating

The Edward M. Maier Memorial VFW Post 4947 will hold Memorial Day services at the following: 9 a.m., Poplar Grove Cemetery; 9:15 a.m., Monument at the Phillipsport Community Center; 9:30 a.m., Burlingham Cemetery; and 10:15 a.m., Pine Hill Cemetery. (Times are approximate)

Sunday, May 24

Livingston Manor

The Beaverkill Valley Fire Department will host a chicken barbecue at 2 p.m. at 1524 Beaverkill Road.

Tusten-Highland-Lumberland

The Tusten-Highland-Lumberland VFW Post 6427 will hold cemetery ceremonies to honor our deceased Veterans: 11 a.m. at Lava Cemetery, 11:30 a.m. at St. Francis Cemetery and 11:45 a.m. at Glen Cove Cemetery. At 2 p.m., a ceremony will be held at the Old Tusten Church.

Monday, May 25

Bethel

The SGT. Andrew Brucher-Bailey-Richman VFW Post 5499 will hold a small service commemorating Memorial Day at 11 a.m. in Veterans Park across the street from the Kauneonga Lake Fire House. The guest speaker will be the Hon. James R. Farrell, Sullivan County Court Judge. The VFW asks that attendees arrive before 11 a.m.

Barryville

Sylvan Liebla American Legion Post 1363 will conduct a memorial service at the Barryville Cemetery on Mail Road at 9 a.m.

County service

The Sullivan County Veterans Service Agency will hold a Memorial Day service and wreath-laying ceremony at 1 p.m. at the Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery, 181 Sunset Lake Road in Liberty. The Master of Ceremonies is agency director Stephen Walsh.

Eldred

Sylvan Liebla American Legion Post 1363 will host a memorial service at the Eldred Cemetery at 8:45 a.m.

At 1 p.m., the Tusten-Highland-Lumberland VFW Post 6427 and Sylvan Liebla American Legion Post 1363 will hold joint Memorial Day services at Heroes Park, corner of Route 55 and Proctor Road at 1 p.m.

Fremont Center

Allan Milk Memorial VFW Post 7276 and H. Russell Kenyon VFW Post 5808 will hold the 142nd annual Memorial Service at Veteran's Park at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m., Fremont will hold its Veterans Monument and Parade, marching down County Route 94, and ending at the Hankins Fremont Firehouse. At 10:45 a.m., a flag-folding ceremony will be held, featuring a guest speaker and awards.

Glen Spey

Sylvan Liebla American Legion Post 1363 will host a Memorial Service at the cemetery at 9:30 a.m. At 10 a.m., the Town of Lumberland will be holding a brief event in commemoration of Memorial Day at the Lumberland Town Hall, 1054 Proctor Road with American Legion Post 1363. The event begins inside the town hall and is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available.

Grahamsville

There will be a Flag Exchange ceremony at the flag pole of the Grahamsville Rural Cemetery, Route 55, Grahamsville, at 11 a.m. Boy Scout Troop 97, Girl Scout Troop 314 and an honor guard of local Veterans will participate in the ceremony, honoring Vietnam Army Veteran and Purple Heart recipient James K. Richardson.

Liberty

The Town of Liberty and Corporal Russell Sprague VFW Post 109 will host a Memorial Day Parade on Main Street at 10:30 a.m., concluding with a ceremony at the Liberty Veterans Cemetery on Cold Spring Road.

Livingston Manor

The Livingston Manor Fire Department will hold a Memorial Day Ceremony at 10 a.m., 93 Main St. in Livingston Manor.

Long Eddy

The Alan Milk Memorial VFW Post 7276 will conduct a Memorial Service at 1 p.m. at the Long Eddy Cemetery. Refreshments afterwards at the St Patrick Church, Long Eddy.

Lumberland

Sylvan Liebla American Legion Post 1363 will host a Memorial Service at the cemetery in Glen Spey at 9:30 a.m.

At 10 a.m., the Town of Lumberland will be holding a brief event in commemoration of Memorial Day at the Lumberland Town Hall, 1054 Proctor Road in Glen Spey with American Legion Post 1363. The event begins inside the town hall and is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available.

Mamakating

The Edward M. Maier Memorial VFW Post 4947 will hold a dedication and service in collaboration with the Summitville Fire Department and the Fire House and Monument at 9 a.m. The VFW will hold a Memorial Day service at 10:30 a.m. at the Bloomingburg Cemetery, followed by the Wurtsboro Memorial Day Parade at 1 p.m. Parade lineup begins at 12:30 p.m. and steps off at 1 p.m.

Neversink

There will be a Flag Exchange ceremony at the flag pole of the Grahamsville Rural Cemetery, Route 55, Grahamsville, at 11 a.m. Boy Scout Troop 97, Girl Scout Troop 314 and an honor guard of local Veterans will participate in the ceremony, honoring Vietnam Army Veteran and Purple Heart recipient James K. Richardson.

Monticello

Sullivan Central Rotary Club is sponsoring a Flags for Heroes event with a ceremony at 10 a.m. at the county government center, 100 North St. A color guard might be present.

Roscoe

The Floyd Keener American Legion Post 315 will hold a Memorial Day Parade at 10 a.m. A Memorial Day ceremony will follow at 11 a.m. in front of the Roscoe-Rockland Firehouse, 1964 Old Rte. 17.

Tusten-Highland-Lumberland

Tusten-Highland-Lumberland VFW Post 6427 and Sylvan Liebla American Legion Post 1363 will be holding joint Memorial Day Services at Heroes Park, corner of Route 55 and Proctor Road, in Eldred at 1 p.m.

Woodridge

The Woodridge Fire Department hosts its annual Memorial Day service at 3 p.m., rain or shine, at 2 Green Ave. The service will feature guest speaker Paula Kay and will include a march to the Village Veteran's Memorial for a wreath-laying ceremony, followed by light refreshments at the fire station.

Wurtsboro

The American Legion Post 1266 and the Edward M. Maier Memorial VFW Post 4947 will host the 2026 Memorial Day Parade at 1 p.m., starting at Pine Street and ending at the Wurtsboro Fire House. Refreshments and ice cream will be served at the fire house at the conclusion of the parade.

Pennsylvania

Wayne County

Honesdale

Honesdale Borough will hold a parade and ceremony beginning at 9 a.m. VFW Post 531 will hold a Memorial Day ceremony in Central Park between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. after the parade. No rain date. Check honesdaleborough.com for information.

Orange County

Port Jervis

The annual parade and ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. at Orange Square Park. Visit portjervisny.gove/events.

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

How the Blue Fox became the Midnight Ramble

By LAURIE STUART

TOWN OF TUSTEN, NY — It started with a phone call that Jorge received, Meg Sullivan recounted when we sat in the auxiliary dining room at the Blue Fox Motel. Jorge Neves and Meg Sullivan are partners in the ownership of the former Bob Landers Ten Mile River Lodge on Route 97, four miles south of Narrowsburg. It's a mid-century boutique property, with knotty pine paneling, a bluestone fireplace and a '60s-era outdoor pool.

About a year ago, she recounted, Jorge received a phone call. "It was from a head production guy and he said, 'Hey, you know, we're looking around [for a location]. These are very early days; no script is written. We don't know what we're doing yet. We're doing some early-stage scouting and we would like to swing by, because someone on our team has been to the Blue Fox and recommended it."

And so it began. The journey that brought Hollywood to the Upper Delaware River Valley. (Spoiler alert: The recommendation was from a production team member who has a place in Eldred.)

"So we said, 'Great, come whenever you want to come,' you know, whatever. But we weren't told the whole lot beyond that. I can't remember if they told us that they were working with NBC and Netflix, but they didn't tell us what the show was, and we didn't have a lot of information. But who's gonna say 'no' to somebody coming and looking at the property? No one. So they came, and there were four of them originally."

And so Meg gave them a tour. And they were clear and vague.

"'Listen, here's how it's gonna go. Don't expect anything from us for a couple of months. We don't have any idea what we're doing. We're putting you on a list. There are many people on the list."

And so it went, until midsummer when the company called again. "Hey, we want to come back. I'm gonna bring a few other people to look at the property. We still haven't made any decisions. The script isn't written," Meg said they told her.

"But this time, as I was walking them around, they were talking about potential scenes. So I was like, 'hmm, that's interesting.' Then the assistant producer says again, "No commitments. We don't know what we're doing yet, you know? You won't hear from us for the rest of the summer. You know, everybody's off. Nothing is happening."

Meg continued: "And then they reached out to us late August, early September, and said, 'We'd like to come a third time, and this time, we're going to bring a few more people.'"

"And then I give another tour and, this time, they were actually discussing exactly where things might be placed on the property, how they might shoot things, what it might look like."

And while it was looking plausible, Jorge and Meg did not want to get their hopes up, only to be disappointed.

And then it began to happen, fast. The production company came again, and details were discussed. They asked for figures.

And they were now in a rush.

"I get a phone call," Meg said. "'Do you have the numbers?' And I was like, 'I'm still waiting for details. I can't put numbers together without them.' And so, long story short, it all kind of came together. We went back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, because they were gonna have to shut us down. We knew that. They were gonna have to shut us down for nearly a month."

And that was the hard part.

"We're in the hospitality business. We've never been closed. So that is sort of a terrifying concept for a little business. We had to worry about people who were booked to stay here. And needed to find them a new place to stay," Meg said.

Jorge concurred. "We're in the hospitality business, so you don't want anyone to be-

Photos contributed by Jorge Neves

Many of the outdoor shots were enhanced with large lighting equipment. The cabins in the background housed work space for the different production departments—hair, makeup, costumes, etc.

upset. For the most part, everybody that we spoke to was lovely."

They worried about their regular customers, and they made provisions to keep the staff fully employed during the nearly month-long shoot.

It was then that the scale of the project emerged. "We had no idea," Jorge said. "One night, they were doing a small scene around the fire pit in the front, and I looked around and counted; there were 74 people on set. Seventy-four people!"

"They asked me about parking, and I said there is a lot of parking here," Meg said. "I had no idea how big the trucks were. They used parking by the town garage, and the actors parked at the Catholic church and were bused here." The crew also utilized the property across the street, erecting a large tent and bringing in food trucks to feed the actors.

All told, 140 people were part of the shoot. Most of them were housed at the hotel at the Resorts World casino, as there is limited hotel space in the river valley. With the decision to open and close the property themselves, Meg and Jorge found themselves up at 3:30 a.m. and opening the place up by 4:30 a.m. And with the shooting and creation of sets within the building, Jorge and Meg hung out in the kitchen all day, because that was the only place that the production crew was not utilizing.

"It was terrifying," Meg said as she related that large cables were fed through windows and snaked across the floors. "Everything was removed," she said, with other props being brought in.

Curiously, the production was shot in September, and needed to have the appearance of spring. "They brought in massive trees and had artificial flowers," Jorge said.

'The Four Seasons'

"The Four Seasons" will debut its second season on May 28 on Netflix. It tells the story of the decades-long friendship between three married couples that is tested when one divorces, complicating their tradition of quarterly weekend getaways.

The series stars Tina Fey, Will Forte, Colman Domingo, Kerri Kenney-Silver, Marco Calvani, Erika Henningsen and Steve Carell. Fey, Lang Fisher and Tracey Wigfield are the creators.

The series utilized the Blue Fox Motel, transformed into the Midnight Ramble, for two episodes. The production also spent a day filming at Sand Beach in Highland Lake, NY.

"But if you were standing six feet away, it all looked real."

The couple was impressed with the crew and said that it was like a family. "Tina Fey is amazing and you could see that everyone really enjoyed working with her," Jorge said.

So while terrifying and exhilarating, what Meg and Jorge are most proud of is the showcase that the series will give to the Upper Delaware.

Additionally, they figure that somewhere between $500,000 to $600,000 was spent in the county during those four weeks.

"People were really impressed with the area and how friendly the people were. And I think we can build on this," Meg concluded.

Season 2 of "The Four Seasons" premieres on Thursday, May 28 on Netflix. If you want to watch it at the Blue Fox, the party starts at 6 p.m.

Counter-clockwise from left: Actors Tina Fey, Coleman Domingo, Keri Kenney-Silver, Marco Calvani, Erika Henningsen, and Will Forte, in black jacket, pose with Blue Fox GM Kierith Jones, and co-owners Meg Sullivan and Jorge Neves.

Eldred Preserve announces 2026 cabaret series

ELDRED, NY — The Eldred Preserve has announced the 2026 season of The Bradstan Cabaret Series, described as an intimate lineup of acclaimed performers spanning Broadway, cabaret, jazz, nostalgia and comedy.

Set on the Bradstan stage at The Eldred Preserve, the series brings artists to the Sullivan Catskills "for evenings that feel both polished and personal—the kind of performances best experienced up close," the venue said.

"This series is about creating the kind of evening people remember," said Scott Samuelson, COO of The Eldred Preserve. "The Bradstan stage gives audiences something rare—access to extraordinary performers in an intimate setting where every song, every story and every moment lands differently. It's sophisticated, inviting and deeply personal."

Photo contributed by the Eldred Preserve

Marilyn Maye

Marilyn Maye will appear at The Eldred Preserve on Sunday, May 24 at 7 p.m. Described as a living cabaret legend and GRAMMY-nominated recording artist, Maye opens the series with an evening of Great American Songbook classics and stories from her legendary career.

Dubbed "the greatest white female singer in the world" by Ella Fitzgerald, Maye is a singer, actress, director and educator.

The Eldred Preserve is located at 1040 Rte. 55.

Learn more about Maye and purchase tickets at theeldredpreserve.com/entertainment/an-evening-with-marilyn-maye/.

Indigo Girls bring hits to F.M. Kirby

WILKES-BARRE, PA — WXPN welcomes the folk duo the Indigo Girls on Sunday, June 7 at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts.

Tickets are now available. Prices start at $39 plus fees, and are available at www.kirbycenter.org; in person at the F.M. Kirby Center Box Office during business hours; or by phone at 570/826-1100.

Across four decades, 16 studio albums, and over 15 million records sold, the Indigo Girls "continue to blaze the trail for generations of queer artists in the mainstream," the center wrote. The Grammy-winning duo of Emily Saliers and Amy Ray began their career in clubs and bars around their native Atlanta, GA amidst a blossoming alternative music scene before signing to Epic Records in 1988. Indigo Girls' eponymous major label debut sold over two million copies under the power of singles "Closer to Fine" and "Kid Fears" and introduced the duo's signature harmonies and powerful, sophisticated songs to a dedicated, enduring global audience, the Kirby Center said.

Western Sullivan Public Library announces spoken word open mic

CALLICOON, NY — The Callicoon Branch of the Western Sullivan Public Library continues its 2026 Open Mic/Spoken Word series on a new day, the fourth Friday of the month—in May that's on the 22nd. Creative writers aged 16 and up in all genres are invited to read an original poem or short prose piece in a three-minute time slot.

Sign-up for the open mic begins at 5:45 p.m., with readings between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., followed by a reading or performance by Dorothy Hartz between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more details and to sign up for any library programs, visit the calendar at www.WSPLonline.org. Reach out to Ciera at wsplprograms@rcls.org with questions.

Image contributed by WCAA

"Gordian Knot Resolved" is an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Dale Emmart, and photographs and music by Glenn Lieberman.

Untangling the Gordian knot and more

HONESDALE, PA — The Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA) is opening two exhibitions in the next two weeks.

"Gordian Knot Resolved," featuring art by Dale Emmart and Glenn Lieberman, runs from Thursday, May 21 through Saturday, June 20. An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the WCAA Gallery.

"Out of Hand," opening Thursday, May 28, features works by 33 member artists.

"Gordian Knot Resolved" exhibits paintings and drawings by Emmart, and photographs and music by Lieberman. According to a Greek myth, King Gordius of Phrygia tethered his ox-cart with a knot so complex it could only be untied by a future ruler of all Asia. Today, the Gordian Knot has become a metaphor for a problem seeming to have no possible solution, the gallery said. "Ropes and knots form a global language of the industry of existence." Emmart sees twisted strands as a metaphor for current social, political, environmental and personal questions.

Lieberman's photographs focus on an answer: Decisive action. The photographs are of protestors and the music is a work by Lieberman being premiered to accompany three of Emmart's drawings. (To hear the music, bring a phone with headphones to the gallery.)

Lieberman lives and works in New York City and in the countryside near Honesdale.

Emmart was born in New York City and lives there and in Honesdale.

"Out of Hand" runs from Thursday, May 28 through Saturday, July 11. An opening reception will be held Friday, May 29 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"Out of Hand" is a themed members' show, in which 33 WCAA member artists "investigate the physical and spiritual power of hands and hand work," the gallery said. The exhibit considers this question: In a world in which AI is increasingly part of our lives, what does it mean to make things by hand?

Artists exhibiting work in the "Out of Hand" exhibition include Norma Bernstock, Tom Biron, Jane Biron, Phyllis Chekenian, Susan Cottle, Sue Stephan Foster, Marguerite Fuller, Janet Gaglione, Joan Glase, Pauline Glykokokalos, Cynthia Hanson, Erica Hart, Houston Hill, Patti Horn, Jay Hostetler, Bozena Janiszewski, Marie Kramer, Katharina Litchman, Elizabeth McAllister, Ellen McCullough, Edward McTiernan, Lilly Millon, Erica Mozdzen, Kristin Nalesnik, Nancy Palubniak, Mark Paulson, Joan Polishook, Trix Render, Stacy Roerig, Krista and Dean Scharf, Albert Shivers, Amy Smith, Gail Tuchman, Nathalie Warriner and Barbara Zweig.

The Wayne County Arts Alliance is located at 959 Main St.

Learn more at waynecountyartsalliance.org.

Plein Air parties celebrate natural beauty

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — Beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 6 at Bethel's Lake Superior State Park, the natural beauty and historic charm of Sullivan County will take center stage as artists of all ages and skill levels are invited to create outdoors, said Nick Roes from the Barryville Area Arts Alliance (BAAA). "A series of plein air community painting parties will bring us together to celebrate creativity, connection and the inspiring vistas of Sullivan."

Hosted at scenic locations throughout the county, the series encourages participants to paint, draw or simply observe the world around them in real time—capturing the light, color and spirit of Sullivan County's fields, forests, waterways and historic sites," he continued.

Sponsored by the Barryville Area Arts Association, these community painting parties are designed to invite mindfulness, foster social connection and deepen appreciation for our local environment, the BAAA said.

"Art has a unique way of bringing people together," said Roes, the executive director of the BAAA. "By painting outdoors in some of Sullivan County's most beautiful locations, we're creating opportunities for connection—not only with nature, but with each other."

Details of each of these plein air events are online at www.barryvilleareaarts.org/PleinAirAdventures.html.

Email barryvilleareaarts@gmail.com to register for an event or be put on the plein air mailing list.

‘Tomorrow Today’ comes soon

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Is AI our friend or foe? Is the convergence of man and machine upon us? And what happens when the systems powering our world break down and go crazy? In the world premiere of dark comedy “Tomorrow Today,” based on the AI-inspired writings of award-winning author Paul Peditto, six interwoven stories explore mankind’s complex and ever-evolving relationship with “superintelligent” machines.

Photo contributed by Delaware Valley Opera Center

Performances will be held on Saturday, May 23 and 30 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 24 and 31 at 2 p.m. at the Delaware Valley Opera Center.

The play is adapted and directed by Christopher Peditto and features Tena Alavanja, Arthur Aulisi, Thomas Cambridge, Cass Collins, Luna Ditacchio, Tibor Feldman, Amy Laird Webb, Lexee McEntee, Maille-Rose Smith, Malcolm Strother, James Sullivan, Laura Velez, Elizabeth Williams and Hudson Williams-Eynon.

Costume design is by Liz Huntington, and sound design is by Dan Piburn. Set, lights and video design are by Christopher Peditto, and makeup design is by Lily Skuthan.

The opera center is located at 6692 Rte. 52.

Tickets cost $35. Purchase at www.riverrep.org, or by contacting riverreptheatre@gmail.com or 718/490-3050.

Contributed photo

‘Rigorous and subversive’ dance residency at CAS

LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Catskill Art Space (CAS), in partnership with the Dance Gallery Festival (DGF), will host the 10th annual Ardsley Dance Residency, led by director and choreographer Shaun Keylock, for a week-long immersive creative retreat in the Catskills.

The residency brings together choreographers and their collaborators “for an uninterrupted creative experience—deliberately freed from the logistical pressures that so often constrain artists working in today’s contemporary landscape,” CAS said.

Two public events will be held, free of charge.

Open rehearsals will take place on Friday, May 22 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday, May 23 at 5 p.m., a performance and talk-back will be held.

During the talk-back, the audience can join Keylock and his dancers in a discussion.

Keylock’s choreography focuses on the deconstruction of classical forms—including ballet, opera and the visual arts—“creating works that are both technically rigorous and radically subversive,” CAS said.

During the residency, Keylock plans to create a new work focused on pure dance and spatial design, he said.

Catskill Art Space is located at 48 Main St.

Learn more at www.catskillartspace.org/.

WVIA celebrates 60 years of service

PITTSTON, PA — WVIA public media is marking 60 years of broadcasting in northeastern and central Pennsylvania. Special on-air programming will include Throwback Thursdays—a monthly primetime block featuring classic WVIA productions. Additional community events and initiatives will highlight the station’s history while engaging audiences in its future.

“WVIA’s mission remains clear: to inform, educate, and connect the communities we serve,” said WVIA president & CEO Carla McCabe. “From rural towns to growing suburban centers and urban neighborhoods, WVIA plays a vital role in ensuring access to trusted information and lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

Community members can stay informed about WVIA’s 60th anniversary activities at www.wvia.org, through WVIA’s social media channels, and by tuning in regularly to WVIA TV and WVIA Radio.

On Thursday, May 21, Throwback Thursdays will include:

8 p.m. - “State of Pennsylvania,”

9 p.m. - “Ubaldo” and

10 p.m. - “Journey to the Endless Mountains.”

Cooperage hosts Italian opera

HONESDALE, PA— The Cooperage Project will present “E lucevan le stelle” (“The Stars Are Shining”), an evening of Italian opera featuring dramatic soprano Melanie Henley Heyn and Italian tenor Marco Ferulli on Friday, May 22 at the Cooperage.

Doors open at 7 p.m., with music beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost $22 online or $25 cash at the door.

“This special evening at the Cooperage celebrates not only extraordinary music, but the power of friendship, mentorship and global community connections rooted right here in Wayne County,” the Cooperage said.

Music by Verdi, Puccini and Tosti, alongside favorites made famous by Andrea Bocelli, Frank Sinatra, Celine Dion and Sarah Brightman, will be performed.

Henley Heyn, a graduate of Honesdale High School, has gone on to perform throughout the United States and around the world. She now returns home to share the stage with Marco Ferulli, a distinguished tenor and violinist from Lecce, Italy. Ferulli has earned numerous honors as an operatic tenor, violinist and educator. He is scheduled to perform in Florence this June, with additional engagements throughout Italy this fall.

The artists were brought together through Henley Heyn’s longtime piano teacher, Marianne Kuiper Milks, a Wayne County resident and accomplished pianist and recorder player originally from the Netherlands. Their collaboration continues this month in Italy, where Henley Heyn will travel to Lecce to join Ferulli for a May performance at Lo Spazio d’Arte, a newly opened cultural venue in the city’s ancient Centro Storico, which is dedicated to music, art, theater, film and more.

Image by Ally Spaciano

Wayne County’s own Lindsay Barrett George and Phyllis Chekenian, president of the Wayne County Arts Alliance, will each present weeklong workshops at Lo Spazio d’Arte this September.

The Cooperage is located at 1030 Main St.

For tickets and more information, visit www.thecooperageproject.org/happenings.

Summer bus trips with the Primetimers of Temple Sholom

MONTICELLO, NY — The Primetimers of Temple Sholom of Monticello are planning several trips this summer, including two on-your-own day trips to New York City and a bus trip to Wind Creek Casino/Outlets in Bethlehem, PA.

The New York City trips are via Leprechaun Lines on Wednesday, June 24 (reservations must be received by Monday, June 8). The drop-off location will be 48th Street and 8th Avenue.

The cost is a donation of $55 round trip, including gratuity. The bus leaves the temple parking lot on East Dillon Road at 8:15 a.m. and will leave the city at approximately 5 p.m.

The Wind Creek Casino/Outlets trip is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5; reservations must be received by July 13, described as a day of gaming, dining and shopping at outlet stores for $50, with $30 free play. Checks should be made out to “Primetimers.”

Call Paula for further information and reservations at 561/504-7192.

Patent Pending comes to Sherman Theater

STROUDBURG, PA — Get ready for a night of high punk rock energy as Patent Pending brings its 20th anniversary show to the Sherman Theater on Friday, June 5. Guests are Don’t Panic and Good Stuff.

For tickets and more information, visit www.shermantheater.com or call the box office at 570/420-2808.

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

BY JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

Worth a thousand words

If you've ever met me, then you're likely aware that I'm rarely at a loss for words. They may not be wise words, or smart words, or even words to live by, but that doesn't stop me from chiming in and adding my two cents to practically any conversation, regardless of my familiarity (or lack thereof) with the topic. I wouldn't say that I come across as a know-it-all—but *you* might.

That's where my trusty camera comes into play, as it has over the past few days. I found myself forced to pivot, as my work schedule and associated plans were sidelined due to circumstances beyond my control. I quickly consulted the **River Reporter** calendar section, scouring the pages for alternate who, what, when and where and packed up my gear. I tossed the dog into her stroller (don't judge!) and headed in the general direction of Narrowsburg, NY, where I had read that the first farmers' market (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) of the season was about to take place on the grounds of the Narrowsburg Union, along with a Spring Makers Market indoors.

Having learned that 25 vendors would be showcasing handmade goods, and that the café was open for business, I eschewed making myself breakfast—because word on the street is that the café makes a mean egg sandwich. "I'll be the judge of that," I said to the pooch, and headed out the door, camera slung over one shoulder and That Dog Named Gidget over the other.

Thinking myself terribly clever, I decided that I would ask folks to use "just one word" to describe their feelings about participating in or shopping at the local marketplace, with a note to self to cross the street and check out the Tusten Repair Café, which is one that does not make food, breakfast or otherwise. Instead the repair café, which is sponsored by the town board, the Chamber of Commerce and the Tusten Energy Committee, meets four times a year to encourage us to heed its slogan of "Toss it? No way!". The café is supported by a small army of volunteers who freely donate their time and expertise in fixing, repairing and reviving all sorts of things one might be tempted to throw away, rather than bring back to life.

Off I went, determined to let my photos describe the experience, rather than share a page filled with endless drivel from yours truly.

"One word," I said to those with whom I came into contact during the day. "I'll keep my mouth shut, but in turn you only get one word to describe how you feel about this, that or the other thing. OK, go!"

RR photos by Jonathan Charles Fox

Representing the much-beloved Willow Wisp Organic Farm at the Narrowsburg Farmers' Market, Bobby Skotch summed it up nicely, while sticking to the "one word" rule. "Local," he said with "a smile as big as the great outdoors." Bobby is right, of course. It's all about local.

I have one word to describe the vintage lamp that the folks at the Tusten Repair Café brought back to life for Doug Rogers, but my mother always said "If you don't have anything nice to say..." Are those partially nude wood nymphs holding a giant artichoke aloft? So. Many. Words.

When I ran into Greg Triggs at the Narrowsburg Farmers' Market, his response to my one-word query came as no surprise, since it's at the heart of everything Greg touches: "Community."

I have one word for Narrowsburg Farmers' Market musicians and fellow three-namers Lori Haber-Fried and David Samuel Bloch. "Lovely."

Farmers' market vendors Franco Lo Pinto, a ceramicist, and jewelry designer Joan Nicole understood the one-word assignment. He: "Beauty" and she: "Healthy." Well said, you two!

When I asked Willow Wisp Organic Farm's Greg Swartz to pose for a photo and give me one word to describe the farmers' market, he suggested I take a pic of the gorgeous veggies instead, and his response was "Fecund"—which I looked up when I got home. The definition? "Highly fertile, producing an abundance of vegetation or new growth." Touché Greg, touché!

I asked local legend Tannis Kowalchuk to describe her feelings about the Narrowsburg Farmers' Market in one word. Her response: "A calm, gathering of very happy people." ROFLMAO.

illumia Skin Care's Hedy Schneller was positively glowing at the Narrowsburg Farmers' Market last week, a testament to her products, which are "Handcrafted in Honesdale." Hedy's one word? "Vivacious." That she is, folks, that she is.

Word on the street is that the Narrowsburg Union Café makes a mean egg sandwich. This picture? Worth a thousand words. IMHO.

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Thursday, May 21

'Borscht Belt Artifacts'
MONTICELLO, NY — "Relics of the Catskill Resort Age" with Alex Prizgintas, 6pm, Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library, 479 Broadway. ebcpl.libcal.com.

Jeffersonville JEMS
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — 7-8pm, 4907 NY-52. 845/796-6966.

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

Sci-Fi Movie
WURTSBORO, NY — "Andromeda Strain" movie & discussion with Lorry Green, 5pm, Mamakating Library, 27 Sullivan St. Register mamakatinglibrary.org.

Friday, May 22

Ardsley Dance Residency
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Dance Gallery Festival, May 22 open rehearsals, 3-5pm, May 23 performance 5pm, Catskill Art Space, 48 Main St. dancegalleryfestival.com.

Stand Up Comedy
NARROWSBURG, NY — Alingon Mitra & Matt Ruby & Emcee Julia Santo. 7:30-10:30pm. Krause Hall, DVAA. The Parlor. myrivertickets.com.

Monitoring Volunteer Training
BEACH LAKE, PA — 1-5pm, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, 571 Perkins Pond Rd. delawarehighlands.org.

Opening Reception
HONESDALE, PA — "Gordian Knot Resolved," 5-8pm, Wayne County Arts Alliance, 959 Main St. waynecountyartsalliance.org.

'Parades of Rockland'
ROSCOE, NY — With Historian Dr. Joyce Conroy, 5pm, Livingston Manor Library, 85 Highland Ave. LMR-Library@rcls.org.

'The Stars are Shining'
HONESDALE, PA — Italian opera arias with Melanie Heyn & Marco Ferulli, 7:30pm, doors 7pm, The Cooperage Project, 1030 Main St. thecooperageproject.org.

'Where Travelers Stayed & Prayed'
ROSCOE, NY — With Historian Dr. Joyce Conroy, 5pm, Livingston Manor Library, 85 Highland Ave. LMR-Library@rcls.org.

'Women of Valor'
HAWLEY, PA — Pike Co. Veteran's fundraising luncheon, 11am-2pm, Tom Quick Inn, 411 Broad St., pikechamber.com/ap/events.

Saturday, May 23

5th Annual Book Sale
HAMLIN, PA — Books, baked goods & plants, 10am-3pm, Hamlin Community Library, 518 Easton Turnpike. libraryhamlin.org.

14th Annual Angler's Market
ROSCOE, NY — 10am-3pm, Community Hall, 1968 Old Rte. 17, Reserve table, beamoc@hvc.rr.com, 607/498-5464.

Blood Drive
LIBERTY, NY — 9am-2pm, Liberty Elks Lodge, 21 John St. Schedule online or call 800/733-2767.

Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival
HANCOCK, NY — Sat. & Sun. 10am-4pm, Town Square, 20 E. Main St. hancockny.org.

Book Sale
CALLICOON, NY — Saturdays 11am-4pm, Callicoon Depot, 40 Lower Main St. thecallicoondepot.org.

Book Signing
PORT JERVIS, NY — 3-4:30pm, with Tiktok's "Chaotic Forager," Gabrielle Cerberville, Foundry42, 42 Front St. f42home.com.

Community Yard Sale
HONESDALE, PA — 9am-2pm, Tabernacle Bible Church, 455 Grove St. facebook.com/TabernaclePublic.

Fishing Tournament
LAKE ARIEL, PA — At Ease veterans program, 8am, Lacawac Sanctuary, 94 Sanctuary Rd. Register lacawac.org.

Flea Market
MILFORD, PA — 10am-3pm, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 110 W. Catharine St. 570/296-8123.

Flea Market & Craft Fair
NEWFOUNDLAND, PA — 10am-3pm, 457 Crestmont Dr. Free parking & admission. gdsfair.org.

Jazz on the Farm
DAMASCUS, PA — 7-9pm, with Will Selenraad, Ben Street & others, Farm Arts Collective, 38 Hickory Ln. myrivertickets.com.

Kickball Tournament
MONGAUP VALLEY, NY — 9am, Smallwood-Mongaup Valley Fire Dept., Collins Park, 47 Kitz Rd. Text Becca 845/701-1897.

Museum Opening
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — Sat. & Sun. 2-4pm through Labor Day, Time & the Valleys Museum, 332 Main St. 845/985-7700.

Old Stone Jail Open House
HONESDALE, PA — 10am-1pm, Wayne County Historical Society, 10th & Court Sts. waynehistorypa.com.

Open House
EQUINUNK, PA — Program honoring Art Flynn, 1pm, Equinunk Historical Society, 1972 Pine Mill Rd. equinunkhistory.com.

'Our Town' Auditions
NARROWSBURG, NY — Wed. 7pm, Sat. 1:30pm, Tusten Theatre, 210 Bridge St., delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

Outdoor Flea Market
MILFORD, PA — 10am-3pm, Good Shepherd Church, 5th & Catherine St. Vendors call 570/290-8700.

Painting Party
CALLICOON, NY —Barryville Area Arts "Picasso Was Right," noon-2pm, 45 Lower Main St.. Register barryvilleareaarts@gmail.com.

Plant Propagation 101
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — With Maria Grimaldi, 11am, Livingston Manor Roscoe Library, 92 Main St. lmr-library.org.

Memorial Day Brunch
HAWLEY, PA — Sat. & Sun. 11:30am-2:30pm, May 24-25, Settlers Inn, 4 Main Ave. Reservations 570/226-2993.

'Tomorrow Today'
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — "Tomorrow Today," Sat.-Sun. through May 31, River Rep Theatre, 6692 NY-52, riverrep.org.

What's That Native?
BEACH LAKE, PA — Hands-on gardening workshop, 10am, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, 571 Perkins Pond Rd. Rain date May 24, delawarehighlands.org.

Sunday, May 24

Farm Day
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Sheep shearing & more, 10am-2pm, 181 Remenschneider Rd. bethelpasturesfarm.com.

Memorial Day Chicken BBQ
LACKAWAXEN, PA — 1-4pm, Ecker-Haupt VFW Post 5635, 774 Route 590. facebook.com/EckerHauptVFW5635.

Museum Opening
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — Sat. & Sun. 2-4pm through Labor Day, Time & the Valleys Museum, 332 Main St. 845/985-7700.

Wally 100 Celebration
HAWLEY, PA — Lake Wallenpaupack's centennial, noon-9pm, Silver Birches, 205 Rte. 507. silverbirchesresortpa.com.

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day Service
LUMBERLAND, NY — 10am, Town Hall, 1054 Proctor Rd. gsmuseum@townoflumberland.gov.

Memorial Day
PORT JERVIS, NY — City of Port Jervis annual parade & ceremony, line up E. Main & Penn Ave, ceremony 11am, Orange Square Park. portjervisny.gov/events.

Sage Socials
NARROWSBURG, NY — 1-4pm, 2nd & 4th Mondays, The Commons, 90 Main St. tustensocial.org.

Tuesday, May 26

Author Talk & Book Launch
NARROWSBURG, NY — One Grand Books "We Could Be Anyone" with Anna-Marie McLemore, 6pm, DVAA, 37 Main St. onegrandbooks.com.

Blood Drive
PORT JERVIS, NY— 1-6pm, Port Jervis Elks Lodge, 35 US-6. Schedule redcrossblood.org or 800/733-2767.

Wednesday, May 27

Dance Wellness Program
HURLEYVILLE, NY — 3-5pm, Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, 219 Main St. ci.ovationtix.com/34881.

Thursday, May 28

Barn to Backyard
ONLINE — Cornell Cooperative Extension, livestock & pet preparedness, 6-7:30pm, webinar via Zoom. Register sullivancce.org/events.

Blood Drive
ROCK HILL, NY — 1-6pm, 61 Glen Wild Rd. Schedule redcrossblood.org or 800/733-2767.

Genealogy Clues
HONESDALE, PA — 4:30pm, old photos with Cheryl Kaiser, Wayne County Historical Society, 810 Main St. waynehistorypa.org.

'Morsston and Purvis'
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — With historian Dr. Joyce Conroy, 5:30pm, Livingston Manor Roscoe Library, 92 Main St. lmr-library.org.

Ribbon Cutting
LIBERTY, NY — Sullivan County Chamber, 5-6pm, The Wandering Peach, 15 Sullivan Ave, register business.catskills.com.

Friday, May 29

Fork & Cork Dinner
LAKE ARIEL, PA — Fundraising dinner, 6-9pm, William Chatlos Environmental Center, 182 Sanctuary Rd. Register lacawac.org/events.

Opening Reception
HONESDALE, PA — "Out of Hand," 5-8pm, Wayne County Arts Alliance, 959 Main St. waynecountyartsalliance.org.

Saturday, May 30

Caring for Seedlings
BEACH LAKE, PA — 10am-11:30, with Amy Erlwein, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, 571 Perkins Pond Rd. Register delawarehighlands.org.

Citizen Science Workshop
LAKE ARIEL, PA — 5-7pm, Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station, 182 Sanctuary Rd. Register lacawac.org/pleon.

'El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego'
LOCH SHELDRAKE — SUNY Sullivan, Met Opera HD Live, "El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego," 1pm, Seelig Theatre, 112 College Rd. sunysullivan.edu/met-opera.

Endurance Relay
PORT JERVIS, NY — Jim Faggione's Moonlight Madness relay, 6am May 30 through 6pm May 31, Elks-Brox Memorial Park. portjervisny.gov.

Foraging
LAKEWOOD, PA — With Nathaniel Whitmore, 10:30am, Northern Wayne Community Library, 11 Library Rd. RSVP 570/798-2444.

Full Moon Hike
DINGMANS FERRY, PA — 8pm, Pocono Environmental Education Center, 538 Emery Rd. peec.org/programs.

Fundraiser & Tribute
LONG EDDY, NY — Rock Valley Schoolhouse, Tribute to Bobby Oliver, 4pm, Rock Valley Spirits, 1430 John Milk Rd. facebook.com/BasketHistoricalSociety.

'History of a Brief Time'
LEW BEACH, NY — Benefit for Radio Catskill, with Bill Williams, 5pm, 32 Shin Creek Rd. info@beaverkill.org.

Libby's Garden Kids Club
NORTH BRANCH, NY — Pizza Garden project, 10am-noon, ages 8-15, Libby's Garden Market, register by text 914/646-9209.

'Meg's ImagiNation'
NARROWSBURG, NY — Interactive storytelling, 3-4:30pm, ages 6-11, The Parlor, 90 Main St., myrivertickets.com.

Native Plant Sale
WURTSBORO, NY — 11am-2pm, Mamakating Environmental Education Center, 762 South Rd. friendsofmeec.org/events.

Pond Paddle
DINGMANS FERRY, PA — 1:30pm, Pocono Environmental Education Center, 538 Emery Rd. Register 570/828-2319.

SC Youth Book Festival
MONTICELLO, NY — 10am-3pm, ages 12-17, Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library, 479 Broadway. Register scybookfest.org.

'Scream Dynamo Scream'
HIGHLAND LAKE, NY — CAROL Performance Group, 7:30pm, North American Cultural Laboratory, 110 Highland Lake Rd. NACL.org.

Sunset Wellness Walk
BEACH LAKE, PA — 7-8:30pm, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, 571 Perkins Pond Rd, delawarehighlands.org.

TSTS Film Festival
PARKSVILLE, NY — "Too Short to Suck" film festival, 6pm, New Memories, 862 Parksville Rd. facebook.com/ParksvilleArtsCenter.

Wetland Walk
WURTSBORO, NY — 10am, Mamakating Environmental Education Center, 762 South Rd. friendsofmeec.org/events.

Wine & Cheese Experience
HONESDALE, PA — 3-4:30pm, Stourbridge Line, 812 Main St. thestourbridgeline.net.

Sunday, May 31

2nd Annual Poker Run
HONESDALE, PA —Honesdale Rotary, 9am, Baer Sport Center, 330 Grandview Ave. facebook.com/honesdaleparotary.

Fly Fishing Experience
HANCOCK, NY — May 31-June 6, for service couples, Friends of the Upper Delaware River,

'Life on the Frontier'
GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — "Life on the Frontier During the American Revolution," 2pm, Time & the Valleys Museum, 332 Main St. 845/985-7700.

My Bookish Friends
DAMASCUS, PA — Readings by Darcey Steinke & Bizzy Coy, 2pm, Farm Arts Collective, 38 Hickory Ln. myrivertickets.com.

Purse Bingo
BEACH LAKE, PA — Doors 11am, calling 1pm, Beach Lake Volunteer Fire Company, 1033 Beach Lake Hwy. facebook.com/Beachlakefire.

ONGOING

A Passion for the Wild'
LORDS VALLEY, PA — Featuring Guy D'Alessandro, Mon. - Sat. 9am-5pm, Chant Realtors, 631 Rte. 739, 570/775-7337.

'Equinox' Exhibition
NARROWSBURG, NY — Artist Steve Deihl, Maison Bergogne, 226 Bridge St. maisonbergogne.com.

Five Gallery Exhibit
NARROWSBURG — Mon.-Wed. 8am-6pm, Thurs. 8am-8pm, Sun. 8am-3pm, Narrowsburg Union, 7 Erie Ave. narrowsburgunion.com.

Floersch, Herzog & McMahon
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Fri.-Sat. 11am-5pm, Sun. 11am-3pm, Catskill Art Space, 48 Main St. catskillartspace.org.

'Gordian Knot Resolved'
HONESDALE, PA — Featuring Glenn Lieberman & Dale Emmart, Thurs.-Sun 11am-4pm, Wayne County Arts Alliance, 959 Main St. waynecountyartsalliance.org.

'Iterations of Hope'
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Exhibition, Delaware Valley Opera Center, 6692 NY-52, viewing hours 845/887-3083.

ONGOING

'Liberty to Me'
LIBERTY, NY — Photography exhibition featuring Douglas Yaun, Liberty Museum & Arts Center, Naomi 845/807-6055.

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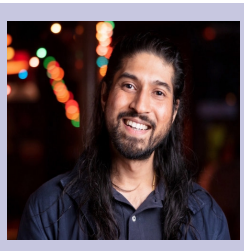
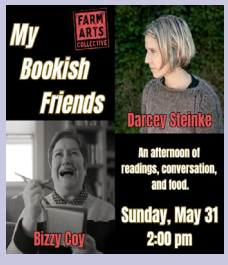


Stand-Up Comedy w/ Alingon Mitra, Matt Ruby & Emcee Julia Santo
The Parlor
Delaware Valley Arts Alliance
May 22 7:30-10:30pm



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May 31 2-4pm

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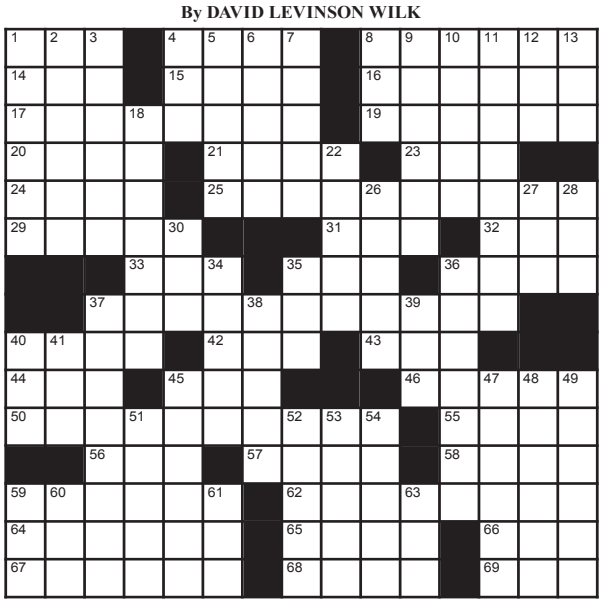
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By DAVID LEVINSON WILK



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ACROSS
1. Armenia, once: Abbr.
4. Alphabet quartet
8. "I, Robot" author Isaac
14. With 35-Down, a 1992 Elton John hit
15. Race pace
16. Turn
17. Butt into the first U.S. vice president?
19. Title character of a Walter Berndt comic strip
20. Flair
21. Make repairs to
23. Fire proof?
24. HBO title character for Sacha Baron Cohen
25. Lantern held by Othello?
29. She plays Hannah on TV
31. "____ happy to see you!"
32. Canal zone?
33. Director Jean-____ Godard
35. End ____ high note
36. Alpha follower
37. What the chess player saw when his opponent knocked over one of his men?
40. 10 C-notes
42. "____ you satisfied?"
43. Minister's deg.
44. @ follower, at times
45. Xbox 360 competitor
46. Breckinridge and Hess
50. "Weekend Update" desk, in the late '80s?
55. Word after bed or head
56. ____ in carrot
57. Bow out
58. Meat-inspecting org.
59. Doesn't stay the same
62. Drink without much alcohol ... and this puzzle's theme
64. In a pious manner
65. "____ girl!"
66. Levi's rival
67. Dips for chips
68. Baseball's Eddie or Ned
69. Some "wax"

DOWN
1. Current
2. "Do you want me to?"
3. Send again
4. Budding business?
5. Texas politico Phil
6. Similar: Prefix
7. "____ big deal!"
8. "____ gratia artis"
9. Mogadishu native
10. Answer to "Who's there?"
11. Person sporting a pocket calculator, perhaps
12. Mel who hit 511 home runs
13. "Oy ____!"
18. Poet who wrote 38-Down
22. Sturm und ____
26. Hurt
27. Boater or bowler
28. La-la lead-in
30. Actor Brynner
34. Theo Huxtable's mom
35. See 14-Across
36. Massage
37. Start of many classes
38. "And Still ____" (poem by 18-Down)
39. Unit in a physics textbook
40. Scot's topper
41. ____ polloi
45. Loc. of the Getty Museum
47. Put on eBay, perhaps
48. Equally profound
49. Ogles
51. ____ lazuli
52. "No!," in Pig Latin
53. Link with
54. Floride et Californie
59. Sounds of relief
60. 1988 Quaid/Ryan thriller
61. The "S" in CBS: Abbr.
63. Snitch

Answer to Last Week's Crossword Puzzle

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

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

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

227 Burlingham Rd. LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/3/2018. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 77 Grandview Dr, Bloomingburg, NY 12721. Purpose: any lawful act.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Dewitt Myers II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/16/2026. 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 Gridi, LLC: PO Box 384, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Glenville Sacandaga I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/16/2026. 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 Gridi, LLC: PO Box 384, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BARI ALTA TERRA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/14/26. 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, 85 Lenni Lenape Avenue, Pine Bush, NY 12566. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

27 BERNSELY AVE, LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 05/05/26. Originally filed with the Secretary of State of Florida on 04/30/26. 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, 2330 Clare Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32309. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Dewitt Deere I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/16/2026. 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 Gridi, LLC: PO Box 384, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Marcy Cavanaugh III, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/06/2026. 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 Gridi, LLC: PO Box 384, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

20 Yom Tov LLC. Filed 5/5/26. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 Yom Tov Ln, Woodbourne, NY 12788. Purpose: General.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of 4150 W. SHORE DRIVE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/28/2026. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: EDWARD ZOLTAN, 2717 QUENTIN RD., BROOKLYN, NY 11229. Purpose: any lawful activities.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Got Junk?, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/23/2026. 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 Secretary of State NY: 1088 Sackett Lake Rd Forestburgh, NY 12777. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

BRIDGEVILLE EQUITIES LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 4/14/26. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 805, Rock Hill, NY 12775. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
Principal business loc: 55 Foss Rd., Monticello, NY 12701.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of C&S Catskills LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 4/14/26. Office location: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Managing Member, C&S Catskills LLC, P.O. Box 891, South Fallsburg, NY 12779. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of 588 VENTURES LLC . Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/27/2026. 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 588 VENTURES LLC : 183 WILSON ST SUITE 109, BROOKLYN, NY, 11211, . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of S&S Integrated Solutions LLC under Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law.
Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on April 6, 2026. Office location: Sullivan County.
SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 16 Pebble Path, Rock Hill, NY 12775.
Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of RICHARDSON SQUARE UNITS LLC . Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/2/2026. 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 RICHARDSON SQUARE UNITS LLC : 298 WALLABOUT ST 4B, BROOKLYN, New York 11206 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

8 Hrt LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 4/21/2026. Office location: Sullivan. SSNY desg. as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 199 LEE AVE SUITE 746, BROOKLYN, NY 11211. Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Formation of MONTICELLO DEV LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/21/2026. Office loc.: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Ashish Parikh, 301 Rte. 17 N., Ste. 802, Rutherford, NJ 07070. The LLC is to be managed by one or more members. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Niagara Falls 55th I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/14/2026. 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 Gridi, LLC: PO Box 384, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Niagara Falls Buffalo I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/09/2026. 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 Gridi, LLC: PO Box 384, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: Northern Currents LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on 12/11/2025. The County in which the Office is to be located: Sullivan. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 116 Kirk Rd., Narrowsburg, NY 12764. Purpose: any lawful activity.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: Total Mazal Results LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 02/20/2026. The County in which the Office is to be located:SULLIVAN COUNTY. The SSNY is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 187 Brickman Road, Fallsburg, NY 12733. Purpose: any lawful activity.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: Wild-Flour Bakehouse LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 04/03/2026. The County in which the Office is to be located: Sullivan. The SSNY is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 95 Horseshoe Lake Rd, PO Box 583 Kauneonga Lake, NY, 12749, USA. Purpose: any lawful activity.

WHERE & WHEN

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'Murmuration'
NARROWSBURG, NY — Featuring SR Lejeune, Thurs.-Sun. 11am-4pm, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA), 37 Main St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

'Obversity'
MILFORD, PA — Featuring Barbara Torrea & Len Deluca, Thurs.-Mon. 10am-6pm, ARTery Gallery, 210 Broad St. arterygallerymilford.com.

'Out of Hand'
HONESDALE, PA — Member exhibition, Thurs.-Sun 11am-4pm, Wayne County Arts Alliance, 959 Main St. waynecountyartsalliance.org.

'Out of Hand & Foot'
NARROWSBURG, NY — Featuring Tanner Simon & Charles Farless, Sat.-Sun. 11am-4pm, Ruffed Grouse Gallery, 144 Main St. ruffedgrousegallery.com.

Painting Exhibition
LIBERTY, NY — Featuring Caroline Harrow, Liberty Public Library, 189 N. Main St., 845/292-6070.

'Reflection on Mother'
LIBERTY, NY — Multi-media exhibition, Fri.-Sun. noon-4pm through, Liberty Museum & Arts Center, Naomi 845/807-6055.

Spring Art Show
HAWLEY, PA — Featuring Beth Baylin & Kay King, Lodge at Woodloch, 109 Birch Ln. kiesendahlcalhounart.com.

Spring Show
PORT JERVIS, NY — Fri.-Sun. 1-6pm through May 31, UpFront Exhibition Space, 31 Jersey Ave. 845/754-1808.

'Stories in the New Baroque'
NARROWSBURG, NY — Featuring Alejandro Mazon, Thurs.-Sun. 11am-4pm, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, 37 Main St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

Tif Wolf Paintings
NARROWSBURG, NY —Velvet Maple, Thur.-Tues., 10am-4pm, The Commons, 90 Main St. thevelvetmaple.com.

'Tree Too' Art Exhibition
HONESDALE, PA — 11am-4pm, Thurs.-Sun., Wayne County Arts Alliance, 959 Main St. waynecountyartsalliance.org.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bone Builders
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension, Thursdays, 11am-noon, Jeffersonville Library, 19 Center St. Register sullivancce.org/events.

Caffeine & Camaraderie
MONTICELLO, NY — Veterans coffee hour, Mondays 10-11am, Action Toward Independence, 309 East Broadway, info@atitoday.org.

English as Second Language
ONLINE/LIBERTY, NY — Thursdays, Liberty Parks & Recreation, 119 N. Main St. or virtually, 845/292-7690.

Fly Tying Series
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Saturdays 10am through July 11, Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, 1031 Old Rte. 17. Register, cffcm.com.

Friday Fitness
LIBERTY, NY — Let's dance, 10-11am through May 29, Cooperative Extension SC, 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Register 845/292-6180 x101.

Life Skills Group
MONTICELLO, NY — Fridays 5-6pm, Action Toward Independence, 309 East Broadway, for age 13-31. info@atitoday.org.

Lock 31 Canal House Tour
HONESDALE, PA — Saturdays noon-4pm through Oct. 10, Wayne County Historical Society, Lock 31, 179 Texas Palmyra Hwy. 570/253-3240.

Tai Chi for Fall Prevention
LIBERTY, NY — Tues. & Thurs. 3pm through June 18, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Register tinyurl.com/5n6mtpy4.

Time to Talk Series
CALLICOON, NY — Informal community gathering, Thursdays 5:30pm, Callicoon Train Depot, 40 Lower Main, thecallicoondepot.org.

Worship in Movement
BEACH LAKE, PA — Tues. & Thurs. 6:30pm, Whispering Pines Center, 7 Milanville Rd. Free class Mar. 24 & 26, 570/470-1464.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Family Support Group
ONLINE/MONTICELLO, NY — Sharing & Caring Family support group, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays of the month, 6:30-8pm, 20 Crystal St. namisullivan.org.

Grief Support Group
HONESDALE, PA — 4th Wednesday, 2-3pm, Earl Simons Senior Center, 323 10th St. 570/253-4262.

Momma Bear Group
HONESDALE, PA — The National Alliance on Mental Illness Momma Bear connection support group, 2nd & 4th Thurs., 809 Main St. register info@naminepa.org.

Parents for Parents
ONLINE, MONTICELLO, NY — 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 5-7pm, Action Toward Independence, 309 East Broadway & Zoom. atitoday.org.

Parent Support Group
MILFORD, PA — Pike Autism parent support group 4th Wed. 7pm, 201 Broad St. passnepa.org/support.

Spectrum Support Group
MILFORD, PA — Pike Autism Support Services support group for teens & adults on the spectrum, 7pm, 201 Broad St. Register 570educationalconcultant@gmail.com.

Time and the Valleys Museum opens on Memorial Day weekend

GRAHAMSVILLE, NY — The Time and the Valleys Museum will open for the season on Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24, from noon to 4 p.m.

Exhibitions include:

Water and the Valleys, looking at the history of the Rondout and Neversink watershed area from early geological times to the 20th century. This exhibition includes a section on the Lenape Native Americans, early area settlers, farming, local industries and more.

Tunnels, Toil and Trouble: New York City's Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story explores the NYC water supply system and the towns that were removed to build the system. It includes why New York City needed water, a description of the three water systems, the heartache of the people who had to give up their homes and how the complex system was built.

The 1930s Catskill Family Farm: The farm is an outdoor, open-air experience with many early farm buildings, all illustrating life on a Catskill family farm during the 1930s. Buildings include a farmhouse, 1870s barn, electric plant, milk house, chicken coop, old car barn, saw mill, outhouse and workshop with a working waterwheel, and more. Many exhibits have interactive activities, videos and games.

The museum is located at 332 Main St., and is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. through September or by appointment. Adult admission costs $10, admission for children under 16 costs $5, the family rate (for four) is $25 and children under six visit for free. Museum members receive free admission.

Free admission to active duty military members (with ID) and up to five family members through Time and the Valley's status as a Blue Star Museum. This free admission for members of the military and their families runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

For more information, call 845/985-7700, email info@timeandthevalleysmuseum.org or visit www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org. Volunteers are always welcome and needed, the museum said. Email or call for more information.

Farm Arts Collective offers paid internships

DAMASCUS, PA — Farm Arts Collective, based on Willow Wisp Organic Farm, is offering paid summer internships for college students and graduating seniors interested in theatre-making, environmentalism, agriculture and community enegagement.

The internship offers employment and participation in Farm Arts Collective's 2026 flagship theatre production of "Dream on the Farm," an annual immersive and inter-disciplinary performance series that is performed on Willow Wisp Organic Farm. It focuses on environmental issues.

Now in its seventh year, this year's "Dream on the Farm" performance is titled "Johnny Appleseed: An Historical Fantasia," and is part of the America250 series of events taking place across the nation to mark the 250th anniversary of the U.S.

The internship, supported in part through a grant from Wayne County Community Foundation, will run from June 15 to August 9, with performances taking place from July 30 to August 9.

Farm Arts is seeking students in performance, instrumental music (fiddle/banjo/bluegrass), design, technical and theatre production. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and on selected Saturday afternoons at Farm Arts Collective. Interns will also be required to work four to six hours per week to help produce the project—working in administration, marketing, public relations, and doing special promotional events in the community.

If students have an interest in farming, options are available for agricultural work experience.

To apply, send a letter to the artistic director, Tannis Kowalchuk, explaining your interest and to set up an interview. All letters should include a biography or a resume. Send letters via email to tannis@farmartscollective.org.

Save the Date:
May 30, 2026

— for the Grand Re-Opening of —
Senate House State Historic Site

After being closed for an important restoration project in 2025, Senate House will re-open with the debut of two brand-new permanent exhibits, as well as a day of community celebration!

Join us for:
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:00 a.m.
- Open-house style tours of Senate House
- Food trucks
- Colonial music from Carla and Keyes
- Reenactors from the 1st and 3rd Ulster Militias
- Take-home crafts
- *Revisit the Revolution* traveling exhibit

Saturday, May 30, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Senate House State Historic Site
296 Fair Street, Kingston, NY 12401

Scan the QR code to learn more and save the event to your calendar

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■ THE WAY OUT HERE

BY HUNTER HILL

Bee-autiful beginnings

If you've been reading this column for long, you will have gathered that my family and I don't have too much going on. Very boring, not that many hobbies, definitely lots of free time. Cough.

In light of that, we got another one! Hobby, that is.

It's been a long-time dream of my wife to have some honeybees, but we've always been pressed for time, money, space, you name it. But this year, when her grandma ordered bees, she jumped on the caravan and ordered her first nuc. For those who don't know, a nuc is like a box of starter bees. It has a couple of frames, ideally a queen and all the little workers to get things started. The idea is that you can set these up in a small hive and they will grow themselves into a bigger hive, which you can split to make more small hives in the future and so on to grow your bee operation.

For my wife's birthday last fall, I got her her first beehive and a bag full of brand new tools and a full bee suit. Yes, Mrs. Hill's apiary was on its way to fruition after years of dreaming and scheming.

It worked out really well for us that her granny was already farming bees, because they live right next door. When the nucs arrived, we went up there to help Granny sort her bees out before she walked down the hill to help us with ours.

If you're thinking this all sounds rather idyllic and glittery like a misty-eyed fairy tale, then I'm sorry, but this is the part of the story where I rudely drop the other foot. That other foot I will cryptically call "the plot."

While everything went about 90 percent according to plan, there was one considerable hiccup. The queen.

When you purchase these nucs, it is more or less a given that there should be a healthy queen in the hive to get things going as they acclimate to the new living situation and begin kingdom building, so to speak. If there is no queen, or if she is not faring well, the bees will form supersedure cells to essentially create a new queen.

If this happens in a nuc that you are trying to start a hive with, it can be tricky. They might not get the queen to hatch and survive quickly enough; the rest of the bees may suffer; or worse, the whole hive could fail.

Depending on the situation, the bee supplier might send a new queen to help save the hive, or the existing bees might get through it and reestablish the health of the system.

It's a bit delicate, particularly because you can't just look in the box whenever you want. In the spring, while we still have cold weather off and on, we have to be careful not to chill the bees by letting the heat out of their box and potentially killing them.

RR photo by Hunter Hill

My wife's beekeeping suit is as bright as her smile when welcoming new bees to the farm.

So that is the limbo we are at with the bees as of now, with careful observation and correspondence with the bee supplier ongoing.

I would like to take a moment to state that if I am slightly off in my explanation of how bees work, don't crucify my intelligence. Anything and everything I have stated here has been a working understanding of what my wife has been telling me. I really don't know what she has begun to learn from books and working with Granny, but suffice to say that it's her project, and I'm just the guy who's waiting patiently to have some honey donuts in a year or so.

The way out here we learn by trying, pushing forward and juggling the monkey wrenches that fly our way. A pessimist would concern himself with the queen, an optimist would concern themselves with the newly arrived bees, and a writer concerns themselves with trying to get the facts about bees correctly from his wife before quoting her to the vast readership of the **River Reporter**. Tune in again for more about my queen and her bees.

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SOUNDINGS: TAKING THE PULSE OF THE UPPER DELAWARE WATERSHED

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

Reservoir levels

May 14, 2026

Cannonsville: 100.8%

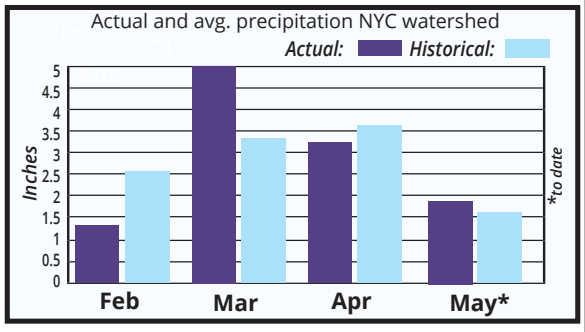
Pepacton: 100.1%

Neversink: 100.3%

Total: 99.6%

Normal Total: 100%

Total in 2025: 83.5%



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RIVER TALK
BY SANDY LONG

The wisdom of words

"In writing about nature, I am not turning my back on society; I am seeking to place our small, brief lives within the vast encompassing order on which our every breath depends," wrote one of my favorite authors, Scott Russell Sanders in "The Country of Language."

I couldn't agree more. Writing this column bridges the gap between what I encounter while temporarily "turning my back on society," and provides me a tool with which to share the experiences I've had at the altar of the natural world. When I return to the trials of the human world, they are somehow easier to bear. How wonderful is that?

Contemplate the wise words of Rachel Carson, who observed, "The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction."

Have you considered what is possible through devoted engagement with the natural world and its endless expressions of grace, beauty, terror, consequence, intention, survival and more?

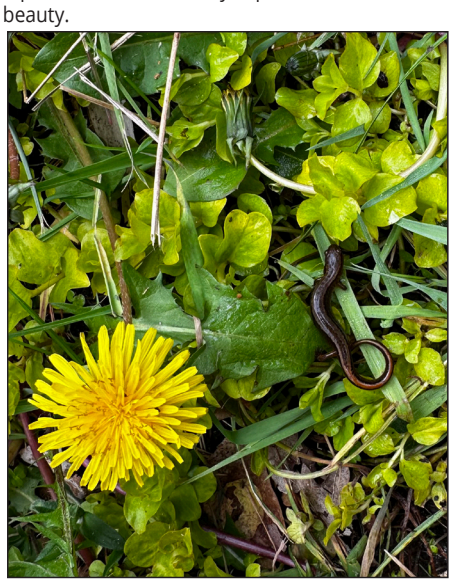
Don't just take my word for it. Delve into the depths to be discovered in "Leaf and Tendril," a collection of essays by American literary naturalist John Burroughs, born in Roxbury, NY, making him a Catskills native. The collection includes the essay, "The Art of Seeing Things," in which Burroughs advocates that in order to experience a deeper connection with nature, one must go beyond mere looking and gain true seeing through the practice of patient and intimate observation.

"To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter… to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring—these are some of the rewards of the simple life," wrote Burroughs. Good words to live by.

RR photos by Sandy Long

"He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead; his eyes are closed," wrote Albert Einstein. Stay alive by practicing daily appreciation for all that the natural world offers.

A poet's narcissus silently expresses its wordless beauty.



Hone your observational skills by locating the red-backed salamander resting to the right of a bright dandelion.

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Protect those most important by keeping medications in a safe, secure space.

We are all part of the solution.

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