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‘It is out of our hands’

County to deny claim to correct Mamakating tax roll

By PATRICK KELLY

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — The Sullivan County Legislature is poised to deny a claim to correct the Town of Mamakating tax roll after a resident claimed that an error made on his house inventory “unduly enriched” the county.

The Sullivan County Legislature already approved the denial on Tuesday, July 21, at a meeting of the legislature. However, since the motion did not pass with a majority of all members, the denial was added to the agenda for Thursday, August 6. The final vote at the July 21 meeting was 4-2, with legislators Nicholas Salomone Jr. and Joseph Perrello voting against the measure, and legislators Amanda Ward, Luis Alvarez and Terry Bernardo being absent.

Greg Sage, a resident of Mamakating, discovered that due to an error in his house’s inventory, his assessment was off. This error went ungrieved for several years, until it was discovered recently. While the current Mamakating tax roll now reflects the reality, Sage is seeking that the county correct the previous years’ tax rolls and refund him.

“I’ve been overcharged by double if you just simply look at square footage charged versus actual square footage,” Sage said. “So in this circumstance, you know the county has been unduly enriched.”

Sage said that five years ago when he purchased the property, he designed his house so that the taxes would be affordable. But after the property’s inventory listed a second story that didn’t exist in reality, the assessed value of his property was distorted.

“We’ve spent probably 60 hours at this point in time,” Sage said. “We’ve been unduly burdened trying to go back and rectify a problem.”

Chris Knapp, the director of Real Property Tax Services, said in an interview with the **River Reporter** that the process had to go this way and end with a denial, and that the proper channel was to capture it as it appeared on the bill.

“This is not a correctable error through this channel. You have to grieve your assessment with the board of assessment review on grievance day,” Knapp said. “This is all based upon laws… our hands are tied.”

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RR photo by Sonia Ahmed

Sunshine the dog matching jerseys with his owner.

Everything is too expensive

Wayne County Commissioners discuss housing, Ag Innovation Center

By SONIA AHMED

WAYNE COUNTY, PA — A Wayne County Commissioners meeting on July 23 oversaw discussion of a county housing study and how to spend $1.9 million in agricultural innovation funding from the state.

Housing

On Thursday, a housing study by Urban Partners was presented to the commissioners. The study is an update to a previous Wayne County housing study completed in 2022.

Amy Cunniff, associate at Urban Partners, explained that the average household income in Wayne County is $62,000 and that employment has remained “relatively stable.”

She added that most residents of Wayne County also work in the county.

Population data, which was indirectly taken from the census, showed a 1.4 percent population decrease from 2010 to 2024, but a 7.8 percent increase in demand for households. Cunniff added the increase in demand is partly due to decreasing household sizes.

Senior households are usually smaller on average, and an increase in them can contribute to decreasing household sizes, according to Cunniff.

“Aging housing is going to continue to rise within the county,” she said.

While the demand for housing increases, the pricing of those homes also increases, according to Isaac Kwon, principal at Urban Partners.

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River-festive!

NARROWSBURG, NY — This past weekend in Narrowsburg, visitors, locals and lovers of the arts gathered to celebrate the 36th annual Riverfest, the yearly festival put on by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. For more photos, see page 4 and online at riverreporter.com/photos.

OPINION

Plastic: Less is best

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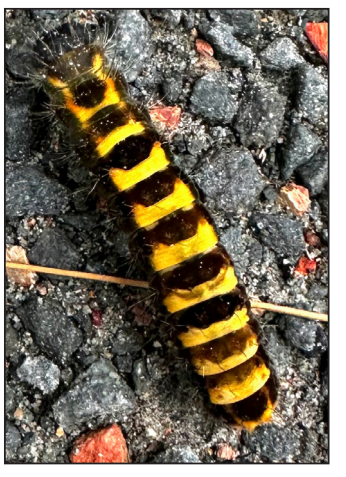
A father. A daughter. Two lifetimes. One stage.



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OUTDOORS

Skeletonizers and spanworms



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IN BRIEF

Highland to hold comprehensive plan hearing Tuesday, August 11

TOWN OF HIGHLAND, NY — The Town of Highland will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 11 at 6 p.m. for the review of the town's draft comprehensive plan. The location of the public hearing is to be determined and will be announced once finalized.

The draft comprehensive plan is available for review at bit.ly/RR-2026-Highland-plan.

Congressional stock trading bill passes House

WASHINGTON, DC — On July 22, U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan Jr. (R, PA-08) voted in favor of the Stop Insider Trading Act, legislation to prohibit members of Congress and their immediate families from purchasing individual stocks, requiring advance public disclosure of stock sales, and strengthening penalties for ethics violations. Bresnahan was an original cosponsor of the legislation, which was introduced on January 12 and passed the House by a vote of 231-198.

"Members of Congress should never be allowed to trade their own stocks and profit off the information they are entrusted with; this is a belief I have held since before taking office, and this belief has not changed," said Bresnahan. "By putting reasonable restrictions on the buying and selling of stocks and increasing penalties for violations means greater levels of transparency and a renewed commitment to serving the American people and them alone."

Bresnahan secures $1,250,000 for Eastern Pike County Sewer Extension

MATAMORAS, PA — On Friday, July 24, U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan Jr. (R, PA-08) joined local elected officials and community leaders for a press conference announcing $1.25 million in federal funding he secured for the extension of the Eastern Pike County Sewer, which will extend wastewater service to Matamoras and Milford boroughs.

The Eastern Pike County Sewer Extension will strengthen economic growth and protect public health by expanding wastewater infrastructure in Matamoras Borough, Milford Borough and Westfall Township, Bresnahan's office said. The project will support existing businesses, encourage new commercial investment, and provide long-term solutions for residential properties with failing septic systems and inadequate wastewater capacity, it continued.

Sullivan County Farmers eligible for disaster relief

By PATRICK KELLY

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — On Saturday, July 25, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the United States Department of Agriculture has declared Sullivan a contiguous disaster county after extreme weather in the spring disrupted fruit farming operations. This designation makes farmers in the county eligible for emergency loans.

According to a release from Hochul's office, affected fruit producers in New York have experienced a loss of more than $30 million after extreme weather that occurred in April and May. Sullivan was specifically named a contiguous county in a secretarial designation for frost and freeze that occurred April 19-21. The primary counties named as affected by the disaster are Ulster, Orange and Greene; Wayne and Pike Counties, PA are also mentioned as contiguous counties.

In a letter from USDA Deputy Undersecretary Brooke S. Appleton also said that a full assessment had not been available for Sullivan County along with Albany and Chautauqua counties. Therefore, a possible primary designation for these counties was deferred until proper paperwork could be submitted.

Farmers have eight months from the secretarial designation to apply for assistance. For more information, people can contact the local farm safety offices, which are located in Walton (607/865-4005) and Middletown (845/343-1872).

Clinton Township chooses Ken Coles as replacement supervisor

By LIAM MAYO

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, PA — The Clinton Township Board of Supervisors voted on Wednesday, July 22 to choose Ken Coles as an interim supervisor, filling the vacancy in their ranks.

Coles has previously served on the township's board of supervisors. He is replacing Mark Lopatofsky, who resigned last week after the public raised questions about the potential conflicts of interest between him, the developer of a major data center project and the engineering firm the township hired to review the project.

Linde Corp. has proposed to build a 682-acre data center in Clinton Township. The township hired Kiley Associates to review Linde's application; Lopatofsky's son is an owner of Kiley Engineering.

The same night, the supervisors also voted to hire a firm to audit the township upon Lopatofsky's departure. According to the supervisors, Lopatofsky requested they take that measure.

Lopatofsky and township solicitor Ron Bugaj have maintained that there was no conflict of interest in the hiring of Kiley.

"You might call it nepotism, because he got somebody involved that his son works with. I don't believe that it was a conflict, and I told him that, and I told the township supervisors that," said Bugaj.

A member of the public in attendance, Gwendolyn Brown, asked if the solicitors have inquired as to the remedy for the conflict of interest.

Supervisor Brian Non said that, by his reckoning, because there wasn't a conflict anymore (given Lopatofsky's resignation), there wasn't an issue.

Brown said that a remedy would be to void the contract, and thereby void any actions taken in relation to that contract. That could include the recommendation to accept for review the plans from Linde Corp. for the data center project, she said.

The planning commission's acceptance for review of the plans started a 90-day clock, giving the township until September 28 to make a decision on the project. Brown said that, were Kiley's decisions to be voided, that clock could be reset.

Bugaj said that if a supervisor did something that was a conflict, that could be addressed through the courts.

"Yes, absolutely," said Brown.

"If you want to do that, you certainly could do that," said Bugaj.

"It was a courtesy to present it here first," said Brown.



RR photo by Liam Mayo

Interim supervisor Ken Coles sits in a Wednesday, June 22 meeting of the Clinton Township Board of Supervisors.

Upcoming meetings

• Supervisors' public hearing on SALDO amendment: Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wayne County Park Street Complex, 648 W. Park St., Honesdale, PA

• Joint supervisors and planning commission public hearing on Linde land development: Monday, August 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wayne County Park Street Complex, 648 W. Park St., Honesdale, PA

• Supervisors' rescheduled August regular meeting: Tuesday, August 4 at 7 p.m. at the township building, 1799 White Oak Dr., Forest City, PA

• Planning commission regular meeting: Wednesday, August 5 at 7 p.m. at the township building, 1799 White Oak Dr., Forest City, PA

• Joint supervisors and planning commission public hearing on Linde Land Development: Monday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ladore PARC Pavilion 50 Camp Ladore Way (entrance off the Owego Turnpike), Waymart, PA

Meetings this week

Thursday, July 30

Town of Cochecton Planning Board
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — 7:30pm, 74 Smalles Rd. 845/932-8360 x11.

Monday, August 3

Lebanon Township Supervisor
HONESDALE, PA — 7pm, 281 Dennis Rd. lebanontownship@gmail.com.

Palmyra Township Supervisors
HAWLEY, PA — 6:30pm, 219 Oak St. 570/226-6566.

Texas Township Supervisors
HONESDALE, PA — 7:30pm, 506 Old Willow Ave. 570/253-6216.

Town of Bethel Planning Board
WHITE LAKE, NY — 7pm workshop, 7:30pm meeting, 3460 Route 55. 845/583-4350 x101.

Tuesday, August 4

Hawley Borough Planning
HAWLEY, PA — 7pm, 94 Main Ave. 570/226-9545.

Palmyra Township Planning
HAWLEY, PA — 6:30pm as needed, 219 Oak St. 570/226-6566.

Town of Hancock Board
HANCOCK, NY — 7pm, 661 W. Main St. hancockny.org.

Wednesday, August 5

Honesdale Borough Planning Commission
HONESDALE, PA — 7pm, 303 Commercial St. Judith 570/253-0731 x10.

Lackawaxen Planning Board
LACKAWAXEN, PA — 6pm, 169 Urban Rd. 570/685-7288.

Thursday, August 6

SC Legislature Meeting
MONTICELLO, NY — 9am & full legislative board meeting 10:30am, legislative chambers, 100 North St., sullivanny.us.

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

[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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Dam delays

Residents may need to wait until 2030 for Toronto Reservoir fix

By PATRICK KELLY

BETHEL, NY— The timeline to fix the prolonged drawdown of the Toronto Reservoir has been extended, with water returning to the reservoir by 2030 at the earliest.

The drawdown was caused by the discovery of issues with the reservoir's earthen dam in 2023. Since then, the reservoir has seen a drastic reduction in its water level, leaving it unusable for recreational use.

Recently, reservoir operator Eagle Creek Hydro-power (ECHP) told residents that repairs to the dam would continue until 2029. Testing will occur in 2030, with ECHP estimating to have water return to the reservoir in 2030.

This delay caused residents to speak out against the long process, calling on lawmakers including the Bethel Town Board, Assembly Member Paula Elaine Kay and Congressman Josh Riley to help pressure ECHP, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and ECHP parent company Apollo Global Wealth Management to speed up the process.

"Originally, they said it could be taken care of in days; then it was going to be a couple of years," Hal Teitelbaum, president of Homeowners on Toronto (HOOT) said. "They need to fix this, and they need to make it a much greater priority."

Teitelbaum, who spoke Wednesday, July 22 in front of the Bethel Town Board, said this is not the first time the process has been delayed.

"They're hopeful that water would actually be back in the reservoir in 2030, but they can't be sure. And this is only if things go according to plan," he said. "And so far, nothing has gone according to plan. There have been continued delays."

Bethel Town Supervisor Daniel Sturm shared Teitelbaum's frustration, and motioned that the town board draft a letter to speak out against the delays.

"Our residents that live in Chapin [Estates], our residents that live in Smallwood are the ones that are affected. It's ridiculous that it's reached this point where they're not even giving a date other than '29 or '30, where there may be water in the dam," Sturm said. "We need something better than that. That's not acceptable."

In an interview with the **River Reporter,** Sturm said that he believes that while the Town of Bethel has no legal jurisdiction over the reservoir, it can apply political pressure and voice its displeasure about what is happening.

"This is the Town of Bethel, and the residents in that area and from all over that use that reservoir are being affected," Sturm said. "We don't have jurisdiction. We don't have oversight. I understand that. But if we can make it known our dissatisfaction with the way that [the reservoir] is being handled, then we should do that. We should be public about it and do anything we can to make sure they know that this is unacceptable. We need a better response."

Teitelbaum also said that an event will be held in August with elected officials and members of the public to put pressure on ECHP and others to work harder at accomplishing needed repairs in a more timely manner. A final date has not been set for the event yet.

Sturm said that the town and its residents have been patient while work has been ongoing at Toronto, but that their patience is up—Bethel and its residents want action.

"Patience only goes so far, and I believe everybody's been patient, understanding that there may be work that needs to be done," Sturm said. "But you know what? Let's get it going here. Whatever we have to do to help that, we'll do… It's a beautiful reservoir. The people deserve a right to it."

A tree falls in Bethel

Town of Bethel to remove tree that fell on house

By PATRICK KELLY

BETHEL, NY— The Town of Bethel is set to remove a tree that fell on a house, an odd variation on its usual process of rectifying building code violations.

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of Bethel held on Wednesday, July 22, a public hearing was held for the property at 73 W. Starlight Dr. According to Bethel Town Supervisor Dan Sturm, a new code enforcement officer first brought the issue to the town's attention.

"Nobody had lived in the house in quite some time as far as we know. So [the code enforcement officer] sent a violation letter to the property owner and said, 'Listen, this has to be rectified. You can't have a tree falling on the house,'" Sturm said. "They reached back out to the building department and they said, 'You know, we don't have anybody staying there. We don't have anybody that's available to come up here to the property. Would you do what you have to do to get rid of the tree in the house, and just charge us back?'"

The building department then brought it to the town's attention, and after confirming that was the wish of the property owner, scheduled a public hearing.

"We had the public hearing, and now the building department is going to go get a couple bids, [or] quotes to do the work, get rid of the tree and then we'll charge back the property owner," Sturm said in an interview with the **River Reporter.** "They re-levy it on their property taxes or they just pay the bill outright, which some of them choose to do rather than get re-levied, and then that's it."

The property at 73 W. Starlight Dr. is not the only one that the town has been paying attention to. The town recently hired new code enforcement officers who came up with a list of nine properties that had code violations on them. According to Sturm, the town has been successful in addressing that list.

"We hired new code enforcement officers, a couple of them, and they're trying to get caught up on any unsafe structures, which is important to us. And there were nine structures on there, and we have addressed eight of them so far," Sturm said. "Most of them have come down. We've had great success in remedying the eight or nine that we had on the list."

Sturm also said that the town does not take their responsibility lightly, and that the code enforcers work hard to maintain quality of life and the aesthetics of Bethel.

Sturm said that while they take this responsibility seriously, they also recognize the importance of allowing landowners to correct these mistakes themselves, so the town doesn't have to force them to act. Sturm said that the town ultimately wants to work with the property owners.

"The ability to assess properties that are falling down and re-levying on property is a very big responsibility, and we don't take it lightly. We try first and foremost to cooperate and get buy-in from the property owner," Sturm said. "We want to work with the property owner. The last thing we want to do is try to go on somebody's property and do things that need to be done…we want to work with people. That's ideal."

After Sturm gave an update on the situation that was happening with the property, he commended the code enforcement officers for their vigilance, even if the violations and the circumstances around them are a little odd.

"It's good that they're going through the old violations and trying to remedy that," Sturm said. "As strange as they may be."

EXPENSIVE

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"In 11 years, the price for homes doubled in the county," he said.

Though housing has gotten more expensive, Cunniff said that the county has not gotten too expensive for county residents yet.

In attendance was also the Wayne Tomorrow! housing task force and Pike-Wayne Association of Realtors.

"The cost is more expensive to purchase; it's also more expensive to build. So these are just the realities. They're not good or bad, they're indifferent and the realities we have to face," a representative from the housing task force said, adding that this study will be discussed at committee meetings they will have in the fall.

An attendee from the Pike-Wayne Association of Realtors said that this study correlated with his experience with clients. "We're not crazy. What we're being told by buyers and sellers is true."

After the discussion of the housing study, Stacey Mizwinski, administrative officer, requested to file an application for an Emergency Solutions Grant for $83,740.

The grant, which is the maximum amount the county could apply for, would help costs for "emergency housing, rapid housing, homeless prevention and emergency shelter," Mizwinski elaborated.

The motion was approved and the application, which is something the county has applied for previously, will be filed again this year.

Agriculture Innovation Center (AIC)

The AIC is a proposed building that would promote local agriculture and provide services such as a food pantry, greenhouses and a food pharmacy. By bringing together in one place agricultural resources, a farm innovator and other services, the facility would serve as a hub for agricultural production, distribution and consumption in the county. The original plan was estimated to cost $10 million and be built in Cherry Ridge Township along with a proposed YMCA.

The commissioners were recently granted $1.9 million from the state to put toward this project.

On Thursday, chairman Brian Smith addressed what would be done with the grant money.

"We did pull our project from the project location up in Cherry Ridge township," he said. "We're looking at doing some work at the county farm for ag innovation."

Smith cited high costs as a reason the project got dropped, commenting that parceling the money out would be "more palatable and doable for everybody."

Smith said he wished to show farmers innovative techniques such as putting a tarp in the ground to create heat early, which extends planting seasons. Smith also proposed teaching residents about how apples grow at an already-existing orchard on the farm.

Other ideas included expanding the kitchen at the Park Street complex and helping out local food pantries.

"We were very lucky to get this, it's a great deal of money," Smith said, thanking the legislators for the grant.

The next Wayne County Commissioners meeting will be on July 30.

River-festive!



RR photo by Sonia Ahmed

Circus performers doing hula hoop tricks on Sunday.



RR photo by Sonia Ahmed

River Reporter editor Liam Mayo, left, and publisher Laurie Stuart pose as Riverfest winds down.



RR photo by Patrick Kelly

Some dogs made their way in strollers through Riverfest.



RR photo by Sonia Ahmed

Paul making fresh dough for calzones at Luigi's stand.



RR photo by Sonia Ahmed

Charley Gips selling her handmade art during this years River-fest.



RR photo by Sonia Ahmed

Nu selling her body care products.



RR photo by Sonia Ahmed

Karin Bremer of Windfall Designs stands with her stall.

HANDS ¬ Page 1

Chair of the legislature Nadia Rajsz agreed. She believed that the legislature should follow the process that is in place, and that the legislature cannot get bogged down in town issues.

"We as legislators cannot get into every town's issues with the assessor. We are a county government," Rajsz said. "This issue… it is out of our hands. It is in the hands of the town."

Salomone then argued that while it was a town issue, the legislature had the ability to correct it. Sage agreed with Salomone, saying that the county needed to protect its residents and step up in this moment.

"I look at you people as my safeguard or my protection, and if you see something that's not correct, and you do nothing to correct the problem, then you're the problem," Sage said.

Perrello also came to Sage's side, saying that if the county was able to help they should help and refund.

"If a person's entitled to a refund, then we could correct the problem. I think we should do it," Perrello said.

Legislator Brian McPhillips countered Perrello by saying that if the county gets involved any more than they are by refusing the denial, then the legislature has empanelled themselves as assessors.

"The second we start touching these types of cases, we are becoming assessors, and it becomes very politicized," McPhillips said.

County Treasurer Kathleen Lara agreed with McPhillips. In an interview with the **River Reporter**, she said that the county legislature is not an assessing body and the county does not have assessing powers. She said that the power belongs to the towns.

"We are not the assessing authority. Each town has an assessor that does that," Lara said. "But we do not place value on properties. That is solely a town function."

Before the vote during the meeting of the county legislature, Lara spoke with Perrello. Lara said that as a tax-enforcing officer, it's her duty to help explain the situations that the legislators are putting themselves into if they establish a precedent.

"It's very important for the legislators to understand that it's a slippery slope when you start sort of doing the town's job for them," Lara said. "I had to let him know that when you make a decision like this, you're setting a precedent."

Beyond the precedent in the world of real property tax, by ignoring Knapp's advice and voting to correct the Mamakating tax roll, legislators would set a precedent of ignoring the expert advice they receive, something Lara feared would cause more problems.

"There's no way a legislator could know everything," Lara said. "You have to rely on the people who do the work day in and day out to make those decisions for you sometimes because then you're not making a wild guess or an assumption or even going against real property tax law."

Legislative fixes a "double-edged sword"

Sage's issue sparked debate among legislators that a larger push is needed to fix problems like these in the future.

McPhillips argued that while nothing could be done in this moment, where the legislature can use its power is pushing for change on the state level by lobbying policymakers to change the laws surrounding this process.

"We understand your concerns, and with that, we are going to use our power to try to go and make some law changes," McPhillips said. "We have the ability to lobby our federal and state representatives to change the law… we can take these steps as policymakers to lobby our state representatives to make a change."

Knapp thinks the county needs to act carefully in this regard, as changes to the law come with unintended consequences that create more problems down the line. Knapp said that if the process were changed, it would create a lot of questions

"It's a double-edged sword," Knapp said. "Our county legislature and legislators may urge the state to make a change, but they better put some sort of a mechanism in place to protect themselves… I don't think it's as easy as what the county legislature wants to write."



RR photo by Patrick Kelly

Director of Real Property Tax Services Chris Knapp speaks to the Sullivan County Legislature

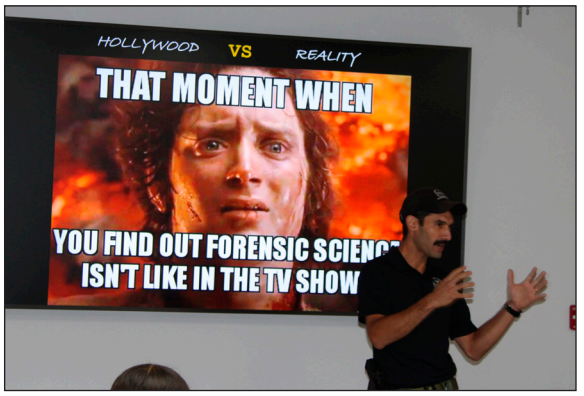
A legislative fix isn't going to help Sage, who is still hoping that someone can help him get this situation sorted in his favor. Sage has even weighed taking legal action against the town and county to rectify his problem.

"I'm screaming for help," Sage said. "Someone has to be more knowledgeable than me and can help me to resolve this issue."

Students learn about drones, dogs and drugs

By SONIA AHMED

SWAN LAKE, NY — A group of 24 students learned about the New York State Police's bomb disposal unit, K9s and forensics during the third annual five-day Emergency Services Youth Academy, held at Sullivan County's Emergency Training Facility.



Forensics specialist Jesse Fadis explaining how his job is not like NCIS.


RR photos by Sonia Ahmed

A drone flying overhead to take a look at the fake bomb during the academy's bomb diffusal demonstration.

This year saw the largest number of students, with five returning from last year's program, Sullivan County Director of Communications Dan Hust told the **River Reporter**. From July 20 to 24, students learned about different types of emergency responders, from firefighters to EMTs to the bomb disposal squad.

On Wednesday, forensics specialist Jesse Fadis addressed the group of 14- to 16-year-olds.

"We're not here for the arrests. We're here for the convictions," he said about his profession. He added that forensics investigators often must testify in court. "As cheesy as it sounds, putting bad guys away is a satisfying feeling."

Fadis added that forensics is not similar to crime shows like NCIS, as working on a case can be time-consuming and gruesome.

"It smells awesome and looks awesome!" he said, sarcastically, while showing the students various bloody crime scenes.

Fadis went on to explain what kind of evidence the forensics department gathers, including fingerprints, bones and autopsy data, which sparked interest from the students.

"What happens to the fingerprints if someone burns their finger?" one student asked.


A student holding test tubes after participating in the drug lab simulation.

Fadis responded that while there may be a scar in the fingerprint where the finger print has been burned, the ridges around the scar would stay the same. Similarly, burning evidence makes the forensics unit work "harder, but not impossible."

The importance of bones in an investigation, Fadis said, is to see specific injuries or identify a victim. Teeth can be connected to dental records to identify a victim.

"We actually boil—sorry to be gross—but we will boil the body, fat and muscle off the bones in crock pots in the morgue sometimes when we want to see certain injuries on the bone," he said, followed by groans from some of the students.

After the forensics presentation, students were invited outside to watch a fake bomb diffusal demonstration and a staged drug investigation.

The five returning students were then told to put on hazmat suits and enter a room filled with test tubes, green powder on the floor and other equipment. State troopers then explained to students how using black light can help uncover hidden drugs.

The hazmat suits were then removed, and bomb disposal specialist Jason Cole taught the teens what his unit does. Cole showed students different parts of the bomb unit suit, explaining that it costs around $5,000 and weighs 80 pounds. Cole added that the bomb squad has a total of 12 members for the entire state of New York (meaning that he has worked with prominent figures such as rapper Travis Scott and President Donald Trump) and that the squad is on call 24/7.

Cole, who has also been working with K9s for 15 years, explained that the dogs have different responses to drugs versus bombs. For bombs, the dog will often sniff it and then sit on it. For drugs, Cole described his dogs as having a more "aggressive alert" as they bite and rip into packets they find.

"We haven't been sued enough to change it," Cole joked about the dog's responses.

Cole then brought out his German Shepherd K9, Maddie, to greet the students. He noted that all NY State police dogs, which number about 100, are named after troopers who died on the field. Cole added that this tradition meant a lot to those troopers' families.

A bomb demonstration was shown to the students, where a fake bomb was placed on the grass across from students and a robot and drone were sent over to take a look at it.

"All this technology we have saves us," Cole said as he showed the students the view from the camera of both the robot and the drone. "These cameras are a million times better than the ones on the drone robot." Cole added that the drones can capture footage from 400 feet away.

Many students said that they had an interest in becoming a first responder in the future, with most saying they were interested in becoming firefighters. Student Alyssa told the **River Reporter** that her dad is a firefighter, and that her favorite part of the emergency camp has been the K9s.

On Monday, students learned about Citizen Preparedness Corp (CPC) bags, saw a tour of the 911 center and heard presentations about the Incident Command System (ICS) and radio communications.

Tuesday was a fire/rescue day during which students learned how to use ropes and make knots, and saw presentations from Anchors and Mechanical Advantage Systems.

Thursday was EMS day. Students learned how to give CPR and saw an ambulance demonstration.

On Friday, students brought it all together with a presentation from Sullivan Fire and an emergency simulation using a LifeNet helicopter. Certificates were also passed out and a group photo was taken.

The Emergency Training Facility can be found at 615 Old White Lake Tpk.

Third time's the charm

Honesdale chooses Llewellyn for vacant council seat

By LIAM MAYO

HONESDALE BOROUGH, PA — On Monday, July 20, the Honesdale Borough Council chose Larissa Ann Llewellyn to fill a vacancy in its ranks, caused by the resignation of former council president Tiffany Rogers.

Llewellyn has a background in the construction industry and serves as the safety director for Pioneer. She stood in the 2025 borough council elections, and had previously applied for a vacant seat earlier that year. She said safety is a top priority for her, particularly from what she has seen walking Honesdale's streets with her children.

"This is my third time standing here, so I think everybody kind of knows about me now," she said.

The council chose Llewellyn in a 5-1 vote, with James Brennan casting the sole 'no' vote.

Five other people applied for the position: James Cordaro, Dene Hayes, Candy Manby, Sean Block and Patrick McKenna.

Reorganization

Following the choosing of Llewellyn, the council voted on its president, vice president and president pro-tem positions. The president chairs borough council meetings; in the absence of the president, the vice president chairs; in the absence of both the president pro-tem chairs. (In the absence of all three, if there's still a quorum, the members present can elect a pro-tem from their ranks.)

The council chose Pat Resti as president, Kim Fisch as vice president and William McAllister as president pro tem.

Resti thanked the council for the vote of confidence. "Hopefully this year we will all work united, continue to do the best we can for the taxpayers of the town and let everybody know that we are together and we do care about the village," he said.

MY VIEW

BY RAMONE E. WILSON

The crucial role of the Human Rights Commission in Sullivan County

The Sullivan County Human Rights Commission (HRC) is committed to promoting fairness, transparency, accountability and equal opportunity for all residents of Sullivan County. As part of that commitment, the commission believes it is important for the public to understand how the Human Rights Commission is structured and how it carries out its work on behalf of the community.

The role of the Human Rights Commissioners

The commissioners serve as the governing body of the Human Rights Commission. Commissioners are appointed to provide oversight, establish priorities, deliberate on matters properly before the commission, and guide the commission's educational and outreach initiatives. Commissioners preside over commission meetings and collectively determine the direction of the commission in accordance with applicable law and county policy.

The role of the executive director

As the executive director of the HRC, I am responsible for the day-to-day administration and operation of the Human Rights Commission, and I report to the county manager.

I oversee the commission's daily operations, coordinate community outreach, develop educational initiatives, manage complaint intake and administrative processes, and implement the policies, initiatives and objectives established by the commission.

To assist the commissioners in fulfilling their responsibilities, I provide regular reports during monthly commission meetings regarding the office's activities, emerging community concerns and general trends. These reports are presented in a manner that protects confidential, personally identifiable and otherwise protected information. They are intended to help the commissioners identify community needs, develop educational programming, plan outreach efforts, and collaborate on initiatives that promote awareness of civil and human rights throughout the county.

While I manage the daily administration of the office, the commissioners collectively govern the Human Rights Commission and its official proceedings.

Commitment to confidentiality

Protecting the integrity of the Human Rights Commission's complaint process remains one of the commission's (and my) highest priorities.

Individuals who contact the HRC should feel confident that their concerns will be handled professionally, respectfully and with appropriate regard for confidentiality. The commission and I are committed to safeguarding complaint information in accordance with applicable federal and state law, county policy and established procedures governing the handling of sensitive information.

There is no substantiated finding that I have improperly disclosed confidential complaint information or knowingly permitted the unauthorized release of confidential materials. The commission and I remain committed to maintaining public trust by ensuring that confidential information is handled responsibly and in accordance with applicable legal and ethical standards.

Commitment to the community

The Sullivan County Human Rights Commission encourages every resident who believes they have experienced unlawful discrimination or who has concerns relating to human rights to continue seeking assistance from the commission without hesitation.

The commission remains committed to providing a fair, impartial, respectful and accessible process for all individuals while fostering collaboration, education, and mutual understanding throughout Sullivan County.

The mission of the Sullivan County Human Rights Commission remains unchanged: to protect the civil and human rights of all residents, promote equal opportunity, educate the community, and strengthen public confidence through fairness, professionalism and integrity.

For additional information about the Sullivan County Human Rights Commission, call the commission office at 845/807-0189 or visit the Sullivan County website at www.sullivanny.gov.

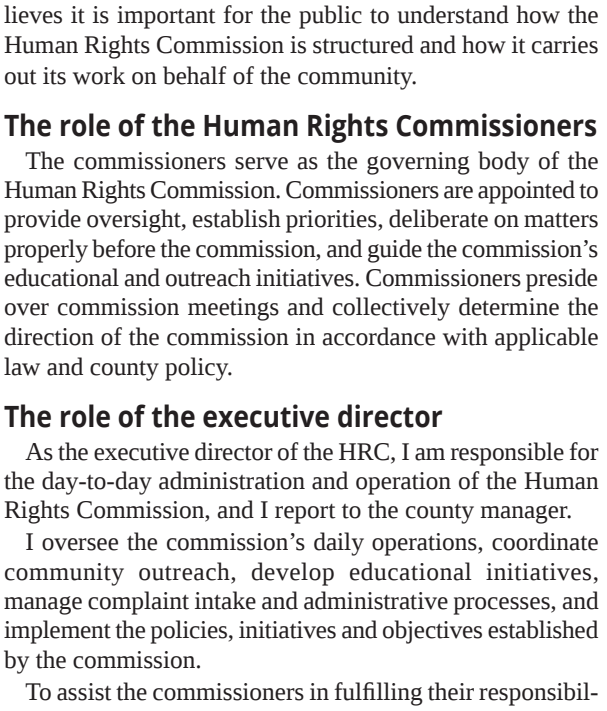
Ramone E. Wilson, MBA, PMP is the executive director of human rights and consumer affairs in Sullivan County, NY.

September 11—25 years on

As the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks approaches, the **River Reporter** is preparing a special section commemorating the day and the effects it has had—for individuals and beyond. The section will print on Thursday, September 10. The deadline is Thursday, August 13.

If you are interested in contributing, email copyeditor@riverreporter.com for more information.

DR. PUNNYBONE *Classic*



The Prequel

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

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

"Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all."
— George Washington

SNOB opines, winningly

Serious congratulations to Leah Casner, the **River Reporter**'s SNOB (Snarky Newcomer Opines, Basely) columnist. She recently received honorable mention in the National Society of Newspaper Columnists' 2026 Columnist Contest for Print Humor.

Writers from 80 publications, including the Seattle Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Wall Street Journal, the Guardian and the Dallas Morning News competed in the various categories.

We are unsure if this means Leah is now too superior to talk to us, or to help convert the next pig head into head cheese, but will let you know.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Contributed photo

Pictured are four kittens from a litter of six, a neutered male and a calico mother that just gave birth to a litter of two.

Neighbors love, help abandoned cats

Our neighborhood in Loch Sheldrake, NY has been working to humanely manage a growing population of abandoned cats through our project, Neighbors Loving Cats. We trap, neuter, spay, vaccinate, foster and place these cats with the help of local rescues and the Town of Fallsburg.

We urgently need foster homes for kittens, adopters for friendly young cats, and barn or farm placements for fixed adult cats who provide excellent natural pest control.

Also, if you have been involved in trapping cats and have firsthand experience, we welcome your assistance and any guidance that you can offer to us.

If you can help, email Larry Schafman at prguy1942@yahoo.com. Your support will directly improve the lives of these animals and benefit our community. Thank you.

Larry Schafman
Neighbors Loving Cats
Loch Sheldrake, NY

The UP-NS merger must prove value to Pennsylvania

When a deal between two companies could impact state economies, employment rates and everyday families, tough questions should be expected. Pennsylvania has a direct stake in the outcome of this deal, which is why the Surface Transportation Board's continued review of the proposed Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern merger is so important.

The Surface Transportation Board has made it clear that it does not have the information it needs to evaluate the merger. Regulators rejected the companies' initial application and paused the review process, citing that the revised application "lacks clarity and detail."

The problem is that while the companies have repeatedly described what they hope the combined railroad will achieve, they have yet to explain how they will achieve it. And when competition and public interest are at stake, a proposal must be judged on whether those promises are grounded in reality.

Norfolk Southern's network serves businesses, industries and communities across the state, which means that shippers and businesses would be impacted by service slowdowns and congestion. Now, railroad unions are warning that consolidation could affect jobs and working conditions.

These important stakeholders deserve answers. The burden rests with Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern to demonstrate how their consolidation would preserve competition, maintain reliable service and benefit the public. We're counting on our leaders to make sure that happens.

George Milakovic
Former township commissioner, Swatara Township, PA
Harrisburg, PA

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

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

MY VIEW

BY REBEKAH CRESHKOFF

Plastic: Less is best

The recent comprehensive piece on micro- and nano-plastics in Green and Simple (**River Reporter**, July 16-22) reminded me of a few data points.

A 2022 study found that reusable plastic bottles released more than 400 chemicals into water stored in the bottles for 24 hours. After going through a dishwasher cycle, over 3,500 chemicals migrated into the water.

In 2024, researchers tested various brands of bottled water and detected an average of 240,000 nano-sized bits of plastic per liter.

Also in 2024, scientists identified over 16,000 different chemicals in plastics, a quarter of which are known to be hazardous.

Many of the chemicals used to make plastics mess with our hormones. Infinitesimally small quantities of some of these compounds—on the order of a single drop in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools—can scramble the body's signaling system.

These endocrine disruptors, as they're called, have been linked through multiple lines of evidence to a host of health problems that are on the rise. These include obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease; infertility and other reproductive disorders; certain cancers; neurodevelopmental disorders, such as ADHD, autism and lower IQ; and impaired immune function, among others.

Legislation like New York's Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA) would get some of the most toxic chemicals out of plastic packaging. But the chemical industry has spent millions lobbying against the bill.

As a result, the speaker of the New York State Assembly, Carl Heastie, has refused to allow the bill to come to the floor for a vote for the past three years. Turns out that his romantic partner works for one of the anti-PRRIA lobbying firms. So does a close friend and campaign advisor.

Someday we may pass legislation that gets toxics out of plastic packaging. In the meantime, you might want to avoid it. When it comes to plastic, less is best.

Rebekah Creshkoff is a member of Beyond Plastics' volunteer speaker bureau. She lives in Callicoon, NY.

MY VIEW

BY THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Prepare for respiratory virus season by getting vaccinated

As Pennsylvania prepares for the annual respiratory virus season, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) is urging residents to protect themselves, their families and their communities by staying up to date on recommended vaccinations against influenza, COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

"Every year we see a seasonal rise in illnesses like influenza, COVID-19, RSV and other respiratory infections," said Andrew Lutzkanin, MD, president of the PAFP. "These viruses spread easily and can lead to serious complications, particularly for young children, older adults, pregnant patients and people living with chronic health conditions."

Vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death. Vaccines also help protect those who are most vulnerable, including infants who are too young to receive certain vaccines, older adults, people with weakened immune systems and individuals with underlying medical conditions.

Vaccination rates have declined in recent years, contributing to the reemergence of diseases once considered largely under control. According to recent Pennsylvania immunization data:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health had confirmed 101 measles cases statewide as of July.

Approximately 92 percent of Pennsylvania kindergarteners received the recommended MMR, polio and DTaP vaccines during the 2024-2025 school year, down from the approximately 95 percent vaccination rate achieved before the COVID-19 pandemic and below the level generally needed for community protection against measles.

Pennsylvania reported 6,097 non-medical vaccine exemptions among kindergarten students during the 2024-2025 school year, with the state's exemption rate exceeding the national median.

Reporting by the Pulitzer Center found that nearly 40,000 Pennsylvania students are either not fully vaccinated for measles or lack the required exemptions. Approximately one in four elementary schools statewide has vaccination coverage below the level needed to prevent measles outbreaks.

"Measles is not simply a childhood rash," Dr. Lutzkanin said. "It is one of the most contagious viruses we know and can cause pneumonia, encephalitis, lifelong disability and in rare cases, death. When vaccination rates fall, preventable diseases spread more easily."

Family physicians serve as the front line of preventive care throughout Pennsylvania, particularly in rural and medically underserved communities where a family physician may be a patient's primary connection to the health care system.

"Family physicians know their patients' medical histories, understand their concerns, and are trained to provide personalized recommendations," Dr. Lutzkanin said. "These conversations happen every day in our exam rooms. Vaccination is preventive care—just like controlling blood pressure, wearing a seatbelt, or receiving recommended cancer screenings. It doesn't eliminate every risk, but it dramatically improves the odds of staying healthy."

The PAFP encourages all Pennsylvanians to speak with their family physician about recommended vaccines before the peak of respiratory virus season.

"I know some Pennsylvanians have questions about vaccines," Dr. Lutzkanin said. "If you're unsure, talk with your family physician. Ask what a vaccine does, how it works, and how it fits into your overall health. Our role is to provide honest, evidence-based information so patients can make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

"Our patients all want the same thing—to stay healthy, avoid the hospital, and protect the people they love," Dr. Lutzkanin concluded. "Vaccination is one of the simplest and most effective ways to accomplish that."

The PA Academy of Family Physicians is a network of MD and DO physicians, residents and students who are passionate about family medicine. With 5,500-plus members, it is the largest community of family physicians in the state. Learn more at https://www.pafp.com/

MY VIEW

BY SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA

Local Special Olympics, Unified Partners team wins silver medals

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athletes Zach Potter and Nicole Henderson and Unified Partners Brad Potter and Karin Lindsley represented Team Pennsylvania in bowling at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games. Zach and Brad are a Unified father and son from Prompton, PA, and Nicole and Karin are a Unified mother and daughter from Dingmans Ferry, PA.

Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team.

Zach started the week off by winning a silver medal in singles bowling on the national stage with a score of 340 in three games. Nicole and Karin also paired up to win a silver medal in Unified female doubles bowling, to bowl a combined score of 618.

In Unified male doubles, Zach and Brad placed fifth, scoring 724 in three games apiece. Nicole placed seventh in singles bowling, rolling a combined 307. Zach, Brand, Nicole and Karin also competed in Unified Team bowling and just missed adding another medal, placing fourth with a combined score of 1,335.

Zach has been involved with Special Olympics for 13 years, participating in skiing, bowling, track and field, and golf. Outside of Special Olympics, he works as a janitor at the Wayne County Courthouse.

Zach's father, Brad, has also been involved with Special Olympics for 13 years as a volunteer and a Unified Partner, allowing them to compete alongside each other. Zach and Brad Potter have also won the gold medal for unified bowling at SOPA's state championships at Indoor Winter Games in 2024. Special Olympics has helped Zach Potter build confidence, friendships, and a sense of belonging.



Contributed photo

Nicole Henderson and Karin Lindsley represented Team Pennsylvania in bowling at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games.



Dan Gaken

Special Olympics athlete Zach Potter with his Unified Partner Brad Potter, both of Prompton, PA, represented Team Pennsylvania in bowling at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games.

Nicole has competed in Special Olympics in track and field, swimming, alpine skiing, bocce and bowling. She became a Global Messenger in 2014 and was in the first Advanced Global Messenger class in 2017, allowing her to share her experience with Special Olympics and help get others involved. She was also presented with the Valor Award at SOPA's Fall Festival at Villanova University. Being a part of Special Olympics has given Nicole the self-confidence to become independent and achieve her goals. Outside of Special Olympics, Nicole has worked at Walmart for 18 years.

Karin has been involved with Special Olympics for 33 years as a coach in bowling and bocce and is also a Global Messenger Mentor for Nicole. Karin loves seeing the way athletes, including her daughter, never give up no matter the obstacle or challenges. Her daughter Nicole has taken on every challenge put in front of her and surpassed it.

The USA Games allowed athletes and Unified Partners like Zach Potter, Brad Potter, Nicole Henderson, and Karin Lindsley to prove their skills on a national stage and in an inclusive environment.

In total, Team Pennsylvania earned 43 medals, including 13 gold, 13 silver and 17 bronze, at the USA Games, held from June 20-26 in Minnesota.

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities—helping athletes build fitness, show courage, experience joy, and connect with their families and communities. Learn more at specialolympicspa.org/.

OBITUARIES

DANIEL EDWARD WESCOTT



Daniel Edward Wescott of Equinunk, PA, died Sunday, July 5 at Wayne Memorial Hospital at the age of 93. He was born in North Adams, MA to Fannie Whitney Wescott and William Wescott. Dan's mother passed away when he was 14 years of age, after which he was raised by his maternal aunt, Harriett Whitney.

He was an electronics engineer with the Perkin Elmer Corporation in Norwalk, CT, where he worked for several decades on the Hubble Space Telescope and its predecessor, Stratoscope II. He was also a pilot for Tiburzi Airlines in Danbury, CT during that period. Dan was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps and served two tours of duty in the Korean War in the early 1950s. When he returned from Korea, he and his brother, Hank Wescott, opened a Harley-Davidson motorcycle dealership in Chicopee, MA.

He married Linda Girotti of Agawam, MA in September, 1960. They moved to Danbury, where they raised their three sons, Steven, Kenneth and Lawrence. They would have celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in September.

Dan is survived by his wife Linda, his son Steven and daughter-in-law Karen, and their sons Raymond (Kate) and Colin (Tasia) and their three sons. Dan's son Larry resides in Torrington, CT and is the father of four: Xavier, Logan, Aurora and Remington. Dan was predeceased by his son Kenneth.

The family were members of St. Joseph Church in Rileyville, PA, and he was a member of the Melha Shrine, the Joel Hill Sawmill's "Brotherhood of the Mill," and the Pine Mill Community Hall, and assisted as needed at the Manchester Community Library.

Dan and Linda were avid square dancers for many years. Their club danced yearly at Cherry Ridge Campground, where they became acquainted with Honesdale, PA and made the decision to retire to this area in later years.

Arrangements are entrusted to Hessling Murray Funeral Home. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, August 8 at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church, 2270 Hancock Hwy., Rileyville, PA. Interment will be in St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield, MA. Contributions in Dan's memory can be sent to Melha Shriners, 89 Park St., Chicopee, MA 01013 or to the charity of one's choice.



DEATH NOTICES

Pauline Sophie Bociarski-Naring

Pauline Sophie Bociarski-Naring, 93, passed away July 16, 2026. Pauline was born April 19, 1933 in Cold Springs. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated July 24 at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Honesdale, PA. Interment followed in St. John's Cemetery in Honesdale.

Margaret Martha Menotti Brion

Margaret Martha Menotti Brion, 95, of Hawley, PA, passed away July 18, 2026 at Wayne Woodlands Manor in Waymart, PA. Margaret was born October 12, 1930 in Hawley. Margaret was buried July 21 at Green Gates Cemetery in Hawley. A service to celebrate her life will be held Saturday, August 22 at 10 a.m. in Hamlin Assembly of God Church, 613 Eastern Twp., in Lake Ariel, PA.

Guy Robert Decker

Guy Robert Decker, 76, of Poinciana, FL and formerly of Tyler Hill, PA, passed away July 6, 2026. Guy was born March 17, 1950 in Callicoon, NY. A celebration of life will be held Friday, July 31 at 1 p.m. in Ott-Laughlin Funeral Home, 2198 K-Ville Ave. in Auburndale, FL.

George Harold Hornig Jr.

George Harold Hornig Jr., 72, of Shohola, PA passed away peacefully at home Thursday, July 23, 2026. George was born on November 22, 1953 in Newark, NJ. A service was held July 28 at Stroyan Funeral Home in Milford, PA.

Mark Saul Kutsher

Mark Saul Kutsher, 78, of Lake Worth Beach, FL and formerly of Monticello, NY, passed away July 11, 2026. Mark was born October 21, 1947 in Monticello, NY. A service for Mark was held July 13 in Palm Beach, FL.

Louis James LiCausi

Louis James LiCausi, 92, of Hawley, PA, passed away July 18, 2026 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, PA. Louis was born May 2, 1934 in Brooklyn, NY. Visitation will be held Friday, July 31 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Teeters' East Chapel, 505 Church St. in Hawley. A funeral service will follow at 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Natalie 'Babcia' Paszek

Natalie "Babcia" Paszek, 97, of Jeffersonville, NY, passed away July 16, 2026.

Reuben Frederick Rausch

Reuben Frederick Rausch, 21, formerly of Glen Spey, NY, passed away July 11, 2026. Services were held July 27 at West Chapel of Bennett Funeral Home in Glen Allen, VA. Interment followed in Mt. Vernon Memorial Park with military honors.

Michael 'Mike' 'Spider' Richardson

Michael "Mike" "Spider" Richardson, 74, passed away July 16, 2026. Michael was born May 25, 1952. A memorial service took place July 25 at Colonial-Ramsay Funeral Home in Kauneonga Lake, NY.

Denise R. Smestad

Denise R. Smestad, 55, of Long Eddy, NY, passed away July 22, 2026 at home. Denise was born August 14, 1970 in Honesdale, PA. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, August 1 at 1 p.m. at the Stone Arch Bridge Historical Park, 25 Stone Arch Road in Kenoza Lake, NY.

Ruth Ann Swingle

Ruth Ann Swingle, 79, passed away July 17, 2026 at Ellen Memorial Health Care Center in Honesdale, PA. Ruth was born April 14, 1947. There will be no services as of now, but there will be a church service at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in the future.

Yarnslingers book launches

NARROWSBURG, NY — "This Happened, Yarnslingers Book One," a new anthology compiled and edited by Greg Triggs, brings together memoir-based true stories from 25 writers connected through the Yarnslingers, the long-running Catskills storytelling show.

A book launch, which is also a celebration of Yarnslingers' 15th anniversary, will be held on Sunday, August 2 at 12:30 p.m. at the Blue Fox, 5670 Rte. 97.

Founded in 2011 by Ramona Jan, Yarnslingers has become a live storytelling institution throughout upstate New York and Pennsylvania. Each show features personal stories inspired by a common theme and is performed live. Every story in "This Happened" was originally presented on the Yarnslingers stage.

"The collection captures moments of humor, heartbreak, resilience, family, identity, survival, transformation and unexpected connection," Triggs said. "Together, the stories create a portrait of life in all its complexity—intimate, honest and human."

"These stories remind us that ordinary people live extraordinary lives," Triggs continued. "For 15 years, Yarnslingers has given those stories a stage. Now we're giving them a permanent home."

Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

The event, held in part thanks to a grant for the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, will feature five live readings from the book. Contributors will attend and sign books. Copies of "This Happened, Yarnslingers Book One" will be available for sale at $25 per copy. The book features a cover design by Jorge Colombo and is published by Redhawk Publications.

The book is available at tinyurl.com/YarnslingersBookOne.

Food safety for volunteers

ONLINE — Volunteers who help prepare and serve food for their nonprofit organization are encouraged to attend a webinar on food safety offered by Penn State Extension from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4. The registration deadline is Monday, August 3.

"Cooking for Crowds: A Volunteer's Guide to Safe Food Handling" is a condensed, three-hour food safety course developed by Penn State Extension and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The goals of the webinar are to address food safety issues faced by volunteer-based organizations and to help participants understand the risks involved with preparing large volumes of food and the critical food safety practices that they need to follow to ensure a safe event.

Even if an organization has been doing this for years, it is important that volunteers are up to date and knowledgeable about rules and regulations governing food safety, according to Penn State Extension food safety specialists.

Participants will learn safe food handling practices and the causes of foodborne illness. Course topics will include:

- Good personal hygiene for all volunteers involved in food preparation.
- Time and temperature controls that are needed to keep food out of the temperature danger zone.
- Ways to prevent cross-contamination.
- Cleaning and sanitizing within the operation.
- Planning a successful food event.

Penn State extension educators and faculty serve as instructors and are certified by the National Restaurant Association. All have received training on the most current food safety research.

The cost to register is $10. Participants can receive a certificate of completion after attending the program.

For more information and to register, visit www.extension.psu.edu/cooking-for-crowds-webinar or call 877/345-0691.

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It's a drag

But this is a good thing. An invention by the Town of Callicoon highway department has made a difference—and saved the town money too.

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

TOWN OF CALLICOON, NY — The Town of Callicoon Highway Department has taken second place in the Build a Better Mousetrap competition, held by the New York State LTAP Center—Cornell Local Roads Program (Local Roads Program).

The prize-winning idea is for its Tire Shoulder Spreader, which recycled used tires into a contraption that "improved overall efficiency and reduced the need for manual labor during shoulder spreading operations," said Amanda Caughey, program manager for the Local Roads Program.

LTAP stands for Local Technical Assistance Program, and the department "provides training, technical assistance and information to municipal agencies responsible for the maintenance, construction and management of local highways and bridges" in the state, according to the program's website.

Shoulder spreaders come into play

Picture a paved road. (Example at right.) Hold that thought.

Ryan Bose, the town's highway superintendent, explained how the shoulder spreader worked.

"With the help of the guys that work here, we were able to construct this spreader [aka a drag box]." Other drag boxes are available—such as self-propelled shouldering machines—but they're "pricey to buy or rent. What we built was done for around $100."

"Our trucks allow us to dump crusher run (the stone product) out of a side chute," Bose said. "The majority of the time we do this is after we repave a road, but sometimes it is used after a rainstorm washes material away from the shoulder of the road as well."

When the trucks offload the rocks, stone can leak onto the road, so you need a sweeper to "rake and shovel the material as it was discharged from the side chutes of the combo body," Caughey said. "They had to walk alongside the truck to spread and level it evenly as it was placed."

In the Town of Callicoon, workers (usually two, Bose said) would be assigned to rake out and level the crusher run by hand.

"Since a broom was already on site for cleanup work, [to make the tire drag] they built on that setup by adding a fabricated arm and the tire drag attachment to the equipment," Caughey said.

And now, this "can be done by the self-propelled sweeper," Bose said.

"The tire drag helped smooth and distribute the material evenly along the shoulder," Caughey added, "while the broom was still available for final cleanup if needed."

"We currently just finished paving and have been using [the tire drag] this week and will be using it again next week," Bose said.

Other benefits?

"It is making our roads safer due to the even spread of crushed stone at the edge of the pavement," added Thomas Bose, the town supervisor. It also helps to prevent the wheels of a car or truck from dropping off the edge of the road, and that edge can run four to six inches deep, he added.

"It is hard to estimate the savings in actual dollars," continued the town supervisor. "However, it is significant, and it does allow the employees to do other jobs instead of spreading a lot of material manually. It is also keeping some of them off the road, which is a very dangerous part of their job."



Photo by Brandon Frie on Unsplash

Sample paved road, in case your imagination is as bad as mine.

Can you build a better mousetrap?

Learn more about the Build a Better Mousetrap Competition at nysltap.org/nysltap-local-roads/technical-assistance/build-better-mousetrap. For more information, contact the Cornell Local Roads Program at 607/255-5833 or clrp@cornell.edu.



Screenshot

Tire + angle iron + chain = a better mousetrap.

Nominate someone for the River Valley Awards

BEACH LAKE, PA — The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) will accept public nominations through Wednesday, August 5 for its River Valley Awards ceremony, coming up on Sunday, September 13 at Central House Family Resort.

"These awards are intended to honor the contributions that individuals, organizations, communities, and government agencies have made to enhancing the quality of life or protecting the resources in the Upper Delaware River region," said UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie. "We would like the entire river community to be involved in the nomination process."

A fillable nomination form and directory of past award recipients are available at www.upperdelawarecouncil.org, though proposals can take any written form. Supporting documentation and full contact information for nominees would be greatly appreciated, the UDC said.

Submit nominations to UDC, PO Box 192, 211 Bridge St., Narrowsburg, NY 12764, email laurie@upperdelawarecouncil.org, or call 845/252-3022 with inquiries.

Award categories

Distinguished Service Award: Given to an individual who has acted with distinction in support of the goals and objectives of the River Management Plan for the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River or for "lifetime achievement" in the river valley. This is the UDC's highest honor.

Robin M. Daniels Memorial Lifesaving Award: Given to individual(s) who, through an act of selfless heroism, saved the life of a person or persons in imminent peril involving the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

Community Service Award: Given to an individual or group that benefits their river valley communities in meaningful ways.

Cultural Achievement Award: Given to the organization or individual whose work promoted, enhanced, or interpreted the cultural resources of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Recreation Achievement Award: Given to an organization, individual or business that made an outstanding effort to facilitate and provide education on recreational opportunities, water safety, and conservation principles.



Photo by Acroterion on Wikimedia Commons

The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) will accept public nominations through Wednesday, August 5 for its River Valley Awards ceremony, coming up on Sunday, September 13 at Central House Family Resort.

Outstanding Community Achievement Award: Given to a municipality to recognize significant action taken to protect the river corridor and retain its special character.

Partnership Award: Given to multiple entities instituting new programs or policies, or engaging in cooperative ventures, in support of the River Management Plan's goals.

Volunteer Award: Given to an individual or organization who contributed significant time and energy in service of the Upper Delaware River Valley on a volunteer basis.

Award(s) of Recognition: Given to those who have made substantial efforts in the past year to enhance the Upper Delaware's quality of life and assets.

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Irvelyne Camille, MD

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

Potter turns clay into tableware

By SANDRA H. SHICHTMAN

BETHEL, NY — To fulfill the requirements for her bachelor's degree in art history at Allegheny College in northwestern Pennsylvania, Sara Patterson took a clay class.

"I was in love with it right from the start," she recalled. She was six months from graduation then, too late to change her major.

But the art history degree brought her to New York City, where she began taking classes at Earthworks Pottery. "I became a studio assistant there, then a studio manager and a teacher, and eventually I was able to buy it. I owned it for 11 or 12 years." She moved to Sullivan County with her husband when he retired from his job three years ago and opened Crooked Willow Pottery on Route 17B.

Patterson makes tableware, including bowls, mugs, plates and covered casserole dishes. "I really like making dishes, useful things that people will have in the kitchen to eat breakfast and lunch out of," she said.

She begins with the clay, which she buys ready-to-use from a supplier. She prepares it through a step called wedging. "It looks like kneading dough," she explained.

When the clay is ready to be put on the potter's wheel, she weighs the clay. "I make four different sizes of mugs. I know the weight of each of those sizes." So, if she needs to make another of any one size, she'll know exactly how much clay to use.

Patterson puts the clay on the wheel and works it until it's leather-hard. "In England they call it cheddar hard, and if you can imagine cutting cheddar cheese, it's like that, firm but still soft." If she's making mugs, she said, that's when she shapes and attaches the handle. If she's making bowls, she will trim away excess clay at this point.



"I really like making dishes, useful things that people will have in the kitchen to eat breakfast and lunch out of," said Sara Patterson from Crooked Willow Pottery in Bethel, NY.



RR photos by Sandra H. Shichtman

Sara Patterson makes tableware, including bowls, mugs, plates and covered casserole dishes, at Crooked Willow Pottery on Route 17B in Bethel, NY.

"Whenever I make something," she said, "I make multiples. I was thinking that if one person wanted it, maybe other people would also be interested."

The dishes are left to dry completely, then put into the kiln for the first firing, called the bisque firing, where the temperature reaches 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. "I can't change the shape after the bisque firing," Patterson added.

The next step is to glaze the dishes, which is basically done using silica and colors that come from metallic oxides like copper carbonate, cobalt carbonate or iron oxide. "After I glaze them, they go back into the kiln to the final temperature of about 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit," she said. "That makes them very hard."



Crooked Willow Pottery in Bethel, NY

Patterson will make dishes upon request, as she did with a small covered dish that a customer requested. "Whenever I make something," she said, "I make multiples. I was thinking that if one person wanted it, maybe other people would also be interested." This led her to make covered casserole dishes.

She will also make various pottery items if she feels she doesn't have enough inventory to fill the shelves of her gallery or if she's going to be doing a market. Currently, she sells her pottery locally at the farmers' market in Kauneonga Lake once a month in the summertime, and indoors at the former Duggan School once a month in spring and fall.

Patterson's love for teaching continued even after her move to Sullivan County. "I have a setup in the garage," she said; it has four electrically powered pottery wheels to accommodate up to four students at one time. "Right now, I'm only doing single classes of approximately two hours." She takes her students through all the steps, beginning with wedging their clay, using the wheel and seeing their pottery go into the kiln.

At the end, they have a piece of pottery that they've created. It takes the pottery a few weeks to harden completely before the finished piece can be picked up by students who live locally. For those living further away, Patterson will send it to them in the mail.

She feels that the easiest things to make are mugs and soup bowls. Plates are a little more challenging because they're more prone to warping while they're being made. "Mugs and bowls are much more forgiving." The most difficult to make are probably tall pitchers and vases because as the wheel spins, it is difficult to keep the clay from becoming wider.

Anyone interested in visiting the Crooked Willow Potttery and its gallery, or in taking a pottery lesson can learn more at www.crookedwillowpottery.com, call Patterson at 845/701-7978 or email her at sarapots@me.com. Located at 2016 Rte. 17B in Bethel, the pottery studio is open most Saturdays and Sundays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Lenape carry treaty down Delaware

REGION — On August 24, 2002, a historic event took place at the Pennsbury Manor, the former estate of William Penn in Morrisville, PA. It marked a new beginning of friendship between the Lenape people of Pennsylvania and the people who neighbor the Delaware River, the Lenape Nation wrote recently in a news release.

The Treaty of Renewed Friendship was signed by the Lenape and a number of organizations and individuals who wished to actively support Lenape culture and to act as good stewards of their sacred Delaware River and homelands, the release continued.

To commemorate and promulgate the treaty, the signing was coupled with a three-week canoe journey, which began at the top of the Delaware River in Hancock, NY and culminated in Cape May, NJ.

Members of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania welcomed supporters to paddle along with them, and they stopped along the river to hold signings of the treaty and offer programs about Lenape culture and presence.

Treaty-signers could offer presentations on stewarding the environment and promoting awareness of Lenape culture.

It was agreed that the re-signing of the treaty, as well as the river journey, would take place every four years; the journey and re-signing continued in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022.

In fact, during the 2022 journey—which marked the 20-year anniversary of the journey and treaty—over 130 organizations, including environmental groups, colleges and universities, mayors, faith-based organizations and historical societies, as well as over 300 individuals, signed the Treaty of Renewed Friendship, the Lenape wrote.

"These wonderful relationships have resulted in continuous collaborations to help combat the erasure of the Lenape People in their homelands and protect the lands, wildlife and waterways of the Lenapehokink," the tribe continued.

The 2026 journey will take place in August. "All are welcome to join us on the river, and all committed individuals and organizations are invited to sign the Treaty of Renewed Friendship," the release continued.

Stay updated at www.lenape-nation.org/riverjourneytreaty.



Alexis Maria

Mak and Lawlor at DVOC

LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Veronica Mak and Jonathan Lawlor will perform "Humanity's Nature: An Afternoon of Song," in Huntington Hall at the Delaware Valley Opera Center at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 2.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

The classical recital, sung by soprano Mak and baritone Lawlor, will be accompanied by Christopher Zander. It will feature works by J.S. Bach, Gustav Mahler, Charles Ives, Kurt Weill and Gaetano Donizetti.

Tickets can be purchased before the recital for $20 at myrivertickets.com/modal_checkout/select_tickets; the tickets will cost $25 at the door.

The Delaware Valley Opera Center is located at 6692 Rte. 52.

Learn more, including about upcoming events, at myrivertickets.com.

Welcome to the '60s with 'Hairspray'

FORESTBURGH, NY — The musical "Hairspray" opened at the Forestburgh Playhouse on Tuesday, July 28 and runs through August 19. Performances take place Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

The story

It's 1962, and Tracy Turnblad just wants to dance her way onto the local TV show—but when her newfound fame inspires her to fight for inclusion and equality, she shows that one girl really can change the world.

Featuring the beloved hits "Good Morning, Baltimore," "Welcome to the '60s" and "You Can't Stop the Beat," the Tony Award–winning musical "is a joyful celebration of love, acceptance and standing up for what's right," the playhouse wrote.

The Forestburgh Playhouse production is sponsored by Jeffrey and Nicole Gerson, "whose continued support helps bring bold and inspiring stories to life on stage." The entire 80th anniversary season is made possible by sponsorship from the Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association and Silent Maid.

The playhouse thanked Van Etten Energy Systems, because "the playhouse stays powered up and shining bright all season long."

The musical is directed and choreographed by Lauren Haughton Gillis, with additional choreography by playhouse alum Renell Taylor, and with musical direction by Cooper Sheehy.

"'Hairspray' is more than a crowd-pleasing musical; it's a joyful celebration of courage, inclusion and the power of believing that one voice can make a difference," said producer Franklin Trapp. "With its unforgettable score, infectious energy and timeless message, we're thrilled to bring this beloved production to our audiences and invite everyone to dance, laugh, and be inspired together."

The Forestburgh Playhouse is located at 39 Forestburgh Road.

Tickets are on sale now. For tickets and more information, visit www.fbplayhouse.org or call 845/794-1194.

National Night Out '26 brings communities together

FOREST CITY, PA — Residents of Forest City, Browndale, Vandling, Richmondale and surrounding communities are invited to celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Kennedy Park on Dundaff Street. The annual event strengthens relationships between law enforcement, first responders, and the communities they serve, organizers said.

Attendees can meet local police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel and other first responders. On hand will be emergency vehicle and equipment displays, family-friendly games, food, activities for all ages and community organizations.

National Night Out promotes crime prevention; neighborhood partnerships; and safer, stronger communities.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free community event, the organizers said.

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A father. A daughter. Two lifetimes. One stage.

HURLEYVILLE, NY — Most parents spend years watching their children find their own path.

Few ever imagine they will one day stand beside them on a stage.

When psychologist Dr. Howard Mase was raising his daughter, Marla, in Brooklyn, he never dreamed that decades later they would be touring together in a theatrical production inspired by their own lives.

Today, at 90 years old, Howard performs alongside his daughter in "Being Somebody," a heartfelt evening of storytelling and music coming to the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center on Thursday, August 6.

The production is the culmination of two creative journeys that unfolded on very different timelines.

Howard spent his professional life as a psychologist and executive coach while quietly writing stories drawn from his childhood growing up in Brooklyn during the post-war glow of the 1940s and '50s. For more than 35 years, those stories remained tucked away in a drawer.

Marla's creative journey took a very different path.

She didn't launch her music career until her forties. Since then, she has released ten albums, built an international following, and established herself as a respected recording artist, songwriter, performer, and writer known for her fearless honesty and distinctive voice.

Neither imagined their creative paths would eventually converge. Then, after the death of Marla's mother—Howard's beloved wife of 66 years—they found themselves facing an unexpected new chapter.

Award-winning filmmaker and transformative acting coach Elizabeth Browning attended the funeral, where she first heard some of Howard's writing. She immediately recognized its theatrical potential.

"This is a show," she said.

Those four words set everything in motion.

At the age of 87, Howard stepped onto a theatrical stage for the very first time. Marla joined him, weaving her original songs and stories into his memories of growing up as a skinny Jewish kid in Brooklyn during the 1940s and '50s. Together, they created a moving conversation between two generations—one that celebrates family, resilience, dreams, and the enduring bond between parent and child.

What emerged is something audiences often describe as funny, inspiring, and surprisingly personal.

Some see reflections of their own parents. Others remember the simple yet life-changing moments from their own lives. Many leave inspired by the reminder that it is never too late—not only to pursue a dream, but to rediscover the relationships that have quietly shaped who we are.

"What touched me most wasn't simply Howard's courage at 90," Browning says. "It was watching a father and daughter create something beautiful together after a lifetime of living separate stories. Their journey reminds us that some of life's most meaningful chapters begin when we least expect them."



Contributed photo

"Being Somebody" explores a real-life father-daughter relationship through storytelling and music.

Since its premiere, "Being Somebody" has received standing ovations from audiences across New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Florida, touching people of all ages with its warmth, humor, music, and honesty.

"Being Somebody" will be presented for one night only on Thursday, August 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, 219 Main St..

Whether audiences come for the music, the storytelling, or simply to witness a remarkable father and daughter sharing the stage, they are likely to leave reminded that every life holds stories worth telling—and that love, creativity and new beginnings have no expiration date.

—Contributed story

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Twelve jurors, one actor, seven Emmys

MARGARETVILLE, NY — William Electric Black's courtroom thriller, "12 Angry Electrics," is coming to the Catskills at the Open Eye Theater on Saturday, August 1 at 7 p.m.

The production is conceived, written, directed and performed entirely by seven-time Emmy Award winner and NYU Tisch professor William Electric Black.

Returning to the Open Eye stage following his solo production of "Electric's West Side Story" (where he singlehandedly brought every single character to life, the Open Eye wrote), Black now brings all 12 conflicting jurors to life by himself.

"Because I have to be 12 different people, they have to be completely distinct, so you see the different characters," Black said. "It's about finding those opportunities for the conflict to come across, and seeing if the audience can truly discern the different people wrestling over the case."

The theater's seating configuration is being custom-tailored for this production, "placing the audience directly at the center of the action," Open Eye wrote.

"It actually will be like you're in court. When you're there watching a case or you're part of a jury, you're close to the judge, close to the prosecution, close to the defense. The witnesses come down there and parade in front of you... I want people to come to the theater and be part of it, as opposed to just watching. I want you to experience it," Black said.



Image from theopeneyetheater.org

William Electric Black will perform "12 Angry Electrics" at the Open Eye Theater in Margaretville, NY on August 1.

Audiences are invited to stay after the performance for a community talkback. The post-show dialogue allows people to share personal jury experiences, ask questions "and dive deeper into the play's urgent themes with the creator."

The program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Kathy Hochul

and the New York State Legislature.

The theater is located at 960 Main St.

Learn more at www.theopeneyetheater.org/.

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SETTLING THE UPPER DELAWARE

One dam story after another

By LIAM MAYO

There's water, water everywhere in the Upper Delaware—and in modern times, it's the desire to control it that has shaped its flow, creating lakes and slowing rivers.

Whether to create hydroelectric power or to ensure river safety, the dams of the Upper Delaware have played a crucial role in shaping the landscape of the region. While they've created lakes and reservoirs for the region's living residents to explore, the homes and the land that gets submerged beneath their waters have shaped the path of how and where they get built.

Prompton and Jadwin Dams

The first half of the 20th century saw several floods occur along the Lackawaxen River. Flooding took place in 1936, 1942 and 1955. The 1942 flood prooved particularly devastating, with 24 dead in Wayne County, PA, and eight to nine hundred homes destroyed and all of Honesdale's bridges swept away.

These disasters inspired the construction of two reservoirs and dams along the Lackawaxen River: the Prompton and the Jadwin. The Jadwin was named for General Edgar Jadwin, who grew up in Honesdale before graduating from West Point in 1890. Jadwin served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, fighting in the Spanish-American War, helping to construct the ports of Los Angeles and Galveston as well as the Panama Canal, and serving, ultimately, as Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers.



Photo contributed by the Wayne County Historical Society

This photo shows some of the destruction wrought in Honesdale by the flooding of 1942.

Construction of the Jadwin Dam concluded in 1959; the Prompton Dam was completed the following year. As part of the process for creating the reservoirs, the Army Corps of Engineers had to flood portions of Wayne County, subsuming existing remnants of civilization. Included in the land that was to be flooded were two cemeteries: the East Dyberry Cemetery and the Nelson Private Cemetery, containing roughly 700 souls between them. These cemeteries were relocated by the corps prior to the construction of the reservoirs.

Wallenpaupack Hydroelectric Dam

Readers of last week's Upper Delaware Magazine may remember this one! The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company identified the area now known as Lake Wallenpaupack in PA as a prime location for a hydroelectric dam in the early 1920s. The dam was completed in 1926, making this the 100th anniversary of the lake's construction.

People did formerly live in the valley that got submerged to form the lake. While the dam's builders purchased the land needed for the lake's construction from its original owners, signs remain that underneath its waters still lie bits of houses and roads, signs of the settlement that once was.

Lake Jeff Dam

Lake Jefferson, near the village of Jeffersonville, NY, is another of the region's lakes created for hydroelectricity. However, unlike Lake Wallenpaupack's dam, Lake Jeff's has seen better and worse days in its just under one-hundred-year history.

The lake and the dam were originally constructed in the 1920s, with the intent being to use the dam for hydroelectricity. However, those original plans got discarded, and the lake ultimately went to serve mostly visitors at the Lake Jeffersonville Hotel.

Later, Malcolm Brown and Anne Larsen took over the site with the intent to restore power generation capabilities to the dam. They got it back working in 1986, with the generating facility having a potential capacity of 70 kilowatts. Shortly thereafter, that power went to serve the newly constituted WJFF Radio Catskill, the radio station created through the efforts of the community, spearheaded by Brown and Larsen.

The Hackledam Project

Not every dam story in the Upper Delaware's history involves one that gets built. Some of them never existed at all, living on only through the historic after-effects of their planning.

In the early 1900s, plans emerged for a dam to be constructed at Bridgeville, NY. The dam would have flooded 12 miles of the valley between Hackledam and Fallsburg along the Neversink River. The dam would have fed a tunnel running through the Shawangunk Mountains to Cuddleback, where the water would be used for hydropower.

Plans for the project progressed in fits and starts throughout the 1910s and into the 1920s. However, repeated speedbumps in development—including the U.S. entrance into World War One, which diverted funding away from the project—meant that the dam never ended up being built.

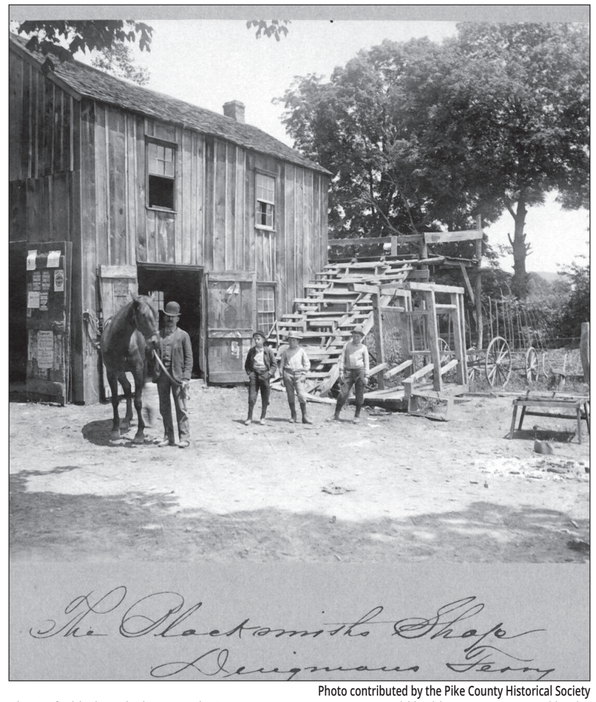


Photo contributed by the Pike County Historical Society

Photo of a blacksmith shop, now lost, in Dingmans Ferry, PA. Many old buildings were removed by the federal government during the Tocks Island Dam controversy.

Tocks Island Dam

While Tocks Island exists on the Middle Delaware, not the Upper Delaware, no discussion of dams of importance to the region would be complete without reference to the Tocks Island Dam project.

After a pair of hurricanes brought flooding to the Delaware River region in 1955, the federal government started looking at the idea of damming the main stem of the Delaware River, for the safety of the river's residents.

The Tocks Island Dam, considered as part of this overall project, would have created a reservoir 40 miles long and one mile wide. That reservoir would have existed on already settled land; the process of planning to create it involved the displacement of some 600 families, who saw their homes razed.

Public outcry against the project, charged by the federal government's use of eminent domain, ultimately succeeded in killing the project. To date, the Delaware River remains the longest free-flowing river east of the Mississippi, with no dams along its main stem.



RR file photo by Liam Mayo

Up next...

Next week, we're taking a look at a particularly tense time in the Upper Delaware's history, one that played a major hand in shaping what the river looks like today...

Local 250 trivia

1. What year was Radio Catskill founded, with its hydro-electric powered station?
A) 1867
B) 1990
C) 2003
D) 2010

2. The Tocks Island Dam project ultimately got voted down by the Delaware River Basin Commission; when did this vote take place?
A) 1973
B) 1975
C) 1978
D) 2004

3. The Prompton Dam is located in Prompton Borough. Where (according to a historic marker in the borough) does the name 'Prompton' come from?
A) From Joseph Prompton, who founded the borough in 1828.
B) From the promptness expected of natives in paying bills.
C) From Jessie Prompton, an early Wayne County settler.
D) From the promise anticipated from tilling the land in the borough.

4. This one's a bit of a memory quiz from last week's Upper Delaware Magazine: How many acres is Lake Wallenpaupack, roughly? (Hint: its size makes it the third largest lake in Pennsylvania.)
A) 3,000 acres
B) 6,000 acres
C) 9,000 acres
D) 369,000 acres

5. While the Hackledam project never came to be, another nearby dam was constructed to create the Neversink Reservoir, sinking the original town of Neversink beneath its waters. When did that reservoir get placed into service?
A) 1949
B) 1954
C) 1962
D) 2004

Last week's answers 1, C. 2, B. 3, C. 4, C. 5, A.

Turn in your answers by email to liam@riverreporter.com. The submission window lasts from the Thursday the paper comes out until the following Thursday.
One winner each week will get their choice of a free 1x2 ad or a free piece of **River Reporter** merch. At the end of the summer, one overall winner will get a special mystery prize!

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Big Sky Productions, Sullivan County Museum present 'Closets'

HURLEYVILLE, NY — On Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2 at 2 p.m., Big Sky Productions, a theatre company based in Grahamsville, will present a dramatic reading of the new play "Closets" at the Sullivan County Museum. The play was written by Woodbourne playwright Bill Duncan.

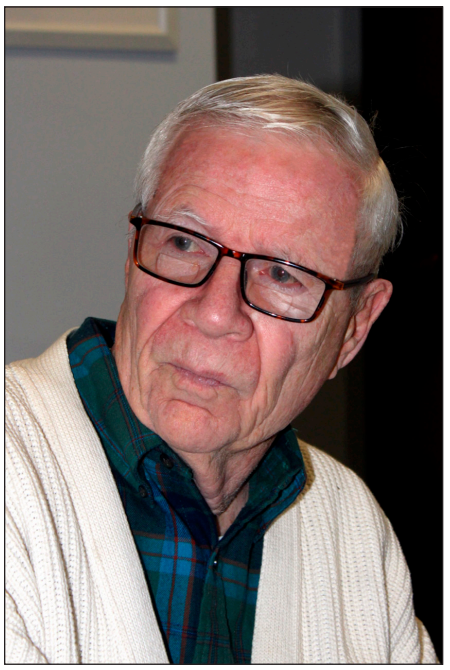
Based on a true story, "Closets" introduces a typical working-class family struggling to make ends meet in Erie, PA. Life gets more complex, however, as intimate details of their relationships become painfully evident, Big Sky wrote. "The pressures among them increase as both parents and children struggle with surprises their upbringings never prepared them for. Their struggles are real and their strengths as well."

"Closets" is for mature audiences due to language and adult situations.

The play is directed by Big Sky Productions Artistic Director Carol Montana and features a cast of nine: Laure Valentine, Ellen Pavloff, David Dann, Albee Bockman, Jason Dole, Paul Ciliberto, Pam LeConey, Lourdesa Hunt and Bob Bliefernich.

Bill Duncan has had plays produced in various venues in upstate NY (Rome, Auburn, Aurora, Goshen, Monticello, Rhinebeck); in NYC and in Pennsylvania. His work has received awards from TANYS (Theatre Association of New York State). His play TRUST was a finalist in a Yale University Drama Competition and won the Gloria Peter Playwright Competition (Aurora).

Carol Montana has a master's degree in dramatic form and structure from the University of Connecticut and has directed over 60 plays for her theatre company Big Sky Productions, as well as for other area theatrical companies and venues.



Contributed photo

Bill Duncan wrote "Closets," which will be performed at the Sullivan County Museum.

Tickets for "Closets" will be available at the door. Admission costs $12 and includes dessert.

The Sullivan County Museum is located at 265 Main St. For additional information, call the Sullivan County Museum at 845/434-8044 or Big Sky Productions at 845/985-3175.

Back to basics: 'Healthy Eating on a Budget'

HONESDALE, PA — SEEDS (Sustainable Energy Education and Development Support) of NEPA is partnering with Wayne Memorial Hospital to present a free community program, "Healthy Eating on a Budget," on Wednesday, August 5, at the Stourbridge Tech Hub at 646 Park St. at 6 p.m.



The event will offer practical strategies for meal planning, reducing food waste and stretching grocery dollars—just in time for the back-to-school season, SEEDS said.

"With food prices continuing to rise, many families are seeking ways to maintain healthy eating habits without overspending. Wayne Memorial Hospital's nutrition team will deliver an engaging presentation featuring budget-friendly meal planning tips, grocery shopping resources and food waste reduction strategies."

According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap and UnitedForAlice's 2024 Household Survival Budget, the average cost of a meal in Wayne County is about $3.70, slightly below the national average. Yet nearly 14 percent of residents—more than 7,000 people—struggle with food insecurity, meaning they lack consistent access to nutritious meals, SEEDS said. For a family of four, the estimated monthly food budget needed to meet basic nutritional needs is roughly $1,500, or $18,000 per year. "Families are feeling the pinch at the grocery store," said SEEDS Development Director Michele Long. "This program helps parents make smart, sustainable choices that support both their health and their wallets."

"Healthy eating and sustainability go hand in hand. Reducing food waste conserves resources, lowers household expenses, and minimizes environmental impact. By learning how to plan meals efficiently and shop mindfully, families can enjoy nutritious meals while contributing to a more sustainable community."

SEEDS is a local nonprofit serving Pike, Wayne, Monroe and Lackawanna counties. It strives "to maintain a vision of a future where our community is a model for a sustainable and healthy future, using efficiency, conservation, renewable energy and local food production for the good of all."

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

This program was made possible with funding awarded to SEEDS from the Wayne County Community Foundation. To register for the program or learn more, visit www.seedsgroup.net.

Navigating college admissions and financial aid

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY — The Livingston Manor-Roscoe Library invites families preparing for the college application process to a free in-person event in which students and parents can receive guidance on college admissions and financial aid.

"Everything You Need to Know About College Admissions and Financial Aid" is scheduled at the Livingston Manor Branch on Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m.

The session will be led by Devin Hott, a member of the New York State Association of College Admissions Counseling with more than five years of experience reviewing college applications. Attendees will learn about the admissions process, what colleges look for in applicants, strategies for building a competitive application and how to navigate financial aid opportunities. Questions are welcome.



Contributed photo

Devin Hott

The Livingston Manor Branch is located at 92 Main St., across from the Rockland Town Hall.

Register at www.LMR-Library.org.



Dave Matthews tribute honors Lake Wallenpaupack

HAWLEY, PA — Harmony in the Woods will present the following acts this weekend at the venue, located at 10 Imagination Way.

Learn more and purchase tickets at harmonyinthewoods.org/.

Friday, July 31: Kara Grainger will perform at 6 p.m. "Blues-rock fire and soulful slide guitar have been shaped by an international touring career."

Saturday, August 1: Rosine with Mike Miz at 6 p.m. "Modern Americana meets Northeast PA rock spirit in a night of collaboration and storytelling."

Sunday, August 2: Dave Matthews Tribute Band "A high-energy benefit concert for the Wallenpaupack Watershed recreating the spirit of a Dave Matthews Band live show."



Contributed photo

The Dave Matthews Tribute Band will perform at Harmony in the Woods, Hawley, PA, on August 2.

Shandelee MUSIC FESTIVAL

Shandelee Music Festival

Celebrating 33 Years of Music

August 1-22, 2026

We are delighted to present such an exceptional lineup of artists and to collaborate with our valued community partners.



Classical Guitar & Flamenco
featuring
Dan Garcia, Solo Guitar
Saturday, August 1, 2026
5 pm
Free Admission
Catskill Art Space & SMF Collaboration
Catskill Art Space



An Evening of Jazz
featuring
The Lesley Pintchik Jazz Trio
A Single Bite - SMF Collaboration
Thursday, August 6, 2026
6 - 7:30 pm
$100.00 Per Person
Cocktail, wine, beer, Hors d'oeuvres
Sunset Concert Pavilion



An Evening of Chamber Music
featuring
Trio Gaia
Tuesday, August 11, 2026
8 pm
$35.00 Per Person
Sunset Concert Pavilion



An Evening of Chamber Music
featuring
Dolphin String Quartet
Thursday, August 13, 2026
8 pm
$35.00 Per Person
Sunset Concert Pavilion



An Evening of Choir Music
featuring
Mode 8 Chamber Choir
Saturday, August 15, 2026
8 pm
$35.00 Per Person
Sunset Concert Pavilion



An Evening of Solo Piano
featuring
The Founder of Shandelee Music Festival
Daniel Stroup, Solo Piano
Sunday, August 16, 2026
3 pm
$75.00 Per Person
Sunset Concert Pavilion



An Evening of Solo Piano
featuring
Maxim Lando, Solo Piano
Saturday, August 22, 2026
8 pm
$35.00 Per Person
Sunset Concert Pavilion

For More Information and Reservations
Call 845-439-3277

www.shandelee.org

'Lost in Love' at the NY State Fair

SYRACUSE, NY — International soft rock band Air Supply will return to the Chevy Court stage on Sunday, August 30 at 6 p.m. at the New York State Fair.

Formed in Melbourne, Australia in 1975, the band is known for lush melodies; it achieved international fame with hits like "The One That You Love," "Making Love Out of Nothing at All," "Every Woman in the World" and "Here I Am."

The fair starts Wednesday, August 26, and runs through Labor Day, Monday, September 7. All concerts are included in the price of admission, which will go on sale later this summer.

The Great New York State Fair "is the most affordable state fair in the country," the fair said. Tickets cost $8 for adults and admission is free for children under 12 and senior citizens aged 65 and older.

In total, the fair's 2026 Chevrolet Music Series will feature 41 national recording acts. There will be a daily 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. concert at Chevy Court (located near Gate 1), and an 8 p.m. concert each evening at Suburban Park (located on the western end of the fairgrounds, beyond the Midway). The fair will also host two special shows at 9 p.m. on Friday, August 28 and September 4 at Chevy Court.

The fairgrounds are located at 581 State Fair Blvd.

All concerts announced thus far are listed in the link below. Fair staff will continue to update schedules at pages dedicated to Chevy Court at nysfair.ny.gov/venue/chevy-court/ and Suburban Park, nysfair.ny.gov/venue/suburban-park/.



Photo by Ingo Ellerbusch on Unsplash

A bad location for a monster baby.

Don't sell monster babies to circuses

By the PIKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MILFORD, PA — Due to several inquiries as to when our next movie will be, we have moved it up a month, and we can't wait to see you all on Wednesday, August 5. The event starts at 5 p.m. in our Foundation Room with dinner, followed by a showing of the 1961 cult classic "Gorgo."

Follow the exploits of salvage divers off the coast of Ireland as they come across and capture a strange and curious creature! Of course, they sell the mysterious creature to a London circus, not knowing that the specimen is only a baby. Havoc ensues when Big Mamma comes to town looking for her child.

You won't want to miss this one!

Join us for Gorgo at the Columns Museum, 608 Broad St.

A price of $40 includes dinner, dessert, coffee and the movie. (The cost is $35 for museum members.)

Learn more at www.pikehistorical.org/.



Photo by Ririri on Unsplash

Pike County commemorates America250 with time capsule

MILFORD, PA — Pike County is inviting residents, families, schools, churches, businesses, nonprofits, civic organizations and municipalities to help create historical records as part of a new community time capsule project.

The project, titled "Pike County's Gift to the Future—Tell Your Story," will collect items from across Pike County (for suggestions, see below) during the nation's 250th anniversary year and will be opened 50 years later, during the nation's 300th anniversary celebration on July 4, 2076.

"The purpose of this project is not simply to preserve government records," said Pike County Commissioner Matthew Osterberg. "It is to preserve the stories, memories and experiences and hopes of the people who call Pike County home."

Residents are encouraged to participate in any way they choose. Submissions can include family photographs, community event photographs, letters, oral histories, video messages, student essays, artwork, church histories, organization histories, business stories and America250 memorabilia.

Municipal governments, schools, churches, nonprofit organizations, civic groups and businesses are encouraged to contribute materials that reflect their role in the county.

Participants can also answer the question: "If you could leave only one message for the people of Pike County in 2076, what would it be?"

Submissions will be accepted through November 30. Entries can be delivered to the Pike County Commissioners' Office or mailed to the Pike County Commissioners' Office, 506 Broad St., Milford, PA 18337.

The sealing ceremony will take place on December 31.

For additional information on "Pike County's Gift to the Future," visit www.pikepa.org/gifttothefuture.

Pike joins first National Night Out

MILFORD, PA — The Pike County District Attorney's Office, Dickson House Children's Advocacy Center and Victims Intervention Program (VIP) have invited the community to attend the county's first annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

National Night Out is a nationwide community event that promotes strong partnerships between law enforcement, first responders, local organizations and the residents they serve. The family-friendly event is designed to strengthen neighborhood relationships, enhance public safety awareness and foster a greater sense of community, organizers said.

Attendees can meet local law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel and other community organizations while learning about the many resources available throughout Pike County.

The event will feature:

- Touch-A-Truck
- Community resources
- Family-friendly games and activities
- Giveaways and prizes
- Food and refreshments
- Children's activities
- Drug Take-Back
- Pike County Children and Youth Backpack Drive
- Opportunities to meet local first responders and community partners
- Local businesses

"Our goal is to bring our community together in a positive environment where neighbors can connect with one another and with the public safety professionals who serve them every day," said district attorney Raymond Tonkin.

The event "would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and community partners. Their commitment helps make this free event available to everyone in our community," organizers said.

Center for Discovery president recognized by Partnerhip

HARRIS, NY — The Center for Discovery (TCFD) announced that its president and CEO, Dr. Theresa Hamlin, has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Walter A. Rhulen Award, presented by the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development (PED). The award recognizes individuals whose leadership exemplifies business excellence, community commitment and service to humanity.

Dr. Hamlin will be honored during the PED annual meeting on October 8 at Resorts World Catskills.

"For more than four decades, Dr. Hamlin has dedicated her career to advancing The Center for Discovery's mission of transforming the lives of children and adults with complex conditions through integrated clinical care, education, research and innovation," the center wrote. "Under her leadership, TCFD has become internationally recognized as a model for whole-person care, pioneering groundbreaking initiatives including the SynergE6 Healthspan Model and innovative approaches that demonstrate the profound connection between health, environment, nutrition and learning."

"Terry's leadership has always been centered on the children and adults we serve, and the incredible team that makes our mission possible every day," said Michael Dubilier, board chair. "This honor recognizes not only her vision and dedication over more than 40 years, but also the collective impact of an organization that's committed to innovation and excellence in the field."

The Walter A. Rhulen Award recognizes individuals whose professional achievements and commitment to community have made a lasting impact on the region.

About The Center for Discovery

The Center for Discovery (TCFD) is described as a nationally recognized nonprofit organization providing education, health care and residential services to more than 1,800 children and adults with complex disabilities, autism spectrum disorders and medical frailties. Located on 1,500 acres in New York's Mid-Hudson Region, TCFD is a designated New York State Center of Excellence and home to the Children's Specialty Hospital, therapeutic school campuses, residential programs, and research initiatives. Through its innovative SynergE6 model, which integrates evaluation, environment, eating and nutrition, energy regulation, emotional regulation, and evidence-based education and treatment, "The Center advances a holistic, person-centered approach designed to improve lifelong outcomes."



Forest exploration at the DHC

BEACH LAKE, PA — The Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC) announced the next community program, held at the Van Scott Nature Reserve (571 Perkins Pond Road). For program details and to register, visit www.DelawareHighlands.org/events or call education and volunteer coordinator Jen Campbell at 570/226-3164 ext. 2.

Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m. to noon: Exploring Our Local Forests

"Join Julian Maza, service forester with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, for a guided walk along the Damascus Forest Trail. Explore the forest while learning about tree identification, forest management, and other forestry topics. Following the walk, attendees are invited to visit the property of Louise Washer, a local landowner who conserved her land in 2008 in partnership with Delaware Highlands Conservancy to protect its wildlife habitat, diverse natural resources and the shores of the Delaware River. The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is requested."



Contributed photo

The 2026 season of the Milford Readers and Writers Festival began earlier this year with a Spring Welcome Party at the John H. Wallace House. This year, the three-day weekend takes place from September 18 through the 20th in Milford, PA.

Milford Readers and Writers Fest is back

MILFORD, PA — The 2026 season of the Milford Readers and Writers Festival began earlier this year with a Spring Welcome Party at the John H. Wallace House. This year, the three-day weekend takes place from September 18 through the 20th.

Carol McManus, president of Pike Artworks and festival co-chair, announced new, lower prices for the festival pass, which includes a reception, at $125, and individual tickets at only $20.

The crowd heard excerpts of four books that will be featured at the Milford Theater on September 19: Morning Show co-host Michael Kosta's "Lucky Loser," Mary Beth Keane's "Half Moon," TV show "Survivor" star Stephen Fishbach's "Escape!" and Dr. Emily Sneff's new book, "When the Declaration Was News."

"It's a great afternoon when so many of us come together to celebrate good books and great ideas," said co-chair Brian Carso.

For more details, passes and tickets, visit www.milfordreadersandwriters.com. The Milford Readers & Writers Festival is a project of Pike Artworks, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organized by a group of community volunteers from the Upper Delaware River Valley region.







Contributed photo

Aktion Club President Tommy Abelson poses with flowers in front of the Jefferson Street flower bed.

Monticello Kiwanis and Aktion Club maintain flowerbeds

By the MONTICELLO KIWANIS CLUB

MONTICELLO, NY — The Monticello Kiwanis Club, with the vital assistance of the Sullivan County Aktion Club, continued its tradition of tilling, weeding, planting and maintaining the flowers in the Village of Monticello flower beds on Jefferson Street and on Route 42 near Beer World.

Past Kiwanis President Jane Sorensen and Kiwanis Board member Martha Johnson were in charge of this project and were so thankful for the Aktion Club members coming out early in the morning to assist. While they were working on the Route 42 flower bed, people came out and generously handed out cold drinks to everyone, which was very welcome and much appreciated.

Town of Thompson Supervisor Scott Mace made arrangements for the parks and recreation department to tend to both flower beds during the summer season. "I want people to get a good first impression when they visit us," he said.

The Aktion Club, sponsored by the Monticello and Woodridge Kiwanis Clubs, is a service leadership club for adults with various degrees of disabilities who are affiliated with The Center for Discovery, Arc Greater Hudson Valley and New Hope Community. They are always ready, willing and able to assist in serving the community.



Contributed photo

Kiwanis Past President Jane Sorensen and board member Martha Johnson pose in front of the flower bed, located next to Beer World.

The mission of Kiwanis is to improve the world one child and one community at a time. For more information about Kiwanis, visit the Monticello, NY Kiwanis Facebook page.



IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

BY JONATHAN CHARLES FOX

Fireflies in a jar

(*Ed. note: Jonathan Charles Fox had to take a breather this week, so we're rerunning this column, from 2012.*)

There are some things that, no matter how old I get, make me feel like a kid again. Regardless of how much I might have whined a few months ago, the first snowfall of the season still conjures up memories of racing outside to catch flakes on my tongue and mom stirring cocoa on the stove. Watching the darling buds of May emerge continues to mesmerize me, as I attempt to catch their steady progression into full flower with my trusty camera at the ready.

When fall arrives, and the leaves transform from green to gold, I continue to marvel at Mother Nature's ability to transfix and rejoice in the glorious bounty she provides for those of us fortunate enough to be living in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

And then there's the good old summertime. When I was a youngster, the end of school could never come fast enough, since I went to sleep-away camp for six weeks every year, until I was old enough to be a counselor-in-training at the now-defunct YMCA Camp Arrowhead in Little Meadow, PA.

Ahhh, Camp Arrowhead. Of course, at the time, I had no idea that my absence from home constituted a vacation for the folks. All I knew was that I was going to be hauling out the sleeping bag (flannel-lined with cowboys and Indians), and hiking, swimming and learning about how the Native American tribes lived, fished and honored their elders (undoubtedly a bonus for my parents, who hoped that some of it would rub off before I returned).

We bunked in rustic cabins, made lanyards for Mom and ashtrays for Dad (it was the '60s) and learned how to etch cool designs in thin sheets of copper, all the while unaware that our leaders were instilling family values and preparing us for adulthood. I am still in touch with my best friend from those days, Steve Lubs, and we often reminisce about our days playing "kick the can" and how our years at camp shaped our young lives.

The brief window between the end of school and the beginning of camp seemed interminable. We marked the time by catching crawfish in the Susquehanna River and watching our moms sew name labels in every article of clothing. The clothing would be packed in a trunk with room left over for cookies and the requisite postcards that we would supposedly send weekly, regaling the folks with our adventures, which culminated with the end-of-season "color war" (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Color_war), testing our newfound skills.



RR photo by Jonathan Charles Fox

Fireflies light up a jar before being released into the wild.

"How soon?" I'd ask, over and over, until Mom started asking the same, wagging her finger at me and suggesting that patience was a virtue. "Once the fireflies arrive," she'd say, "then you'll know the time is near."

Fireflies. Depending on where you live, they are also called lightning bugs, but their universal appeal is undeniable. They flicker and weave through the tall grass, sometimes soaring into the trees, and still to this day make me giddy with childlike wonder.

Imagine my surprise then, to observe them appear last Friday night, a good four weeks earlier than anticipated. Just before leaving the house to see "struck" at the NACL in Highland Lake (www.nacl.org), I heard the Wonder Dog whining and crying at her lookout, which oversees a vast field behind the barn. Peering into the dusk, I saw them.

Amused that the dancing lights were alarming the dog, I raced out the door and reveled. Instantly, I was seven years old again and stood there, hugging myself, grinning, laughing and recalling the nights that Steve and I set off, canning jar in hand, hoping to capture a few before setting them free again, to enchant others down the block.

As for the show at NACL, it was a multimedia extravaganza and truth be told, slightly perplexing, but I left the theatre with my head filled with thought-provoking imagery that played across the stage, and there are moments that linger, much like the lightning bug.

The next day, I escorted the pup to her guest appearance at the Sullivan County Pet-A-Thon, hosted by Girl Scout Troop 705 at Morningside Park in Hurleyville, NY. The SPCA (sullivanspca.com) was present along with specialists in animal nutrition, first aid and veterinary care, while the girls held a 'toy-making' workshop to benefit the organization. As Dharma played with a puppy awaiting adoption, I shared a childhood memory with the troop. After collecting the lightning bugs, Mom would let us bring them into my room and she'd open the windows an inch or two, turn off the lights and shut the door. Steve and I would open the jar and the fireflies would emerge, blinking on and off as we'd drift off to sleep, before they found their way out, gone by morning, free to mate in the open air.

I think I might punch some holes in a lid tonight and do it again. Camp may be behind me, but you're never too old to feel like a kid. IMHO.

DHC photography contest returns

REGION — The Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC) announced its ninth annual juried photo contest for the Upper Delaware River region, open to professional and amateur photographers.

Titled "Confluence: Land, Water, Wildlife," the contest invites photographers to capture striking nature photos in five categories: Landscape, Wildlife, Macro, Water and the Van Scott Nature Reserve, plus a youth category for photographers under age 18.

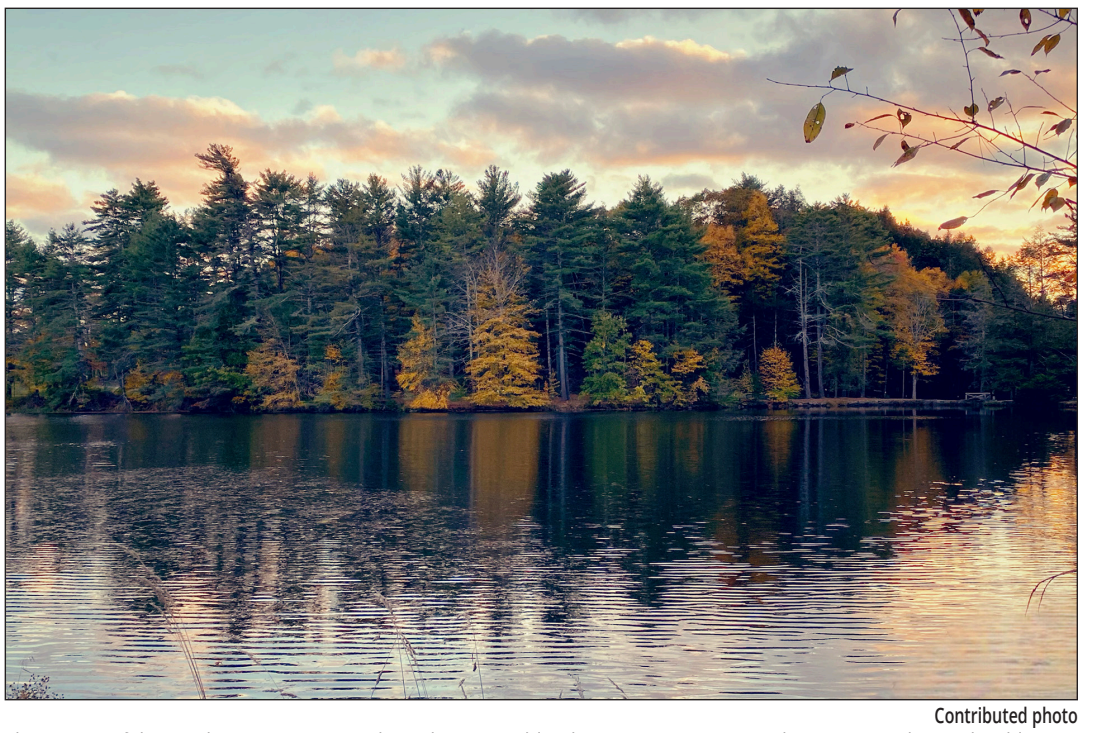
Without disturbing or harming any creature or its habitat, photographers are encouraged to be creative in showcasing the diverse wildlife, plants and special places of our region.

Photos will be judged on creativity, originality, composition, clarity and quality, as well as impact, and must be taken in the Upper Delaware River region to be eligible. Photos can be taken during any season.

Photographers should submit entries via the conservancy's website, delawarehighlands.org/, from August 3 until August 31. The winning photos will be chosen by a panel of judges, along with one People's Choice, and will be hung at the ARTery gallery in Milford, PA, in November. The judges are Jill Carletti, Nancy Kiesendahl Bloch, Marie Liu and Mary Sue Sweeney Price.

The ARTery is a cooperative owned and operated by artists and artisans from the Tri-State area.

Photographers should submit no more than two photos to the contest. Entrants must agree to the official rules and submit a $15 entry fee to be eligible; youth entries are free of charge. Visit www.delawarehighlands.org/photo-contest/ for details, to download the official rules, and to submit an entry.



Contributed photo

The winner of the Landscape category in the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's 2025 Photo Contest, by April Richling.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy's mission is to conserve the forests, farmland, clean waters and wildlife habitat of the Upper Delaware River region for present and future generations and to foster environmental stewardship through community engagement. For more information, call 570/226-3164 or 845/583-1010 or visit www.DelawareHighlands.org.

Where & When

FOR MORE EVENTS VISIT RIVERREPORTER.COM/CALENDAR

Thursday, July 30

Blood Drive
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — 1:30-6pm, 70 County Rd. 116. redcrossblood.org or 800/733-2767.

Blood Drive
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — 1-6pm, 93 Main St. Schedule redcrossblood.org or 800/733-2767.

Dream on the Farm #7
DAMASCUS, PA — "Johnny Appleseed, an Historical Fantasia," Thurs. - Sun. 7pm, Farm Arts Collective, 38 Hickory Ln. myrivertickets.com.

'Hairspray'
FORESTBURGH, NY — Tues.-Sat. 8pm, Wed. & Sun. 2pm, through Aug. 9, Forestburgh Playhouse, 39 Forestburgh Rd. Tickets fbplayhouse.org.

HEAL Mobile Unit
MONTICELLO, NY — Ellenville Regional Rural Health Network, 10am-1pm, Monticello Farmers' Market, 10 Jefferson St. Christina 845/647-6400 x212.

Stand-Up Comedy
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Parlor, 7pm, Matt Ruby & Sean Patton, emcee Greg Triggs, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, 37 Main St. myrivertickets.com.

'The Wizard of Oz'
FORESTBURGH, NY —Thurs. & Sat. through Aug. 1, Forestburgh Playhouse, 39 Forestburgh Rd. Tickets fbplayhouse.org.

Friday, July 31

Alpaca Event
LACKAWAXEN, PA — Growing Lackawaxen Board, 2-4pm, Veteran's Memorial Park, 109 Scenic Drive. lackawaxentownshippa.gov.

'Amy's Wish'
HAWLEY, PA — Fri.-Sat. 8pm, Sun. 2:30pm through Aug. 9, Ritz Company Playhouse, 512 Keystone St. ritzplayhouse.com.

Emergency Preparedness
SWAN LAKE — Homeland Security & Sullivan County Emergency Services, 10am, Training Center, 615 Old White Lake Tpke. Register prepare.ny.gov.

Kara Grainger
HAWLEY, PA — Blues-rock fire, 6-8pm, Harmony in the Woods, 19 Imagination Way. harmonyinthewoods.org.

'Modern Pioneering'
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — 5:30pm, documentary on PBS with Georgia Pellegrini, Western Sullivan Public Library, 19 Center St. Register 845/482-4350.

Opening Reception
ELDRED, NY — 4-7pm with Allison Maletz, Hall Space by Nonneta, 550 Rte. 55, hallspaceny.com.

Schocopee Schoolhouse Program
MILFORD, PA — Pike County Historical Society, 11am-3pm, "Step into a School Day from Long Ago," Apple Valley Village, register 570/296-8126.

Summerween
PORT JERVIS, NY — 5-10pm, Foundry42, 42 Front St. facebook.com/Foundry42Home.

Saturday, August 1

Appalachian Bat Count
LAKE ARIEL, PA — 7:30pm, Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation, 94 Sanctuary Rd. Register facebook.com/Lacawac.

'A Revolution of Her Own'
NARROWSBURG — Sullivan250, the true story of Deborah Sampson by Judith Kalaora, Narrowsburg Union, 7 Erie Ave. Register jconway52@hotmail.com.

Ayla Diaz
EQUINUNK, PA — 1pm, "Self-Expressionism Using Mixed Mediums," Equinunk Historical Society, 736 Duck Harbor Rd. 570/798-2420.

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

'Closets'
HURLEYVILLE, NY — Big Sky Productions, Sat.-Sun. 2pm, play by Bill Duncan, Sullivan County Historical Society, 265 Main St. 845/434-8044.

Dan Garcia
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Shandelee Music Festival Sunset Concert Series, 5pm, Catskill Art Space, 48 Main St. shandelee.org.

Exploring Local Forests
BEACH LAKE, PA — 10am-noon, Delaware Highlands Conservatory, Damascus Forest Trail, 109 Maccubbins Rd. delawarehighlands.org.

Free Youth Archery Shoot
LIBERTY, NY — Liberty Elks Lodge #1545, 11am, ages 5-14, All Things Accuracy, 25 Sullivan Ave., Register allthingsaccuracy.com.

Ghost Town Blues Band
WHITE MILLS, PA — High energy blues, Wildflower Concert Series, 6pm, Dorflinger Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary, 55 Suydam Dr. dorflinger.org.

Golf Tournament
CALLICOON, NY — Youngsville Fire Dept., register noon, start 1:30pm, Villa Roma, 557 Co. Rd. 164. James 845/807-7232.

Guided Garden Tour
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Livingston Manor-Roscoe Library, 2pm, Flying Trillium Gardens, location provided upon registering, 845/439-5440.

'Intro to Mime'
PORT JERVIS, NY — 9:45am-noon, The Presby Players, 60 Sussex St. Register 845/856-1231.

Katie's Cafe
NARROWSBURG, NY — Free community luncheon, noon-1pm, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 31 Erie St. facebook.com/St.Pauls.Narrowsburg.

Rosine with Mike Miz
HAWLEY, PA — 6-8pm, Harmony in the Woods, 19 Imagination Way. harmonyinthewoods.org.

Summerfest
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Sat.-Sun., Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum, 1031 Old Rte. 17. cffcm.com.

Summer Meeting
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Narrowsburg Beautification Group, 2pm, 215 Lake Ridge Rd. nbgtusten@gmail.com.

Sunday, August 2

38th Annual Family Raft Trip
NARROWSBURG, NY — Upper Delaware Council, arrive 9-10am, Lander's Campground, 69 De Mauro Ln. facebook.com/UpperDelawareCouncil.

48th Annual Monster Classic
MONTICELLO, NY — The Monticello Rotary Club, 5K run/walk, 10K run, 8:45am, 888 Resorts World Dr. Register monticellonyrotary.org.

Book Launch Event
NARROWSBURG, NY — "This Happened," Yarnslingers Book One, 12:30pm, Blue Fox Motel, 5670 NY-97. Register theoutsideinstitute.org.

Dave Matthews Tribute
HAWLEY, PA — Benefit for Wallenpaupack Watershed, 5:30pm, Harmony in the Woods, 19 Imagination Way. harmonyinthewoods.org.

Humanity's Nature
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — 2-4pm, an afternoon of song, Delaware Valley Opera, Huntington Hall, 6692 NY-52. myrivertickets.com.

Pancake Breakfast
HANCOCK, NY — Fly in/drive in, Sundays 8am-noon, White Birch Airport, 333 Airport Rd. facebook.com/whitebirchairport.

'Rendezvous with Rachel Revere'
LAKE ARIEL, PA — History at Play, & Downtown Hawley Partnership, 2pm, Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation, 94 Sanctuary Rd. Register facebook.com/Lacawac/events.

Monday, August 3

Agricultural Farm Tour
MOUNTAINDALE, NY — Cornell Cooperative Extension, 11am, Buck Brook Alpacas, 201 Church Rd., register sullivancce.org/events.

Assembly Member Paula Kay
LIBERTY, NY — 10:30am, Senior Coffee Hour, Liberty Public Library, 189 North Main St. libertypubliclibrary.libcal.com.

Tuesday, August 4

Blood Drive
HONESDALE, PA — 1-6pm, 648 Park St. Schedule redcrossblood.org or 800/733-2767.

Mobile DMV
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — License/registration appointments, 19 Legion St. sullivanny.gov/Departments/Clerk/DMV.

National Night Out
PORT JERVIS, NY — 6pm, Riverside Park. portjervisny.gov/events.

Shin Creek Music Festival
LEW BEACH, NY — Tues.-Thurs. 6-7pm, Lew Beach Community House, 32 Shin Creek Rd. info@beaverkill.org.

Story Hour with Sheep
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Livingston Manor Library, 11am, Gael Roots Community Farm, 734 Cattail Rd. Register 845/439-5440.

Unearthing Community History
CALLICOON, NY — 5-6pm with Sullivan County Democrat editor Isabel Braverman, Western Sullivan Public Library, 45 Lower Main St. Register wsplonline.com.

Wednesday, August 5

Back to School Job Fair
HONESDALE, PA — 4:30-6:30pm, Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance, 107 8th St, 2nd floor, wpworkforce.org.

'Healthy Eating on a Budget'
HONESDALE, PA — Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support & Wayne Memorial Hospital, 6pm, Stourbridge Tech Hub, 646 Park Street, Suite 2040, seedsgroup.net.

Salute to Veterans
WAYMART, PA — Open house, car & motorcycle show, 10am-3pm, Ladore Conference Center, 398 South St. facebook.com/LadoreLodge.

Thursday, August 6

'Being Somebody'
HURLEYVILLE, NY — 7pm, "Growing Up in Brooklyn...a Father/Daughter Tale," Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, 219 Main St. ci.ovationtix.com/34881.

College Admissions
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — 6:30pm, for parents & students, Livingston Manor-Roscoe Library, 92 Main St. Register 845/439-5440.

'Here & There'
NARROWSBURG, NY — Delaware Valley Arts Alliance & WJFF, 7-9pm, with Shlomo Franklin & AILISE, Tusten Theatre, 210 Bridge St. delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

Lesley Pintchik Trio
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — Shandelee Music Festival evening of jazz music, 6pm, 442 J. Young Rd. shandelee.org.

Nature Program
MONTICELLO, NY — Butterflies, 1pm, Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River, Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library, 479 Broadway. Register 845/794-4660.

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

Friday, August 7

100th Anniversary Weekend
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, NY — Fri.-Sun., fun day, chicken BBQ, softball tournament, Firehouse, 3352 NY-52. facebook.com/WSSFD36.

JB Park Farm Open
HONESDALE, PA — Wayne County Historical Society "A Day in the Life of a Farm," Fri.-Sat. noon-7pm Wayne County Fairgrounds, 270 Miller Dr. waynehistorypa.com

'Lenape-Native People'
LACKAWAXEN, PA — Lackawaxen Parks & Recreation, 2-3pm, Veteran's Memorial Park, 109 Scenic Dr. 570/685-7288.

Networking Breakfast
ROSCOE, NY — Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, 7:30am, Roscoe Mountain Club, 100 Fairway View Dr. Register business.catskills.com.

Oysters & Opera
MILFORD, PA — 5-10pm featuring performance by Raul Menlo, Hotel Fauchere, Delmonico Room, 114 E. Catherine St. hotelfauchere.com.

Taylor Ashton
HAWLEY, PA — 6pm, Harmony in the Woods, 19 Imagination Way. harmonyinthewoods.org.

Saturday, August 8

Bella Notte Italiana Festival
PORT JERVIS, NY — Port Jervis Tourism Board, noon-9pm, Riverside Park, 4th St. facebook.com/PortJervisTourism.

Bennie & the Jets
WHITE MILLS, PA — Elton John Experience, Wildflower Concert Series, 6pm, Dorflinger Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary, 55 Suydam Dr. dorflinger.org.

Borscht Belt Historical Marker
ROCK HILL, NY — Rock Hill farmers' market, 10am-1pm, 61 Glen Wild Rd., dedication ceremony noon, Pizza the Rock, 345 Rock Hill Dr. maytheborschtbewithyou.org.

Cars & Coffee
MONGAUP VALLEY, NY — 9am-noon, Smallwood-Mongaup Valley Fire Dept., 181 Ballard Rd. smvfdfirehouse@gmail.com.

Depot Market
CALLICOON, NY — 1-6pm, Callicoon Train Depot, 40 Lower Main, thecallicoondepot.org.

Farm to Plate Dinner
LAKE ARIEL, PA — 6-9pm, Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station, Watres Lodge, 195 Sanctuary Rd. Register lacawac.org.

Joel Hill Sawmill Tours
EQUINUNK, PA — Sat. 10am & 1pm, & Sun. 1pm, Equinunk Historical Society, 736 Duck Harbor Rd. Greg 570/798-2420.

'Notice to Appear'
HIGHLAND LAKE, NY — 7:30-9:30pm with Irina Kruzhilina, North American Cultural Laboratory, 110 Highland Lake Rd. NACL.org.

Opening Reception
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY — Barryville Area Arts Association, Western Sullivan Public Library, 19 Center St. barryvilleareaarts.org.

Stourbridge Lion Anniversary
HONESDALE, PA — 11am-4pm, 197th Anniversary, books signings, train talk, Wayne County Historical Society, 810 Main St. wchspa@gmail.com.

The Everly Set
HAWLEY, PA — Celebrate the Everly Brothers, 6pm, Harmony in the Woods, 19 Imagination Way. harmonyinthewoods.org.

'This is My Life'
HURLEYVILLE, NY — 8pm, doors 7pm, Patti Greco Sunshine "A Borscht Belt Baby," Hurleyville Performing Arts Center, 219 Main St. hpacny.org.

Treasures & Trinkets Sale
ELDRED, NY — Sunshine Hall Free Library, 10am-5pm, Highland Town Hall, 4 Proctor Rd. sunshinehallfreelibrary.org.

Veterans Expo
MILFORD, PA — VFW Post 8612, Veterans resources, 9am-1pm, American Legion Post 139, 103 Cty. Rd 2001, vfw8612vetexpo@yahoo.com.

Wildlife Show
LAKEWOOD, PA — Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center, 11am, Northern Wayne Community Library, 11 Library Rd. 570/798-2444.

Sunday, August 9

Alexander Markov
MILFORD, PA — Kindred Spirits, 2:30pm, Grey Towers amphitheater, 151 Grey Towers Dr. kindredspiritsarts.org.

America 250 Celebration
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — History of Lake Huntington & 1976-time capsule opening, 1-2pm, Cochecton Town Hall, 74 Smales Rd. 845/932-8104.

Baby Back Rib BBQ
LACKAWAXEN, PA — 1-4pm, Ecker-Haupt VFW Post 5635, 774 Route 590. Tickets Mark 570-949-8057, Bill 551-697-2802.

Bagel Festival
MONTICELLO, NY — 9am, Bagel Boulevard (Broadway) thebagelfestival.org.

BowWO&W Dog Walk
SOUTH FALLSBURG, NY — 10am, walk to the Fallsburg Tunnel, Sullivan O&W Rail Trail, 14 Old Country Rd. facebook.com/sullivanoandw.

Community Cooking
CALLICOON, NY — Weeknight dinners, 3-6pm, Delaware Youth Center, 8 Creamery Rd. delawareyouthcenter.org.

Ice Cream Social
MILFORD, PA — Gifford Pinchot's birthday with Kindred Spirits concert, 11:30am-6:30pm, Grey Towers Heritage Assn., 151 Grey Towers Dr. greytowers.org.

K of C Breakfast
MILFORD, PA — 9-11am, Vincent DePaul Church, 101 St. Vincent Dr. stvdepaulchurch.org.

Rabbi Chuck Diamond
SMALLWOOD, NY — 7:30pm, a day on the set of "American Pastoral," The Club at Smallwood, register TheClubAtSmallwoodPR@gmail.com.

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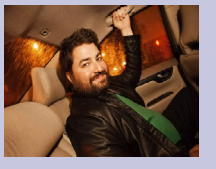
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WHERE & WHEN ¬ Page 21

WEEKLY EVENTS

Backpacks for Hope
NARROWSBURG, NY — The Town of Wallkill Boys & Girls Clubs collecting backpacks with supplies, drop off the **River Reporter** through Aug. 7. bgcorange.org.

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

Callicoon Center Band
CALLICOON CENTER, NY — Wednesday concerts, 8pm, 1669 The Gulf Rd. Info Jim Newton, 845/439-4635.

Community Cafe
BEACH LAKE, PA — 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5:30pm, Whispering Pines Community Church, 7 Milanville Rd. whisperingpines.susumc.org.

Concerts in the Park
HONESDALE, PA — Mon. & Thurs. 7:30pm, through July 30, Wayne County Creative Arts Council, Central Park, Church St. facebook.com/groups/WayneCreativeArts.

Cushetunk Kids
NARROWSBURG, NY — Summer program, Thursdays 10am-2pm, 6615 NY-97. Ages 8-12. Register FortDelaware@outlook.com.

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

Free Lunches @ WHSD
HONESDALE, PA — Pick up Tues. 8-9am & noon-1pm, Honesdale High School & noon-1pm, Preston School. Wayne Highlands School District, Danya 570/253-6083.

Friday Fitness
LIBERTY, NY — Let's dance 10-11am through Aug. 7, Cooperative Extension SC, 64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd. Register 845/292-6180 x101.

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

The Monthly Muster
LAKE ARIEL, PA — 2nd Saturday, 10am, Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station, 182 Sanctuary Rd. Register lacawac.org/at-ease-veteran-program.

Storytelling Salon
ONLINE/LIBERTY, NY — Wednesdays 4pm, Liberty Museum & Arts Center, 46 S. Main St. Naomi 845/807-6055.

Summer Concert Series
KAUNEONGA LAKE, NY — Thursdays 6-8pm, Bethel Lakeside Music, Gazebo Park, 3562 State Rte. 55. Concert schedule facebook.com/2017BLM.

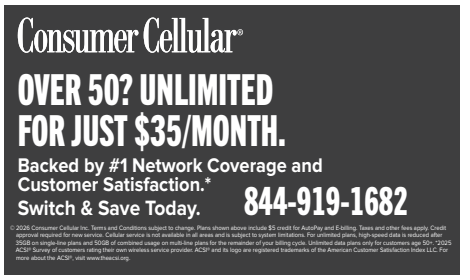
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ROCK HILL, NY — Rock Hill Business Assoc. Wednesdays 6-8pm, Lake Ida Park, 53 Adams Rd. facebook.com/rhbca12775.

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WHITE LAKE, NY — Saturdays 10am-noon, ages 6-8 & 9-11, Dr. Duggan School field, 3460 Route 55, Registration online townofbethelny.gov or town office, 3454 NY-55.

¬ PAGE 26



















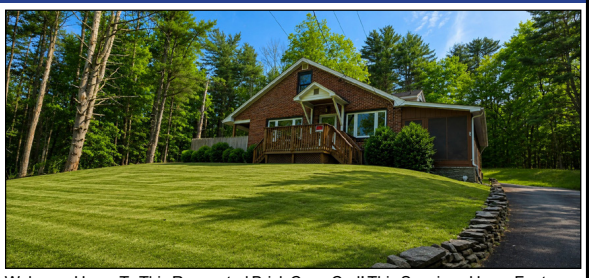




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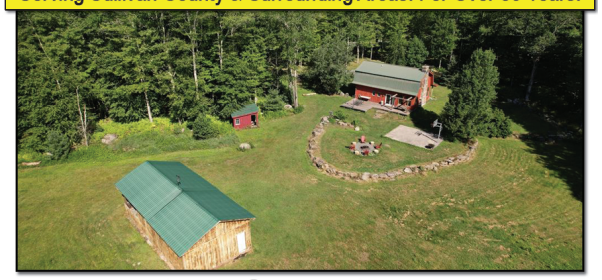
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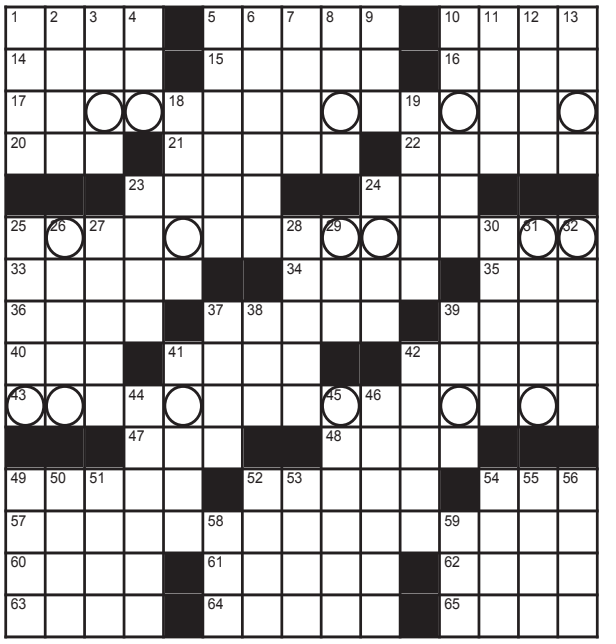
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By DAVID LEVINSON WILK



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ACROSS
1. "Word of the 20th Century," according to the American Dialect Society
5. Ham it up
10. Dracula feature
14. Home of Columbus
15. It's a strong feeling
16. Suffix with sock
17. "I'm through being a pushover!"
20. 4.0 is a great one
21. Healing plants
22. Author Mario Vargas ____
23. Poehler and Sedaris
24. Minute
25. Raps
33. Ancient letters
34. "____ Brockovich"
35. Que. neighbor
36. Quartz variety
37. Ahead
39. "Suffice ____ say ..."
40. Grp. protested in Seattle in 1999
41. Croaker
42. When some local TV news airs
43. Oxymoronic card game
47. Restroom, to Ringo
48. "... ____, you noblest English!": "Henry V"
49. Loom (over)
52. It's a wrap
54. Measures of brightness
57. What President Obama has promised to do ... and what this puzzle's circled letters do
60. Fighting
61. "Laughing" animal
62. Dust Bowl migrant
63. "Goodbye, Columbus" novelist
64. Wallace's running mate in 1968
65. Swim routine

DOWN
1. "Fear of Flying" author
2. ____, skip and jump away
3. Coors product that's Russian for "winter"
4. It features creatures
5. Writer Waugh
6. Brunch cocktail
7. Big brute
8. Oodles
9. Verdi's "____ tu"
10. Trial balloon
11. Golden Fleece ship
12. Entre ____
13. Many a Prado painting
18. "Caddyshack" director
19. Scrub
23. MasterCard rival, familiarly
24. Use an eggbeater
25. Three, they say
26. Total
27. 2004 Kylie Minogue song "I Believe ____"
28. "Unhand me!"
29. ____-Magnon
30. Gangster John, aka "The Teflon Don"
31. Make a record of
32. "W." director
37. Two-tone cookie
38. Rejections
39. "Is ____ emergency?"
41. Plant life
42. Do penance
44. Yasmine of "Baywatch"
45. Bobbitt in 1993 news
46. Sort of
49. Nicholas II, e.g.
50. Vision: Prefix
51. Habeas corpus, for example
52. Ocular woe
53. "Uh, pardon me"
54. "Now, Voyager" actress Chase
55. Stick with a little cotton
56. Tom Jones' "____ a Lady"
58. FedEx rival
59. MSN rival

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

Answer to Last Week's Crossword Puzzle

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

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of 279 East 173RD ST LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/18/2026. 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 Eduardo Casado: 43 Cold Creek Pass, Parksville, NY 12768. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

33 Landfield NY LLC. Filed 7/1/26. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 159 S 8th St #4L, Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: General.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

10 Smith LLC. Filed 7/2/26. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 159 S 8th St #4L, Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: General.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

18 Feldman Circle LLC. Filed 6/16/26. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 221 Lee Ave, Brookyn, NY 11206. Purpose: General.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NASTRO CONSTRUCTION LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 7/23/26. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 457 Broadway, Ste. 1, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

5722 RT 55 LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/27/2026. 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, 80 Brooks Rd, Ferndale, NY 12734. Purpose: any lawful act.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Hometown Services LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/26/2026. 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 Robert Walker : 6 Samyn Rd Barryville NY 12719. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Qualification of JD's Jungle IP LLC. Certificate of Authority filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/16/2026. Office location: Sullivan County. Limited Liability Company (LLC) formed on 8/21/2025. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC: 184 Rock Hill Drive, Rock Hill, NY 12775. Articles of Organization originally filed with Secretary of State (SOS). Registered Agents Inc, 30 N Gould St Ste R, Sheridan, WY 82801 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

6218 R42 LLC. Filed 7/7/26. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 1976 59th St, Brooklyn, NY 11204. Purpose: General.

Legal Notice

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN PUBLIC NOTICE

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that requests for inclusion of predominantly viable agricultural land within a certified agricultural district have been filed with the County legislative body pursuant to NYS Agriculture and Markets Law 25AA Section 303-b and that a public hearing will be held by the Sullivan County Legislature on Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 8:55 am in the Legislative Hearing Room of the Sullivan County Government Center, Monticello, New York to consider the requests and the recommendations of the Sullivan County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board to modify the Agricultural District No. 4 to add parcels as contained on the Sullivan County Tax Maps on May 8, 2026 and designated as follows:

Town of Mamakating 19.-1-17.1

1. **SCHEDULE A**

Town of Mamakating 19.-1-17.1

As portrayed on the Sullivan County Tax Maps on May 8, 2026

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Middletown Dolson I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/27/2026. 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 Gridi, LLC: PO Box 384, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

MFK Transport LLC. Filed 6/17/26. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 11 E Mongaup Rd, Hurleyville, NY 12747. Purpose: General.

Legal Notice

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF SULLIVAN SUMMONS

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF SULLIVAN SUMMONS ROSCOE REGIONAL HEALTHCARE, LLC d/b/a ROSCOE REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER, Plaintiff, v. LAURA BACHRACH, Defendant. Filed: October 2, 2025 Index No: E2025-2016. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your notice of appearance or answer on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, if the complaint is not served with this summons within twenty (20) days after the service of the summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York, or in the case of the United States of America, if named a party defendant herein, within sixty (60) days after service of this summons. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in this complaint. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT: THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is for breach of contract. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment awarding Plaintiff $89,890.00. Attorney for Plaintiff: Harris Beach Murtha (315) 214-2016.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Syracuse Erie I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/13/26. 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

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids for the following will be received by the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Central Services at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701, (845) 807-0515, until 1:00 P.M. on Friday, August 14, 2026 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.

1. Oil and Lubricants for Public Works (B-26-40)

Bid Forms, including specifications, may be obtained from the Director at the above address, and all bids are subject to the terms and conditions therein set forth.

Dated: July 31, 2026

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

FROEHLICH LAND SERVICES LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 6/23/26. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 259 Church Rd., Livingston Manor, NY 12758, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Elmira Madison I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/13/2026. 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

Kiamesha Property LLC. Filed 6/18/26. Office: Sullivan Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 221 Lee Ave, Brookyn, NY 11206. Purpose: General.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DOLOS-VISTE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/6/26. Office Loc. Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: DOLOS-VISTE LLC at PO Box 768, Ridgewood, NJ 07451. Reg. Agent: eResidentAgent, Inc.1 Rockefeller Plaza Ste 1204, NY, NY 10020. P/B/A: 765 Mosswood Ave, South Orange, NJ 07079. Purpose: any lawful activity.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on June 18, 2026, a proposed Local Law entitled "A Local Law to Amend Local Law 1 of 1992" to increase civil penalties for violations of Chapter 171, Section 6, Subpart B of the County Code, commonly referred to as the "Flow Control Ordinance".

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid proposed Local Law at the Legislature's Meeting Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York 12701, August 6, 2026 at 8:45am at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: July 21, 2026
Monticello, New York

ANNMARIE MARTIN
Clerk of the Legislature

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Gridi Utica Broad I, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/13/2026. 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 MK Suite LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/14/2026. 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 MK Suite LLC: 680 RTE 211 East #113 Middletown, NY 10941. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of NY Fallsburg V, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/25/2026. 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 Delaware River Solar, LLC: PO Box 384, Callicoon, NY 12723. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposals for the following will be received by the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Central Services at the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701, (845) 807-0515, until 1:00 P.M. on Friday, August 21, 2026:
1. Tourism and Marketing Services for Sullivan County, New York (R-26-31)
2. Design and Installation of Photovoltaic System at the Sullivan County International Airport (R-26-32)
Specifications may be obtained from the Director at the above address.
Dated: July 31, 2026

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MELODY LAKE LODGE LLC

Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on June 16, 2026. The office of the LLC is located in Sullivan County, New York, at 1 Melody Lake Dr, Monticello, NY 12701. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and shall mail a copy of any process to Melody Lake Lodge LLC, 1 Melody Lake Dr, Monticello, NY 12701. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized under the laws of the State of New York.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of NY Willet II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/23/26. 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 Delaware River Solar, 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 SK Summit Holdings, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/03/2026. 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 Kurt Dyer: 606 1/2 3rd Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of SHC Panelco II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/30/2026. 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 Delaware River Solar, 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 NY Fallsburg IV, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/23/2026. 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 Delaware River Solar, 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 PITTALUGA HOLDINGS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 06/25/2026. Office located in Sullivan. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC: P O BOX 1078, SOUTH FALLSBURG, , New York 12779, USA Purpose: any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

MORDOMED LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/20/26. Office in Sullivan Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 123 Southwoods Dr., Unit P24, Monticelllo, NY 12701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF AUTHORITY Company Name: SARASOLA INTERIORS LLC County: SULLIVAN COUNTY Date Authorized in New York: 04/01/2026 Original LLC Formation Date: 05/22/2023 State of Formation: Pennsylvania Registered Agent: SSNY (Secretary of State of New York) Address for Service of Process: 113 Milford Heights Road Milford, PA 18337 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COUNTY OF SULLIVAN LEGAL NOTICE

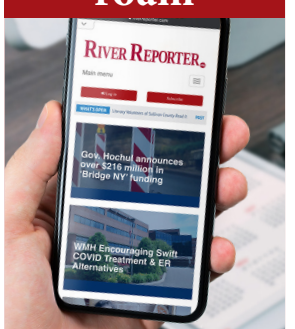
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there has been duly presented and introduced at a meeting of the Legislature of the County of Sullivan, New York, held on July 21, 2026, a tentative 2026-2027 budget for the Sullivan County Community College.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Legislature of the County of Sullivan will conduct a public hearing on the aforesaid tentative 2026-2027 budget for the Sullivan County Community College at the Legislature's Hearing Room, County Government Center, Monticello, New York, 12701, on August 20, 2026 at 8:45 AM at which time all persons interested will be heard.

DATED: July 21, 2026

ANNMARIE MARTIN
Clerk of the Legislature
County of Sullivan, New York

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Legal Notice

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

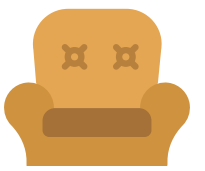
WINDY KNOLL HOLDING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/15/26. Office: Sullivan County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 59 Lewis Lane, Bloomingburg, NY 12721. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SULLIVAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of WOW Auto Service, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/30/26. 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: 59 Post Hill RD., Mountaindale, NY 12763. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NEW YORK COUNTY (MANHATTAN) NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Rusan Power Washing & Steaming Service, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/07/2026. Office location: New York County (Manhattan). SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to LEGALZOOM USCA, INC: 45 MAIN STREET, SUITE 238, BROOKLYN, NY, 11201, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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RIVER REPORTER

WHERE & WHEN

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ONGOING

...And the Livin' is Easy'
ELDRED, NY — Thurs.-Sun. noon-5pm, featuring watercolors by Allison Maletz, Hall Space by Nonneta, 550 Rte. 55, hallspaceny.com.

Art Exhibition
MILFORD, PA — Featuring Ken & Glenn McCaleb & Laura Dudes, Thurs.-Mon. 10am-6pm through Aug. 3, ARTery Gallery, 210 Broad St. arterygallerymilford.com.

Dike Blair
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — "Eye, Skies & Pools," Fri.-Sun. 11am-5pm, Catskill Art Space, 48 Main St. catskillartspace.org.

'Equinox' Exhibition
NARROWSBURG, NY — Artist Steve Deihl, displayed, 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.

'Liberty to Me'
LIBERTY, NY — Liberty's 250th Heritage Exhibition, Wed.-Sun. 4pm, Liberty Museum & Arts Center, 46 S. Main St. Naomi 845/807-6055.

Plein Air Painting Exhibition
JEFFERSONVILLE, NY —Plein Air art exhibition on display during library hours, Aug. 1-16, Western Sullivan Public Library, 845/482-4350.

'Print Meets Paint'
MILFORD, PA — Featuring McCaleb & Dudes, Thurs.-Mon. 10am-6pm through Aug. 6, ARTery Gallery, 210 Broad St. arterygallerymilford.com.

Sculpture Garden
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY — "In Sync" & "Dandelion" by Kathy Ruttenberg, Catskill Art Space, 48 Main St. catskillartspace.org.

'Simonix International Retrospective'
HONESDALE, PA — Wed.-Sun. 11am-4pm, Wayne County Arts Alliance, 959 Main St., waynecountyartsalliance.org.

'The Littles' Pop Up Art Show
PORT JERVIS, NY — Fri.-Sun. 1-6pm, reception Aug. 15, UpFront Exhibition Space, 31 Jersey Ave. 845/754-1808.

Tif Wolf Paintings
NARROWSBURG, NY — Velvet Maple, Thur.-Tues., 10am-4pm through July 31, The Commons, 90 Main St. thevelvetmaple.com.

'Where Wild Things Grow'
NARROWSBURG, NY — Featuring Dan Ladd & Joseph Noderer, Sat.-Sun. 11am-4pm, Ruffed Grouse Gallery, 144 Main St. ruffedgrousegallery.com.

'Women of Substance'
LAKE HUNTINGTON, NY — Art exhibition, Delaware Valley Opera Center, 6692 NY-52, call for viewing hours, 845/887-3083.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alzheimer's Support Group
HONESDALE, PA — 1st Tuesday, 5:30pm, Wayne Memorial Hospital, 601 Park St. Register 800/272-3900.

Connections Group
MONTICELLO, NY — 1st & 3rd Mondays 5:30pm, 20 Crystal St., namisullivan.org.

Family Support
ONLINE/HAWLEY, PA — National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1st & 3rd Wed., 6-7:30pm, Grandma's Bakery, 110 Hemlock Farms Rd., & virtually. Register info@naminepa.org.

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

Parkinson's Support
CALLICOON, NY — Garnet Health Foundation Parkinson's support group, 3-4pm, 8881 Rte. 97. Register garnethealth.org/events.

Parkinson's Support Group
LIBERTY, NY— Wednesday 4-5:30pm, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road. Register tinyurl.com/3s4uhzc9.

Suicide Bereavement
ONLINE/MONTICELLO, NY — 1st Wed. 6:30pm, National Alliance on Mental Illness, 20 Crystal St., or virtually, namisullivan.org.

Virtual Momma Bear Connection Group
ONLINE — National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1st & 3rd Tues. 7-8:30pm virtually. Register, info@naminepa.org.

THE WAY OUT HERE

BY HUNTER HILL

Collected and cured

[*Ed. note: What with work and the upcoming Wayne County Fair, Hunter and his family have a lot going on. Here's a column from last year, marking the allium harvest, along with the poison ivy harvest...*]

There's a lot going on with the Wayne County Fair and all the hustle and bustle of the end of summer. I can hardly believe my son is getting ready to head back to school in the next few weeks. The phone has begun to ring with spring animals being finished for fall harvest, and the fields are beginning to show their peak before their autumn descent.

Another sign of the times is that I finally caught up with a task that should have been done weeks ago. Picking the garlic. Thanks to our help at the farm we finally got it pulled and hung in our fancy new curing rack.



Another sign of the times is that I finally caught up with a task that should have been done weeks ago. Picking the garlic.

Fancy? Why yes, I built it myself… from pallets and a brand new tarp. I didn't even use an old tattered one; so, yes, it's fancy.

It wasn't without punishment, however, as many of the walkways have devolved into weeds. Aside from the obstacle there, it also presents a biological challenge, since I have now contracted some type of poison affliction on my forearms. The hogweed or ragweed or some other weed is likely the culprit, but they share the commonality that none of them should really be there. I suppose that's what I get for not manicuring my rows.

With the garlic hung, however, it's important that we clear the mess to get one last fall crop in before the first frost in only two months.

Our onion crop should be getting harvested now as well but… it remains hidden beneath the jungle of our weedy walkways. I did clear one area to see how they were growing, and considering we started from seed, they have definitely grown. However, with little time left in the season, I have concerns as to whether we're going to have nice big storage onions or just small pearl onions. Those small onions would be good in a soup or slow cooker, potentially even a sheet pan oven meal. But it doesn't seem right cutting them cross-section for burgers when they have the diameter of a 25-cent coin.



RR photos by Hunter Hill

Our fancy new curing rack for garlic and other alliums

What's more, our fancy new curing rack can only accommodate things that are at least an inch wide to keep them from falling through. If our pearl onions were not just big enough, we'd have to rig the new rack just to get them dried. Considering this whole mess is because I didn't have enough time, I'll defer to the option that doesn't make more work for me later, i.e., hopefully growing the onions big enough.

We started our onion seeds in January this year and they were just large enough to plant by late spring despite the muddy planting. Assuming we have a more agreeable spring forecast, we might try to plant the seeds as early as December to get even more of a jump on the onion growth. But as you may glean, the road to failure is paved with good intentions.

That being said, I can't imagine a bad intention is going to help me any more.

It seems I am in need of many cures upon assessment of our alliums. My arms need a poison ivy cure, our onion growing needs a cure for how to grow better, and a cure for whatever they yield this season.

The way out here we pursue a good natural cure. Our garlic has crossed that finish line, but there is much yet to come. By the way, did I mention I just cured some beef bologna at the butcher shop? I may need a cure for all my CURE-iosities!

The joy of growing blueberries

By THE COUNTRY GARDENERS

HAWLEY, PA — In May, Bobby Morgan, co-owner of the Paupack Blueberry Farm in Paupack, gave an informative presentation to the Country Gardeners filled with humor, quips and stories about growing blueberry plants.

To him, growing blueberries is more than just a business; it's a passion.

"I am half blueberry," he joked.

He spoke of riding his tractor at the beginning of the season and the joy he felt reaching out to take and eat a handful of blueberries.

According to Morgan, "You know, you get that first berry of the year, the first berry you picked. It's almost a euphoric feeling."

The Paupack Blueberry Farm, a 20-acre family-owned farm, is known for its pick-your-own blueberries. They have three fields and different varieties of blueberries that were crossbred, resulting in a much greater harvest season. The blueberries start to ripen in early July, and they go through Labor Day with later varieties. There is also a farm store where visitors can buy fresh, homemade, blueberry-themed products like muffins, jams and ice cream. There are also blueberry bushes for sale.

For the backyard grower, Morgan recommended planting the northern highbush, which prefers cooler weather. Other varieties, like the top hat or rabbiteye blueberry bushes, are better suited for container growing and warmer climates. For these varieties, in winter, you should bring them inside to temperatures of 40 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit and let them have some sun.

Blueberry bushes are a native plant, very easy to grow, and like acidic soil with a pH of about four-five. If needed, soil test kits are available at the Wayne County Extension Office in Honesdale at 570/616-0880, or the Pike County Extension Office in Milford at 570/832-2800.

When you plant blueberry bushes, try to plant two different varieties nearby for cross-pollination, and to increase your yield as well as the size of your berries, Morgan saiad. Amend your soil with garden soil (not topsoil), peat moss and Pro-Mix. Mix all three together when you plant your bushes.

To feed or fertilize blueberry bushes, use Espoma Quick Solutions' ammonium sulfate, Morgan said. This product has nitrogen, which blueberries like, and sulfur, which is acidic and helps keep the pH down. If you just need to add something to make the soil more acidic and lower the pH, you can just use Espoma Organic Traditions Soil Acidifier. If you want one general-purpose fertilizer to feed your plants, use Espoma Holly Tone, he recommended.

Fertilize blueberry bushes in the spring when the soil is moist so that it will be absorbed. If the soil is too cold, the plant isn't that active, so it's not really going to take in the fertilizer.

To prune mature blueberry bushes, look for the biggest stem or branch you can find, take your loppers and cut it to the ground. This should be done in late winter, late February or early March.

Blueberries need sunlight; they need water; they need food; and they especially need mulch. It creates a barrier and protects against extreme temperatures and retains moisture. Although blueberries like moisture, they don't like to be wet. When it gets too sunny and dry for them, Morgan said blueberry bushes are smart and protect themselves by rolling their leaves up from the bottom side in. This is so the top side isn't exposed to the blistering sun.

A blueberry bush can take three to four years to bear fruit, but for many, it is worth the wait. When you plant a blueberry bush, for the first two or three years, you should pick the fruit off the blossoms and prune it off a little by cutting off the top few inches. This reduces "apical dominance," makes the plant bush out, and stimulates root development. After three years, you can just let it go on its own.



Photo contributed by The Country Gardeners

Bobby Morgan, co-owner of the Paupack Blueberry Farm shares the joy of blueberry picking.

In response to a question about bears eating blueberries, Morgan drew a comparison to the Hanna-Barbera cartoon characters Yogi Bear and Boo Boo. He said though they loved picnic baskets and berries, the farm didn't have a bear problem. Morgan said that once every year or two they had a bear that climbed a fence and came in. He said he did not get much damage from the deer, even in the winter, who preferred to eat the grass.

The Paupack Blueberry Farm is located at 184 Gumbletown Road in Paupack. The website is www.paupackblueberryfarm.com, and they are on Facebook, which is frequently updated. For more information, in late July, call 570/226-9702 or visit info@paupackblueberryfarm.com.

The Country Gardeners meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, 126 Lamberton Lane in Hawley.

SOUNDINGS: TAKING THE PULSE OF THE UPPER DELAWARE WATERSHED

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

Reservoir levels

July 22, 2026

Cannonsville: 77.3%

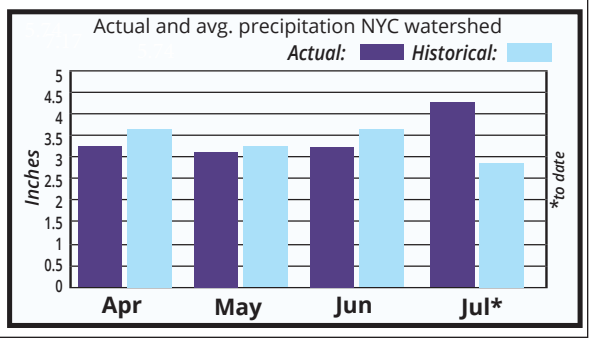
Pepacton: 86%

Neversink: 85.9%

Total: 87.3%

Normal Total: 91.2%

Total in 2025: 83.5%



RIVER TALK
BY SANDY LONG

Skeletonizers and spanworms

Have you ever wondered if there's a National Moth Week? Well—wonder no more—it's a real thing, and it just transpired on July 18 through the 26th. If you already enjoy "mothing," (the practice of attracting, observing, photographing, identifying and documenting moths for enjoyment or scientific study), then perhaps you took part in the activities associated with this annual global event as a citizen scientist. (If not, and this interests you, visit nationalmothweek.org to learn more.)

In my last column, River Talk readers learned about leaftier (also known as leafroller) moths and the fernball shelters they construct. In the ongoing celebration of National Moth Week, here are two more interesting moths making their homes in the Upper Delaware River region.

As its name implies, the caterpillar of the grapeleaf skeletonizer (*Harrisina americana*) consumes the leaves of various plants in the grape family, including Virginia creeper, leaving behind lacy skeletons that can be observed throughout the region. Bright bands of yellow on the caterpillar and a colorful collar of orange or red on the moth provide a warning to potential predators, as this moth manufactures and releases its own toxic hydrocyanic acid.

The second species described here is the large maple spanworm moth (*Prochoerodes lineola*). Its caterpillar feeds on a variety of plants and trees such as oak, maple, dogwoods, apple, willow and walnut. Both the moth and caterpillar rely on camouflage to avoid predators. The moth resembles a dry brown or tan leaf with darker markings and a wingspan of approximately 1.5 to 2 inches. Its caterpillar sports a twig-like appearance that helps it blend in with foliage. It is neither toxic nor harmful to humans.

The caterpillars of both moth species depend on consuming leaves for their survival, while the large maple spanworm moth also practices the art of camouflage, thereby helping to protect itself from predators.

With a full year to prepare for National Moth Week 2027, there's plenty of time to take photos and make notes of the amazing moths inhabiting our local landscapes!



This grapeleaf skeletonizer caterpillar was photographed crossing a dirt road next to a tangle of wild grape vines. The moth is somewhat less colorful, with slender black wings held away from the body and a collar of orange or red behind a black head. Adults live for only a few days, and drink nectar from flowers.



The grapeleaf skeletonizer is aptly named for its practice of defoliating the leaves of plants in the grape family throughout the Upper Delaware River region.



RR photos by Sandy Long

This large maple spanworm moth appeared on my window screen recently. Adults resemble a dried leaf and benefit from blending into woodland habitats, though not screens!



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	Folders

Now through August 7, please drop off your donations at the River Reporter, 93 Erie Avenue, Narrowsburg, NY 12764
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