

BUCKS COUNTY HERALD

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40 pages, four sections
including Homes

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Renovation is underway at Frenchtown Bookshop

A groundbreaking ceremony celebrated the start of renovations for the new Frenchtown Bookshop and Cafe in the former Book Garden building, an 1860s Victorian mansion on Bridge Street in Frenchtown, N.J.

The store is scheduled to open this spring, after structural renovations that include removal of interior walls to create a single large retail space and the installation of a large bay shop window for streetside browsing.

The architect is Michael Margulies of Eclectic Architecture, who oversaw the historically-sensitive renovations of the classic storefront buildings on Frenchtown's Race Street.

The store will sell new books for adults and children and related toys and gifts. A cafe, serving traditionally-brewed tea and coffee, with seating will take advantage of the building's porches.

The owners, husband and wife Scott Sheldon and Barbara de Wilde of Uhlerstown, plan to sell worthwhile books, carefully chosen to inspire curiosity, connection, and compassion, with a special emphasis on the art, literature, and natural setting of the Delaware River Towns. They will schedule a wide range of readings, concerts, book clubs, and hands-on workshops to build on Frenchtown's vibrant community. Special purchasing programs will be available for schools and schoolteachers.

The opening of the bookshop will coincide with the opening of the new ArtYard, the arts center being developed two blocks away.



Frenchtown, N.J. celebrated the groundbreaking for renovations to its new book store by tossing colorful paper strips across the entrance. The shop, in the former Book Garden's building, will open this spring. *JESSICA LASCELLES*

Community feedback sought in Stockton, N.J.

Historic inn would be expanded, guest rooms and amphitheater added



Avon Road Partners seeks to redevelop The Stockton Inn and surrounding property.

Jodi Spiegel Arthur

The family that hopes to reopen the Stockton Inn and add an amphitheater and wellness center to the property has asked Stockton Borough to consider redevelopment as a planning tool for the site and has expressed a desire to meet with members of the community to discuss their concerns regarding the proposed project.

Avon Road Partners has a contingent agreement to purchase the inn, a historic icon at the end of Bridge Street, visible to those crossing the Delaware from Centre Bridge in Bucks County.

According to the borough's website, the building was "established in 1710" first as a private residence, and "is believed to have been converted to an inn around 1832." The now shuttered inn, once a stagecoach stop, attracted New York celebrities during its heyday in the 1930s and '40s. It has been memorialized in a song, "There's a Small Hotel (with a wishing well)," with music by Richard Rodgers.

The family's plan calls for revitalizing the inn's restaurant and guest rooms, and adding a new approximately 20,000-square-foot, three-story *Continued on page C6*

Delaware Canal 21 announces new board chairman

At its January annual meeting, the Board of Directors of Delaware Canal 21 elected Richard Henriques of Brownsburg to be its new chairman of the board, replacing co-founder of the organization, Allen Black of Point Pleasant.

Black was elected to the newly created position of chairman emeritus. Black had requested the change in status, having led the relatively new nonprofit since its inception in 2012.

"Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere," Black said. "I expect to remain quite active in Delaware Canal 21 and its efforts to save the Delaware Canal from extinction through deferred maintenance."

Henriques is a senior fellow at the Center for High Impact Philanthropy at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to his appointment at Penn, he served as the CFO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, and prior to that, Dick was the senior vice president of finance and corporate controller at Merck & Co.

Henriques said he is honored and humbled to follow Black and to help advance the group's mission to sustainably water the 60 miles of the Delaware Canal. It should be known, he continued, that in the words of an avid supporter, Black remains "Inspirer-in-Chief."

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Landmark Hospitality buys New Hope's Landing

Ownership an addition to several dining and lodging establishments

Freda R. Savana

For almost half a century, The Landing restaurant and bar along the Delaware River in New Hope has been a beloved part of the community. With its scenic views and flair for friendliness, crowds of locals and tourists flocked to the unique spot.

Owners Chris and Denise Bollenbacher announced last week that they've sold their riverfront business to Landmark Hospitality's Frank and Jeanne Cretella.

"It's been my life," said Chris Bollenbacher, who opened the restaurant when he was 22. "I'll miss it and I'm thankful to everyone who supported us. It's a wonderful town."

The Cretellas plan to reopen the business, which has been closed since November due to the pandemic, in April and operate it much as before until the fall, when sweeping renovations will begin, said Frank Cretella. All The Landing's staff has been offered jobs with the new business, he said.

Plans call for the adjacent Fred's Breakfast Club building to be razed and replaced with a two-story, 44-room "boutique hotel," Cretella said. The club's 1,400 members will be welcomed into the newly designed Landing, he noted, where breakfast will be served for hotel guests and the larger community.

All the plans are preliminary and no formal hearings have begun. Informal meetings with borough officials, Cretella said, have found support. *Continued on page C6*

Riegelsville and Ottsville fire companies to merge

Response to shortage of volunteers, diminishing fundraising opportunities

Cliff Lebowitz

In response to funding limitations and other serious challenges, the Riegelsville Community Fire Company and the Ottsville Volunteer Fire Company are going to consolidate into a single entity.

The announcement was made by Ottsville's Fire Chief Bill Shick at the Feb. 18 Nockamixon Township public board of supervisors meeting.

Shick said both companies had voted to consolidate, and that they were hiring a consulting company to prepare a draft

formalization of the change, targeting the beginning of next year for moving forward as a new entity.

The Riegelsville entity, a full-service engine and rescue company, was established in 1898 and serves the Borough of Riegelsville, as well as Durham and Nockamixon townships. The Ottsville entity, established in 1940, also full-service engine and rescue, serves both Nockamixon and Tinicum townships, and also serves parts of Bedminster and Haycock townships.

In an in-depth presentation at the Jan-

uary Nockamixon supervisors' meeting, Shick noted a membership challenge of 50% of the volunteers being over 45 years of age, and less than 15% 22 and younger, suggesting a shortage down the road. He also noted response to his company's annual fundraising drive at that time, which had always been less than hoped for, as down from 26% to 18%.

With volunteer time increasingly needed for training, maintenance, and equipment, members no longer had time for fundraising, he said. Since that presen-

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Shamrock Count is back for 2021

It's time again for the Herald's annual "Count the Shamrocks" contest.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17, shamrocks will be hidden in photographs next week in the Herald. Readers can count the shamrocks to be eligible for a raffle of prizes donated by local businesses:

Be sure to look for the shamrocks next week, March 4.

Lower Bucks Hospital administers coronavirus vaccine

Lower Bucks Hospital in Bristol held its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic Tuesday, for members of the public who met the 1A criteria. The event was historic for the hospital as it administered the Pfizer vaccine to community members. Register at buckscountyherald.com/vaccine-portal.

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Municipalities' state police fees may rise in 2021

Springfield residents will be coughing up more for police coverage if the governor's police fees proposal becomes reality. Taxpayers fund the four-man police force, but each would pay an additional \$8.69 annual fee for state police coverage. The township relies on state police to cover the overnight shift.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ryoung@buckscountyherald.com

CB East educator named contributing teacher for Library of Congress

National History Day (NHD) has selected Central Bucks High School East teacher Chris Johnson as one of only 15 educators to create a valuable new classroom resource.

The student guides will be the newest addition to the wealth of materials provided by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Consortium for educators in the United States and around the world.

Over the next several months, Johnson and the cohort of contributors will work directly with NHD and Library of Congress staff to write and test a series of five student guides based on the five NHD project categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, and website. The guides will help students find, analyze, and integrate primary sources from the Library of Congress into their NHD projects. Johnson's experience will include advanced virtual training with the

Library of Congress and its TPS partners. Upon the guides' completion, NHD will distribute the series online.

The cohort of 15 teachers will begin its work with National History Day and Library of Congress staff immediately. The educators chosen for the program represent Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

KidsPeace Foundation welcomes trustees

The KidsPeace Foundation has named three new members to its board of trustees.

The new trustees are Dr. Scott Reines of New Hope, Sandra Kerr of Pipersville and Regina Thompson of Fayetteville, N.C.

Reines and Kerr also serve as members of KidsPeace's national board of directors, while Thompson is a member and past chair of the KidsPeace Fayetteville board of associates.

Reines is a board-certified physician, pharmaceutical research scientist and executive. He served in leadership roles at Johnson & Johnson and Merck Laboratories, and currently consults with a variety of biotech, pharmaceutical, and venture capital organizations. Reines joined the KidsPeace board of directors in 2010 and serves as its chair.

Kerr previously was executive director of promotions and advertising review for Merck & Co.; she also served in similar roles at Johnson & Johnson and Upjohn. In addition to her work with KidsPeace, Kerr is a trained disaster relief caseworker for the American Red Cross, and a volunteer with Point Pleasant Fire Company #1 and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Kerr joined the KidsPeace board of directors in 2018.

Thompson is a small business owner and entrepreneur who also has devoted her time and talents to several community nonprofit groups in the Fayetteville area. In 2016 she joined the KidsPeace Fayetteville board of associates, and has led the group to success in raising financial and in-kind donations along with

awareness of the need for loving homes for youth in the community.

Bucks County Gentlemen give award to musical director

The Bucks County Country Gentlemen barbershop chapter awarded its annual Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) award to Stephanie Britcson, musical director of the chapter.

The BOTY award is presented each year to the member who has made contributions to the life of the chapter that exceed expectations and have a profound impact on the members and the continuing success of the chapter and chorus.

The award recognized Britcson's successful efforts in continuing the musical growth and development of the chorus during a year in which in-person meetings were greatly limited.

In weekly Zoom meetings, she taught vocal production skills, introduced new music, and sustained members' involvement in the improvement of their individual per-

formance. She involved musical coaches and teachers in online instructional sessions.

In recent months she directed occasional outdoor meetings while maintaining safe COVID-19 practices. She effectively overcame the difficulties and limitations of virtual instruction (even after her recent relocation to Hawaii) while engaging chorus members with her enthusiasm and positive approach.

Britcson has directed the Country Gentlemen chorus since 2015, succeeding her father, Chuck Lower, after service for several years as associate director. She is an associate member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and is also musical director of the Jersey Sound Sweet Adeline Chorus. A certified director in Sweet Adelines, she was designated Master Director in 2012. She sang tenor in four championship quartets in Sweet Adeline Region 15.

The Bucks County Country Gentlemen, an a cappella chorus representing the Bucks County Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, will continue to meet virtually each week until in-person meetings are possible.

Camille Granito Mancuso: Chatterbox

There's always so much we need to talk about, so much to understand. Understanding cannot come without sharing. It's very difficult to feel something as deeply as someone going through it feels it. That comes from energy ... human energy.

One of the things I learned was the power of a hug. Yeah, we know, we're a bunch of snowflakes. Well, guess what? Snowflakes are exactly like people. First, there are no two exactly alike. How about that? Secondly, each

is beautiful in its own way. Also, each is temporary. We're here momentarily, respective of our time frame; we make our mark, serve our purpose and we're gone. No one knows exactly where we go, nor do we know when we'll go, but sooner or later, we fade out of existence having shared our beauty and the impact we bring with our life - good, bad and fleeting. Still, while we're here, like snowflakes, we have a purpose and place in history regardless of who likes us or not. So, yes, in a way, we are all

snowflakes.

Hugs warm us up from the outside in and back again and, lately, we human snowflakes haven't been getting hugged enough. I've seen people on videos wrapping themselves in garbage bags so they could hug their mothers and fathers and the other loved ones they've been missing ... and we've all been missing someone.

Many of us have learned how to manage Skype or Zoom meetings just to be with the people we're missing. I attended a Zoom gath-

ering for my girlfriend's birthday this past November. It was better than nothing. My family has them for every birthday, and they give us a chance to be together, but the hugs are virtual ... it's like taking a lovely summer swim, in your coat!

The power of the human touch isn't limited to humans either. Animals embrace their young and not just primates either. Okay, so a giraffe's long neck and no arms may present problems but they still manage. From polar bears to puppy dogs, touch and embracing is a

necessity.

My grandsons give me virtual hugs when I see them, but every once in a while they just can't resist to running over and wrapping themselves up in my arms (we're all quarantining so it's fairly safe when we wear our masks and launder our clothes). It's rare but the need seems to overwhelm them. Touch, hugs, the comfort we exchange when we feel each other's heartbeat ... it's essential.

These days, during a birth, babies are immediately placed skin to skin on their mother's chest. Dad's get in on skin time too. It's been reported to have saved dying infants on more than one occasion. What is the mystery exchange? Body heat, of course, but it has to be more than that. We've all felt it. It's the hug itself.

Too late for my older kids, I learned real hug power. When my youngest, my nephews and, eventually, my grandchildren would cry, I would tell them to hug me and put all their sadness into me. I'd tell them because I was older I could handle it. They would. Then, they would feel better.

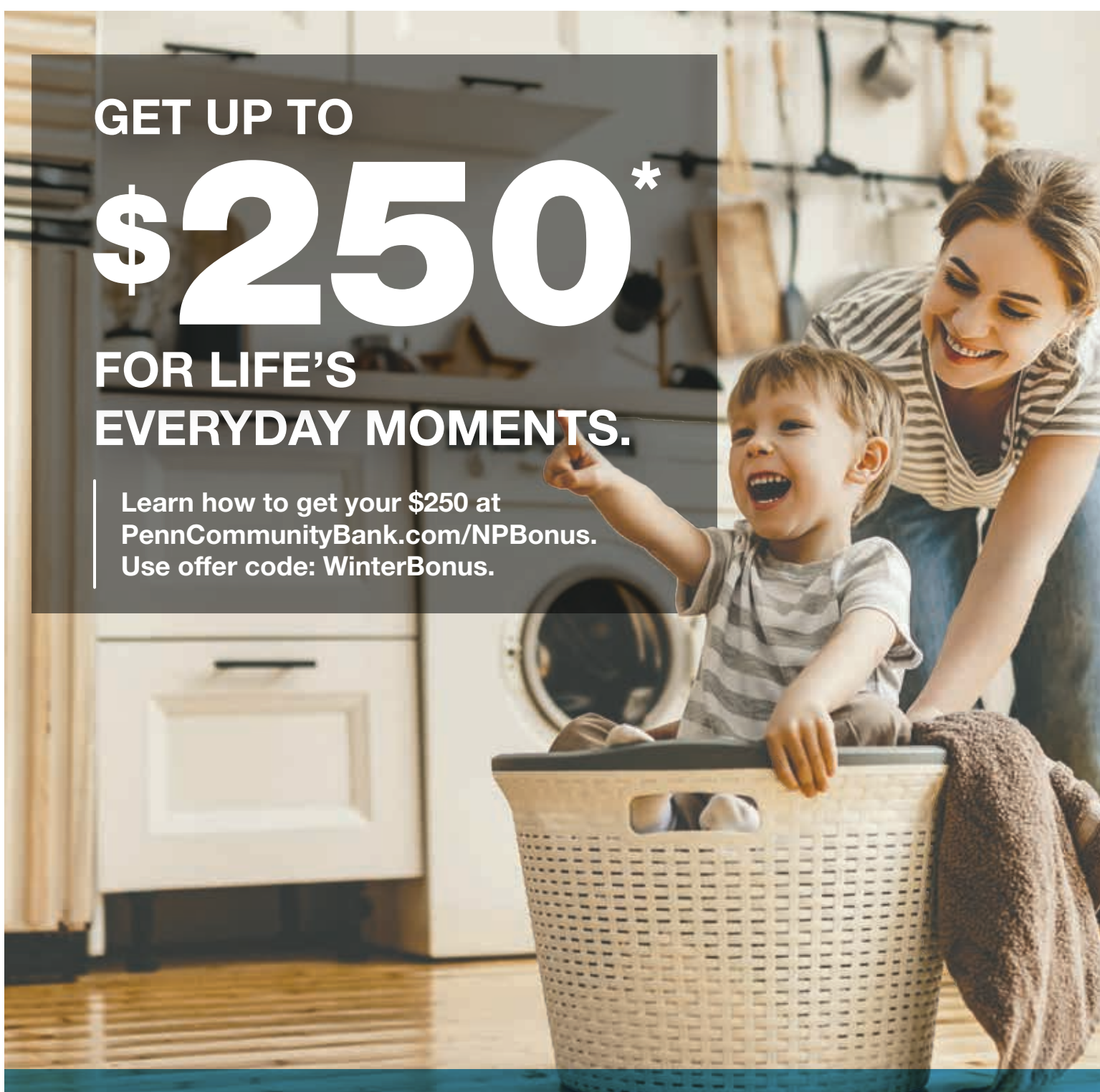
When my young grandson would get cranky at night, I would take him to the big rocking chair in the spare room and hug him. We would sing a little tune and rock. He's 9 now. Often, he'll sing that song to me and ask me if I remember when I would rock him to sleep. It's amazing that he can remember it from such a young age, ah, but the hugging ... that's what made it stick.

Quarantine is getting to be a real social issue. Puppies don't know what strangers coming and going means. Small children are missing lots of smiles and kisses. Newborns are dependent solely on parents for face-reading skill development. Adults, well, we're just plain going stir-crazy. Of all things, though, whether we realize it or not, it's the power of the hug we're missing. These days, the real necessity of them is what we're coming to understand ... far too clearly, and it is real.

If there's nothing good we can say about this epidemic, and there's nearly nothing, at least we can say we've found new mettle, some discipline, and the value of holding our loved ones close, quite literally.

When this quarantine is over, there will be hugs to pay back for all those missed and, then, we snowflakes are going to make a blizzard.

A hug in a flurry



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Educator's vision for cancer center finds home in Bucks

Nonprofit seeks additional \$100,000 Founding Partners

A 5,000-square-foot location at Heritage Center in Buckingham across from Fox Chase Cancer Center will be home of The Corinne Sikora Wellness and Support Center.

The center will welcome anyone battling cancer, regardless of where they are receiving treatment, along with their family and caregivers. The center will be a place where patients can have their nonmedical – yet critical – emotional, physical, social and lifestyle needs met throughout their journey of treatment, recovery and beyond. A wide variety of free holistic and integrative services, including nutrition classes, support groups, book clubs, acupuncture, energy treatment, counseling, yoga and fitness will be offered in this relaxing, tranquil environment.

While the center's launch budget exceeds \$350,000, Pine2Pink/Main St. Missions and Green Street Real Estate have pledged \$200,000 to the project. Designations for Founding Partners still exist for those interested in committing \$100,000 or more to this community driven project.



GEORGE WALLOFF

From left are: Frank Lombardo, Kristina Fenimore, Marianne Fenimore, Keith Fenimore, Alyssa Walloff, Dr. Shelly Hayes and Matt Sikora. Not pictured is Dr. Cynthia Bergman.

The founding members of the center are Corinne Sikora, Alyssa Walloff, Keith Fenimore, Kristina Fenimore and Marianne Fenimore. Additionally, Dr. Shelly Hayes, associate professor of radiation oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center and director, Fox Chase Cancer Center Buckingham, and Dr. Cynthia Bergman, department surgical oncology director, are founding members and consultants. Richard Lyons, owner of Green Street, and Frank Lombardo, managing partner of

Green Street, are overseeing the center's construction and design.

As she was battling both breast and brain cancer, local resident Corinne Sikora had a wish for one comprehensive place for those in the cancer community to find emotional and physical support. She envisioned a warm, welcoming, communal wellness and support center as a retreat for people at all stages of their cancer journey. Before Sikora, a wife and mother, passed on Nov. 25, 2020, she shared these thoughts with her

good friend, Alyssa Walloff, and asked Walloff to pass her vision on to Keith Fenimore, founder and executive director of Pine2Pink and Main Street Missions.

"It was overwhelming to get the message from Corinne via Alyssa. For us to be hand-picked to shepherd this vision was equal parts humbling and terrifying. This is a large-scale endeavor, but the up side of its success means people's lives in our community will be made better, and that's an undeniably powerful notion, and

one we just had to pursue, both for Corinne and for our community," said Keith and Kristina Fenimore.

The Fenimores have set up a nonprofit entity that will run the center under the name Main Street Missions. Channels will soon be put in place so all local medical providers and health care institutions in the area can work in concert with the Main Street Mission team to ensure every local cancer patient is aware of the center and the center is accessible to every local cancer patient in need.

In addition to financial support, many people in the community have already stepped up to help offset costs by donating services and resources. The center is seeking experts and practitioners who can help round out an already robust programmatic offering.

To learn more, donate or to contact Main St. Missions, visit pine2pink.org. There you'll find a "Get Involved" option as well as a designated PayPal donation option on the site to accept any and all financial contributions for the center. Checks may also be mailed to P.O. Box 307, Doylestown, Pa. 18901.

Unemployed Pennsylvanians must be leery of fraud attempts

Chris Ruvo

There are scammers afoot, and they're looking to prey upon some of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable, including those in Bucks County.

State officials are warning commonwealth residents to be leery of potential fraud attempts that aim to take advantage of unemployed Pennsylvanians.

Due to economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, both the national and Pennsylvania unemployment

rates remain elevated above 6%, data shows.

With federal authorities stepping up relief to the unemployed, scammers are keen to tap into the funding source by scheming unsuspecting people, authorities relate.

The state says that, in an effort to create fraudulent unemployment program claims or to log into existing claims to redirect payments, fraudsters are laboring to steal individuals' user names, passwords, unemployment Personal Identification

Numbers (PINs) and Social Security numbers.

Often, the ne'er-do-wells are relying on the digital-driven subterfuge to snare unsuspecting victims by plying phishing or spoofing scams, authorities say.

Phishing refers to the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies/sources in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

Spoofing is when someone disguises an email address, sender name, phone number, or website URL—often just by changing one letter, symbol, or number—to convince you that you are interacting with a trusted source.

"Criminals count on being able to manipulate you into believing that these spoofed communications are real, which can lead you to download malicious software, send money, or disclose personal, financial, or other sensitive information," according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Commonwealth officials say that would-be fraud perpetrators are contacting intended victims through phone calls, emails, texts and social media messaging.

Often, the crooks are posing as members of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) or other government entities or groups, saying that their intention is to help claimants with issues. The real goal, however, is to gain the intended victim's personal and confidential information.

Scammers are also pretending to be unemployment claimants on Facebook or Twitter, and then offer-

ing to help real unemployed people with their unemployment claim issues via phone discussions or email correspondence. Again, though, the objective is to steal the legitimate unemployed individual's personal information for criminal purposes, authorities say.

Officials say it's critical to be aware that L&I never contacts anyone and asks for their username, password, PIN or full Social Security number. Additionally, L&I does not communicate with claimants over social media and the only valid email addresses to contact Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation Service Center are uchelp@pa.gov and ucpua@pa.gov.

One more thing, officials say: Be sharp to unemployment fraud attempts that indicate you have been a victim of identity theft. L&I officials say anyone who received a 1099-G form for unemployment benefits they did not apply for is likely the victim of a widespread national unemployment fraud issue and should take the necessary steps to report the fraud and protect their information.

Additional information about these fraud threats is available at dli.pa.gov.

Bucks County launches new social services effort

Freda R. Savana

In an effort to help Bucks County residents in need of social services, officials recently opened what's being called The Hub.

On the first floor of the Bucks County Administration Center at 55 E. Court Street in Doylestown, The Hub is open for phone calls and walk-in visit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The new service provides a centralized place for those looking for information on issues ranging from

substance abuse and domestic violence to aging matters, said Diane Ellis-Marseglia, chair of the county commissioners.

"The goal is, this is a one-stop shop. You call here and you're going to get the right referral," she said, during the center's opening.

Bucks' director of human services, Rachael Neff, said the public now has a single place it can call or visit to find answers to many social service-related questions and concerns.

"Whether you're trying to get

support for an older adult, or trying to connect your child to mental health services, or if you're experiencing food or income insecurity, coming to the Hub means you can get put on the right path," said Neff. A staff member will be available fulltime to help residents connect with county programs such as the Area Agency on Aging and Bucks County Children and Youth Services, as well as partners such as the Central Bucks YMCA and the Bucks County Opportunity Council.

Oscar Hammerstein Museum names honorary board members

Several internationally prominent figures from the stage, film and vocal music world are joining the nonprofit Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center (OHMTEC) as Honorary Advisory Board members in support of the museum.

Musical theater and Hollywood icon Shirley Jones, actress and author Mariel Hemingway, English actor and performer Gerald Dickens and National Medal of Arts recipient and Grammy-nominated composer Dr. Morten Lauridsen will form the core of the museum's honorary board of directors. "That these artists, known and respected around the world, would lend their voices in support of the Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center is a reflection of the depth of impact that Oscar Hammerstein, the lyricist and the man, had on the world and the importance of preserving and sharing his legacy," said board President Greg Roth. "I owe my career to Oscar Hammerstein," Jones said. "He



SHIRLEY JONES



MARIEL HEMINGWAY



GERALD DICKENS



DR. MORTEN LAURIDSEN

and Richard Rodgers gave me my first job: the role of Laurie in the motion picture version of 'Oklahoma!' I loved Oscar and am honored to support the preservation of his home and the creation of the Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center..."

Actress, author and film and television producer Mariel Hemingway is the granddaughter of Nobel Prize-laureate novelist Ernest Hemingway. "Coming from a family of creatives, the arts are

incredibly important to me, not to mention my family, and to my outlook on life," said Hemingway. "Part of our sense of history comes from our connection to art in all of its forms."

Hemingway began acting at age 14. The author of three books, she is a health advocate who has spent a lifetime studying how mental and physical health are linked.

Gerald Dickens is an English actor, director and producer. He is best known for his one-man

shows based on the novels of his great-great-grandfather, the author Charles Dickens. He reflects fondly on his time performing in "Oklahoma!" and is eager to see Hammerstein's home retained as a place of theater education for future generations.

Lauridsen's music occupies a permanent place in the standard vocal repertoire of the 21st century. His eight vocal cycles, instrumental works, art songs and series of sacred Latin motets are

performed throughout the world and have been recorded on over 200 CDs.

"I am honored to be on this very special board. I have a deep connection to this farm," Lauridsen said.

OHMTEC is in the midst of a fundraising campaign and has been recently awarded a \$500,000 matching grant through the Pennsylvania State Redevelopment Assistance Capitol Program (RACP).

The initial fundraising target, which will secure the property and ensure its preservation into the future, has been set at \$2 million. Donations of any amount are welcome and can be made by check, credit card or appreciated securities. Special naming opportunities are also available.

Contact Christine Junker, treasurer, for details at hammersteinmuseum@gmail.com. To contribute to the effort to #Save-OscarsHome, visit Hammerstein-Museum.org.

After decade of work, Rivet to retire as Sellersville Borough manager

Chris Ruvo

David Rivet is calling it a day. After 44 years in the workforce and a decade as Sellersville Borough manager, Rivet is heading into retirement at the end of February.

While looking forward to relaxing, traveling (once COVID restrictions lift) and riding his three-wheel motorcycle for fun, Rivet will miss his role in running the borough.

"The position of manager is varied and always interesting. I can honestly say I have never been bored," said Rivet, who was public works commissioner and deputy commissioner for Cattaraugus County, N.Y. for nearly 25 years before coming to Sellersville.

Members of the Borough Council

said Rivet has been an excellent administrator and wish him the best.

"Dave has been a pleasure to work with," said Lois Dodson, Borough Council president. "He is approachable and personable, knowledgeable and professional. He keeps council informed about pertinent borough matters and follows through on tasks. We have been very fortunate to have Dave at the helm of our borough ship for the past 10 years."

The positive feeling is mutual.

"Council has been wonderful to work with and is dedicated to the citizens of the borough," said Rivet, who praised his borough colleagues too. "We have a small borough staff of seven full-time employees, including the manager. They work



Sellersville Borough manager David Rivet is retiring.

hard to do their best to serve the community and maintain friendly relationships in their interactions."

Rivet said that some of the achievements he's proud of as borough manager include infrastructural improvements, such as resurfacing or reconstructing more than a third of the 9.65 miles of borough-controlled streets within town. Lining sewer lines, replacing a pump station on Township Road and re-roofing the old fire house were other projects to which he pointed.

Rivet was borough manager as Sellersville officials increased focus on revitalization efforts. He was among the town officials working closely with county entities, like the Redevelopment Authority of

the County of Bucks and the Bucks County Industrial Development Authority, to turn the former U.S. Gauge property into a business complex, known as the Sellersville Business Campus. "The campus represents a great opportunity for additional commercial and industrial development," said Rivet.

"Since the borough is mostly built out, there is limited area for additional economic development, so the borough will need to revitalize what it has in order to grow our local economy."

Rivet certainly wants to see that happen. After all, he's a Sellersville resident.

"Sellersville is a nice quiet place," said Rivet. "I plan to continue to live here."

Falls police debut Supporting Recovery Program

In an effort to "chip away" at the number of overdoses each year in Falls, the township's police department will begin implementing the Falls Township Supporting Recovery Program.

The co-responder model of policing pairs a certified recovery specialist with a Falls Township police officer for overdose and calls related to substance abuse.

Police Chief Nelson Whitney, who listed overdoses as one of the top causes of death in Falls, said his department has been working on the effort since September. Falls Township Police is the first department in Bucks County to implement the program, he said.

Since 2010, there have been 854 overdoses in Falls Township, ac-

ording to Whitney. Of those, 131 were fatal, he said. While fatal drug overdoses have been decreasing, Whitney said the number of overdoses continue to increase. In 2019, the department responded to 105 overdoses and in 2020 handled 123 overdoses.

"For years we've been trying to chip away at what we can do to make this better," he said during Tuesday's virtual supervisors meeting. "This kind of next levels it."

The program is funded completely through a grant from the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission Inc. As part of the Falls Township Supporting Recovery Program, the commission pays the salaries of the Family Service Association of Bucks County's certified recovery

specialists assigned to work with the police department.

"This is a good thing for Falls Township," supervisors Chairman Jeff Dence said.

Supervisors Vice Chairman Jeff Boraski echoed the sentiment and said Whitney is "passionate" about the initiative.

As part of the collaborative effort, certified recovery specialists would work in Falls full-time hours Monday through Friday. In addition to joining police in responding to substance abuse and overdose-related calls, certified recovery specialists would provide emergency medical care, promote treatment, and provide follow up focusing on access to care, transition in care, support for long-term recovery, access to

health care benefits and providing connections to physical health related needs.

"All the data indicates that when a person is in that moment of crisis

the best time to connect them with treatment is then," Whitney told the Supervisors. "We have high hopes that this program will help the people suffering in this community."

Environmental advocacy groups meet with legislator

In an effort to connect constituents with their state lawmakers, Conservation Voters of PA and PennFuture hosted a joint virtual meet and greet Feb. 4, with Rep. Nancy Guent.

Guent, who experienced a historic win as the first Democrat elected to the 152nd District since its creation in 1969, will serve as vice chair of the Pa. House Climate Caucus. The district is in Montgomery County and includes Huntingdon Valley.

Guent said she takes to heart Sidney Sheldon's words, "Try to leave the Earth a better place than when you arrived." Her priority for the region is cleaner air and water for future generations.

Constituents were able to voice their concerns about local environmental issues. PFAS contamination of drinking water continues to weigh on people's minds, even as lawmakers continue to fight for more work to be done. Attendees asked questions about climate change, environmental

injustice, and the environmental permitting process.

Donna Kohut, field coordinator for PennFuture and Conservation Voters of PA, said she was heartened by the conversations because there is a great deal of opportunity for progress on the environment in the commonwealth.

"Now, more than ever, it's crucial for Pennsylvanians to engage with their lawmakers and take part in their democracy," she said. "We are the fourth biggest emitter of CO2 in the nation. Therefore, we have a responsibility to cut our emissions for the sake of future generations. And that can be done in a just and equitable way that supports our state's economy through a focus on renewables and investment in our infrastructure."

Sen. Maria Collett was slated to join the event, but was pulled back into legislative caucus before it began.

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Hammerstein International Youth Solo Contest winners include four Bucks students

Winners for the nonprofit Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center's (OHMTEC) International Youth Solo Contest were announced Friday evening, in a pre-recorded awards ceremony broadcast live from Highland Farm.

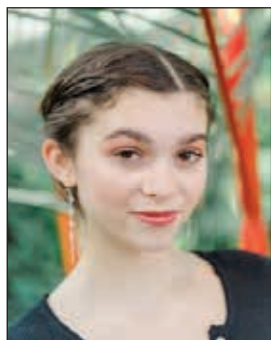
Three Doylestown students claimed victory in the local (Bucks County) category.

First place went to Sierra Safran, 18, a student at Central Bucks West High School, who sang "All the Things You Are" from the musical "Very Warm for May" by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein. Safran said she chose the song because it is her favorite song to sing, and that she feels a strong connection with it.

"From the very first time I heard the song, I fell in love with it. I just think it is so gorgeous and poetic. Singing all the lyrics, I just feel so connected and grounded, not even in a romantic way...but for my future and my goals, and all the people around me."

Second place in the Bucks County category was won by Helena Badiali, 13, a student at Tohickon Middle School, for her rendition of "This Nearly Was Mine" from "South Pacific" by Richard Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Badiali was excited to participate



SIERRA SAFRAN



HELENA BADIALI



ADDISON ROGERS



TAYLOR MITCHELL

in the contest because, "I believe preserving historic properties like Oscar Hammerstein's home is very important. Some of the most recognizable musicals were written there, including shows like 'Oklahoma!' and 'South Pacific.' If we don't preserve places like this one, future generations may never get the opportunity to learn about their rich history."

Third place among the local submissions was awarded to Cold Spring Elementary School student Addison Rogers, 10, who sang "The Sound of Music" from Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical of the same name.

Addison noted that her favorite lyric of Hammerstein's is the last line of the song "Edelweiss," which

is "Bless my homeland forever." "It's the last words he ever wrote for a musical, and it means a lot to our nation and it means a lot to me," she said.

Students from 28 states and two from Canada submitted solo entries for the contest.

In addition to the winners of the local category, Doylestown native Taylor Mitchell took first place in the college division. Mitchell is a sophomore at Elon University majoring in musical theater, and a graduate of Central Bucks West High School.

She chose to sing the title song from "The Sound of Music," in her words, "because to me, that song is the epitome of why I love music. Everything that I want to convey about

music in words is perfectly captured in that song, with its beautiful melody and lyrics."

A complete list of winners is below. Soloist videos can be seen at hammersteinmuseum.org/finalists and on Facebook@hammersteinmuseum.

First-place winners will receive a cash prize, have the opportunity to film their song at Highland Farm and receive a voice lesson with Broadway performers Justin Guarini (of "American Idol" fame) or Andrew Polec (Broadway's "Bat Out of Hell").

Videos of their performances will hold a prominent place on the Hammerstein Museum website for one month each.

A prestigious panel of judges evaluated the final round of solo submissions, including Joseph Ohrt, choir director for Central Bucks High School West in Doylestown; Peter Reynolds, head of musical theater, Temple University; John Simpkins, head of musical theater, Penn State University; and Ivy Walz, interim associate dean and professor of vocal performance at Ithaca College.

Contest sponsors included the Bucks County Symphony Orchestra (Local Category), Jim and Kelly Brexler (Elementary Category), the Bucks County Country Gentlemen (Middle School Category), Atlanta, Georgia music educator Dale Duncan (High School Category) and Lyra Lender Services (College Category).

Proceeds from the contest benefit The Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center, which is engaged in a fundraising campaign to support the nonprofit's ongoing vision to secure Highland Farm, Oscar Hammerstein II's former home and workplace and realize the dream of a museum and theater education center on the site in the heart of Doylestown. To learn how you can make an impact and #Save-OscarsHome visit HammersteinMuseum.org.

Lower Bucks Hospital hosts its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic

Lower Bucks Hospital in Bristol held its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic Tuesday, for members of the public who met the 1A criteria.

The event served as a historic day for the hospital as it administered the Pfizer vaccine to community members of Bucks County. To get vaccinated, they registered at buckscovid.powerappsportals.us/Vaccine-Registration, the Bucks County Department of Health (DOH) website.

The Bucks County DOH screened and sent Lower Bucks Hospital the scheduled residents who met the 1A criteria. Hospital supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine are limited.

Phase 1A includes vaccinating those most at-risk of illness, such as health care workers and Pennsylvanians living in long-term care facilities, persons age 65 and older, and those ages 16-64 with high-risk conditions.

The clinic vaccinated 225 community residents on opening day and since December 2020



ED Nurse Holly Kaczmarek and Chief Nursing Officer Lea Rodriguez.

"We will be administering the vaccine as quickly and efficiently as possible, according to state and federal guidelines. It is a monumental opportunity for us to provide hope for our community, and it will be a process, so we ask for the community's continued patience as we provide vaccines based on supply."

has fully vaccinated 70% of the Lower Bucks Hospital employees with the Pfizer vaccine.

"We know the community has been eager to gain access to the vaccine and we are excited to expand our services to the Bucks residents who meet the 1A criteria," said Lea Rodriguez, chief nursing officer of Lower Bucks Hospital.

To learn more about Lower Bucks Hospital's distribution plan, visit htlowerbuckshosp.com/patients-visitors/covid-19-patient-visitor-information.



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OPINION & Editorial

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LETTERS TO THE HERALD

The Palisades District has been fully open

I found the letter from Terry Kuntz (Feb. 18) difficult to see. The Palisades School District is fully open. This misinformation is hurtful, harmful, and incorrect.

Please do not allow misinformation like this to spread to more of the public allowing them to be misinformed. Please add something to your next edition debunking the lies told in this letter to the editor.

Todd Kellman, Ottsville
Science Teacher
Palisades High School

Editor's Note: See also statement of Superintendent Bridget O'Connell on this page.

Postal Service needs attention of Congress

On Feb. 11, I received a Christmas card postmarked December 28. Checks I sent for two credit card payments and my AAA membership have been lost in the mail. All were sent well before their due dates.

An insurance bill arrived just before it was due and my gas and electric bill arrived a week after it was due. My sewer service bill arrived on the day it was due.

This gross incompetence hinders this nation's commerce and has been orchestrated by the appointed head of the U.S. Postal Service. Congress needs to work with the Biden administration to remedy the situation.

Before federal tax payments are due on April 15 at the latest.

Michael Frank, Doylestown

A thrill to see tribute to a distant friend

What a thrill to see the photo and the lovely tribute to my dear friend, Raymonde Djokic, Jan. 28. We don't see each other since I moved from New Hope but I treasure the times we do and look forward to our frequent telephone calls. She is a wonderful person and always such a delight to spend time with. Thanks for making my day.

Ruth Hirschfield,
Pittsboro, N.C.

Development can be managed proactively

Congratulations to Doylestown on its shiny new Wawa. Well-lit with ample parking and fair-market priced fuels. Not only a productive use of a dead space but a huge improvement over the cramped, antiquated venue just up the street from my home. Solebury had the same opportunity.

But the same NIMBYers who killed sections 700 and 800 of the Route 202 expressway, which would have literally taken thousands of cars a day off of local roads, wouldn't hear of it. All in the interest of "keeping development out."

So now we're stuck with a cramped, antiquated Wawa, a single source of fuels with usurious prices, and the beginnings of a massive planning and execution process as to how to reinvent "business" 202 through our beautiful township to, among other requirements, handle five times the traffic it was ever anticipated to see.

Not all development is evil. I'd prefer to see it managed responsibly and proactively. And while on the subject of "keeping development out," how did Fenton's Corner happen?

John W. Jones
Solebury Township

Local library should be part of county system

In the Feb. 18 Herald there is an article titled "Library presents future goals."

A resident, Dennis Mankin, makes an important statement ... the library has missed the fundamental question which must be resolved before anything else can be considered and that is the nature of the relationship between the township, the borough and the library, whether it remains independent or becomes part of the borough and township.

Without that determination all the issues are premature. This has been a problem for me for a long time. This library is independent, making its own decisions when to open, when to close, what holidays to take.

In the almost one year since the pandemic, building access has been closed more than open. It just re-opened Feb. 9 after being closed for well over two months while all others including those in COVID-19 hot spots have been open part time or full time.

I believe it should be a part of the borough and township and within the Bucks County Library system.

Al Troglio, New Hope

Hopes for renovation respectful of village

My initial reaction to the announcement of the plan to restore the Stockton Inn was positive, until I read the article in the Herald (Feb. 18) and watched the video.

Any injection of human and financial capital that would restore the physical plant and let the inn reopen would be welcome.

The details of the plan, however, raise several concerns. The idea of building a 1,000-seat amphitheater seems impractical. Where will 500 cars bringing an audience park? Does the developer intend to buy another site and pave it over for a parking area, as was done with the Raven in New Hope?

How will the intersection of Bridge and Main streets handle the traffic arriving for a performance and departing after the performance? Is there adequate water and sewerage infrastructure?

The most chilling aspect of the developer's plan is its statement that the project aims to take advantage of the population of 25 million people who live within a 100-mile radius. This observation is presumably intended to provide incentive to potential sources of financing for the project.

The last thing we who love this beautiful and magical Brigadoon in the midst of sprawling suburban development, traffic and pollution want to see is the arrival of even a tiny fraction of that huge population. If we wanted to live in Orlando, we would move there (although that thought this past few weeks has occurred to me).

I would hope that this developer can adapt its vision to a renovation of this inn that is respectful of the village and its physical limitations.

Mitchell Zuckerman

Through the pandemic Palisades worked to improve instruction

Bridget O'Connell

Thank you for allowing this submission, which corrects information regarding the Palisades School District published in a letter to the editor in the Bucks County Herald ("Think about timing for tax payment," Feb. 18).

The Palisades School District has been open for five days a week, in-person instruction in grades K-8 beginning on Aug. 31, and in grades 9-12 beginning on Oct. 5. The later start for in-person instruction at the high school was due to COVID-19 related delays in material delivery, which impacted the completion of our high school science wing renovation.

Since the beginning of the school year our families also had the opportunity to select a fully remote learning option staffed with Palisades teachers. At this point in the school year, 80% of our students are in school five days a week for in-person instruction and 20% are fully online.

School districts across the commonwealth are incredibly diverse and each district and governing school board is or was presented with its own set of challenges to reopening for in-person instruction. Our ability to open our doors for five days a week, as early as we did, was due in part to the allocation of much needed COVID-related state and federal grant funds, the space we had available in our buildings to socially distance, and the state of our well maintained school buildings.

The other part of our successful reopening was due to the tireless efforts of a team of Palisades teachers, nurses, support staff, parents and administrators that were charged with developing a Health and Safety Plan prior to reopening. This team

relied on the expertise of public health experts including, Dr. David Damsker, director of the Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH), state and federal health departments, as well as our local hospital networks, Lehigh Valley Health Network and St. Luke's University Health Network and a countywide collaboration of educators.

Since July, when the Palisades School Board approved the Health and Safety Plan, our teachers, nurses, support staff, bus drivers, coaches, administrators, students, parents, and the board, with the support of the BCDH and the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, have remained committed to continually evaluating and improving how our district operates in a world with COVID.

As a team, Palisades has provided meals to students and the community, improved our instructional practices to meet the needs of students participating in person and online in the same classroom, integrated mental health support for students, and refined our process for reporting student and employee COVID cases among other things. In addition, our community has had many reasons to celebrate this year including athletic championship wins at the league and district levels, outstanding musical and theater productions, and stellar performances in club competitions.

I am grateful to the outstanding Palisades faculty and staff that continue to make this year of in-person and remote instruction possible, our elected school board members and the community that continue to provide support and guidance and the partnership we have with our local health experts.

Dr. Bridget O'Connell is superintendent of the Palisades School District.



Farewell to February

Susan Bronson captured this wintry image of icicles surrounding a Doylestown deck. Snow and ice in February hit the country, north, south, east and west, especially hard this year.

A radio celebrity with an audience of millions has left the airwaves

He called himself a talent on loan from God

Rush Limbaugh was born on Jan. 12, 1951, in the "Show Me" state of Missouri, and he certainly showed many Americans who were willing to listen how to be happy and prosperous in this thing we call life.

Apparently, many of us did listen because he had a radio audience of approximately 32 million per week on 650 radio stations spread throughout the country.

A couple of his favorite messages were "No nation ever taxed itself into prosperity," and "If Thomas Jefferson thought taxation without representation was bad, he should see how it is with representation." His biggest appeal was with people who leaned conservative, but he also had followers with some liberals according to my liberal friends.

He referred to himself as talent on loan from God and he would never get any argument from me about that description. His passing last week will result in talent returning to God. With that in

mind, I would like to thank God for the gift of Rush for 70 years, and I know he will be missed.

Don Landry, Franconia

A sustaining voice for conservatives' grievances, daily

Rush Limbaugh died. In a New York Times eulogy, Ben Shapiro, an aspiring successor, identified Mr. Limbaugh's major accomplishment as giving voice to conservatives' grievance; since they owned everything, shouldn't they receive more respect?

And so to fill that void, Mr. Limbaugh castigated everyone that wasn't acceptable White America: people of color, people with disabilities, people working with gender trials, and people coming to our shores in search of the American dream. Millions were entertained by his daily three hours of demagoguery.

The need to feel superior runs deep. Wonder if we could channel that need into something that deserves respect?

Wil Kirk, Doylestown

HISTORY LIVES

Jean Rollo, Doylestown Historical Society



Black History Month – Big Ben. This photograph was taken at the Bucks County Almshouse in Doylestown Township. The arrow points to the image of freed slave Benjamin "Big Ben" Jones. He was known as Big Ben because of his size; and one of his huge shoes is in the collection of the Mercer Museum in Doylestown.

The donor of the shoe, Lewis H. Clemens, told the following story in 1917. "Worn by Big Ben, a slave who ran away from his owner in Maryland and came to Solebury Township where he worked for various farmers until found by his owner and taken back to Maryland. There he was severely punished and ill-treated until some of his Quaker friends of Solebury and Buckingham raised

enough money to buy him and bring him north again.

"He worked among the farmers until he grew old and disagreeable. He was then placed in the Bucks County Almshouse and remained there until he died. He was buried in the Potter's field at the Almshouse and has no marker."

History tells us that Ben came to Bucks County in 1826 and was recaptured by his former owner in 1837. A local movement sprang up to gain his freedom and area residents eventually raised enough money to bring him back. He moved into the Bucks County Almshouse when he was 65 years old and died there in 1875.

Source: Bucks County Historical Society <http://starweb.mercermuseum.org/Doylestownhistorical.org>

Letters to the Herald

Send letters to P.O. Box 685, Lahaska 18931, or bridget@buckscountyherald.com or fax to 215-794-1109. The Herald is a nonpartisan publication that aims to print only factual accounts. Letters are readers' opinions.

OPINION & Editorial

Navigating vaccine distribution One person's perspective

Stuart Lee Friedman

When my name got called as a phase 1A candidate to receive the Moderna vaccine at Bucks County Community College, I was optimistic.

My first vaccine was scheduled at the Bucks County Community College Newtown Campus on Wednesday, Feb. 17. To fail-proof the visit, I took along the note from my doctor certifying my phase 1A status and a copy of the appointment I made through Track My Solutions, the online portal for AMI Expeditionary Healthcare. AMI is the technology company contracted by the county to administer the logistics of COVID testing and vaccination, including scheduling.

Wednesday did not go well. A line of cars ahead of me at the campus' entrance were being sequentially turned away by campus security. The officer paged through his clipboard list and said, "I don't see your name."

With a confident smile, I showed him the appointment from AMI. But he shook his head. "Go home," he said. "Wait for an email. You didn't make it on the list, but if you qualify, you'll be rescheduled."

It is difficult to explain that situational moment of depression in which something that seems too good to be true turns out to be too good to be true. Having taken the day off from work for the appointment that wasn't, nothing on my scheduled interfered with the 3½ hours I spent on hold with AMI.

The representative explained that a software glitch allowed the link I received to be shared on social media and multiple people showed up that should not have been scheduled. He told me to wait for an email to reschedule. The email never came, but I logged in and saw that I was rescheduled for the vaccine on the 27th notwithstanding.

An email arrived a day later

asking me to make an appointment. I followed the link, curious that I was asked to reschedule after being rescheduled. The link allowed me to create an appointment the next day, a full week earlier than the 27th.

After getting the vaccine, I was given a vaccine card, but it only had the lot number and that day's date on it. The name was left blank for me to fill out, and the second dose information was also blank. When I asked about making the critical 28-day booster appointment, I was told that I would get an email inviting me to do so online.

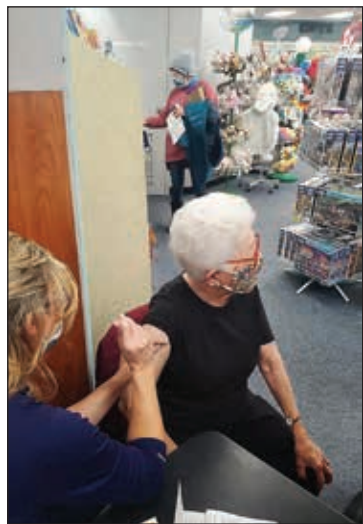
Two days later, I received an email, but it mentioned nothing about a booster – only that I was finally approved for a vaccine. Curious, I went online and found that my history indicated I "missed" the appointment in which I actually received the first vaccine dose.

Again, I called AMI. I was advised that there was another software glitch. They told me the "missing" status would go away. At 72 hours, it remains.

Digging deeper, I have since learned that Pennsylvania requirements for COVID-19 vaccine providers clearly stipulate appointment times for second doses be designated or scheduled at the time the first is administered. The CDC has issued similar guidance that scheduling the second dose be accomplished "immediately after the first dose is received."

I took that information back to the campus vaccine clinic, but an AMI technician dismissed it as inaccurate and I was assured that within 7 to 10 working days I would receive a link to schedule that second dose.

I called AMI about this discrepancy and was told yet a different story – that the 28 days referred to the window to schedule the booster, not receive it. I was told people who got the first vaccine in January would not get the sec-



Whitman Pharmacy in Buckingham had a supply of vaccine in February. Joan Sparks was first in line to receive the Moderna vaccine at Whitman Pharmacy Feb. 6. "He gave everyone who got the shot a \$5 coupon to spend in the store. Brilliant marketing tool on his part," one observer said. The pharmacist said he had 1,500 on a waiting list at that time.

ond until at least March, which is beyond vaccine manufacture guidelines, and that I should expect an email to no earlier than March 9 (12 business days) to see when my booster could be scheduled.

After two software glitches that both assured me that I had an appointment when I did not and now insist I did not have an appointment when I did, I am asked to have confidence in a system that will reschedule my booster within 7-10 business days yet no sooner than 12 business days.

Stay tuned...
Stuart Lee Friedman of New Hope covered the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic for the Herald. He gave weekly reports until the infections eased in late spring.



Newspapers, stacked and ready to deliver.

Kathryn Finegan Clark: By the Way The local press

"Local journalism is a vital civic institution. Perhaps above all, it provides a check on power and a means of exposing corruption and incompetence, whether among government agencies or corporations."

"In the First Amendment, the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors."

— Judge Hugo Black, writing for the 6-3 U.S. Supreme Court majority that decided in favor of the press

After more than 50 years of writing for a free and unfettered local press, I feel truly fortunate to continue my task of informing the public. (Actually, more than 50 years if you consider I wrote for a high school column in one of the now extinct Philadelphia dailies – and, as a high school senior, I chalked up a Page One byline in my hometown's newspaper.)

My role as observer has set me at the sidelines of history. Although my audience is small as compared with those whose beats cover the country or the world or even space it is here in these little pools of people that history and its accompanying chicanery and good deeds begin.

It is here in Bucks County I have reported on the deeds and misdeeds of local school boards, township government and state and local police. I always did my best to ferret out the truth – and that task was often very difficult, if not impossible, considering the roadblocks officials can erect – and they do erect them. I do have to say, however, in my experience, the good deeds usually far outweighed the misdeeds, even though the officials who behaved

badly are more easily recalled for their exceptional audacity.

As a reporter searches for truth there's more cat-and-mouse stuff going on than most people realize. And the power is generally owned by the cat ... until milk is spilled and the truth emerges. Truth does emerge. Sometimes it reveals a damning cover-up. More often it uncovers incompetence or facts that could be embarrassing for officials.

(Think Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's hasty return from Mexico during a weather crisis in his own backyard. His family junket, an escape from a sudden freeze that diminished power and water supplies for his constituents, was an event soundly denounced by both political parties. Some news person correctly brought that to the public's attention.)

Few people realize the work involved in reporting the news. A two-vehicle accident, for example, requires, first of all, the knowledge that it has occurred, then a call to the police, to the fire company, ambulance squad and hospital, if involved, to confirm the information. Depending on the circumstances and severity of the event, a reporter and photographer may rush to the scene, fearing what they might see and, sometimes, carrying the memory of what they did see for the rest of their lives.

Now is the time to remind ourselves and others that it is the free press and not fake news that matters. There is indeed fake news, more so than ever, out there on social media platforms, but you won't find it in established newspapers or on long-respected television news programs.

Reporters for the mainstream media go to great lengths to confirm facts – and do not present them until they are actually verified, often by several sources.

Is artificial turf the best cover for a new field?

I am concerned about the plans for the expansion of the athletic facility at New Hope Solebury High School.

This involves large costs, and a hazard that can affect the well-being of those using the facilities. On this later point, the most important issue within the plan is the installation of artificial turf, i.e., "Astroturf."

The concerns here are not only the initial costs, ongoing maintenance, and disposal of worn-out synthetic turf, but more important, about the safety and health of the students and others who may be using the fields.

Synthetic turf has been around for a long time. Since its introduction, many organizations have written in regard to finding measurable increases in injuries on these synthetic fields, vs playing on natural grass. As one example, JC Tretter, president of the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA) provided some statistics, which were reported by the Associated Press on Sept. 30. T

On synthetic turf, vs natural grass, there were 28% more noncontact injuries to the lower body, 32% more noncontact injuries to the knee, and 69% more noncontact injuries to the foot and ankle.

Football is only one sport, but more information comes from women's soccer. The 2019 Women's World Cup Finals, as reported by the Guardian on Aug. 22, 2019, were all played on natural grass. This occurred after a long fought legal battle, initiated by USA Women's soccer, led by Megan Rapinoe.

In this battle, the organization formally complained to FIFA that players sustained more injuries when playing on artificial turf. FIFA ultimately capitulated, and followed the protocol set for men's soccer – where they played all games on natural grass.

There is another injury not mentioned by the NFLPA. This is "turf bum," an abrasion, caused by sliding on synthetic turf. Compared to grass, synthetic turf has a higher coefficient of friction, and this can result in higher heat created during sliding, and more skin peeling. The open wounds can be large, and require cleaning, disinfecting,

moisturizing, and protection.

Other issues regarding health have been found with artificial turf in the past. To cushion falls, crumb rubber has been added to the turf. Crumb rubber is made from recycled automotive tires. In an NBC News investigation, dated Oct. 8, 2014, led off by Brian Williams, and carried out by Stephanie Gosk, they identified that crumb rubber can contain four known carcinogens – arsenic, benzene, cadmium and nickel.

In the NBC News investigation, one soccer coach found an inordinate number of female goal tenders contracted various forms of cancer.

In diving for the ball, they would often be on the surface of the turf, sliding, and while doing so, kick up and inhale small clouds of crumb rubber.

As you might expect, the synthetic turf manufacturers have worked to address issues, such as replacing the crumb rubber with other cushioning materials, such as silica and others. Colorants have also been reviewed. These are involved in the green polyethylene grass blades, painted boundary lines, team logos, and other markings. The colorants were found to have contained lead, heavy metals, and other toxic materials, and are being replaced by other colorants in newer turf.

Simply put, are there guarantees today for health and safety? At New Hope Solebury High School, nobody can deny the benefits to the development of the students who learn the value of teamwork, or developing the motivation to self-improve under professional guidance.

These benefits will manifest themselves in their future endeavors, and help them carry on a healthy lifestyle for the benefit of themselves and others.

With this as an important purpose of athletics, I see more downside issues with artificial turf, than upside benefits. With natural grass on the other hand, I see far fewer downsides.

Why should we allocate and spend large amounts of money on artificial turf, while potentially taking on unknown risk?

Ron Felix, Solebury

New Hope for Carversville

Denie Mathias

Will and I would like to publicly lend our voice in support of Milan Lint and Mitch Berlin's plans to improve and restore The Carversville Inn.

We think we have a unique perspective having owned and operated The Carversville Inn for 31 years as chef, employers, landlords and part of a wonderful community. I could speak volumes on what it was like to run the inn, but will stick to what I think are the most salient points to consider taking into account what has been written in this forum and posted on social media platforms.

First and foremost, the inn needs to be a financially viable business. The preservation of the inn as an historic building is dependent on its being a financially viable business ... it is as simple as that.

COVID-19 notwithstanding, owning and operating a restaurant is a challenging business. One has only to look at the success rates and longevity rates for the industry. For us, the size of the kitchen was one of the biggest challenges. It is tiny at 400 square feet for operating a fine dining establishment. It required a lot of prep and creativity to put out high quality dinners.

Those who know Will, saw his truck parked behind the inn for an inordinate numbers of weekly hours for the better part of those 31 years. It is highly unlikely anyone would want to continue running the inn the same way we did. The kitchen desperately needs a larger footprint.

When Will and I took over the inn, it was a turnkey business. We were not required to bring the inn

up to code. There has been much said about this and how it affects the building. The inn needs to be ADA compliant. That is a daunting challenge, structurally and financially.

ADA improvements would include at the least, enlarging bathrooms, widening doorways and corridors. Code requires "panic" doors open outward. There needs to be ADA egress and ingress access from the parking lot into the inn. The list goes on. How great it would be if more people would likewise, be able to enjoy the inn.

There are many who have suggested that with a few cosmetic fixes the inn could go on as before. It is going to take considerable capital investment, not only to conform to current law but to preserve and protect the inn going forward. We sincerely believe the community is lucky Milan and Mitch are willing and able to assume this responsibility. It is wishful thinking to hope that it can continue as it did without significant changes.

This leads into the second point of consideration.

Everyone wants to preserve the historic integrity of the village. We can all agree on that. I would suggest though, it should not prevent improvements or progress. If that were the case, no one in the historic district would have car garages, satellite dishes, decks, outdoor compressors. Prior to the Civil War, the inn was expanded by approximately 100% which is more than a "modest" expansion. The third floor was added as well as the back dining room area and floors above. All this was the result of having a prosperous and viable community. Milan and Mitch are

proposing less than a 20% expansion when a 25% increase is allowed.

If I am to understand correctly, one the biggest objections to the proposed plan is the demolition of the back cottage. That surprised us. In all the years we owned the inn, we were never able to definitively determine that it was an ice house.

That aside, there is one visible wall facing Fleecydale Road that might have been part of the original outbuilding. There is nothing there that has any semblance of an ice house. It has two windows, a doorway and ironically, a stove pipe chimney in the "ice house." It looks and functions as a cottage.

Historically the inn was a hotel with rooms for rent. The changes proposed are historically correct. Historically, the stairs were all interior stairs. Moving the stairs to the interior would visually be historically correct, never mind safer. The inn is zoned a commercial property and the proposed plans are adhering to the allowed increased footprint and square footage.

We can't help but reflect, back in the day, would the people in the village have objected to the addition of the third floor and increasing back rooms of the inn or would they have applauded the need to adapt and grow with the town as a viable business, which also employed local residents and provided a safe and inclusive venue for people to congregate?

Denie and Will Mathias owned and operated the Carversville Inn for 31 years as the centerpiece of the village. They announced last spring that it would be sold and the inn has been closed ever since.

Proposed changes to Stockton Inn welcomed with reservations

As a resident of Hunterdon County since the mid-1960s and having lived 1/3 mile from the Stockton Inn for the past 25 years I would love to see the inn renovated, well-loved and well-used by this community and the broader region.

Certainly, it is a shame that the inn has been vacant for as long as it has. As a carpenter I am well aware that long-term vacancy does no building any favors.

I have questions on several aspects of the proposal (Herald Feb. 18, page 1). It is true that within 100 miles there are around 25 million people, give or take a few. It is also true that within a stone's throw there are already three other inns – Woolverton Inn, Holly Hedge Estates and the Centre Bridge Inn – providing rooms, event space and other

Revitalizing The Stockton Inn is

admirable – implying that Stockton Borough needs a rebirth not so. As I walk in town it seems most businesses are doing okay excepting the restaurants, which have been impacted by what we all hope is a fast-closing chapter namely Covid.

Adding 17,000 square feet of additional rental space raises a few questions: Where will these folks park their cars? Currently traffic in Stockton during summer weekends already takes over "center city."

Do we really need additional impervious coverage in a flood plain? Does bringing in high density rental housing add to the character of this town? What about the impact on the Delaware River? The increase in the number of river rafters each summer has already raised demand on local water rescue teams.

The article states: "For more than

two decades Avon Road Partners has ... invested in, founded and operated multiple enterprises in the Gaming, Technology, Media and Real Estate sectors." It is not unreasonable to conclude that: (a) these folks have both the funding and the expertise and (b) residents wonder about their commitment to the communities they develop. The broad range of their enterprises suggests that this is a major corporation whose primary driving force is return on its investment rather than community commitment.

Renovating the building is certainly needed, adding 17,000 square feet of rental space not so much and the implied need for revitalizing adds an element of insult to the existing community and environment.

Patric Schretlen, Stockton, N.J.

Dr. Lori: Art and Antiques Be your own interior decorator

While many of us have discovered a new skill or developed an old one by watching videos about interior decorating, it is interesting to learn that the tricks of the trade are steeped in our cultural psyche.

In the middle decades of the 20th century, specifically the post-World War II era, the home decoration industry offered assistance to customers when it came to decorating with objects, art and furniture in one's home.

During an appraisal event recently, I was not surprised to find myself reviewing a mid-century modern color print housed in an inexpensive wooden frame complete with a cardboard backboard. What did surprise me at my appraisal event was that the cardboard backboard of a framed print had an advertisement clearly printed on the back with instructions about how to hang a picture easily and for biggest impact.

The printed advertisement image struck me because it was so reminiscent of what I had

been taught when studying to be a museum curator in the 1990s. The printed backboard advised customers to hang pictures in groups or multiples. It also offered advice about how high or low to hang individual pictures.

The instructions from Reliance Industries Inc. of Chicago suggested that when hanging pictures of small size that they be hung in groups of multiple pictures. With an image of a living room with a lamp, sofa, and many framed pictures hung on a wall, the instructions showed an easy-to-follow way to hang pictures.

A helpful hint printed in red advised customers that pictures should be hung at eye level. In museums, we call this the "60 inches center" rule. This method is widely used in galleries and museums when installing exhibitions. The 60 inches center rule means that a framed picture, painting, or print should be hung in a position so the center of the painting is hung at 60 inches from the floor. Since most people are comfortable viewing works of



DR. LORI VERDERAME

art at eye level, the 5 feet mark is optimum. For gallery goers and museum fans, viewing art at eye level is pleasing and restrained.

While the mid-century modern frame industry encouraged customers to design their homes in their own style, the materials that they used to get the word out – like acidic backboards – were helping to slowly deteriorate the artwork.

While the acidic backboards of the 1960s would need to be replaced later in the 20th cen-



How to be your own decorator picture frame, circa 1960s.

Photographs by staff at DrLoriV.com

tury, using frames to encourage interior decorating is an inexpensive way to brighten up a room. For instance, when trying to make a statement in a room with only small-scale (approximately 4x6 inches) framed pieces, consider placing the pictures within a group and group them

by color, subject matter or style.

Consider the light sources in the room, where the windows are located in relation to the walls where you want to hang your paintings or prints. Keep art out of direct sunlight and away from radiators, windows, air conditioners. Be sure to allow enough resting space – that's blank wall area – around your paintings and prints too. This gives the viewer time to consider one work of art before being introduced to another work of art on a wall.

If you are grouping works of art together, they may be hung closer together to suggest a group or visual relationship. While some vintage interior decoration rules have grown obsolete, others have stood the test of time.

Dr. Lori Verderame is the antiques appraiser on History Channel's "The Curse of Oak Island" and weekdays on "The Doctor and the Diva." Dr. Lori presents her Antiques Appraisal Comedy Show to audiences nationwide. Visit DrLoriV.com/events or call 888-431-1010.

NRCS announces funding for wetland restoration, protection

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Pennsylvania now has \$1.9 million in funding available through the Agricultural Con-

servation Easement Program (ACEP) to help private landowners, land trusts, and other groups wanting to restore and protect critical wetlands and

protect agricultural lands and grasslands.

Funding is available for both the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program and the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) Program in 2021. Through ACEP Agricultural Land Easements (ALE), NRCS provides funds to eligible entities to purchase permanent easements on private working lands. This program helps keep working lands working, especially in areas experiencing development pressure. For ALE, \$1,315,900 in funding is available for cooperating/partner entities to preserve agricultural land.

Through ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements, NRCS helps landowners restore, enhance,

and protect wetland ecosystems. NRCS and the landowner work together to develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the permanent easement. For WRE, \$642,000.00 is available for private landowners to preserve and restore wetland habitat across Pennsylvania.

Applications for both ALE and WRE are due no later than March 1 to be considered for funding in 2021.

Landowners interested in wetland reserve easements and partners interested in agricultural land easements should contact their local USDA service center. For a map of local service centers, visit nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/.

Bombo publishes new book on Perkasio history

A new book about Perkasio Borough combines original research, firsthand accounts, and primary sources in the first narrative account of one of Bucks County's most iconic towns.

"An American Hometown (1683-1945)," researched and written by historian Scott Bombo, looks at how Perkasio was created by the cigar boom in the Victorian age, and how it survived losing its main business to remain a vital town through World War II.

He is currently at work on a companion book that covers Perkasio's post-war period until the late 1980s.

Bombo is a historian and preservationist who has written frequently about Bucks County's past. He is the editor-in-chief of the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. He is also currently writing a detailed history of Bucks County's covered bridges.

"An American Hometown" is available on Shopify and at perkasiohistory.com. A limited number of copies are expected to be at Chimayo Gallery and the Treasure Trove in Perkasio.

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Upper Bucks homeless shelter seeks volunteers

Volunteers are needed to support the mission of the Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB).

AHUB is a nonprofit organization that serves the needs of the homeless of the Quakertown, Pennridge and the Palisades areas. One program under AHUB is a volunteer staffed community ministry called Code Blue, which provides shelter and a warm bed and meal to the homeless of Up-

per Bucks County on cold winter nights when the temperature is 26 degrees or below.

This homeless shelter is located at the Masonic Lodge in downtown Quakertown. Volunteer opportunities include: shelter admissions staff, overnight staff, morning aide and more. Season runs from Nov. 15 to April 15.

Contact ahubpa@gmail.com to learn about opportunities or call 215-536-5166 (email is preferred).

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Minister ordained by online ministry sues Bucks County

Freda R. Savana

A minister with The Universal Life Church Ministries recently filed a federal lawsuit against Bucks County, claiming an official with the Register of Wills said he was not properly qualified to have a marriage legally recognized in the county.

The Rev. Stephen H. Moser, a Falls Township minister who was ordained via the Internet by ULCM, alleged the county

last year denied him his religious freedom by asserting he could not legally officiate a wedding service because of his online certification.

Linda Brobin, Bucks County's register of wills and clerk of the Orphans' Court, said her office has long accepted such marriages.

"The clerk's policy is and has been to leave it up to the couple seeking matrimony to determine if their officiant is qualified to perform marriages. If the officiant is acceptable to the couple,

then Bucks County will accept the marriage as valid," Brobin said, in a statement.

Since Jan. 1, Bucks County has granted 303 marriage licenses for which the officiant was designated as a Universal Life Church minister, according to county officials.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Editor's Note: The Bucks County Register of Wills and Or-

phans Court office issued the following statement Feb. 18: "On February 17, 2021, the Bucks County Courier Times published an online story incorrectly indicating that the office of the Bucks County Clerk of Orphans' Court ("Clerk") would not recognize marriages solemnized by persons ordained through the Internet.

"The Courier Times has been misinformed. The clerk and her predecessors have long accept-

ed and will continue to accept marriages performed by persons ordained via the internet. The clerk's policy is and has been to leave it up to the couple seeking matrimony to determine if their officiant is qualified to perform marriages. If the officiant is acceptable to the couple, then Bucks County will accept the marriage as valid. Pennsylvania and Bucks County even recognize certain self-uniting marriages that do not involve an officiant."

State police coverage may cost more in 2021

Barrie-John Murphy

Springfield residents will be coughing up more for police coverage if the governor's police fees proposal becomes reality.

Taxpayers already fund the four-man police force, but each would pay an additional \$8.69 annual fee for state police coverage. The township relies on state po-

lice, based in Dublin, to cover the overnight shift.

The police fees, outlined in the 2021 state budget, are calculated according to local police barracks operating costs, and vary depending on each municipality's coverage. Nockamixon and Durham taxpayers would be hit with a \$17.39 annual fee because those townships rely on full-time cov-

erage.

Gov. Tom Wolf's funding formula also takes into account median household income levels for each municipality, all designed to raise \$168 million for the force, which has lacked a reliable revenue stream since a cap was placed on the amount it could draw from the Motor License Fund.

Springfield police labor costs

have steadily risen from \$584,000 in 2016 to \$674,000 under the 2021 budget. Together, police and road crew costs accounted for half the budget costs this year. Supervisors rejected a proposal for closer oversight of police daily activities in 2018, and the board has stood solidly by its department despite nationwide calls for a reduction and reallocation of police force

funding.

Uniformed and nonuniformed employees received 3% raises during the township's annual budget adoption meeting, but bonuses were dropped across the board.

Commenting on the rising labor costs, Supervisor Pete Kade said, "We're just digging ourselves into a deeper and deeper hole, spending money we don't have."

Bucks Beautiful debuts membership opportunity

Now really is the time to appreciate the great outdoors.

For 30 years, Bucks Beautiful has worked to enhance the landscape for residents and visitors alike by beautifying towns, schools, parks, roadsides and pathways throughout Bucks County.

The nonprofit coordinates events, community projects, educational programs, and partnerships to develop sustainable yet attractive plantings to foster a healthier environment. During this unsettling era,

appealing plants and colorful gardens uplift the spirit.

"As we all spend more time locally, please enjoy inspired gardens and sustainable plantings that Bucks Beautiful works hard to create throughout our community," the nonprofit said.

Locals have the opportunity to help Bucks Beautiful accomplish even more by becoming a charter member. Be first to learn of events, enjoy free admission, plus early access, to Bucks Beautiful's garden



The front of the Bucks Beautiful member's card features daffodils.

tour and other exclusive benefits. Visit bucksbeautiful.org to enroll

online or print an application to mail.

Membership support will bolster Bucks Beautiful's reforestation initiative, RePlant Bucks, the Bulbs for Bucks daffodil displays, scholarship programs, educational lectures, community garden projects and pop-up parks throughout the county. Become part of a special network of friends and neighbors who are committed to improving Bucks County for now and for future generations.

Bucks Opportunity Council offers free income tax assistance

The Bucks County Opportunity Council offers free income tax preparation assistance for low-income residents through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

IRS-certified volunteers prepare taxes for qualified residents through April 15, in four locations: Bristol, Warminster, Quakertown and Newtown. Individuals and families with a combined income of \$57,000 or less may be eligible for the program.

BCOC volunteers have helped over 13,000 families save over \$25 million in refunds, tax credits and fees in the last 16 years; money that stays in the local economy.

Appointments are required this year due to COVID-19; safety precautions are in place, contact is limited, and tax preparation is completed off-site. Self-scheduling of appointments is available at bcoc.org. If assistance is required, contact Eileen Albillar at 215-345-8175 x209, or ealbillar@bcoc.org.

Bucks activists call for justice after 19-year-old fatally shot by state police

Bucks County anti-racist activists recently joined together to demand justice for Christian Hall, a Pennsylvania 19-year-old fatally shot by state police on Dec 30.

The peaceful protest in Warminster on Feb. 13 shared a message of urgency for justice and solidarity and sympathy with the family of Hall. Organizers have been in touch with his parents, who expressed gratitude for local efforts to send this case to Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro for review. Citing a video of the incident that surfaced online, Hall's family and attorney have said the 19-year-old had his hands raised before he was shot seven times.



Despite freezing temperatures and piles of snow lining the sidewalks and streets, the protesters spent more than an hour march-

ing and chanting down the major intersection of Street Road and 263 in Warminster. A police escort briefly stopped traffic an-

Marching through Warminster on Feb. 13, Bucks County anti-racist activists call for justice for 19-year-old Pennsylvania resident Christian Hall, who was fatally shot by state police on Dec. 30.

blocked lanes when necessary to protect the safety and rights of those gathered.

The event organizers declared, "Mission accomplished. And we are grateful to TC Cuthbertson for sparking the idea for a Bucks County-based demonstration. Special shout out to Youth 4 Unity who showed up in multiples."



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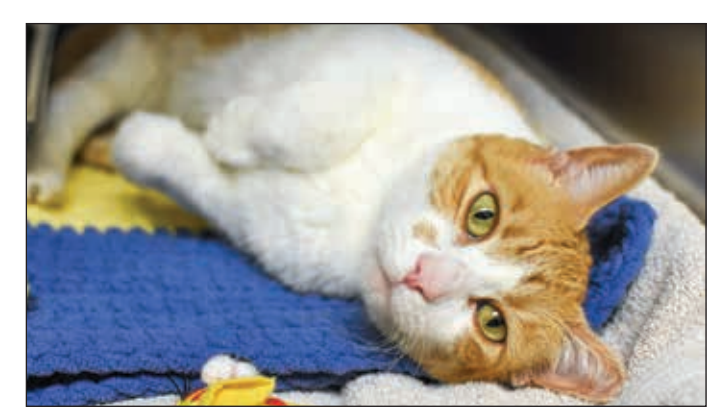


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Living life and looking ahead



Tabby's cat of the week

Honey is as sweet as her namesake. This mild-mannered older gal appreciates a cozy spot to relax. She may not be an active little one anymore, but she would make a great couch cat for a quiet family that likes to hang out. She enjoys being around people, even if she isn't demanding attention all the time. Honey also loves other cats and would be a great addition to a multi-cat household. Honey has had a difficult year. She was originally surrendered to Tabby's Place with her feline sister (who has since been adopted) after her person passed away and no one was left to care for her. Despite the rough change in luck, Honey took it in stride and was quickly readopted. Alas, her luck would change once more, and she was returned. Honey may be a senior, but she is in good health with no concerns as far as can be determined. Those who fill out an application will be contacted to schedule a virtual meet-and-greet. For questions about virtual adoptions, contact adoptions@tabbysplace.org. For information, visit tabbysplace.org.

Cindy Woodall: Meandering with My Mutt Cross country skiing venture

Jesse and I set forth into a magical landscape of winter white, the world pristine with its blanket of newly fallen snow. Tree boughs, dressed in their winter finery, wear a powdery mantle, and the sky, a faded gray, foretells of more snow to come.

We are taking advantage of the abundant snowfall to strike out upon the cross country skiing trail that originates at the Ringing Rocks parking lot on River Road in Upper Black Eddy, leading to the tow path. The conditions are those of a cross country skier's dreams – a solid track with a decent base and, best of all, no ice. Running parallel is a lightly-trodden path created by walkers where Jesse alternately walks and trots alongside.

A thick shroud of snow lies upon the surface of the canal, pools of silvery ice shimmering through in places. Wildlife tracks, dimples in the snow, weave over the surface revealing a story of the various critters that have crisscrossed upon the snowy carpet.

Despite the wintry weather, a host of birds are out and about. A chickadee sasses its way through the tree tops and in the distance can be heard the "Peabody, Peabody, Peabody, Peabody" trill of the white-throated sparrow. Far above our heads a hawk soars, outstretched wings etched against the leaden sky. Skipping up the trunk of a nearby tree is a red bellied woodpecker, and hopping about the frosty ground are several dark-eyed juncos seeking sustenance. This small, plump member of the sparrow family wears a topcoat of varying shades from the darkest grey to a muted grey-brown, but all have the tell-tale white belly. For me the perky junco serves as a harbinger of seasons. Its appearance at my feeder signals that summer has indeed come to an end and winter is making its entrance. Conversely, when the tiny bird disappears, heading for higher elevations and points north, I know that spring is on its way.

Moving along the path, the gliding motion of my skis, along with the enchantment of the scenery, induces a somewhat Zen like state. In my years of cross country skiing I have come to appreciate that it is a sport to be approached in a relaxed manner, so I am mindful to bring a calm attitude to my trek, and today it works its magic.

Jesse has been a constant companion on my cross country outings, but as age and arthritis have descended upon him I've needed to adjust my pace and distance. I'm quite happy to do so, as having him by my side is what's most important. To accommodate him, today's outing is a relatively short but nevertheless delightful one. As we arrive back at the parking lot, the sharp cry of the hawk provides a backdrop as I help Jesse jump into the back of the car. As usual, I tell him what a wonderful job he's done – he's the man.

Cindy Woodall resides in Upper Black Eddy.



Holiday House Pet Resort and Training Center staff, joined by Santa, present a \$10,000 check to A Woman's Place.

Holiday House supports A Woman's Place

A Woman's Place received a \$1,000 donation from Holiday House Pet Resort and Training Center.

The dog day care program at the resort held a special holiday fundraising event to benefit the nonprofit organization. Santa spent a few fun hours posing for photos with over 25 dogs.

A Woman's Place (AWP) is a community resource for victims of domestic violence. The organization was formed in 1976 and first provided safe shelter for a woman and her two children on Christmas Eve of that year.

"AWP's partnership with Holiday House was a bright spot in the holiday season for us! Bringing awareness to domestic violence while creating an opportunity to capture the holiday spirit with our pets was a great idea. Pets can also be victims of abuse and many times survivors won't leave a dangerous situation for fear of leaving their pets behind. Holiday House has taken such a pro-active approach to bring awareness to both domestic and animal abuse through this successful fundraiser and we are grateful for it," said Mar-

ianne Lynch, executive director, AWP.

Holiday House Pet Resort & Training Center holds several fundraising events each year to benefit the community and pet-related nonprofit organizations. Clients receive a special photo of their pet for a donation in the amount they choose.

Santa's dog attends the dog day care program at the resort. With many professional commitments in the Philadelphia area leading up to the holidays, Santa's dog loved playing with friends.

New Hope business helps owners create memories with their pets

At Pet Photos Plus, 13 Main St., New Hope, pet parents can find a selection of toys, treats, clothes and

other unique items for dogs and cats. The latest toys for all dogs ranging from puppies to senior dogs, and a bakery filled with treats for pets of all ages, including puppies and pets with few teeth who need soft treats, is available. There is also a variety of locally baked private label treats that come in many different flavors.

There are two photo studios that offer a selection of products for finished portraits, including mugs, coasters, canvases, metal and framed prints, pillows, etc. There is a wide variety of photo styles ranging from classic portraits to extravagant setups.

The main goal of Pet Photos Plus is to help pet owners create memories with their pets that will last a lifetime.

Pet Photos Plus is offering spring season specials. It is giving customers \$25 toward their photo session from now until May 1.

Also, there is a new promotion for puppy photos. When you purchase a photo session for your puppy you will be given a free photo session when they turn one and of course a party hat and cookie.

For more information contact Judy at 609-865-1111 or judy@petphotosplus.com.



Pet Photos Plus owner Judy Dinnerman holds up a collection of pet portraits.

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Police News

Newtown Township

Arrested: Patrick Niles, 58, of Yardley, after he surrendered himself for arrest Feb. 22.

Last September, a victim reported to Newtown Township Police that they had hired Niles to complete a home improvement project on their residence, under the business name of PFN Home Improvement.

Niles was subsequently paid installments for the project, totaling \$4,575, but never completed the work on the victim's residence, nor did he return any of the payments, police said.

The investigation determined that Niles is not a licensed contractor in Pennsylvania, did not carry liability insurance as part of his home improvement business, and made no attempts to refund the victim's money or complete the project.

He was charged with home improvement fraud, theft by unlawful taking and receiving stolen property.

Niles was arraigned by District Judge Michael Petrucci. He was released on \$25,000 unsecured bail and was ordered to have no contact with the victims.

Perkasie

Charged: Dexter Shellhammer, with simple assault and harassment for his involvement in an incident originally reported last July. He was arrested Jan. 15, police reported Feb. 24.

Richland

Charged: Dawn Szymanski, 51, of Sellersville with criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and harassment, Jan. 28, following an incident at Chick Fil A, 602 N. West End Blvd.

Charged: Nicholas J. Tomlinson, 33, of Willow Grove, Feb. 11, with retail theft and receiving stolen property, after police were called to a retail theft in progress at Walmart, 195 N. West End Blvd.

Cited: Jessie M. Strefeler, 35, of Rocky Ridge Road, Feb. 16, for retail theft after failing to pay for grocery items at Giant Food Store, 901 S. West End Blvd.

PA State Police

During Winter Storm Viola: from Thursday, Feb. 18, through Friday, Feb. 19, Troopers from Troop M (Northampton, Lehigh and Bucks counties) responded to 531 calls for service, which included 43 motor vehicle crashes and 81 disabled motor vehicles.

Troop M would like to remind motorists for the latest in road conditions, visit 511pa.com.

Philadelphia man charged with selling drugs that killed two in Bucks

A Philadelphia man is responsible for delivering the heroin-fentanyl mixture that led to the 2018 overdose deaths of two Bucks County residents, police said.

Ibrahim Khalil "Li" Diabate, 27, was arraigned Friday, Feb. 19, on two counts each of drug delivery resulting in death, criminal use of a communication facility, possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance and involuntary manslaughter. Diabate is currently incarcerated at the State Correctional Institution-Mercer on drug-dealing charges.

He was arraigned Monday, Feb. 22, before District Judge Michael W. Gallagher who set bail at \$2 million.

Through an extensive investigation by Bucks County Detectives, Central Bucks Regional Police, Bensalem Police and Northampton Township Police, Diabate was identified as the person who sold the drugs that led to the overdose deaths of Timothy Connor, 33, of Doylestown, and Lucy Aaron, 22, of Bensalem. Connor died on Sept. 29, 2018, in his home in Doylestown and Aaron died on Dec. 3, 2018, in her home in Bensalem.

"By charging this defendant with separate drug deliveries resulting in two separate deaths, we aim to send the strongest mes-

sage possible that not only is drug dealing a deadly, risky business with dire criminal consequences, but also that we value every life taken too soon by his deadly poison," District Attorney Matt Weintraub said.

During the investigation, detectives recovered and compared heroin and their labeled drug packets, analyzed cellphone data, interviewed witnesses and made controlled drug purchases from Diabate to confirm he sold heroin throughout Bucks County, including the deadly doses that killed the two victims. He used four cell-phones to try and cover his tracks, the investigation found.

"Based on this investigation, it is evident to your Affiant that Diabate used multiple heroin/fentanyl stamps on heroin/fentanyl he was selling, cellular phones, phone numbers, chat applications, to facilitate his illegal drug business," according to the 56-page affidavit of probable cause prepared by the Bucks County Detectives. "Your Affiant knows that this is a common way that drug dealers attempt to insulate themselves from being tracked by law enforcement."

While investigating Connor's death at his home in the 100 block of Cottage Street, the Central Bucks Regional Police Department located an iPad, a cellphone, more than 75 empty packets of heroin and other drug paraphernalia. Some of the empty packets were stamped "DANGER," "FINAL FANTASY" and "A+."

Detectives analyzed Connor's cellphone and iPad for evidence of where he pur-

chased the drugs, leading them to a text conversation he had in the days and hours leading up to his death. At the time, detectives were only able to identify the alleged dealer by a cellphone number. After receiving information from a confidential source in October 2018, Bensalem police made two separate controlled purchases of heroin from Diabate. Those drugs were stamped, "FINAL FANTASY," like the drugs found during the investigation into Connor's death.

On Dec. 3, 2018, Bensalem police responded to a home in the 1400 block of School Lane to investigate Aaron's overdose death. During that investigation, a Bensalem detective recovered several used heroin packets in Aaron's pockets and in her room, some that were stamped "DEMOLITION MAN" and "DANGER," which was the same label as the drugs found at Connor's home.

Detectives retrieved Aaron's cellphone and found a string of text messages with someone referred to as "LiLi," who used the same phone number as the one used to make the controlled drug buys in October 2018. Diabate and his girlfriend were arrested on Jan. 3, 2019 for dealing heroin in Bensalem. During their arrest, police recovered heroin stamped "DEMOLITION MAN," which was also found during the investigation into Aaron's death.

Diabate later pleaded guilty to drug dealing charges and was sentenced last February to five to 10 years in state prison.

Two charged in Plumstead hit and run

Two people have been charged in connection with the April 20 vehicle versus pedestrian traffic accident in the parking lot of the Wawa in Plumstead Township, where an 85-year-old man was left on the ground with injuries as a result of the collision.

The driver of the striking vehicle fled the scene. A witness obtained the registration on the vehicle and officers were able to interview the registered owner. The registered owner, Alexandria Her-

rmann, 25, of Hellertown, fabricated a story indicating she did not know who the operator of the vehicle was, police said.

After an almost one-year long investigation, Plumstead Township Detectives were able to identify a suspect. On Feb. 8, investigators interviewed, Elias Mallouhi, 21, of Allentown, who admitted to being the driver and leaving the scene of the accident, police said.

Herrmann was also reinterviewed and ultimately admitted to fabricating a story to police, they said.

Mallouhi was charged with accidents involving death or personal injury, ac-

cidents involving death or personal injury while not being licensed, and obstructing administration of law or other governmental function.

Herrmann was charged with hindering apprehension or prosecution, obstructing administration or law or other governmental function and false reports to law enforcement authorities.

On Feb. 23, both Mallouhi and Herrmann were taken into custody and arraigned before District Judge Gary Gambardella, who set an unsecured bail of \$200,000. Both defendants were released and a preliminary hearing date has been set for March.

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SECTION B February 25, 2021

CB South's Charlton claims district gold

Karen Sangillo

Alexandra Charlton had no idea. Reporters gathered in front of her after the District One Class 3A girls diving championships on Saturday at North Penn's Rick Carroll Natatorium, and Charlton, a senior at Central Bucks South, wasn't sure where she'd placed. "You won," a reporter said, and Charlton covered her face with her hands in shock. And that was how Charlton discovered she was the district champion. Thanks to COVID, there was no awards ceremony. Diving coach Fred Dunn received the medal, which he placed around Charlton's neck in the bleachers. This year, also due to COVID, only the winners advance to the PIAA meet, so there was a lot riding on the district competition. This will be Charlton's first trip to the state competition. "It's so exciting," she said. "I didn't even have states in mind because I didn't think I was going to get past this meet. It's just so exciting that I finally make states. I've been trying at this for three years now."

Charlton was fifth after the preliminaries but catapulted herself into second after the semifinals before finishing with a score of 410.70 points over 11 dives. "I had no idea where I was in the standings," she said. "Fred didn't tell me, and I didn't want to know. But he told me I was second after the semifinals and I was really surprised. Now I'm just stunned. It's crazy. "I knew it was going to be a tough one, but I felt solid. I think a couple dives could have been sharper and a few dives were a little bit better than expected. I was pretty consistent, and I think that paid off. I just had a solid meet when I needed to."

She was one of 11 divers in the Class 3A competition. "The field was smaller this year and I think that helped me," she said. "I think that gave me a little more confidence in my dives. Last year I had a terrible district meet. I was out in the first round. It's definitely really exciting to do this well this year."

Charlton was this year's Suburban One League Colonial Division champion. "It was really exciting to beat the North Penn girls because I can't remember the last time I beat them in leagues," she said. "They're always so good. And to win here is just really, really exciting. I didn't even think about states so I finally get to move on and do an even bigger meet than this."

While the meet was exciting for Charlton, it was bittersweet for Luke Dotson. The Council Rock North senior finished second in the Class 3A boys competition, held prior to the girls contest. Dotson posted a score of 479.45 points for the silver medal. In a normal year, it would have been more than enough to advance him to the PIAA championships. Dotson finished third in the state meet last year. The challenge for him was that the 2020 state runner-up, Conor Gesing of Abington, also competes in District One. Gesing won Saturday's meet (538.95 points) and will represent

the district at states. "Coming into the meet, the idea that only one of us was going to states was hanging over me," said Dotson, who held second place behind Gesing after both the preliminaries and the semifinals. "I feel like it would be a more competitive meet at states if they just took the top scores, but this is what happened. "I feel like I dove well but I definitely could have done better. It's kind of weird. I spent the whole season diving on one board (at CR North) and then I had to dive on a different board, but that's how it is. "Now I'm looking forward to college. This was still a worthwhile season for me. It's always good to be able to dive and see your friends and try to perform your best."

Dotson, who was the SOL Patriot Division champion, will continue his diving career at Georgia Tech, where he plans to major in business. He also considered West Point, Penn State and Lehigh before choosing to become a Yellow Jacket. "It's a great facility and a great coach (John Ames)," Dotson said. "I met the team and they're going to be great teammates. Honestly, it was everything I was looking for. They have three-meter, one-meter, platform, everything. I feel like I can get to the next level there."

Kevin Siegfried of Central Bucks West earned the sixth-place medal (372.95). He was in ninth place after the preliminaries but moved up to fifth after the semifinals before landing sixth. "I'm really happy, especially with the kind of year it's been," said Siegfried, a junior. "I'll take it. This was my second district meet and I had a huge improvement from last year. "Last year I was just happy to qualify. This year I was able to try to take a good spot. I got a medal so that's an improvement."

In a non-COVID season, sixth place would have been good enough to advance Siegfried to states. "It's a shame," he said. "But hopefully things will get back to normal next year and I'll be able to go to states then. I still feel like this was definitely a good season for me. I'm really excited for next year."

Siegfried started diving as a freshman, and this is his first season of focusing on diving. He previously was also competing in gymnastics. The field was much smaller than in past seasons, with just 13 divers in the Class 3A competition. "Honestly, it doesn't matter," Dotson said. "As long as you try your best, it doesn't matter who is here and who isn't. It is nice to see everyone, though. It's tough to go up against Conor. He's definitely my top competitor, and he's a good guy. I think diving against him brings out the best in both of us."

Senior Ryan Levant of CB West was 11th (322.45). The District One swim meet will be held on Friday and Saturday at the York YMCA's Graham Natatorium. The field has been limited to 16 for individual events and 12 for relays. The winners automatically advance to the PIAA competition, slated for March 19-20 at Cumberland Valley. The state field for each event will be 16 competitors and there are 12 districts, so each event will have a minimum of four at-large berths. More spots may be open if smaller districts fail to have competitors in every event.

Diving



The Plumstead Christian boys basketball team is 9-7 this season after winning just three games last year. The Panthers' starting five, from left, are: front row, Nick Phillipps, Zach Knudsen; back row, Matt Shiel, Jackson Mott and Zach Brown.

Plumstead Christian hoops does 180 on Route 611

Don Leypoldt

They are the Black (and Red) Panthers. And their season is a bit of a Marvel.

A young Plumstead Christian Panther (9-7, 3-4 Bicentennial) team won just three contests last season. What a difference a year makes. From Feb. 4 to Feb. 11, the Panthers won four games ... in just eight days.

"With the attitude and work ethic, you could see it happen," head coach John Elton observed. "The kids poured themselves into this."

"This year, everyone is more secure with the ball," said junior Nick Phillipps, who averages nearly 18 points per game. "We trust each other more. I think we all grew in chemistry too, and with chemistry comes confidence. Our confidence gelled together and it's showing this season."

On Feb. 10, the Class A Panthers beat 3A MaST Charter 51-46 behind junior Jackson Mott's 18 points. The next night, PCS earned another Bicentennial win with a 48-47 thriller over 2A Bristol on Plumstead's Route 611 campus. Phillipps' 21 paced the Panthers.

The "Ws" took on special significance for the Panthers. Plumstead avenged two big losses last season when MaST and Bristol topped them by 23 and 19 respectively.

The team's lone senior, Zach Brown, knew this season would be special "when we

started winning. Last year, I remember several games which we lost by 30-40 points," Brown recalled. "This year, we came back and we're winning against those teams who we lost to by a ton last year."

"We play a trapping zone and I'd say our defensive intensity is our identity," Elton shared. "A lot of our games are in the 40s or low 50s. These guys swarm the ball."

Plumstead has five wins on its 2021 "revenge tour," starting with a double overtime 67-63 thriller over nemesis Faith Christian on Jan. 21. PCS also topped Valley Forge Baptist and Lincoln Leadership in early February, two schools who beat Plumstead in 2020.

"You could see it start to come together in the last 10 games of the season. I think the biggest thing was composure. Last year, we were easily pressable and probably had 15-20 turnovers a game. We cleaned that up," Elton explained. "And the physical stature: Last year they were small and thin. They all filled out. Physically, we are able to compete."

In the 2019 offseason, Elton sat down with each of his four now juniors in the Plumstead library and candidly spoke about the future. Plumstead reached the state elite eight in 2018 but the talent on that team soon graduated. An all-freshman/sophomore starting lineup would be dominated in 2019-2020 ... but would also get much better over time.

"From that meeting, I remember Coach telling us on how he wants us to grow," described Mott, PCS' second leading scorer. "It was fresh-

man year so obviously we weren't developed yet. Going into sophomore year, that is what he told us: to focus on developing and by junior and senior year, we'll be there and we'll be ready. It's happening."

"As middle schoolers, we saw Coach's team make it to states and that was super exciting," echoed junior Matt Shiel, the Panthers' leading rebounder. "That is what did it for me. I trust Coach and he wants the best for us. Last year, we put in the work. We'd take our lumps, we'd watch the video from our losses and learn from there. It is paying off although we still have a long way to go."

Sometimes, younger teams have trouble closing out close games yet PCS won five of its eight games decided by six or fewer points. "We're all playing on point, defensively," starting junior Zach Knudsen feels.

"A lot of our games are coming down to a few points," Elton said. "They have their composure and Nick Phillipps has taken a big step to be our closer. Colleges are looking at him."

Three snow outs forced an eight-day layoff on Plumstead. The Panthers return to action with back-to-back-to-back games starting Wednesday at Calvary Christian (results unavailable at press time).

The District One Class A semifinals start on March 8; at press time, Plumstead was in line for the No. 3 seed. For the Panthers, a playoff berth after last year's campaign would be a Marvellous way to end the season.

Boys basketball

New Hope beats Quakertown, wins 9th straight game

Karen Sangillo

It's getting to be crunch time in the girls basketball season. And New Hope-Solebury's Reagan Chrencik knows it. Her 14 points helped the Lions

Girls basketball

to a 65-35 victory over host Quakertown in a non-league game on Tuesday night. New Hope extends its win streak to nine games. The win starts off a tough stretch for New Hope. The Lions finish off the regular season with three more road games, traveling to Hatboro-Horsham on Thursday

at 7 p.m. and Central Bucks West on Friday at 7 p.m. for a pair of non-league games, then heading to Lower Moreland for a Suburban One League Freedom Division finale on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

"The non-league games are a little bit more of a challenge for us," said Chrencik, a sophomore forward. "It's nice to play these games because they help get us ready for district playoffs. This is definitely a big week for us. We might get a little tired, but I think it's really helping us to prepare. We're able to run our different sets, run our different defenses."

For several years, it has been recognized as the most intense rivalry in District One wrestling.

During the postseason, it is the meet that wrestlers on both sides

Wrestling

await as a barometer for their current state. This season, the Quakertown-Council Rock South showdown again proved to live up to its reputation.

Council Rock South edged host Quakertown, 115-111, to claim the District One Class 3A North Sectional last weekend. The Golden Hawks won a regular season match, 39-27. Last year, Quakertown had

the sweep, winning the regular season match, 36-20, and the sectional, 218-206.

The passing of the gauntlet isn't anything new, and it likely won't be for a while.

Despite vying for the top spot, there is a matter of mutual respect between the two programs.

"Quakertown does an outstanding job with their program and they do the right thing," said Council Rock South head coach Brad Silimperi. "The community is very supportive, and Quakertown is a wrestling area."

"Sylvia Kalazs, their AD (athletic director) is a rock star. She does a great job. It is a top notch program throughout."

Quakertown head coach Kurt Handel always anticipates a

virtual, and most times, literal slugfest.

"They are a solid program," he said about his rival. "We know they will be there every year, and it is always a good read on the state of our team. There are a lot of times in the postseason when we are squaring off against their wrestlers for individual and team titles. "It can be expected."

CR South 189-pounder junior Anthony Cerulli battled through an exhaustive 16-13 victory over Quakertown junior Kaden Roesener in the semifinals that helped seal the victory for the Golden Hawks. Cerulli lost in the finals, 7-0, to Perkiomen Valley's Grant Euker.

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SPORTS



Palisades bounced out of league playoffs by Notre Dame

Jeff Moeller

For the Palisades girls basketball team, it has been a story of two seasons. In their defense, it certainly hasn't been by design. Behind all-Colonial League center and 1,000-point career scorer senior Trinity Williams, the Pirates pieced together a streak of seven wins in eight games after a sluggish start that left them with an overall 8-3 record and a shot at the league crown as well as the top seed in the PIAA District 11 Class 3A bracket.

However, their mercurial climb suddenly burst. Williams suffered a high ankle sprain in practice and fellow senior forward Sydney Odle incurred a knee injury against Whitehall a few days later. The Pirates lost their most potent offensive weapons, and soon found themselves in a three-game downward spiral.

Tuesday night, Williams and Odle both returned to the lineup, but seventh-seeded Palisades couldn't muster enough offense to stop second-seeded Notre Dame in a 41-27 loss during the opening-round of the Colonial League playoffs. During the regular season, Palisades registered a 39-35 victory in a meeting between the two.

"They were struggling with their shooting the first time we played them, and they hit their shots tonight," said Palisades head coach Gregg Dietz. "We were down 13 at half and managed to cut it to one. They are a disciplined team. We gave it everything we had."

Yet, it still proved to be a difference with his duo back in the lineup.

"If you look at our box scores, we roughly went from 54 points a game to 25 without Trinity and

Sydney in the lineup.

"Trinity found out against Notre Dame how you can get out of shape by being out of the lineup for two-and-a-half weeks. It took a toll on her, and she's not 100 percent."

"Sydney is such an athletic kid, but she also clearly isn't back to normal. She is tough and went out and did what she could."

Williams, who led the Pirates with 14 points while Odle had nine, felt fairly fluid in her performance.

"I felt like I played OK," said Williams. "Of course, the hustle was there, and it felt amazing to be back on the court. I crashed the defensive boards well."

"With this being my first game back, the fast pace took a minute or two to get adjusted."

Having his leading scorers returning to the lineup, Dietz is optimistic about the upcoming district playoffs that will begin Thursday March 4 when the Pirates host Salisbury. Along with Williams and Odle, he is counting on the contributions from seniors Libby and Alayna Stiansen and Liv Martin.

"We have been trying to free up Libby more for opportunities to score," he said. "But she does all the little things and has been tremendous."

"Alayna and Liv have been the superstars of this team. When we had our streak, it was about their defense up front."

Dietz figures the eight-day layoff before districts will be a benefit.

"We'll get back to practice and work hard," he stated. "We can heal and get healthy. That's a good break for us. We'll be ready to go."

Note: For the Palisades boys basketball team, the Colonial League playoffs yielded similar results, with the eighth-seeded Pirates falling to No. 1 Notre-Dame 80-72 in the quarterfinals Tuesday night.

CB West keeping foothold in District One, despite departures

Steve Sherman

Last year, the Central Bucks West girls team captured a District One championship and a berth in the state playoffs.

But graduation saw the departure of a large nucleus of a team that went 25-5 last season while going unbeaten in the Suburban One League (SOL) Continental Conference.

Gone are forward Jess Broskey, point guard Olivia Irons, first reserve Maddy McGarry and Maddie Burke, the PIAA 6A Player of the Year who went on to Penn State.

The departures meant Coach Zach Sibel would have to find a way to keep the momentum going.

Fortunately for the second-year head coach, he returned a handful of players who helped the team to the second round of states including All-SOL players Emily Spratt and Paige Gilbert.

"We have some familiar faces but everyone is playing a different role than they had last year," explained Sibel. "This year has been all about the girls getting comfortable with those roles and keeping things going."

West kept its most recent win streak going recently when the Bucks pushed past division rival CB South Feb. 23 on the Titans' home court. Spratt, a junior, led West with 14 points while Gilbert, a senior, added a dozen in a 46-32 Bucks' triumph. Senior Maggie McCusker recorded nine points, all from 3-point range.

While West got off to a slow start in its new spot in the SOL Colonial Division after dropping duels with CB South and division leader CB East, the Bucks have found a way of remaining in the hunt in District One – they're ranked 13th after defeating the Titans in the rematch – with early season victories over Pennsbury and North Penn, teams that also went to states in 2020.

The comeback win over the Knights had to be the most exciting.

Trailing North Penn by five late in the fourth quarter, sophomore Katie Finnan – who led all scorers with 15 points in the

game – played a pivotal role in an eventual 40-38 triumph, coming up with a steal and a basket.

Gilbert came through, too, canning a late-game layup off an inbounds pass despite being fouled. Free throws by Gilbert and Finnan provided the final margin of victory.

But Sibel says the team is getting contributions up and down the lineup after the departure of Burke, a player who registered 1,340 points, 660 rebounds, 155 assists, 231 steals and 218 blocks in her four seasons at CB West.

"Maddie did a little bit of everything so it's hard to ask a girl to do all the things that she did," said Sibel. "So you get those intangibles by committee."

"Paige Gilbert has been incredible. She's our hustle player – attacks the glass and is all over the floor"

"Maggie McCusker is another senior who has stepped in and been a facilitator and been able to control pace while Emily Spratt really took over that scoring role and has been a leader on offense and defense."

"(Spratt) typically guards the other team's best player so she's been a leader on both ends of the floor."

After the season opening loss to CB South, the Bucks were back on the floor the next day for a battle against Pennsbury in a rematch of last year's D1 title tilt.

Spratt and the West defense held Falcons sharpshooter Ava Sciolla to just six points in a 44-28 triumph over 11th-ranked Pennsbury. Spratt and senior Anna Blue led the offense with 13 points each while Gilbert led the Bucks on the glass with 13 rebounds.

"Gilbert has been great; she brings so much to the game that's hard to teach," explained Sibel. "She has an instinct for the ball and Dennis Rodman-type rebounding. She plays at 110 percent and 110 miles per hour at all times."

"Anna Blue is a sharpshooter; she's been awesome. She has one of the purest strokes that I've coached ever."

After wins over league rivals Souderton and North Penn, West suffered a bit of a setback in early February, dropping three out of four duels including a heartbreaking four-point loss to

division leader CB East. Included in that stretch were losses to Liberty Division rivals Upper Dublin and unbeaten Plymouth Whitmarsh.

"The two out-of-league games were tough but I think we played extremely well," stated Gilbert. "We took away some great moments from those games. East was the toughest because it's a rivalry game but overall, I thought we played really well and fought to the end in all three of those games."

Spratt led all scorers with 19 points against PW then countered with 27 in the loss to East.

"She's coming off a great season last year and stepping into a bigger role this year," stated Sibel. "She's really been stepping up and finding her game – expanding her game – each week."

"She's a special player – she's a competitor and she's a gamer."

"She's really embraced who she is this year and has really helped us in all aspects of the game on and off the court."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bucks' season has had a few hiccups. In addition to the season opener vs. North Penn getting postponed, the makeup match with the Knights had to be rescheduled after an opposing player tested positive.

"We've been lucky; we've only had a couple games postponed," said Sibel. "Every day you get to practice and get to play is a blessing."

Gilbert added a players' perspective.

"It's tough. You plan your whole practice around the team you're supposed to play and then it gets canceled."

"You're just hoping it gets rescheduled; you're hoping it doesn't affect you. You're hoping the team that you just played doesn't test positive and then your team has to quarantine."

"You hope that you don't get shut down and that we can continue the season."

The coach says Gilbert took on a role, organizing offseason workouts and drills for the players. Sibel says that helped pave the way for the development of sophomores Tai Henkels and Ava Longo along with freshman Alexis Castro.

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Cairn Athletics sponsors 5K to mark World Down Syndrome Day

Cairn Athletics will sponsor the Rock Your Socks 5K March 20. Hosted on campus by the Cairn cross country teams and RUN 12:1, the university running club, the race celebrates World Down Syndrome Day (March 21). Wear your craziest socks to show support and awareness for Down syndrome, and for a chance to win the prize for craziest socks.

The race will take place at Cairn University on Saturday, March 20, at 9:30 a.m. Awards will be presented for the top three male and female finishers. Participants receive a race-specific

T-shirt.

Early registration is \$25; day-of registration will be \$30. High school and college students receive a \$10 discount.

Health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19 will be implemented, including: mask-wearing before and after the race (optional on the course); social distancing of a minimum 6 feet at the starting line; and use of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, etc., which will be provided at the race.

Registration is limited to 200 participants. Learn more at cairn.edu/5k.

New Hope extends win streak

Continued from page B1

This is New Hope's first year in the Suburban One League, having exited the Bicentennial Athletic League in the fall.

"It's definitely been better competition to be in the SOL," Chrencik said. "Last year, the competition wasn't as tough and playing these harder teams is making us better as a team."

"I think we've really found our groove and found what we do well together. We're definitely hitting our stride at the right time and I think, especially leading into the rest of the season, we're going to keep picking up momentum. It's

important to peak at the right time and I feel like we're getting better and better every day."

New Hope takes a step up in class in District One, playing 4A this year. Last year, the Lions just missed a state berth in Class 3A, falling to St. Basil, 56-36, in the district final.

"I think this year we came in knowing what we were facing with all the changes and with COVID," New Hope senior guard Juliana Covino said. "I think having each other's back and relying on each other has helped us get through it all. We had about three practices and then we had to stop because of

COVID, but we did what we had to do to stay together."

"We had Zoom calls. We were doing everything we could to stay close to each other and keep up the intensity."

Covino agrees that moving to the SOL was good for the program.

"We played some of the SOL schools last year so we knew what we were getting into, but I think we've really been rising to the occasion," she said.

"We've had success in the past and with that we have high expectations, but I wouldn't say we have pressure. It's more excitement and an eagerness to play and to play together as a team. We want to go as far as we can and make the season last as long as possible."

Covino also plays soccer and lacrosse for the Lions. She is a member of Peer Leadership and the National Honor Society, and plays guitar and piano.


"A lot of the girls on the basketball team are on the soccer team and we're so close," she said. "That's also part of being in a smaller school. I love that sense of community that we have."

She hasn't chosen a college yet, but is considering a major in either political science or psychology, with an eye toward a law career.

Covino had 12 points for New Hope, while Rachel Saxton poured in 16 and Kate Dougherty had 11.

Carolyn Sipprell led the Panthers with 10 points, including a 3-point goal. Abigail McClaskey put up seven points and Katie Offner chipped in six, going 6-for-6 at the free throw line, for Quakertown (3-10).

Quakertown hosts Central Bucks South for a non-league game on Thursday at 7 p.m. and on Friday plays host to Upper Dublin for an SOL Liberty Division game at 3:30 p.m., before finishing out the season with a non-league contest at Lower Merion on Monday at 7 p.m.



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SPORTS



CB East's Collins captures district title

Local wrestlers advance to regionals

Jeff Moeller

Quinn Collins knows how fleeting fate can be. While he cherished his first district title in the moment, the Central Bucks East junior is ready to move ahead.

"It was a really good feeling and it is indescribable," said the 215-pounder, who was a state qualifier last year. "But it's already in the past for me. "It's about looking at the big picture and trying to get back to states."

Collins was among several local wrestlers who advanced to either the PIAA Class 3A Southeast Regional at Council Rock North and South high schools, depending on the weight class, and the Southeast Class 2A Regional at Central Dauphin High School this weekend.

Quakertown hosted the District One Class 3A North Sectional, while Easton's Charles Chrin Community Center hosted the District 11 Class 2A championships last weekend.

Host Faith Christian was third as a team in the District One/12 Class 2A championship. The top two wrestlers in each bracket advanced to the next round.

Collins, whose team finished 10th overall, decided Central Bucks West junior Carl DiGiorgio, 10-8, in the finals. It was the eighth career meeting between the two, and Collins has won five of them. CB West was 11th overall as a team.

"We have had plenty of bouts that have gone back and forth between the two of us," said Collins. "It is always fun to go against someone you know well, but it really doesn't matter."

Instead, it is all about getting the big prize. "I really became more confident after last year," added Collins. "I saw my hard work

starting to pay off. I have been wrestling since I was 5, and I know how focused I have to be."

Council Rock North was third in 3A behind Council Rock South and Quakertown, and seniors Kyle Hauserman (138) and Max Harar (285) captured individual titles.

Palisades senior Ben Haubert notched his second district title in the 2A bracket with a 3-1 sudden victory over Saucon Valley's Jacob Jones in the 172-pound class.

Teammate senior Mason Smeland was second at 152. The Pirates finished fourth as a team.

Haubert, a state qualifier last year, was confident that he would reach regionals. He became only the third Pirates wrestler to be a two-time district champ behind his brother, Nathan, and current assistant coach Tyler Marsh.

"I had to keep going and knew I would get the take-down," he said. "It's awesome to have my teammate and best friend Mason Smeland make it to regionals with me. I have to get ready for regionals and I'm not even close to being done."

"Districts was a good first step, but I know I'll see Jones again, and I'm looking for the same outcome. And I also want to one-up my brother and be a two-time regional champ."

Faith Christian junior Eric Alderfer took the top spot at 138 and fellow junior Leo Muzika won the 215-pound bracket. Freshman Cody Wagner (113), sophomore AJ Stayton (120), Lincoln Hower (145), Caleb Sine (160) and senior Luke Slack (285) all finished as runner-ups.

Penridge was eighth overall in 3A and freshmen Cole Coffin (106) and Sam Kuhns (113) both recorded second-place finishes. Central Bucks South was 15th in 3A and Gabe Whittington (138) finished as a runner-up for the Titans.

Council Rock South tops Quakertown for title

Continued from page B1

"That was the match that turned it for us," noted Silimperi. "He's a true 160-pounder who is giving up around 30 pounds and came back a few times. If he doesn't win, Quakertown wins going away."

Cerulli wasn't aware of the situation.

"I didn't know at the time about the score," he said. "They told me after the match. I just went out there and did what I could. It always is a tough match with them, and it was what we expected."

Senior Cavan Kinne (106) and junior Matt Colajezzi (160) claimed championships and freshman Bekhruz Sadridinov and junior Tom Woloshyn were second.

"Kinne is a two-time district champ, and he had a great

week," said Silimperi. "Colajezzi won his third district title and he looks good."

"(Sadridinov) is going to be special, and Woloshyn is getting better every week."

Freshman Mason Ziegler (113), sophomore Zach Borzio (126) and junior Todd McGann (120) were first-place finishers and senior Domenic DeFalco (138) was second for Quakertown.

"It was a great day for us," said Handel. "They wrestled their tails off. We were in the running, but we fell short at the end."

"We knew what we had with Ziegler because of what he did in junior high. McGann has dominated his opponents, and we knew he had it in him. Borzio had been steady, and DeFalco still is pretty focused."

"We like where we are, and we know we'll see more of Council Rock South."



MARY JANE SOUDER

At CB East's college commitment ceremony are seniors, from left, front row, Gabe Marshall, Jack Hamilton, Holden Emery; back row, Miranda Szymborski, Emily Bullard, Mackenzie Lever and Phia Mannino.

CB East seniors select colleges

Mary Jane Souder

Holden Emery gave glimpses of a bright future on the track as a sophomore. A year later, the then Central Bucks East junior put himself on the map with a pair of second-place finishes in the 800-meter run – first at the prestigious Ocean Breeze High School Invitational and then at the PTFCA State Indoor Track and Field Championships.

"I was able to have a winter season before COVID shut everything down," Emery said. "I placed second in a very big invitational at Ocean Breeze. That was where I ran 1:54, which was the first time I ran a very significant time that was a D1 standard."

Emery – who also excels in the classroom – had plenty of opportunities when it came time to choose a college. The East senior's final list was an impressive one that included the University of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Yale and Columbia. He chose Penn with its storied track tradition at Franklin Field. He will compete in both track and cross country.

"Holden is an outstanding young man, and that's even beyond the track," East head coach Chris Pierangeli said. "The combination of incredible mental toughness, determination, perseverance and then the skill and talent and speed to go with it made Holden a joy to teach and coach. He's one of the brightest kids I've had a chance to coach, and I know he will do tremendous things at the University of Penn."

Emery was one of seven East seniors recognized last Tuesday (Feb. 16) for committing to compete in collegiate sports. Included were four members of the SOL Colonial Division and District One 3A championship field hockey team – Emily Bullard, Kenzie Lever, Phia Mannino and Miranda Szymborski.

For Bullard, a member of the 2020 Rise Junior National Team, it came down to Penn State and Princeton. The all-state goalie, a four-year starter at East, chose Penn State where she plans to major in secondary education.

"There was something about a Big 10 school just being so exciting, and there's nothing quite like

Penn State," Bullard said. "I love the coaches – they're absolutely fantastic."

Bullard will be joined at Penn State by teammate Phia Mannino, who also considered Lafayette and Michigan.

"I was going there ever since I was little, and the campus has always felt comfortable and like home," said Mannino, whose mother, East coach Meghann Spratt, played hockey at Penn State. "My siblings go there, and I just love the school spirit and everything about it – the coaching staff, the team and the environment."

Lever, who plans to pursue a nursing major, chose James Madison University from a final list that included Drexel, St. Joe's and Penn.

"The second I stepped on campus and met the coaches, I could just feel that it was a place I wanted to be," Lever said. "The intense field hockey program as well as having the major I want – it was the best fit for me."

Szymborski, who will major in business, chose DeSales University but also considered Rider, Stevenson, Widener and Arcadia. DeSales will afford her the opportunity to play both hockey and softball.

"I also like the location so my family can see me play, and it's close enough from home to be able to visit, but I'll have the freedom of living on my own," Szymborski said.

Spratt had high praise for her former players.

"To have Emily fill the goalie position with her confidence and skill level, that just set the tone for our defense from the time she stepped on the field until the day she graduated," the Patriots' coach said. "The amount of ground Kenzie can cover is incredible. I always had her in the midfield leading up to our last year because she runs the field. She does not want to lose and will do anything it takes for the team."

"And Phia – her two biggest attributes are probably her grit and her desire. She just wants to win and she puts everybody before herself in order to win. She'll set up the winning play, and if no one wants to, she'll be

the first one to grab the ball.

"I told Miranda when she was telling me her interest in playing softball and field hockey that it takes a very special athlete to be able to juggle two sports with her academics. I'm excited to see what her future holds in the classroom and on the field."

Gabe Marshall and Jack Hamilton both have committed to play collegiate baseball.

Hamilton, who plans to major in business, chose Lehigh from a final list that included Georgetown, Dartmouth and Penn. The 6-foot-9 senior also excels in basketball, but the choice became easy when the right-handed pitcher made a big jump in velocity the past year.

"The coaches at Lehigh were great, it's close to home, and they play in a pretty good baseball conference," Hamilton said.

Marshall, who committed to Arcadia University, also considered DeSales and Immaculata.

"I really wanted to stay close to home," Marshall said. "Once I saw Arcadia, I stopped there. It was a nice small school, the facilities were really nice, and it was a good vibe."

East coach Kyle Dennis had good things to say about both of his right-handed pitchers.

"Gabe is a testament to what hard work can do," the Patriots' coach said. "A couple of years ago, I'm not even sure he thought he could play college baseball. He didn't have the arm strength, and he just devoted himself over the last couple of years and put himself in a position where he could throw harder. He's going to be in our rotation as a strong right-handed pitcher."

"Jack has put in an incredible amount of work over the past couple of years to make himself better, to make himself stronger. He always had height, and he's always had a pretty good arm, but he's really focused on his flexibility and improved his strength training, and he's really seen a jump in velocity. He's going to be one of our front-end starters on the mound, and he's going to do a great job for us. We couldn't be any more excited."

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EDUCATION

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Quakertown students inducted into honor society

The following 58 Quakertown Community High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society on Feb. 1 in a virtual ceremony based on their commitment to academics, service, character, and leadership.

Superintendent Dr. Bill Harner and Principal Matthias van't Hoenderdaal gave words of wisdom to the new initiates.

The students are Justin Adamson, Dylan Aponte, Madeline Baxter, Angelina Becker, Sophia Bezila, Cameron Byelich, Allison Caputo, Eryn Cianciola, Emma Donnelly, Ty Everitt, Dominic Ficarra, Nicholas Fletcher, Zachary Fondl, Kyla Frederick, Aiden Gallagher, Kurt Glaeser, Mark Gromadzki, Elijah Gruver, Ryan Hagan, Emma Harris, Hannah Hensel, Yelizaveta Hernandez, Olivia Hopkins, McKenzie Huff, Austin Hunsberger, Sophia Inglis, Madison Jeffrey, John Juszynski, Zoie Kartsounas, Madison Kent, Emma Kowalski, Thomas Kozlusky, Madelyn LaBonge, Jordana Law, William Lee, Olivia Lesinski, Eliza Menser, Leah Mestayer, Laney Mitchell, Antonio Morano, Alexis Mowrer, Sara Nouri, Katie Pakula, Siya Patel, Avinash Paul, Delaney Peckham, Melanie Pezzano, Samantha Poulter, Ryleigh Quinn, Sammi Radzai, William Robinson, Lucas Schwartz, Elizabeth Susavage, Kaitlyn Vargo, Emma Wentzel, Madalyn Whedon, Alexandra Wittmann and Anna Zheng.

Cairn offers specialized graduate certificate

Cairn University is accepting applications for its new online graduate certificate in TESOL.

In the program, students will learn the methodology of teaching English to non-native speakers. Through the study of linguistics, culture and community, grammar, and pronunciation, graduates will be equipped to effectively teach language-learners.

The two-year, 21-credit program can be started in any semester. Field experience and a biblical worldview is integrated into all coursework, and students have the potential opportunity to volunteer in the university's Community English Language program.

To learn more about the graduate certificate, visit cairn.edu/programs/online-graduate-certificate-in-tesol.



Team 213 at CB East Mini-THON, 2019.

Doylestown resident dances in THON in remembrance of CB East graduate

Doylestown resident and 2018 Central Bucks High School East graduate Matthew Junker participated as a dancer in this year's Penn State University Dance Marathon ("THON") to honor fellow CB East alumnus Ian Fay, who passed away from a rare form of cancer in 2019.

Junker, who was chosen to dance for the Sapphire Academic Leadership Program at Penn State, represented Team 213, a group formed by Fay's friends to support him and his family when he was suddenly diagnosed in 2018.

"I am dedicating my opportunity as a dancer to Ian Fay, a very close friend of mine and to many, and a hero in the Central Bucks community," Junker said. "Ian's battle with cancer has had a profound impact on my life, and I dearly miss his amazing personality and smile every single day. Through dancing at THON, I want to give back to Ian after all the wonderful memories and moments he has provided me and all he interacted with."

When Fay was stricken with cancer as a junior in high school, it also struck the CB East school community hard. Junker and a small group of friends formed Team 213, named for Fay's lucky number, to lift his spirits.

They designed T-shirts in the style of Philadelphia 76ers jerseys, a favorite team of Fay's, and sold nearly 2,000 shirts to fellow students and the community over the next two years, with proceeds benefiting the Fay family.

THON, an annual event at Penn State since 1973, is the world's largest student-run philanthropy. Committed to enhancing the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer, its mission is to provide emotional and financial support, spread awareness, and ensure funding for critical research — all in pursuit of a cure. The year-long fundraising efforts culminate in a 46-hour dance marathon, which this year took place virtually Feb. 19 to 21. Proceeds from THON, which has raised \$180 million over the years, benefit the Four Diamonds Foundation at Penn State Children's Hospital.

Anyone who would like to join Team 213 in support of THON's efforts can donate at Matthew Junker's fundraising page, <https://donate.thon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.participant&participantID=45790&fbclid=IwAR-17715pbF7J7JNOvuuINzmOrD9yxpEnthtKMHKtFPb0k-wEbonWbBdI54>.



Ian Fay, Will Forker and Matthew Junker.

St. Isidore students win essay contest

The Fleet Reserve Association sponsors an annual essay contest to promote the spirit of Americanism and patriotism among the country's youth.

FRA's Americanism Essay Contest is open to all students, grades seven through 12, and local chapter FRA Brand 146 winners are from St. Isidore School in Quakertown.

St. Isidore School students who were awarded first and second place for their grade are: Maddie Abel (eighth), Sean Brogan (eighth), Lilla Berces (seventh) and Molly Lawhead (seventh).

St. Isidore School Principal Dr. Robin Conboy with Fleet Reserve Association's Americanism Essay Contest seventh grade winners Molly Lawhead, second place, and Lilla Berces, first place, and the Rev. Ken Brabazon, pastor.



St. Isidore School Principal Dr. Robin Conboy with Fleet Reserve Association's Americanism Essay Contest eighth grade winners Sean Brogan, second place, and Maddie Abel, first place, and the Rev. Ken Brabazon, pastor.



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The Great Outdoors

Tyler Walk Tree Tenders, volunteers plant trees



FRANCINE KAPLAN

Anthony Gambescia and his son, Mark, planted an Acer myabei tree.



FRANCINE KAPLAN

Volunteer Rhonda Sherrod stands with a Tilia tomentosa tree.

Tyler Walk Tree Tenders planted four trees Nov. 20 to Nov. 22 on common grounds in the Tyler Walk Development.

These common grounds serve as the storm water management system for communities surrounding Tyler Walk as well as a portion of Tyler Walk itself. From Nov. 18 through Nov. 22, hundreds of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Tree Tenders and other volunteers from 70 neighborhoods and communities throughout Philadelphia and the surrounding counties planted 1,100 trees in less than a week's time.

The increasing shade, flood management, water and carbon sequestration, and air purification these trees will provide over time is critical. According to climate scientists and the Philadelphia Climate & Urban Systems Partnership led by the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia is projected to experience up to 21 more days over 90 degrees by the 2020s. Suburban Philadelphia has experienced a significant increase in rain fall, while pests such as the emerald ash bore have killed large numbers of mature trees.

The cost of the trees was funded through the PHS Tree Vitalize, Plant One Million and Tree Tender's program and the Tyler Walk Home Owner's Association. Labor was provided by volunteers.

In 2017, the group planted eight trees and in 2018, the group planted an additional 10 trees both times with the aid of local Boy Scout Troop 99. This year due to COVID-19, three two-person teams led by Suzanne Wheeler, Anthony Gambescia and Francine Kaplan planted the four trees.



Suzanne Wheeler, Anthony Gambescia and Francine Kaplan plant a tree in the Tyler Walk Development.

In the Garden with Andrew

A few weekends ago a large group of volunteers gathered to transform the grounds of the Wesley A.M.E. Church in Swarthmore. The gathering was inspirational on many levels. Undoubtedly, for some it was their entrée to volunteering and perhaps gardening.

If you live in Swarthmore or for that matter the Delaware Valley and have an interest in learning to garden then a great pathway to learning more about gardening is to get involved in a number of horticultural institutions who have volunteer programs that are integral to their operations.

In our backyard, the Scott Arboretum has the Arboretum Assistant program, where the staff train volunteers to help out in a multitude of ways throughout the arboretum from planting to pruning and garden cleanup.

The Swarthmore Horticultural Society maintains 13 local gardens such as the gardens at the Post Office, War Memorial, Centennial Park, Gateway Garden, Clock Garden at the Train Station, and COOP. All these gardens are 100% maintained by volunteers of all skill levels.

We are fortunate to have world-class gardeners on our team like Charles Cresson who is always willing to share his knowledge and expertise with gardening newcomers. For more information on volunteering with the Swarthmore Horticultural Society see, swarthmorehorticulturalsociety.org.

Philadelphia is rightly called America's Garden Capital. The Greater Philadelphia Gardens is a consortium of public gardens representing 36 public gardens within a 50-mile radius of Philadelphia. And, almost all of them have volunteer opportunities, including Longwood Gardens, Jenkins Ar-

boretum, Tyler Arboretum, Morris Arboretum, Delaware Center of Horticulture, and, of course, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), founded in 1827, has been a volunteer-based institution since its inception. In late winter, of every year for the last 190 years, volunteers have convened to put on the Philadelphia Flower Show and that tradition continues today where thousands of well-versed and novice volunteers get involved in a myriad of volunteer roles at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

When I came to the Scott Arboretum as an intern in 1986, I quickly got recruited to volunteer at the Flower Show helping in the Horticut in 1987. The Philadelphia Flower Show is a perfect venue for all types of volunteers - all are welcome. Throughout the year, there are many other ways for volunteers

to get involved, from gardening at our public garden, Meadowbrook Farm in Jenkintown, or at our public landscapes including the Azalea Garden, Rodin Museum Gardens, Logan Circle, Eastern State Penitentiary and the Navy Yard.

PHS' Tree Tenders Group is a program that trains volunteers to become stewards of street trees in their communities. Tree Tenders lead community-based tree planting projects; teach other volunteers on how to properly care and maintain street trees; and advocate for the planting of street trees in general. PHS also collaborates with hundreds of community gardens in Philadelphia and beyond. These community-based vegetable gardens are a great avenue to both grow your own vegetables, and to engage with the local community and volunteer. For further information on volunteering for PHS see, phsonline.org/volunteer/for-individuals.

In addition to the aforementioned, our area has a myriad of garden clubs and many very active plant societies like the Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society, Liberty Bell Gesneriad Society, Philadelphia Cactus and Succulent Society, North American Rock Garden Society: Delaware Valley Chapter, American Rhododendron Society: Greater Philadelphia Chapter, Herb Society of America: Philadelphia Unit and the list goes on.

It could be argued that there are more volunteer opportunities in horticulture and gardening within 30 miles of Swarthmore than anywhere else in the country. Thinking back 40 years ago when I was just starting to learn about gardening, I found opportunities at the YMCA, 4-H and with Future Farmers of America and all were great beginning gateways to my interest in gardening.

org/volunteer/for-individuals.

Group challenges you to spend two hours a week outdoors

This winter, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the oldest outdoor group in the United States, challenges you to spend two hours of outdoor exercise every week (social distancing, of course).

Even though the entire country is experiencing two fewer weeks of snow cover compared to 100 years ago, wherever you live in America, getting outdoors regularly will provide mental benefits as well as physical ones.

Despite the fact winter may be fundamentally shifting, AMC's Colby Meehan, leadership training manager, reveals six survival tips for thriving, surviving and basking in everything Mother Nature has to offer during winter 2021:

1. Plan your adventure: Avoid a 911 emergency by mapping out your exact route, choosing an alternate route for emergencies and calculating how long your round-trip excursion will be. Make a trip plan

and bring things like high-energy snacks and water for a more enjoyable day out.

2. Find the forecast: Check the forecast before you go by listening/watching/reading your favorite weather predictions in advance. This will help you prepare for the appropriate climate while you are out and about. Observe weather changes as they emerge and change your plan for the day as needed to avoid severe weather.

3. Dress appropriately: Carry the right gear based on the weather predictions to pack appropriately. Understanding how to layer for winter makes a world of difference. Avoiding fabrics like cotton and opting for ones like polyester or wool can turn a miserable, risky outing into a pleasant one. For good measure, take extra pairs of gloves, mittens and socks for especially cold temperatures.

4. Build a safe and protected outdoor living space: To guarantee a fun and safe small gathering under COVID conditions, you can create the perfect outdoor living space on a variety of different budgets. Fire pits are affordable, secure heat sources, and waterproof seating offers comfort while keeping you dry. Prep meals in advance so you can focus on fun and enjoy your time outside. Maintain social distancing guidelines (at least six feet apart) from other campsites when

making your own. Finally, remember the Leave No Trace principles when you leave, which ask you to carry out anything that does not belong in nature.

5. Outdoor recreation and wellness: Winter brings a multitude of activities and sports. It can be as advanced as snowboarding and skiing; but you can also have a blast without snow by jogging, picnicking or hiking. Studies show that spending at least 120 minutes outdoors every week boosts your well-being.

6. Explore the city outdoors: City dwellers also have ways to revel outside during COVID. Whether you decide to walk around your neighborhood for 20 minutes a day, take up birdwatching in a local park for an afternoon or even study the surrounding architecture, time spent outside is good for you.

For information, visit outdoors.org.

N.J. Gov. Murphy kicking off climate change forum

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) said New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy will kick off the Advisory Committee on Climate Change (ACCC) Forum on Climate Change and the Delaware River Basin with a prerecorded message on March 2.

Murphy serves as a DRBC commissioner and has been an active leader in the study and planning for dealing with climate change in the region. The forum will occur on the second day of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's (PDE) biennial Science and Environmental Summit, which takes place online from March 1 to 3.

NASA scientist Benjamin Hamlington, who leads NASA's Sea Level Change Science Team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., will follow Murphy to provide the forum's keynote presentation.

Providing a local perspective, Philadelphia NBC10 meteorologist Glenn "Hurricane" Schwartz will discuss climate change impacts on rain, snow and flooding in the Basin.

The one-day forum also will

feature speakers from Rutgers University, The Water Center at Penn, Shippensburg University, Columbia University, USGS, PDE and DRBC.

To attend, register at pdesummit2021.eventbrite.com.

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Talented cast performs MMT's rollicking Broadway revue

John Dwyer

I had the pleasure of going back to the live theater at Music Mountain on Friday where I saw "Strollin' Down Broadway: a 50's Revue," arranged and conceived by Louis Palena and Jordan Brennan.

The first act is a pastiche of soft rock music made popular by Connie Francis, Frankie Lymon, Bobby Darin and others. The appeal will be great for those old enough to remember.

The second act contains songs from the popular Broadway musicals of the time. Both the lyrics and the patter created between songs hearken back to a more innocent time. It is a pleasant evening out, filled with good wholesome fun.

Gary Lumpkin, who previously played Henry in Bristol Riverside Theatre's "Next to Normal," stood out, as Melvin the Nerd in the first act, with his two solos, "Splish Splash" and "Rockin' Robin," and later with his "Hey, There" from "The Pajama Game," which was exceptionally smooth and nuanced.

Kudos to the stage manager or special effects person and/or director who highlighted it all with a smoky effect.

Lumpkin is a graduate from Wagner College, which turns out excellent musical theater practitioners, as evidenced by his fellow alumni on stage, Emily Cobb. Her sassy persona is on display throughout the night and she had the best transition from one song to another created by Palena/

Brennan, with the needed perfect timing to enter in on the beat for "Why Do Fools Fall in Love?" Her rendition of that song was one of the highlights of the evening.

The other performers include Sarah Andersen, Olivia Frankentbach, Scott Murphy and Aidan Rice. There are 23 songs sung in the revue, including "The Twist" sung by Rice and Cobb, "Good Golly, Miss Molly" by Rice, the delightful "When You Got It, Flaunt it" delivered joyfully by Frankentbach from "The Producers," and the classic "West Side Story's" "Something's Coming" sung beautifully by Murphy.

A special shout-out to Andersen, whose legit soprano voice was utilized marvelously for her two solos: the pop classic "You Belong to Me" and "Goodnight

My Someone" from "The Music Man."

You can attend theater safely at Music Mountain Theater as they have made sure that actors, staff and, most especially, the audience are protected. All audience and staff are required to wear masks. They limit audience capacity below the number set by the state of New Jersey.

They take your temperature when you enter. This is done daily to all the staff, as well. The theater is thoroughly cleaned between performances. All individuals and families are spaced safely.

The HVAC system has "air scrubbers" attached to it, giving clean, fresh and "scrubbed" air to the facility. Hand sanitizers are located throughout. The actor's in the dressing rooms are properly

spaced and are masked. Onstage, the blocking of the show primarily has the singers singing from their own individual platforms.

But if your comfort level has still not been met, there is a second option, as well. You, also, can attend the show virtually, which is one ticket price but then covers a family's streaming device, allowing more viewers to see the program.

Support the arts and this fine theater company. Music Mountain Theatre is a blessing for our community. This show is joyful and funny with songs sung by a young, high energy talented cast that bring up sweet memories. A very fulfilling and enjoyable time. The show runs through Feb. 28. For tickets, visit musicmountaintheatre.org.

Flemington Speedway Historical Society cancels Midget event

Flemington Speedway Historical Society (FSHS) has made the difficult decision to cancel its scheduled "A Look Back to Midget Racing" premier event during the Dirt Track Heroes car show at the Palmer Mall in Easton, scheduled for Saturday, March 6.

The decision was made because of the number of coronavirus cases and the current CDC guidelines and restrictions in place for indoor events.

FSHS President Dennis Tretter stated, "All of us at FSHS feel the responsible decision was made in canceling the premier 'A Look Back to Midget Racing' event at the Dirt Track Heroes car show, which has also been canceled for 2021. With the current



Mario Andretti, on his way to winning the ARDC Midget feature at the Flemington Fair Speedway, his first of three midget feature victories on Labor Day 1963. The car Andretti is driving is the Mataka Brothers 33, which would soon become the "3N1," forever commemorating the feat.

COVID-19 restrictions in place, it would have been impossible to host the event in the manner that fans are accustomed to seeing our FSHS events."

The "A Look Back to Midget Racing" was a scheduled premier event with guest speakers, numerous midget race cars and memorabilia, as well as several other race cars from different eras and race divisions. There is no rescheduled date at this time.

Flemington Speedway Historical Society Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve, protect, and document the history of the Flemington Fairgrounds and Speedway. For information, flemingtonspeedwayhistoricalsociety.com

Virtual theater creates conversation on mental health

McCarter Theatre Center in association with Princeton University Health Services, The 24 Hour Plays and Innovations in Socially Distant Performance, a project of the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton, has launched "The Manic Monologues," a digital theatrical experience to disrupt stigma and spotlight a conversation about mental health.

A psychotic break inspired a Stanford University geology student to create a play in an effort to de-stigmatize mental illness. In 2017, Zack Burton was diagnosed with bipolar disorder while finishing his Ph.D. Elisa Hofmeister helped him through his journey.

The two created a series of true vignettes they called "The Manic Monologues." The play was first performed live at Stanford in 2019.

McCarter Theatre Center a professional staged reading in 2020. When COVID-19 halted live events, the project was re-conceived for virtual consumption.

Visitors to the interactive website will journey through the minds and stories of individuals who have something to say about the way mental illness has affected their lives. A series of 21 monologues performed by professional actors can be viewed at one's own pace.

The site is a "studio space" where the visitor can creatively and anonymously interact and respond to the true stories. A virtual resource guide has links to help and support.

Visit mccarter.org/manicmonologues.

The Jazz Sanctuary releases fifth live video concert

Lift your spirits now while listening to over 1.5 hours of free music on "The Jazz Sanctuary Live: Volume V."

This latest video was recorded last December at Morningstar Studios in East Norriton.

Volume V includes such favorites as: "My Funny Valentine," "Don't Take Your Love from Me," "It All Depends on You," and "Dream a Little Dream for Me."

Visit thejazzsanctuary.com/the-jazz-sanctuary-live/ to enjoy this new video.

As much as possible, said Alan Segal, executive director of The Jazz Sanctuary the videos replicate the 578 live performances his organization has given in the area since 2011, noting that this is The Jazz Sanctuary's 10th anniversary. Sponsors and donors paid for production costs.

While there's no charge to view the video, Segal does ask those who are able to give to consider donating to The Jazz Sanctuary. The free concerts keep musicians working and also help viewers and listeners better deal with pandemic pressures.

DelVal president moderates panel on diversity and agriculture

Delaware Valley University President Dr. Maria Gallo facilitated a discussion on diversity and equity at the 2021 National Association of State Departments of Agriculture winter conference on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Dr. Gallo moderated "Equity at the Table: Committing to diversity in food and agriculture policymaking," which examined ways of dismantling systemic racism in the nation's food and agriculture systems.

The 2021 NASDA Winter Policy Conference, "Together at the Table," runs from Feb. 22 through Feb. 25 and is being held virtually.

The panelists for the "Equity at the Table" session included Quinton Robinson, policy advisor at The Rural Coalition, A-dae Romero-Briones, director of Programs for Native Agriculture and Food Systems at First Nations Development Institute, and Karis Gutter, who leads Government & Industry Affairs for Corteva Agriscience. Gutter is also the founding member of Black Professionals in Food and Agriculture.

The panel discussed diversity and inclusion in food and agriculture in the U.S. and offered insight on how to make sure all voices are heard.

Martin Guitar Foundation announces grants

The Martin Guitar Charitable Foundation has awarded 55 grants to Lehigh Valley and national organizations.

The foundation's core principles are to support Martin Guitar's engagement with nonprofit music, arts, education, environmental action, and human service organiza-

tions. Lehigh Valley and regional organizations receiving foundation support included ArtsQuest, Da Vinci Science Center, Miller-Keystone Blood Center, Moravian Historical Society, Northampton Community College Foundation, PBS 39, Second Harvest, State Theatre Center

for the Arts, Touchstone Theatre, WDIY-FM, and several other Lehigh Valley charities.

The Northampton Community Foundation grant supports equipment and materials for the college's guitar-making program in Bethlehem.

The foundation also made grants

to national organizations with strong arts presence and programs in acoustic guitar education and research.

The foundation will accept applications for 2021 grants between Aug. 1, and Sept. 1. To obtain guidelines, send an inquiry by email to dickboak@gmail.com.

Lehigh program explores racism through dance

Zoellner Arts Center in partnership with Lehigh University's United Nations Program, together with the United Nations Department of Global Communications at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 4, presents "Return to

the Root: Exploring Racism Through Dance."

The program is a conversation about racism and slavery with moderators Mark Fitzgerald Wilson, executive director of Zoellner Arts Center and

Dr. Terry-Ann Jones, Lehigh University director of Africana Studies, featuring insight from Rafael Palacios, artistic director of Sankofa Danzafro, an Afro-Colombian dance company, with remarks from Maher Nass-

er, the director of the Outreach Division in the United Nations Department of Global Communications.

To register, visit lehigh.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PGA-kMqtNR7qdGE01pOuFvA.

Bucks Playhouse offers Disney Broadway dance class series

Bucks County Playhouse has added a new online Broadway dance class series to its lineup of education programs, which have moved online for winter 2021.

In the Broadway Dance Workshops: Disney Series, participants will learn original choreography from various Disney Broadway musicals.

Students can enroll in all three weeks (\$65) or choose the weekly drop-in option (\$25 per class). The course will run on Saturdays from 12:45 to 2 p.m. on Feb. 27 ("Aladdin"), March 6 ("The Lion King") and March 13 ("Newsies"). Returning students can receive a 20% discount for referrals and there is a sibling discount of 20% as well.

To receive a discount, inquire prior to registration at info@bcptheater.org. Registration is available online at bcptheater.org.

The instructor is Dani Tucci Juraga, who owns and operates the Downstage Center Dance Studio in Bucks County, where she lives with her husband, son and several furry creatures. She started her career performing for Broadway, National Tours, and Cruise Lines before expanding to choreography for theater, tours and TV. She is on staff as adjunct professor at Rider University, teaching artist/choreographer at the Bucks County Playhouse and is a member of Actors Equity and SAG-AFTRA.

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Ken Gunter with his wife, Sonia, and his children, Kenny and Cannon.



Local witnesses check and weigh the 100-pound backpack.

New Hope resident attempts record-breaking pull-up feat

New Hope resident Ken Gunter is believed to have set a Guinness World Record on Feb. 12 at New Hope Fitness. Gunter's goal was to beat the current Guinness World Record of 18 pull-ups in one minute with a 100-pound weighted backpack.

Gunter, 34, a Washington state native who played football at Princeton, spent months training for the tough task.

After one minute, Gunter's wife, Sonia, recorded 20 pull-ups, hopefully setting a new record. It will take at least two weeks for Guinness officials to verify and certify the results.

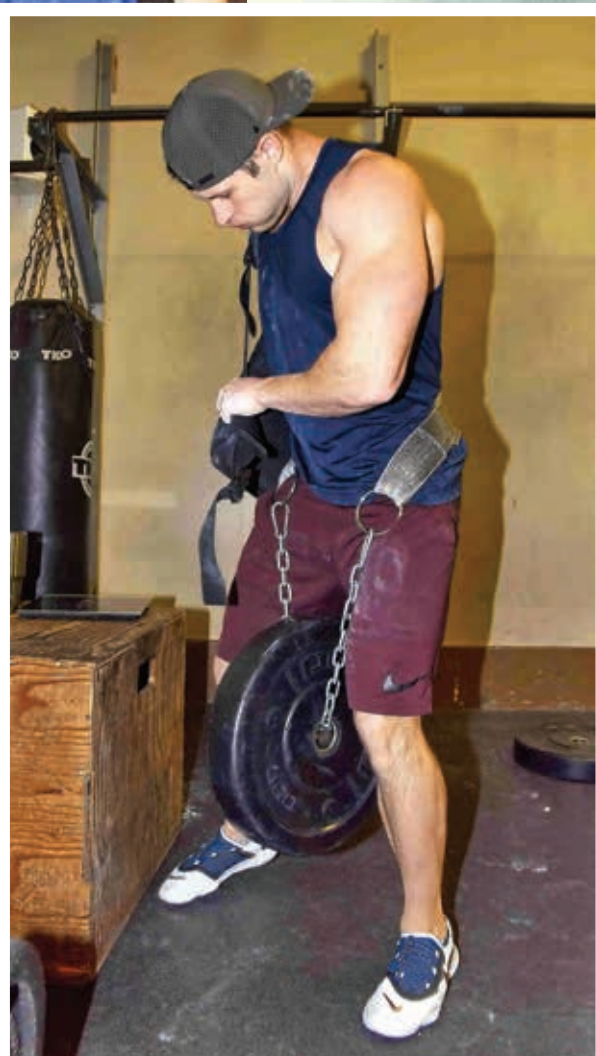
Photographs by Gordon Nieburg



Ken Gunter begins to do pull-ups as witnesses use a timer set for one minute.



Ken Gunter is congratulated by gym owner Dan Kramli.



Ken Gunter prepares the backpack and adds an additional weight for warm-up exercises.

Dining

Susan S. Yeske: Recipe of the Week

Two days mark celebration of peanut butter

True peanut butter fans don't need a single day to celebrate their favorite nut spread. But there are at least two days each year designated to celebrate this sandwich favorite of children and adults.

Peanut Butter Day was Jan. 24, while National Peanut Butter Lover's Day falls this Monday on March 1 (nationaltoday.com/national-peanut-butter-lovers-day/).

The history of peanut butter goes back centuries to the Incas, who may have been the first to grind peanuts into an edible paste. It became popular in the United States after doctor and nutritionist John Harvey Kellogg of cereal fame filed for a patent for peanut butter in 1895. As early as 1896, Good Housekeeping encouraged homemakers to make their own with a meat grinder, and suggested spreading it on bread.

Today we find many more uses for peanut butter than just sandwiches. We bake it in pies, muffins, cookies and cakes, and use it in a variety of candies and ice



TASTEOFHOME.COM

Peanut butter fudge is a sweet way to enjoy America's favorite nut spread.

creams. Savory peanut butter dishes include soups, stews and stir-fries. And many local breweries offer their own take on peanut butter beer.

So cheers to peanut butter by raising a sandwich in its honor. Or you could try this easy recipe for peanut butter fudge from tasteofhome.com. (I would substitute chocolate chips for the walnuts.)

Peanut Butter Fudge

1 pound white candy coating
1 cup creamy peanut butter
1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

1. Melt coating in a saucepan over medium-low heat, stirring constantly until smooth. Remove from the heat; stir in peanut butter and walnuts. Spread into a greased 8-inch square pan. Chill until firm. Cut into 1-inch squares.

LWV hosts virtual panels on hunger, food insecurity

The League of Women Voters of Bucks County offers a series of free virtual panel discussions on hunger and food insecurity in Bucks County.

The first session, "Hungry Families: The Problem, the People, and the Unmet Needs," will take place at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 6. Nonprofit leaders on the front lines of addressing



KRISTIN CHAPIN



TIM PHILPOT

food insecurity in Bucks County will discuss the issue, with time for attendees' questions.

The other programs are at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 20, and 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 10.

The public is invited to join in and participate in any or all of the sessions. To register for any of the programs, go to bit.ly/HungerSeries. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Once registered, you can attend any or all three of the series.

The March 6 program will include guest speaker Tim Philpot, director of Financial Stability & Health at United Way of Bucks County. Panelists will be Heather Foor, who oversees the Bucks County Opportunity Council's food program, and Kristin Chapin, associate director for the YWCA Bucks County.

At the March 20 program, panelists will focus on Too Hungry to Learn: Food Insecurity in our Schools. The third session on April 10 will address the Hunger Crisis: It Does Not Have to Be So.

For information, visit lwv-bucks.org, call 215-230-9986 or email lwvbuckspsa@gmail.com.

COVID-19 struck the whole family; one member did not survive

Susan S. Yeske

When COVID-19 struck the family that owns two popular local restaurants, it resulted in tragedy.

The extended Egoavil family tested positive for the virus, but Fausto Egoavil, patriarch of the clan that owns Quinoa in Doylestown and El Tule in Lambertville, N.J., succumbed to the disease. The rest of the family recovered, said his son Jack Egoavil, and were shocked when their otherwise strong, healthy father and husband lost his life.

"He had no underlying conditions," said Egoavil of his father, who was almost 70. The family closed both restaurants for weeks in order to do a deep clean and ensure everyone else had time to recover from the virus.

The restaurants have carried on since then, with El Tule celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and Quinoa its seventh. Egoavil said that at the onset of the pandemic they ramped up their takeout meals, creating family meals for four that proved to be very successful.

In recent months the restaurants have been closed for indoor dining, but remained open for takeout and delivery. "We wanted to keep



The Egoavil clan; patriarch Fausto Egoavil is shown at far right.

ourselves and the public safe," said Egoavil. While they couldn't dine in, takeout was busy, Egoavil said. "They could still get the food they love."

The staff used the time to develop new specials, create \$21 three-course *prix fixe* dinners on Wednesdays, add lunchtime

"bowls," create half-price fajita specials and a locals night, and to switch to using only paper bags.

To make the bags more festive, the staff draws pictures and writes short, upbeat messages on them for their customers.

"People love them," said Egoavil.



Jack Egoavil shows off two of the paper bags the staff decorates for each customer, featuring upbeat sayings and colorful drawings.

El Tule/Quinoa photos

El Tule may reopen its dining room under New Jersey's virus restrictions beginning March 1. The state allows 35 percent seating capacity and requires masks unless customers are seated and eating.

The months since the beginning of the pandemic have been hard, Egoavil said, as they have struggled to stay in business and to honor their father while mourning him.

"But we are doing what we love," he said, and that's the most important thing. When not crafting their Peruvian and Mexican dishes, they are helping out in the community, including preparing 100 taco meals at a time for distribution to those who visit the Delaware Valley Food Pantry in Lambertville.

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The Wertsville Industries property stream in the fall.

Land purchase makes 1,150-acre nature preserve in Sourlands reality

A decades-long vision of establishing a 1,150-acre nature preserve in the Sourland Mountains was just realized with the purchase of an additional 110 acres of farmland and forest in East Amwell Township, Hunterdon County.

The preserve straddles the border of Hunterdon and Somerset counties in one of Central Jersey's most scenic and ecologically important areas.

On Dec. 7, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners acquired 110 acres near the corner of Wertsville and North Hill roads for \$1.62 million from Wertsville Industries, a family-owned company that has operated the land as a farm since the early 1940s. The property includes a tributary of the Neshanic River, a source of clean drinking water for the region.

The Wertsville Industries purchase came six weeks after New Jersey Conservation and many of the same partners teamed up to acquire 268 adjoining acres from landowner John Higgins.

"With these two new parcels, the preserve in the beautiful Sourland Mountains now totals over 1,150 contiguous acres for public enjoyment and wildlife habitat protection," said Michele S. Byers, executive director. "We're very grateful

to all of our partners for making this possible, and we are thrilled to open this spectacular land to the public."

Samir Shafei, whose late wife's family bought the East Amwell property after moving from Tennessee in the 1940s, said he is pleased to see the land permanently preserved.

"I really love New Jersey and I love that farm," said Shafei. "I'm really happy it's going to stay green for the rest of its life. I feel proud that I can contribute to that environment."

His wife, Susan DeJongh Shafei, who passed away in 2017, spent much of her childhood on the farm that had been purchased by her uncle, Owen Denton, and her mother, Leona Denton. The farm was a gathering place for family members, who came out from New York on weekends to ride horses and pitch in with chores like hay baling, growing wheat and tending to the pigs and cows.

"It was a farm for sharing, for everybody to be riding horses," recalled Shafei. "It was really fun for everyone to be together on the farm, bailing the hay. It was a lot of hard work, but it was fun. It's just a wonderful memory for me."

With the two new additions, the preserve in the Sourlands now

totals 528 acres in East Amwell, Hunterdon County, and over 600 acres in neighboring Hillsborough Township, Somerset County. The land will be managed as a single preserve spanning the two counties.

The new preserve will be available for passive recreational activities, including hiking, horseback riding, birding and nature observation. The preserve includes some existing trails and a formal trail system is planned for the future.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation spearheaded a partnership of public and private agencies that contributed to the preservation of the Wertsville Industries property, including the state Office of Natural Resource Restoration, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, Hunterdon County, East Amwell Township and the 1772 Foundation.

Part of the funding came from a multimillion-dollar settlement with the State of New Jersey over long-standing pollution in Central Jersey. Wyeth Holdings, a subsidiary of Pfizer, agreed this fall to pay \$4.2 million to compensate for natural resource damages related to groundwater pollution at the American Cyanamid Superfund site in Somerset County.

OBITUARIES

Dylan Daniel Clark

Dylan Daniel Clark, 62, of Upper Black Eddy, Pa., passed away on Feb. 18, 2021.

Dylan was born in Glendale, Calif., and was a graduate of the Solebury School in New Hope. He was an active part of the New Hope/Lambertville community while working at John & Peter's and was a popular baker at Mother's Restaurant. Dylan became a skilled carpenter and was a creative problem solver. He was currently working on restoring his and his mother's homes in Upper Black Eddy. He will always be remembered for his generous and unassuming nature. Dylan was loved by his family and friends for his heart of gold and a level of humanity rarely seen in this world.

Dylan is survived by his mother Pat Martin; his brother Matthew Friedman and his wife, Linda Cathey; his former partner Maria Castro-Brown and his former spouse Rachelle Muldoon; his daughters Jessica Cassidy and Sophia Vaughn and their husbands Stephen Cassidy and Kip Vaughn; and his five adoring grandchildren Arya, Emmett, Wyatt, Lucy



and Ronan. Dylan will be greatly missed.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Van Horn-McDonough Funeral Home, 21 York St., Lambertville, NJ 08530 (vhmfh.com).

U.S. Congress reauthorizes National Estuary Program

Congress has reaffirmed its support and strong commitment to the National Estuary Program, a time tested, nonregulatory program that enables communities to restore and protect the bays and estuaries they call home.

The Delaware Estuary is one of 28 "estuaries of national significance" that will benefit directly from legislation approved by Congress. The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) is the host of the Delaware Estuary Program.

All the senators from the three Estuary states supported the Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act, including Pennsylvania Sens. Pat Toomey and Bob Casey Jr.; New Jersey Sens. Corey Booker and Bob Menendez; and Delaware Sens. Thomas R. Carper and Chris Coons.

On the House of Representatives side, support for the legislation included Pennsylvania Reps. Brendan F. Boyle, Matt Cartwright, Madeleine Dean, Dwight Evans, Brian K. Fitzpatrick, Chrissy Houlahan, Mary Gay Scanlon, Glenn Thompson

and Susan Wild; New Jersey, Reps. Josh Gottheimer, Donald Norcross, Mikie Sherrill, Bonnie Watson Coleman and Jefferson Van Drew; and Delaware Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester.

The Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act, with strong bipartisan support and unanimous approval from the Senate, was signed into law on Jan. 13. The Act reaffirms support for the work of the National Estuary Program, and nearly doubles the annual funding limit to \$50 million. Under the new law, each NEP could receive as much as \$1 million each year.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary works with communities at the local level in this region to protect the coastal resources essential for tourism, commerce, storm protection, clean water and marine-based food supply such as fisheries and aquaculture. Increasing threats from pollution, harmful algal blooms, accelerating land loss, and risks to biodiversity threaten the vitality of estuaries across the country, and are a growing concern.

In 2020, the partnership recycled more than 17,000 pounds of oyster shell for use in restoration projects, held more than 60 virtual programs during the Delaware River Festival, installed a dozen new groundwater monitoring wells and studied over 22,000 stems of cordgrass to track saltwater intrusion impacts. Over the past three years, it reinforced 1,300 feet of living shoreline in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey with recycled oyster shells. Go to delawareestuary.org to learn more.

Keep PA Beautiful seeks municipal partners

Over five years, 2014 through 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) spent over \$65 million removing litter from within highway rights-of-way.

The costs of dealing with litter and illegal dumping are quite large for communities as well, but are often obscured because they are dispersed across various governmental departments, community-based organizations and volunteer groups.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful documented in its 2019 study, "The Cost of Littering and Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania," that just nine cities in Pennsylvania spend \$68 million annually on cleanup, education, enforcement and prevention efforts to address litter and illegal dumping throughout their respective communities; 80% of that went toward cleaning up.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has a program that helps mitigate municipal cleanup costs. Its road and area adoption program equips local residents with the tools and resources they need to be stewards of their neighborhoods.

With the support of local municipalities, the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful adoption program is available statewide for municipal roads, parks, neighborhood blocks, greenways, waterways and trails.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful provides a sign recognizing the volunteers' efforts and seeks the support of the local entity, usually the municipality, to provide the sign post, install the sign and provide trash disposal options as needed.

Once an adoption is approved, the volunteer individual or group receives gloves, bags and safety vests to get them started. Additional supplies are available each spring and fall through Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Pick Up Pennsylvania cleanup initiative.

For more information about adopting a municipal road, park, trail or waterway, visit keep-pa-beautiful.org and choose Keep It, then Adoption Program or contact Stephanie Larson at slarson@keep-pa-beautiful.org or 877-772-3673 x104.

For information about adopting a state maintained road, visit the PA Department of Transportation at www.penndot.gov and search Adopt-a-Highway.

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Two Bucks deed books dedicated in honor of Davis H. Taylor

Bucks County Recorder of Deeds Robin Robinson has dedicated two deed books in honor of Davis H. Taylor after his wife, Denise Taylor, donated money toward the Adopt-A-Book program in his name.

Early in 2020, Robinson was approached by Denise Taylor about donating toward the office's Adopt-A-Book Program.

Denise had an idea to donate money toward the preservation of these books in honor of her husband, Davis, a huge history buff. It's the 20th anniversary of Davis's business, and Denise thought that this was a great way to celebrate this milestone.

Davis's business, TAI Inc., provides its clients with training on Val-

ues-Based Leadership (VBL). This type of leadership empowers employees to create a trust culture. By engaging with employees, employee performance improves.

Both Davis and Denise are managing members of TAI, employing senior associates across the globe, from the United States to Singapore to France.

Their son, Gaines, is the TAI team coach. He runs the operations, working with students and young adults. Gaines also serves as the company's communications expert, writing publications, running social media and is its Zoom producer.

Davis, who was very honored with this dedication said, "With thanks to

Robin, Nicole and the team for the opportunity to participate in the restoration project, for me it's an honor to be remembered in a way that helps preserve the rich heritage and history of Bucks County. A transplant to the state 25 years ago, I appreciate the privilege of making a permanent connection with this community."

To contact the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds office, call 215-348-6209 or visit buckscounty.org/government/RowOfficers/RecorderofDeeds.

The Taylor family are from left: son Gaines Taylor; parents Denise and Davis Taylor; their daughter Lauren and her husband, Bob Fink.



On the Spiritual Side

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Kehilat HaNahar welcomes students from New York synagogue

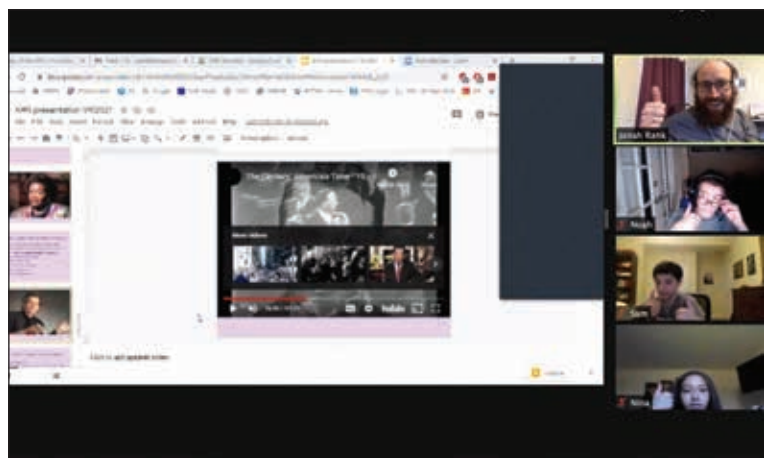
Students at Kehilat HaNahar, The Little Shul by the River, in New Hope, are now learning side-by-side with students from Congregation Kol Ami in Elmira, N.Y., due to the closure of Kol Ami's religious school during this academic year in the midst of COVID-19.

Now that the KHN Shul School is operating virtually, it is open to learners from across the U.S.

"We chose KHN among several other religious schools we were looking at because we were impressed by the quality of the teaching and with the curriculum and its emphasis on social justice. We also knew our students wouldn't get lost as they might in a larger congregation," said Rabbi Oren Steinitz of Congregation Kol Ami.

"So far, the feedback from our parents and students has been overwhelmingly positive," continued Rabbi Steinitz. "I have a first and fifth grader in KHN Shul School, and they both love their teachers, look forward to the arts projects, and are making great progress. It's a great fit!"

For information about the KHN Shul School, visit kehilathanahar.org/learning/shul-school.html or contact Rabbi Jonah Rank at KHN-School@gmail.com.



Kehilat HaNahar Shul School students with Rabbi Jonah Rank, top, during a lesson on Jews and the Civil Rights Movement.

Mount Carmel concert



The Rev. Matt Brody, the parish priest at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Doylestown, and a violinist, accompanied by Rudy Lucente, organist, presented a violin and organ concert to The Ladies of Mount Carmel at their General Meeting Feb. 9.

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Delaware Canal 21 announces new board chairman

Continued from page A1

Doug Dolan, executive director of Delaware Canal 21 said the organization takes great pride in the strength of its board and its ability to embrace change. The other members of the board include Randy Apgar, Boyce Budd, Lynn Bush (secretary), Betsy Falconi, Bill Kiesling (vice chairman), Don McCloskey, and Craig Miller (treasurer), with William Collins of the landscape architecture firm Simone Collins serving as technical advisor.

Dolan praised the new chairman emeritus, saying that Black's insight, skill, and knowledge have provided direction and enthusiasm for Delaware Canal 21 for the past nine years. "Through Allen's leadership, Delaware Ca-



Co-founder Allen Black was recently named chairman emeritus of Delaware Canal 21. He has been called "Inspirer in Chief."

Delaware Canal 21 has grown from a concept in 2012 to a recognized, respected and energetic nonprofit advocate for the sustainability and survival of the Canal." In its nine years of

existence, Delaware Canal 21 has brought in more than \$1 million in grants to support maintenance and long-range planning for the canal.

Black recognized early on that the state park's budget would never be enough to provide the kind of first-class maintenance necessary for the future survival of the canal. So, he set as Delaware Canal 21's top priority finding a new business model, one that would identify new and different sources of revenue to support vastly enhanced maintenance for the canal waterway.

It was through Black's tenacity that potential board and advisory members were attracted to the mission and embraced the need, that we were able to gain the trust

of organizations such as PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor with whom it would work to make a credible difference in the future of the canal, Dolan said.

Black was instrumental in attracting the attention of the William Penn Foundation to financially support the Delaware Canal Vision Study (2017) and other relevant projects conducted by Delaware Canal 21. In this way, Delaware Canal 21 brings new 21st-century solutions to this 19th-century canal. Under Black's guidance, Delaware Canal 21 has developed a bold new business model, a new paradigm for the canal that will enable the canal to gener-



Richard Henriques, long associated with philanthropy, has been named chairman of the 9-year-old nonprofit focused on sustainability and survival of the 60-mile-long Delaware Canal.

ate supplemental revenues that will afford top notch maintenance and planning, Dolan said.

Community feedback sought in Stockton, N.J.

Continued from page A1

building, housing guest rooms and a wellness center connected with a passageway to a tented 7,700-square-foot amphitheater with capacity for 980, including guest room, bar and dining room capacity.

The amphitheater would be used for a maximum of 20 to 40 concerts a year, according to siblings Jena and Alan Berman of Avon Road Partners, who spoke about the proposed project recently during an interview via Zoom.

"We're shooting for summer 2022 to host our first concert. We're very excited to get this going," Alan said, adding he has classic rock and smooth jazz concerts by well-recognized names in mind.

The plan has been met with both positive and negative feedback from members of the community, said Jena, a New Hope resident, also known as JB, and the Bermans said they are sensitive to people's

concerns. "We plan throughout this process to hold Q&A's with (the community) to hear their concerns," Jenna said.

"Their concerns to us are something that matters. We want to make sure every resident in Stockton and surrounding communities are on board with this," added Alan, who lives outside Washington, D.C.

Those question and answer sessions would be held in a safe manner, keeping the community's health in mind during the pandemic, the siblings said.

They added they plan to bring in experts to conduct traffic and noise studies, and to find solutions for those and other matters of concern to neighbors.

"We are going to bring in a lot of people who are smarter than us and alleviate those concerns," Alan said, adding he wants the process to be a partnership with the community.

An attorney for Avon Road met

with Stockton Borough Council, first in December to present Avon Road's vision for the property, and again on Feb. 8, to formally request council consider redevelopment of the property.

Avon Road has sent out letters to both residents and the business community outlining the family's plans for the Stockton Inn property. The letters include a link to a video illustrating those plans.

Stockton Borough Administrator/Clerk Michele Hovan said no formal steps have been taken and no applications filed by Avon Road. She said the next step will be a Preliminary Investigation Report by the borough to determine whether the parcels qualify for redevelopment.

"Council has tasked the planning board to prepare that report," she said. "It's too soon to know if it's possible," she said of redevelopment.

Stockton's mayor and council

have issued a statement of their own, addressed to residents and business owners, dated Feb. 15, and posted on the borough's website. The statement calls redevelopment "an off-used planning tool that when done in the spirit of community partnership, can be beneficial to the town, its residents, stakeholders – and the developer – when considering a major improvement such as the one that is the subject of the letter" sent by Avon Road.

"It's anything but a done deal," Hovan said. She added that the plan could result in improvements for the town, or it could go nowhere or turn into something substantially different. "This will be a long process," she added.

The Bermans said their family history is tied in to what they want to do with the Stockton Inn property. Their grandmother operated the Avon Lodge in the Catskills in New York, where entertainers such as Sid Caesar

and Mel Brooks once performed.

Jena said the approximately \$15 million Avon Road plan stays true to the currently closed Stockton Inn's history and also offers a viable option to keep it open. It also would offer more than 100 new full- and part-time jobs to area residents, the siblings said.

"When we saw that the Stockton Inn was closed, we saw an opportunity to preserve it to keep it alive," Jena said. "It's not historically landmarked. We were shocked."

"We're trying to get historical landmark status so that it can never be torn down," she added.

"We have no intention, nor are there any plans, to move or reposition the inn. Our goal is restoration, preservation and securing historic landmark status so that The Stockton Inn will continue for another 300 years."

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

Landmark Hospitality buys New Hope's Landing

Continued from page A1

Saying he and his wife "fell in love" with New Hope and The Landing decades ago, Cretella said he wants his design to "be respectful" of the waterfront and the property's beautiful views that take in the New Hope-Lambert-

ville Bridge.

While the proposed hotel will include a riverfront deck for guests, a public walkway and the existing public docks will remain, said Cretella. A cruise barge may also be docked there, he added.

The historic house that current-

ly houses The Landing's dining room will stay, but the various additions, including the outdoor bar will be taken down. The new, smaller, "more intimate" interior will feature an open kitchen and a "land and sea" menu. The multimillion dollar project will offer

total seating for 120, including indoor and outdoor dining, said Cretella.

Denise Bollenbacher said she and her husband are pleased with Cretella's vision. "We're happy with what he's thinking," she said. "We've enjoyed getting

to know him. He's a man of his word."

Landmark also owns the Logan Inn and the Mansion Inn in New Hope and Hotel Du Village in Solebury, as well as several other venues in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

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Riegelsville and Ottsville fire companies to merge

Continued from page A1
 tion, the pandemic has obviously not helped the situation. Meanwhile, he had also noted that townships are growing and so is call volume, and that the "time

is gone when fire companies can be 100% self-sufficient." He added that the situation was not only common to Upper Bucks, but was statewide, and might be headed toward consolidation as the lead-

ing consideration for change. Also at that 2020 meeting, Township Manager Keith DeLuca noted the issues were common, informal topics at meetings of the Pennsylvania State Association of

Township Supervisors (PSATS). DeLuca indicated that barriers to consolidation had more to do with townships having a meeting of the minds than their fire companies, and that he would be starting to

raise the issues with neighboring townships, while Shick did so with his own peers. At the conclusion of Shick's Feb. 18 presentation, Supervisor Chair Bill Sadow said "good."

Hunterdon Economic Recovery Task Force awards grants

The newly established Hunterdon Economic Recovery Task Force has worked with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Foundation to establish a Hunterdon Economic Recovery Fund.

Recently, the Chamber Foundation awarded six Small Business Recovery Grants through the Hunterdon Economic Recovery Fund. The Task Force was established this year as a direct result of the pandemic.

"The Task Force was formed to look at the long-term recovery needs for the business community here in Hunterdon County," said Chris Phelan, president of the Chamber. This has been an unprecedented year with so many challenges from COVID 19, to the economic loss, that we know we needed to look at developing long-term strategies to help in the recovery through

2021." Local business organizations that partnered in the project include the Clinton Guild, High Bridge Business Association, Flemington Community Partnership, Delaware Rivertown's Chamber of Commerce, Frenchtown Business Association and the Milford Merchants Association.

The recipients of the first Small Business Recovery Grants are Chameleon Blue, Heartstrings, Beyond Bijoux, Roses In Your Hair, Balic of Clinton, and Rosemarie's Cucina. The grant criteria focused on retail shops and restaurants with less than 20 employees and no chain affiliations.

To donate to the fund or for information about the task force, contact Hunterdon County Regional Chamber of Commerce at 908-782-7115, or visit hunterdonchamber.org.



Small Business Recovery Grant recipient Rosemarie's Cucina.



Small Business Recovery Grant recipient Balic of Clinton.



Small Business Recovery Grant recipient Chameleon Blue.



Small Business Recovery Grant recipient Beyond Bijoux.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12			13		14		
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48				49					50	51	52	53
54					55				56			
57						58				59		

- Across**
- Chasm
 - Subj. for new arrivals
 - Word
 - Mega Stuf treat
 - Compressed video file acronym
 - "Rem" extender
 - There's nothing like it
 - Destructive influence
 - Sue Grafton's "__ for Noose"
 - Ensures
 - What cookies are usually baked in
 - Egyptian seaport
 - It's tied in the back
 - Is from Lyon?
 - Smuggled
 - Eggy quaffs
 - Diner's complimentary comment
 - Prefix for "trillion"
 - Patronage
 - Bill at the bar
 - Valet's domain
 - Sounds of frustration from Charlie Brown
 - Dead giveaway?
 - Local language
 - Cary's "North by Northwest" co-star
 - UAE's Mars orbiter
 - Voyaging
 - Holiday in Hanoi
 - Detect
 - Closes a parka
 - SAT takers, frequently
 - Kenny G has two
 - Larson or Satie

- Down**
1. Cradle comment
 - Server at a soiree
 - "I'm Sorry" singer Brenda
 - Paint Pissarros, say
 - Diplomatic office
 - Box
 - Dunham and Headey
 - OPEC founding member not in the Mideast
 - Dog drawn by Jim Davis
 - "Swiss Family Robinson" author Johann
 - Family group
 - A in French class
 - Outdoor wedding rental
 - Lady from Seville
 - Instrument with a tenon
 - Ancient "stepped" temples
 - Famous pharaoh
 - Nile predator, informally
 - Singer Perry
 - Communicate without speaking, maybe
 - Polo clubs
 - Former Persian bigwigs
 - Co-star of Betty and Estelle
 - Listerine alternative
 - Eat lightly
 - Thoroughly checks for accuracy
 - Who or when conclusion
 - "When You Wish _ a Star"
 - General address?
 - Center lead-in
 - It's all you have to do sometimes

PennDOT wins national transportation awards

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) was recently recognized with two 2020 annual Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSMO) awards presented by the National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCe).

TSMO is focused on improving how roadways operate within the restraints of PennDOT's existing roadway infrastructure.

PennDOT's TSMO Performance Program and Traffic Operations Analytics (TOA) Tool won first place for Best TSMO

Project of the year. The Performance Program brought together internal and external information allowing for more data-driven outcomes for congestion planning, incident response, and safety for all motorists.

By housing the data on one TOA platform, team members quickly found that crowd-sourced data from Waze and INRIX detected 86.7% of reportable crashes on major roads and created solutions for operations personnel to increase the timeliness of incident detection.

PennDOT's TSMO Regional Operations Plans won first place for Project Selection and Prioritization. They were developed in cooperation with stakeholders. Regional Operations Plans play an important role in regional Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) processes by helping to secure future capital funding for projects.

For information, visit penn-dot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/operations/Pages/default.aspx.

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ARTS & Galleries

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Artists' Gallery show combines art, poetry and song

"Lyrical 2021" runs March 4 to April 4, at the Artists' Gallery, 18 Bridge St., Lambertville, N.J.

The exhibition enhances the visual appeal of the art by adding next to each work a poem or song lyric chosen by the artist.

"What every creative person does we do every month - we begin again. Sometimes our art comes from great locations revisited sometimes it is the newly discovered - but always it is a new way of seeing - a fresh interpretation of our world as we see or imagine it," the gallery said via email.

Each month there are 16 or more works not shown before. Artists are always happy to answer questions about materials, techniques, and motivations.

The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Visit LambertvilleArts.com for information.



"Winter on the Sourland" is by Joe Kazimierczyk.



"Bubby" is by Beatrice Bork.

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Henry Snell, Wharton Esherick,
John Pierce Barnes, David Ellinger,
Walter Baum, Rae Sloan Bredin,
Edward Bell, A. V. Greene,
S. George Phillips, Frederick Harer,
M. Elizabeth Price, Louis Bosa,
Hugh Breckenridge, Roy C. Kneeland,
Antonio Martino, Henry McCarter,
William Francis Taylor, Leonard Nelson,
Bernard Harmon, Leon Kelly,
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Joseph Pearson Jr...



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ARTS & Galleries

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Self-portraits created during pandemic in virtual exhibit

“ALONE | together: Self Portraits during the Pandemic” is an online art exhibition curated by the Up Arts Incubator, an art gallery and creative space in Lansdale.

Featuring the work of nearly 100 artists from around the world, the art highlighted in this exhibition reveals the ties that bind humanity in the shared experience of mask-wearing, social distancing, and stay-at-home orders.

“The goal of this show is to create a global visual commentary to document the strange world we find ourselves living in and to make the show accessible to as many artists as possible. To that end, the show required no entry fee and at least one piece of art from every artist was accepted.

To this date, artists from the following 26 countries have submitted pieces to the show: Sweden, the U.S., the U.K., Israel, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Germany,

Italy, India, Pakistan, Croatia, Australia, the Philippines, Scotland, Brazil, Indonesia, Belgium, Romania, Ecuador, Slovenia, Poland, Georgia, France, Greece and Spain.

Local artists from the Delaware Valley area include Samuel Vovsi of Princeton, N.J.; Susan Pitak-Davis of Lambertville, N.J.; Jeff Reeder of Chalfont; Danielle Rackowski of Trenton, N.J.; Dore Vorum of Doylestown; Catrina Horsfield of Doylestown; Theresa Mercadante of Norristown; Modern Fossils-David Horowitz and Judith Marchand of Frenchtown, N.J.; and Nancy McGarvey of Philadelphia.

Eventually, the number of artists featured in the online exhibition will be limited to keep the size of the show manageable. Once the limit has been reached, other artists may participate by uploading an image of their work to Instagram and tagging it with #alonetogetherartexhibit and #upartsincubator.

With over 144 works of art, the show documents the shared global pandemic experience. From the pencil drawing, “Reflection,” by Philip Iroegbu of Nigeria to the painting, “Covid Chronicle,” by Susan Pitak-Davis of Lambertville, viewers will hopefully find a piece of art that resonates with their own pandemic experience.

Many people may find some part of their own experience captured in U.K. artist Skaiste Klaniute’s photographic series, “If I was Edward Hopper.” Others may find they relate more to “Lazy Time,” a mixed media piece by Aubane Berthomme Martinez of the Netherlands. And, some may closely relate to “Mirrored Solitude” by Delta N.A. of Italy.

View the exhibition at upartsincubator.com/proofing/alone-together.

In non-COVID-19 times, the Up Arts Incubator is an art gallery and creative space where artists can collaborate, create and show their work.



“Covid Chronicle” is an oil on paper by Susan Pitak-Davis of Lambertville, N.J.

In COVID times, these goals are met in a hybrid form combining online shows with socially distanced ones and the occasional Zoom Happy Art Hour. Learn more at upartsincubator.com.



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2021 Program Schedule

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6 - 9AM TWO FOR THE ROAD Tom Lombardo Big Band & More	6 - 9AM THE BREAKFAST CLUB Various DJs Folk, Rock	6 - 9AM HOME GROWN Jerry Steele Americana, Roots	6 - 9AM HONKYTONK ROADHOUSE Ted Lyons Folk, Rock	6 - 9AM HOT WAX Studebaker Hawk 50's & 60's	6 - 9AM ROUTE 66 Russ Hunsberger Americana, Bluegrass & Country	3 - 11AM CHURCH PROGRAMMING Details available at wdvrfm.org
9AM - 12PM TIN PAN ALLEY Barb Zentner 1900-1950's + British Tea Time	9AM - 12PM COUNTRY ROUNDUP Radio Rita Traditional Country	9AM - 11AM WALT'S PLACE Walt Haake A record party	9AM - 12PM CATS & CROONERS Math American Songbook, Jazz & Theater	9AM - 12PM TGIF Ted Valerio & Craig Hyldahl The 60's Experience	9AM - 12PM RADIO RANCH Charlie Harrison & Co-Host Country	11AM - 1PM CELTIC SUNDAY BRUNCH Ben, Wolf Hul Irish & Celtic Music
12 - 3PM ECHOES FROM THE HILLS Richard Evans Bluegrass	12 - 3PM MEMORY LANE Various DJs Oldies 50's & 60's	11AM - 1PM THE MELTING POT Mike Lewis Something for everyone	12 - 2PM KEEPIN' IT COUNTRY Various DJs Country	12 - 3PM BLEECKER STREET CAFE Chris Poh & Ed Petersen Conversation & Folk	12 - 1PM CLASSIC COUNTRY GOLD Richard Evans Country	1 - 4PM SOULFUL SUNDAY Scott Gallagher Soul Music
3 - 5PM LET'S TALK Claudine Wolk & Andy Kin Interviews & Music	3 - 5PM DOO WOP CORNER Ed McGlynn Vocal Groups & Oldies	1 - 4PM R&R Bill Kahike Folk & Rock	2 - 5PM CRUZ IN Scott O'Dowd 50's & 60's, Classic R&B	3 - 4PM ROCKABILLY & MORE Tom from New Hope	1 - 4PM BLUEGRASS JUNCTION Richard Evans Bluegrass	4 - 7PM BEG, BORROW & STEAL Kerrienne Eclectic music explorations
5 - 7PM ROAD RUNNER Kathleen Connolly Indie Artists	5 - 6PM STEPPING STONES Hillary Murray Talk: Aging, & Social Issues	4 - 5PM CANAL HOUSE KITCHEN HOUR M. Hamilton & C. Hirsheimer Talk: Food	5 - 6PM THE SOUL SHOW John Kearney Soul	4 - 5PM WORLD OF WORK Shep Cohen Interviews from All Walks of Life	4 - 6PM THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED Melba Toast Folk, Rock & More	7 - 9PM SIDE STREETS Erin Dougherty New Folk Music
7 - 10PM BLUEGRASS HORIZON Mike Wuerstle Bluegrass	6:30 - 7PM INTERLUDE Various DJs Classical	6 - 8PM ANDY'S MUSIC MIX Andy Kin Eclectic	6 - 7PM PENNED, PRODUCED & PERFORMED Ed McGlynn How the hits of the 50s, 60s & 70s were made	5 - 7PM ANYTHING GOES Gene M. Rock + UFO & Backyard Reports	6 - 8PM THE SWEETEST SOUNDS Jeff Stambovsky Singers, Lyricists & Composers	9 - 11PM LOVE SPELL Anita Valentina Romantic Music
10 - 12AM ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS Mike Ehn American Roots, Alt Country	8 - 10PM NIGHT JAMS Kevin Cumberly Rock, Soul, R&B, Jazz, Alt Country	8 - 9PM ANY HOUR RADIO Richie K.	7 - 10PM THE CARAVAN Deb Koye & Steve Folk, Rock	7 - 10PM YOUR HIT PARADE Carla Van Dyke Late 30s to early 50s	8 - 9PM BERKE'S BLUES Al Berke Blues	11PM - 12AM NIGHT WAVES Special Live & Pre-recorded Shows by WDVRFM Staff
10 - 12AM CROSS CUTS JK Folk, Blues, Rock, Celtic	10 - 12AM LEFT BANK Tom Bleck Jazz, Classical, Rock	10 - 12AM THE TRAIN TO NOWHERE Kathleen Connolly & Bill Kahike	12 - 1AM LEFT BANK AT MIDNIGHT Tom Bleck	9PM - 12AM SATURDAY NIGHT JAZZ Al Berke Jazz	ATTENTION NIGHT OWLS! WDVRFM plays music you'll love all night long	



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ARTS & Galleries

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

New photography show opens at outdoor gallery in Frenchtown

The South Harrison Street Outdoor Gallery has opened a new show called "January Light in B&W."

The show features fine art photos by 35 photographers that were all taken during January 2021.

The images are part of a larger project called "Winter Light in B&W" that was coordinated by The Photographers Group, a consortium of over 1,000 photographers based in the New Jersey-Pennsylvania region.

Starting Nov. 1, approximately 100 photographers braved the cold, the fog, the rain and snow to get photos of winter light and then render them in black and white. These photos were curated from over 600 submissions and provide a wide range of vision.

"Creating an outdoor photo gallery may seem a little nuts to do in the winter, but we are excited about

being live rather than virtual," said Bill Brokaw, director of The Photographers Group.

"The response was very positive for the gallery's first outdoor show last month called 'The Pockert-Kamera Project 2020.' People enjoy seeing art and photography and the South Harrison Street Outdoor Gallery provides us the opportunity to show our work safely."

The South Harrison Street Outdoor Gallery is located just off Bridge Street in Frenchtown, N.J., adjacent to Brokaw Photography Studio which runs The Photographers Group. The gallery is always open, 24 hours a day, rain, sleet, or snow and is COVID safe. Masks are required. The show will run until March 22.

To learn more visit Photographers.group or email Bill@Brokaw-Photography.



BILL BROKAW

"Winter Light in Black and White," an outdoor photo exhibition, was coordinated by The Photographers Group, a consortium of over 1,000 photographers based in the region.

Gratz Gallery to host online auction



On March 21, Gratz Gallery is hosting its annual Fine American Paintings online auction. Included in the sale are selections of impressionist, realist, folk, modern, and decorative paintings. Highlights include a rare landscape by furniture designer Wharton Esherick, an elegant portrait by Charles Curran, landscapes by Hudson River painter John Kensett, Pennsylvania impressionists John Barnes and Henry Snell, foliage paintings by Samuel Phillips, and classic winter scenes by Walter Baum. Included also are Philadelphia artists, including African American painter Bernard Harmon. Visit GratzGallery.com.

Submitted by Gratz Gallery

Shirley Mersky
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Spring arts round-up

This winter and spring season, join the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle for a new slate of virtual community programs that bring Henry Mercer's castles to life for audiences everywhere.

Highlights of Fonthill Castle takes guests on a virtual tour through Mercer's home and showplace for his renowned tiles, while Highlights of Central Court at the Mercer Museum showcases the wondrous artifacts inside Mercer's six-story concrete castle, now a Smithsonian affiliate museum.

Kids of all ages explore the daily life of Colonial farmers during the virtual Colonial Farm Experience program, or learn how people in early America bartered for household objects in the virtual Meet the Makers: Bartering in Colonial Times program.

There have never been more ways to connect to history from the comfort on one's home. Learn more and reserve tickets at mercermuseum.org/virtualprograms.

Submitted by
Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle



KEVIN CRAWFORD

Barnes Foundation names Aileen Roberts board chair

The board of trustees of the Barnes Foundation announced that Aileen Roberts has been elected as its new chair. Roberts, who has served on the board since 2005 and as vice chair since 2015, succeeds Joseph Neubauer.

Neubauer led the Barnes as chair from 2015 to 2020 and will remain a trustee and serve as chair of the Barnes Foundation's \$100 million Second Century Campaign.

"The Barnes Foundation is one of Philadelphia's cultural gems and among the world's most lauded collections. During the nearly 10 years since the Barnes opened the doors to its new home on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, it has welcomed over 2 million visitors, showcased more than 20 highly acclaimed exhibitions, and secured over \$50 million in new commitments to-

ward our \$100 million goal for the Second Century Campaign," says Neubauer.

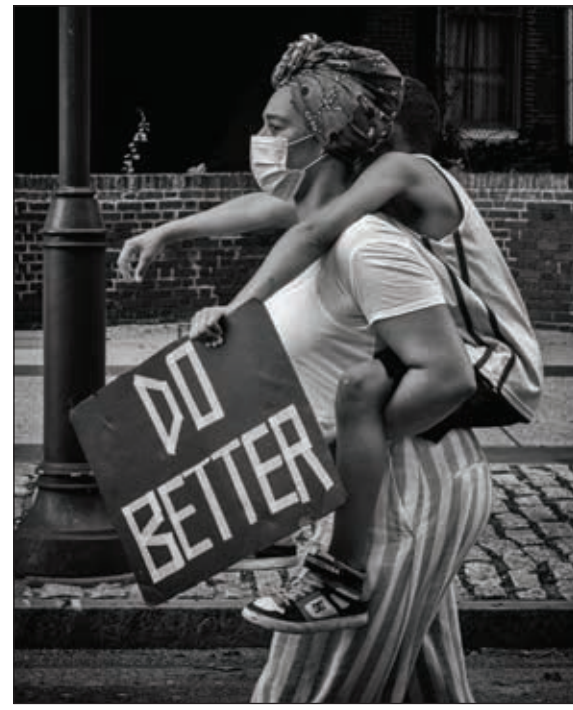
"Aileen has both a profound knowledge of the Barnes and a proven commitment to it, which extends from the key role she played in bringing to life – leading the Buildings, Grounds, and Planning Committee, and working closely with architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien—to her tireless efforts to ensure the Barnes is a welcoming and inspiring space for staff and visitors alike."

Roberts, a philanthropist and civic leader, has supported organizations dedicated to arts, culture, and healthcare, and those addressing equity in education through her work as president of the Roberts family foundation.

The Michener Art Museum opens "Through the Lens: Modern Photography in the Delaware Valley"

On view through August 15, 2021, "Through the Lens: Modern Photography in the Delaware Valley" explores nearly 70 years of artistic experimentations with photographic processes and subject matter by artists in the Delaware Valley region. This major exhibition is organized through the themes of form, figure, landscape, community, and social and political activism and highlights over 100 photographs by nearly 40 artists. "Through the Lens" draws primarily from the Michener's own deep collection of local photography, including many works that have never before been on view.

Submitted by
The Michener Art Museum



ADA TRILLO (B. 1975), DO BETTER, 2020. INKJET PRINT. 16 X 20 INCHES.



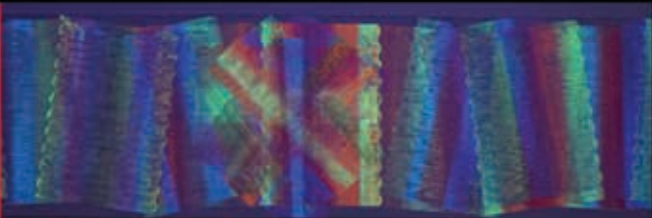
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Get tickets online at:
MichenerArtMuseum.org

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David Graham, *Best Company, Langhorne, Pennsylvania*, 1981.
Dye coupler print on paper. 18 3/8 x 23 inches.



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**The Diary
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MAR 5 - 21

**Broadway
a
Go-Go**
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A PUBLICATION OF THE BUCKS COUNTY HERALD



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February 25, 2021

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The combined efforts of everyone at Addison Wolfe help us continue to maintain a healthy workplace during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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¹Offer valid for \$300 off on all New John Deere X300 Select Series Lawn Tractors, \$500 off on all New John Deere X500 Select Series Lawn Tractors, and \$700 off on all New John Deere X700 Signature Series Lawn Tractors purchased from a participating John Deere dealer from 02 February 2021 to 01 March 2021. Some restrictions apply. Prices and models may vary by dealers. *The engine horsepower and torque information are provided by the engine manufacturer to be used for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower and torque will be less. Refer to the engine manufacturer's website for additional information. **Term limited to years or hours used, whichever comes first, and varies by model. See the LIMITED WARRANTY FOR NEW JOHN DEERE TURF AND UTILITY EQUIPMENT at JOHNDEERE.COM. John Deere, the leaping deer symbol, and green and yellow trade dress are trademarks of Deere & Company.

Little's John Deere carries the new Z Track series of Zero Turn mowers

SEE HOW VALUABLE ZERO CAN BE. There are comfortable seats, storage for easy access to your gear, and smooth-riding rear drive tires. With our Accel Deep™ mower deck and up to 7 mph (11 km/h) forward ground speed, you can really see why the Z300 Series zero-turn mowers are at home in your

backyard. "Impressive" comes standard! GET MORE DONE WITH LESS EFFORT. Mow better, faster with the Z500 Series. It features mower decks in three cutting widths, three unique seats, and a 4.5-gallon (17 Liter) fuel tank to keep you going full speed ahead. Because when it comes to a great looking

lawn, nothing should slow you down. Cut & Sewn Comfortable Seats + LED Lighting for Low Light Conditions. Z700 SERIES ~ WHEN YOU WANT EVERYTHING FROM A ZERO-TURN MOWER. Perfect your lawn with ease using our heavy-duty zero-turn mowers. With 23-25 horsepower* and three different High-capacity PRO mower decks, the Z700 mowers guarantee you spend less time working on your property and more time relaxing in it. Strong Welded Frame, Large Fuel Tank, Fast Speed, Commercial Grade Engine, High Capacity PRO Mower Decks, (available in 48", 54", 60") Roll-Over Protective Bar (folds down to

fit in storage shed), Integrated Park Brake, Canopy Available, Rear Bumper, String Trimmer Rack WE ARE RIGHT WITH YOU ~ CALL "LITTLE'S" YOUR JOHN DEERE DEALER! Committed turf experts dig into what you need. Factory-trained service and parts professionals ensure that your equipment keeps working as hard as you do. So, let's get to work, together. For More Information visit www.relittle.com or visit our showrooms in Silverdale, Hatboro or Zieglerville, Pa.

Submitted by Robert E. Little Inc.



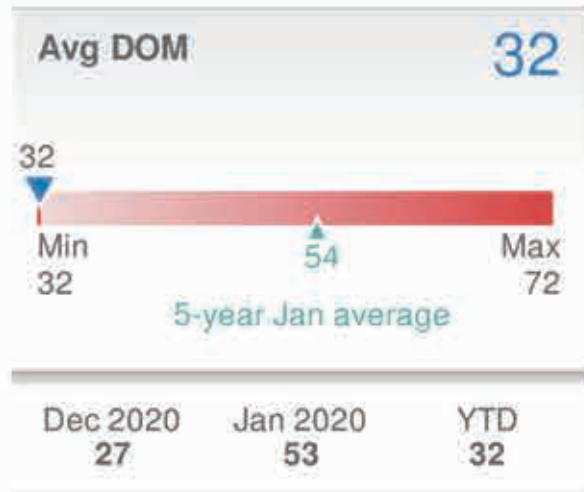
Run with Us ~ See the "Z track" series of Zero Turn Mowers (Z300, Z500, and Z700 Series)R

7 Models Under \$3499. USD ~ Bumper to Bumper Warranty



Local Market Insight: Bucks County, Pa.

January 2021



Bucks County Herald REAL ESTATE

Message to Advertisers

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Real Estate
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PICK UP AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Bucks County Furniture Restoration New life for your furniture

BUCKS COUNTY FURNITURE RESTORATION CO.

215-345-0892

Furniture, especially well-built furniture, is meant to stand the test of time. Not only is it beautiful, often offering expertly-interlocking, hand-carved wood, custom stitching, and artistic accents, but it serves a purpose in your home. Furniture provides rest when you need it, conversation with friends and a space to create what you love.

Why would you give that all up because its exterior looks a little worn?

At Bucks County Furniture Restoration, we provide a better alternative. Our local, family-owned company serves all the repair, restoration and furniture revitalization needs for our customers in Bucks, Montgomery and Hunterdon counties. Our professionals work with all types of furniture pieces to give them a new look, new life and the former place

that they held in your home.

Bucks County Furniture Restoration uses a mix of time-honored refinishing methods and the most modern technology to provide you with services our competitors can't match. We have experience and expertise in: stripping, reupholstery, glass bending, marble and metal polishing, furniture repair and finishing, refinishing, lamp and seat repair, conversions and knife sharpening.

We invite you to visit our showroom and take advantage of more than 30 years of professional experience and see our difference for yourself. Using our outstanding attention to detail, we can work with both new and antique items to give them a country feel that you will love.

*Submitted by
Bucks County Furniture Restoration*

Your home is your refuge ...and your office

For many of us, remote working has replaced commuting to an office. Some may never return to the office, while others may split time between home and office once COVID-19 restrictions ease. Either way, at-home work and study are here to stay. You may be considering renovations and additions to your home to accommodate more family members living and working together for many more hours each week. How can you best improve your home to create a workspace that optimizes your productivity and provides the privacy you need?

In this new reality, your virtual meetings and classrooms offer a public window into your home.

Organize to separate your workspace from your children, pets, and clutter. Capture a controlled background from your camera to frame a pleasing composition behind you, such as an orderly display of your treasures. Add indirect lighting to illuminate your face and highlight focal elements behind you. In short, create a curated stage set-like setting that you intentionally share with your clients and colleagues.

A home office should provide acoustical and visual separation between work and family functions. Separation can help you dispel the feeling that you are living at work 24/7. Consider adaptive reuse of an underutilized room or attic as a quick and affordable home office alternative and

renovations to storage areas to create a place for everything to maintain order in your busy home. Think creatively about the spaces within your home or possible additions and renovations, to optimize your home's functionality as both a workplace and a comforting personal sanctuary. Everything evolves over time, and your home can also transform to make the most of this "new normal" in which we find ourselves.

Raphael Architects has been creating transformative architecture to meet the changing needs of our clients for over three decades.

*Submitted by
Raphael Architects*

RaphaelArchitects





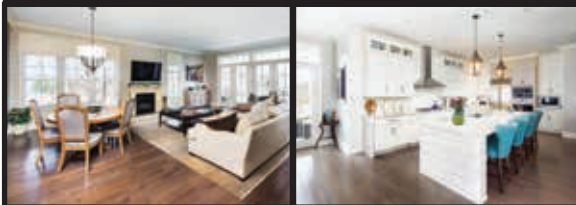
Addison Wolfe Real Estate

A BOUTIQUE REAL ESTATE FIRM WITH GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

" Love all, trust a few,
do wrong to none."

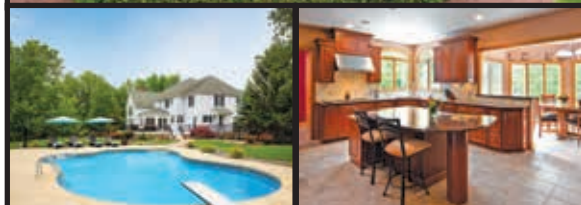
- William Shakespeare

WALK TO NEW HOPE



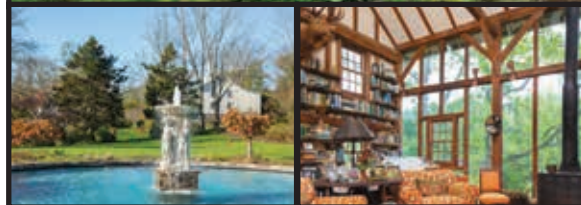
THE RESIDENCES AT RABBIT RUN \$1,725,000

This property can be turnkey with a quick close. Walk to the center of town and don't worry about parking. Includes high-end kitchen including Wolf appliances, custom closet built-ins, storage, custom cabinetry, private electronic elevator, custom window treatments, stone patios, and a full-house gas generator.



BELLE MEAD MANOR \$1,295,000

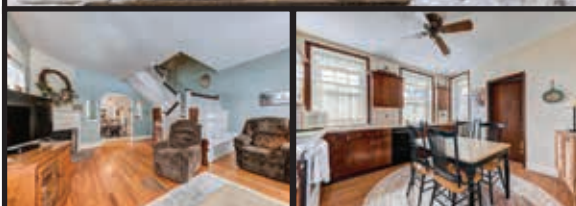
Nestled on 6.56 acres surrounded by protected woodlands. This 5900 sq ft, 4 bedroom 5.1 bathroom home with office and home gym is perfect for entertaining and enjoying your private oasis. Located in Belle Mead, NJ. Nick Esser 646.745.5460



HORTULUS FARM \$5,650,000

Comprising 100 acres down a 1/4 mile long, tree-lined drive, this classic 18th C. Bucks County farmstead boasts absolute privacy, 5 ponds, a waterfall, and 30 acres of "world-class" gardens. The property features a main stone farmhouse circa 1793 and two huge 19th C. dairy barns.

NEW LISTING



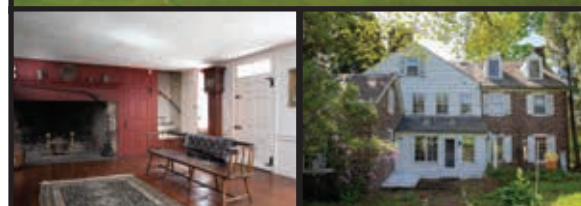
GLENSIDE CHARM \$252,000

Gorgeous 6BR, 2.5bth home in Glenside with gas FP, main floor laundry and extensive closet space. One block from shops and a 10 minute walk to the train. Stephanie Schade 215.534.3381



PAXSON RIDGE \$2,295,000

Bucks County estate home located in Solebury Township is a winner of the Pinnacle Award for Custom Homes over \$2 million. This five bedroom home is beautifully appointed featuring a series of covered porches, decks and balconies. Margo Busund 215.801.2977 or Art Mazzei 610.428.4885



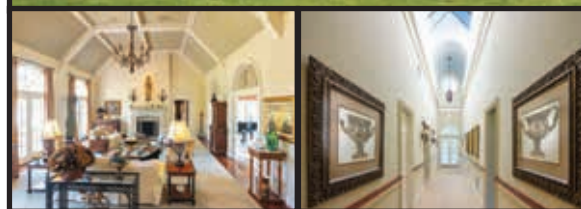
DUANE FARM \$1,795,000

Sited at an elevated location amidst 67 fertile farmland acres. The Bedminster countryside moves in all directions and the open land provides ample opportunity for agrarian pursuits and/or a serious equestrian facility. Sheila Buerkle 610.389.0775, MBA



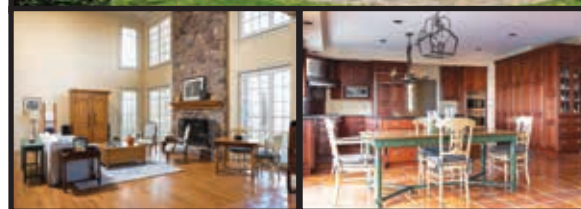
STOCKTON ACRES \$175,000

Beautiful 6.45 acre building lot with open fields located between Stockton and Sergeantsville. Septic design approved, ready to build your dream home in a lovely country setting. Stockton, NJ. Norm Troxel 215.801.6100



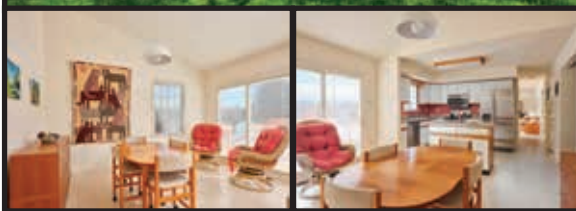
BIRDWELL \$998,000

Set among the lush rolling topography of Upper Bucks County, is Birdwell. This amazing estate property is a commercially built home that exudes the style, sophistication and sensibility of the Hamptons. Greg Dwornikowski 215.534.7347



HILLTOP ACRES \$1,500,000

Custom built 7,000 plus square foot home sited on 5.08 hilltop acres. This sprawling estate boasts 5+ bedrooms, five full baths and one half bath. Four wood burning fireplaces are strategically arranged throughout the home. Laurie Madaus 203.948.5157



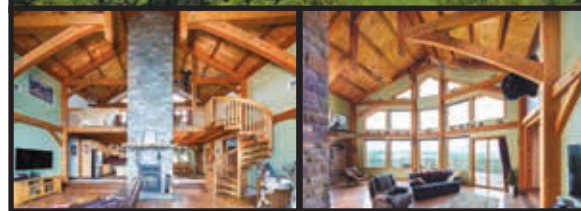
SHADY RETREAT \$495,000

This 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath center hall colonial home provides 2982 sq ft of spacious living. This home is ideally located just minutes away from shopping, Schools, Doylestown Hospital, and Bucks County Courthouse. Nick Esser 646.745.5460



PIPERFALLS \$495,000

Piperfalls is an iconic Bucks County retreat perfect for weekend getaways or a fulltime residence. Located in Tinicum Township, just minutes from Frenchtown, NJ, and about 20 minutes to the vibrant Hamlet of New Hope. Michaelangelo Greco 215.470.1983



GREENWICH FARM \$1,495,000

EQUINE ENTHUSIAST: Greenwich Farm is a rare find, combining 20 acres of pastures, a modern custom post-and-beam home, a 13+ stall barn with an indoor riding arena and spectacular panoramic views. Megan Waits 215.264.9144

For additional information or a private tour contact the listing agent directly
550 Union Square, New Hope, PA 18938 • 215.862.5500