March 18, 2021

36 pages, four sections including Homes

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Attention motorists

Volume 19 Number 24

Serving Bucks, Hunterdon and surrounding counties

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#### A tree for Bob Byers

Bucks Beautiful board members held a tree planting in honor of the late Bob Byers Sr. March 15 on the grounds of the Mercer Museum. Family and friends look on as planters put the final touches around the 20-foot-tall weeping green beech. Byers, who died Dec. 21, was co-founder of Bucks Beautiful, the organization that has planted more than a million daffodils along highways and around businesses in the area.

## Democrats step in to counter GOP fracking suit

State Sen. Steve Santarsiero (D-10) was joined by Democratic colleagues Friday in New Hope to announce their action to protect clean drinking water from environmental hazards of fracking.

Their action was in response to a lawsuit filed by Republican senators against the Delaware River Basin Commission to

allow natural gas drilling in the basin in Pennsylvania.

Arguing for the constitutional right of Pennsylvanians to clean water, the motion to intervene was filed earlier in the day in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in the case of Yaw v. The Delaware River Basin Commission. Republican caucus members had filed suit against the DRBC in January, and in late February the Delaware River Keeper Network successfully intervened in the case.

"Clean water and air is a constitutional right for all Pennsylvanians, and it's the duty of the General Assembly to ensure

## New Hope will proceed with parking garage project

With \$1.75 million in state grant funds at stake, New Hope Borough is pressing ahead with plans to build a new parking garage on borough-owned land just north of

the Union Square shop and office complex. Design and construction contracts will need to be awarded before the end of June to ensure that the project retains its funding.

A major sticking point in moving ahead with the project at the borough's ideal location is Union Square, which has been permitted by the borough to use the land for its overflow parking. After over a month of informal effort at resolving the issues, Union Square continues to obstruct the project, according to Borough Council President Connie Gering.

In order to proceed with the parking garage and protect the state-awarded funding for the project, New Hope Borough has no Continued on page C6

## New player emerges on Tinicum bridge scene

#### Property owner favors restoring existing span

Cliff Lebowitz

At Tuesday's Tinicum Township public board of supervisors meeting, held in the parking lot to accommodate social distancing, supervisors conducted an hourlong discussion on the 10-year Headquarters Road bridge closure at Sheep Hole Road.

A major participant was Steve Gidumal, a property owner in the immediate vicinity

Gidumal expressed strong opposition to PennDOT's proposal for a new two-lane bridge to replace the historic one-lane structure, and indicated he was willing to use legal means to not allow it to move forward. He stated traffic safety hazards for his child from resultant higher motorist speeds as a primary concern. A majority of the other residents in attendance, also homeowners in the vicinity, hooted at his claim and dismissed the concern as invalid.

Continued on page C6

See also page A7

### Richlandtown mail delivery finally free

Melinda Rizzo

Richlandtown Borough residents will no longer pay for post office boxes, thanks to the efforts of its mayor.

Among the top priorities Mayor James "Jim" Dunn took on when becoming the borough's mayor eight years ago, was to eliminate post office box fees for about half of borough residents.

"Free delivery to all borough residents was one of my main objectives when taking office," Dunn said. His second term expires Continued on page C7 this year, and Dunn said he has no plans to run for a third term.

> For decades some borough residents have been without mail delivery service had been forced to take – and pay for – post office boxes. The fees have climbed over the years.

"Thirty years ago, the cost of a small post office box was \$20 a year and recently the fees

for the same box went to \$120," Dunn said. In the roughly one-square mile borough, bordered by Quakertown Borough and

Continued on page C6

## Bucks health organizations partner to bring COVID-19 vaccine to clinic



Staff from Doylestown Health, the Ann Silverman Clinic and Christ's Home gather at the recent COVID-19 vaccine distribution clinic. The clinic was aimed primarily at Bucks County's Hispanic population. Sen. Maria Collett is fourth from right, middle row.

The arrival of COVID-19 vaccines to Bucks County hospitals was a source of both hope and concern for Sally Fabian-Oresic, executive director of the Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic.

The clinic offers free health care to individuals with no insurance and low income.

It did not have a way to properly store the first shipments of vaccine that had to be kept at extremely low temperatures even if the clinic could procure an allocation. Also, high interest in receiving the vaccine and very limited supplies concerned Fabian-Oresic that her patient population might be overlooked.

Fabian-Oresic's hope was fulfilled and her concerns erased by Doylestown Health.

The Silverman Clinic's commitment to reach the underserved, especially as 60% of the clinic's Spanish-speaking patients tested positive for COVID, drew the attention of Dr. Christine Roussel, director of Pharmacy, Laboratory and Medical Research at Doylestown Health.

Continued on page C7

#### Wrightstown Country Store sees possible new life ahead

The Wrightstown Country Store, a muchloved Wrightstown institution known for its sandwiches and affordable coffee, closed in January 2020. New owner Eric Kretschman, who closed on the property this year, wants to establish an updated version of the store at the intersection with Penns Park Road.

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#### Richland authorizes easements in Quakertown Swamp area

Continuing their commitment to preserve "open space, farm land, and natural areas that contribute to the quality of life and the economic health" of their community, Richland Township supervisors have authorized township participation in the purchase of two more conservation easements.

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



#### Viatris executive joins **Good Grief board**

Good Grief, a voice for grieving children and families, has appointed Jennifer Mauer to the nonprofit organization's board of directors.

Mauer, a resident of Solebury, serves as head of global communications and corporate brand for Viatris, the newly launched company formed in 2020 through the combination

#### 11 Things You Need to Know to Pass a Home Inspection

BUCKS/MONTGOMERYCOUNTIES According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost your dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before your list your home. If you wait until the home inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective

buyers away altogether.

In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for. And knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable

To help home sellers deal with this issue before their home is listed, a free report entitled, "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass a Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-800-798-2497 and enter ID# 1001. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NOW to learn about how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of RE/MAX 215-348-7100. Not included to solicit properties currently for sale.

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of Pfizer Inc's Upjohn business unit and Mylan. Previously, she served as vice president head of corporate communications at Merck & Co. and, prior to that, a series of roles of increasing responsibility at Bristol-Myers Squibb. Earlier in her career, Mauer served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, a consultant for McKinsey & Co., and as a journalist for Dow

Jones & Co.

"I was drawn to Good Grief in part through the personal experience of losing my father at the age of 24," said Mauer. "It was lung cancer and, yes he was a smoker, but that did not make it any easier. Without resources or support, my family suffered greatly through our grief. I wish we had had an organization like Good Grief to help us through."

#### Camille Granito Mancuso: Chatterbox The pause that refreshes

There's an old song from the 1960s called "Up On The Roof."

It's not a song about Santa delivering Christmas gifts; it's about renewal. The lyrics suggest that when the world gets us down, we should chill out, go up on the roof, look at the stars, relax and renew. It's a great plan.

Chatterbox, March 5, 2015, talked about all we do every day and the justification we have in celebrating our daily accomplishments, once in a while. In the same way that we all fulfill our daily obligations, we should refresh ourselves too, especially

something that comes easily as

life grows more complicated, but the human need to refresh and recharge ourselves never changes. It's not a luxury; it's a necessity. So, if we are blessed with a safe harbor right now, in these times, what can we do?

Some of us may do crafts, sew, or run. Thousands of distractions exist without cost in these hard times like a great walk. A great book, online or even still from our local library, can soothe us through the evening for a couple of weeks. Ah but, with the pace and restrictions we have now, and how much we must get done every day, time and energy become

holidays, and trying to honor traditions and all the inevitable effort that goes with them, in quarantine, new efforts are required and we're already exhausted. Of course, all holidays, even the small ones invented for little reason, are a great excuse to get together with friends and family, even if only on Zoom. That joyful socialization is, in and of itself, rejuvenating, capturing emotions no matter how bittersweet.

As we head into a hopeful spring, after another pretty harsh winter, the weather will offer us more ways to tend to our aching mindset. For the many of us who failed to find the fun in snow, we burst out the door last week, searched for spring birds, burdened our lawn chairs, or brushed the cobwebs off our bike and took a spin.

I have a retired friend so anxious to spring forward that she and her husband often jump into their car, chased "sweater weather" a few states to the south, and proceeded to send me phone photos of themselves riding their bikes on the beach. Me? I just put on the Christmas music and lower all my shades. It works either way, as long as we all try to manage even 15 minutes to adjust our calibrator

to survive the daily stresses Children, too, need to chill out - even the really little guys with new school rules or remote learning pressures. It's only natural, especially for young parents busily raising a family, to forget that. Plus, racing around in our own daily life often incorporates the wee ones. Though we think of little ones as having so much energy (and they do), we sometimes forget to remember that, with their little bodies and brains working so hard, growing and changing so much every day, they need respite They are learning about their new world every minute of every day, are constantly interacting with siblings, possibly schoolmates, navigating new waters, absorbing

it all, and trying to figure it all out Keeping up with us, no matter how energetic they may be, is a challenge for them. They exhaust us but everything in their day exhausts them. Before bed, a warm, quiet bath in low lights with Zen music can be like 20 minutes in a quiet lagoon, for them. Hmm, it doesn't sound bad for us either, though we may need a half hour

soak with a candle. Our modest self-indulgence can be of any complexion. No one can chase spring down the coast to bike or chase winter up the coast for a last hurrah on the slopes this year. Maybe the best we can do is chat with a friend on the phone, wiggle to our favorite music while we scrub pots, or take a warm

shower. While, in many locations, 'up on the roof' can be far more difficult, possibly more dangerous, however we refresh, it's an earned necessity. After all, dealing with everything, we're still putting our best foot forward at work and at home for those we love; we should do our best to catch that pause to refresh.

## Renewing ourselves is not huge factors. We are coming upon spring, The Quality, Reliability & Experience You Expect











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### Contributions needed to make planned documentary on New Hope

New Hope Celebrates History along with ScullyOne Productions and Bob Krist announce their documentary film with working title, "Nowhere but HERE," an homage to one of America's most vibrant and loved LGBTQ communities, New Hope.

Daniel Brooks, director of New Hope Celebrates History, said the film "is about how an area and specifically a small town embraced individuals who felt disenfranchised from families and communities. It is chocked with stories and interviews

with key pioneers of that era."
One of those pioneers was Robert Ebert, former owner of the Raven in New Hope. Ebert was the manager at Mother's Restaurant on North Main Street (now the Dubliner), famous for its infinitely long lines and Sunday brunch. He recalled meeting

## Speeding a concern in Wycombe area

Chris Ruvo

Wrightstown officials are looking into complaints of speeding on Township Line Road.

Supervisor Jane Magne told the Herald that a resident reached out to state Sen. Tommy Tomlinson about speeding on the roadway, particularly between its intersection with Mill Creek Road and its intersection with Cherry Lane.

Tomlinson's office inquired what could be done to slow traffic down in the posted 35 mph zone, which encompasses the village of Wycombe, Magne noted.

Magne said that a few years ago the township placed a Dynamic Speed Display sign in the area. Such signs note the speed of approaching vehicles.

"This was done primarily to address complaints of speeding," she said.

Wrightstown officials are now investigating further potential mitigation measures.

"A formal request could be made to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for a speed limit study on Township Line Road," Magne said. "However, this should be done in coordination with Buckingham Township since the road straddles both townships."

Supervisors have instructed the township manager to speak with the resident who made the complaint about speeding, and to reach out to Buckingham. As more information is gathered, supervisors will decide how to address the reported speeding issue.

so many celebrities there, among them Christopher Reeves and Rod

While working as the manager at Mother's Restaurant, some people came from New York and started talking about buying a restaurant in town. They asked Ebert if he was interested in going into business with them, but he said "no." That restaurant was the Rayen.

When they made him an offer he could not refuse, Ebert became general manager of the Raven in 1985. Eventually, he became a partner until he sold the Raven in 2004. Ebert said he made so many lifelong friends from his days at the Raven.

Ebert remembers of all the famous stars who came into the Raven and fondly recalled an incident with actress Patricia Neal. He said, "We are fortunate to live in a place where we are celebrated for our uniqueness and not shunned for our differences."

Joe Black, who worked as a bartender at the Raven, recalled, "Every year, there was a staff drag show called the Raven Follies which we put on in the Oak Room. We would do two shows on two consecutive nights and they were always sold-out weeks in advance."

Former New Hope resident Louis Licitra summed up his experience. "New Hope proves that Love is Love and the world is better for having this special place exist. If you believe in it, then it can happen everywhere." He added that New Hope "always amazed me" and "is the true sense of the word "community"; the coming together of so many caring people to help others in need."

Stories like these and more are the foundation for the film, keeping New Hope's community alive for future generations.

With the public's help, the film's

working title "Nowhere but HERE" can be produced. The producers are shy of their \$10,000 pre-production goal and are hoping to get at least seven donations of \$1,000 or more. Those donors will be called The Magnificent Seven and be credited as producers.

To make any contribution, send a check payable to New Hope Celebrates at NHCH Film, PO Box 266, New Hope, PA 18938. To make an online donation go to newhopecelebrateshistory.org or contact Daniel Brooks at 215-431-6674 or email dbrooks@newhopecelebrates.com.

#### Virtual job fair open to military, civilians

The Pennsylvania National Guard Associations ("PNGAS") hosts the March 24 PNGAS Virtual Job Fair between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

All job seekers are welcome and can participate for free. Employers can participate by contacting PNGAS@PNGAS.org.

Registration for job seekers is open at pngas.org/mission/jobsboard. The PNGAS Job Board has over 2,400 job postings.

Featured Employers include: Commonwealth Charter Academy; First Quality; Jillamy Inc. and OneSource. They also include: Carnegie Mellon University, Geisinger, BMC/Builders First Source, Pennsylvania State Police, PA CareerLink, PA Air National Guard, PA Army National Guard and many others.

For information: email PNGAS@PNGAS.org, or visit PNGAS.org.



## Automotive expert turns a passion into a space for others

It's a social club, workshop, storage garage and lounge

Stuart Lee Friedman

Ted Lytle has turned his passion for performance automobiles into a space for others. Located at the Route 12 Business Park at Point Breeze in Frenchtown, N.J., the Performance Garage Club under Lytle's recent ownership offers options for automobile and motorcycle enthusi-

The club is all at once an enthusiast's pit stop, social club, storage garage, mechanics station, and wash and detail center. It includes weather-safe indoor storage and a fully equipped indoor workshop. Members have access to an 8,000-pound hydraulic lift and a smaller 1,000-pound lift is available for motorcycles. A wash bay and fully supplied detail area are located inside the spacious climate-controlled facility.

While much of the space, spread out over two separate buildings at the business park, is devoted to cars and motorcycles, two lounges reminiscent of a retro '60s look cater to the social piece of driving. Walking into the Performance Garage Club is not as much about walking into a service station bay as it is immersing oneself in the culture of those who love cars

PGC was founded 10 years ago by three enthusiasts who ultimately decided to go their separate ways. With the threat that the club would dissolve, Lytle – who was a member saw an opportunity. On June 30 of last year, he officially assumed ownership of PGC – a bid for what he described as his "dream retirement."

Lytle himself has lived a life steeped in the automotive industry.

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and testing of motorcycle models with Honda and Suzuki and was an active participant in off-road competitions. His most recent professional resume includes being a senior manager for Hyundai.

At PGC, people can be members, storage customers, or both. Membership offers key access to the shop and lounges. Many cars in storage are wintering over. The initial storage clientele base has included many British cars since one of the prior owners was involved in restoration of those vehicles. But the variety of cars being stored is expanding.

'If you're a car enthusiast, it doesn't matter what you have," Lytle said. "It's a place to hang out. You can come here in the morning, have a cup of coffee, relax, clean the car, go for a nice drive, come back, relax, and clean the car again."

Lytle maintains a big screen TV for members in a loft overlooking the service bay where they watch televised or recorded automotive events. But that section lies largely empty during the COVID pandemic. With the promise of vaccines and springtime weather, however, Lytle looks forward to a more robust membership rolls and social participation.

Lytle is hoping to expand by drawing in drivers from the New York City metropolitan area where storage is more expensive and country roads less accessible. Ultimately, Lytle looks forward to enthusiasts who not only enjoy their cars but have a place to share stories of the road - their adventures as well as new roads they have discovered.

"Even if you don't have a specialty car – if you like driving or if you He was involved in the development like cars, this is the place to enjoy



Ted Lytle has taken over the Performance Garage Club, a place for auto and cycle performance

#### **Photographs** by Stuart Lee Friedman

that aspect, that hobby, that love of cars," Lytle said, adding that the club is unique in that it addresses not only the social structure of enthusiasts, but provides a full shop that provides access to everything from mechanical work to inside-bay washing and de-

If you meticulously avoid puddles after washing your car or find your-self "drifting" your shopping cart in the grocery store aisle, perhaps you, too, are an enthusiast. And Ted Lytle has created just the place for you.

PGC is located at 843 Route 12. It can be found on the web at PerformanceGarageClub.com and can be reached at 908-788-4743.



This lounge is in a loft overlooking the service bay – one of two lounges.



A vehicle lift in the service bay near steps to the lofted lounge.

### Richland authorizes acquisition of land near Quakertown Swamp

Cliff Lebowitz

Continuing their commitment to preserve "open space, farm land, and natural areas that contribute to the quality of life and the economic health" of their community, Richland Township supervisors have authorized township participation in the purchase of two more conservation easements

The actions were taken separately at their March 8 public board meeting, following presentations by Laura Baird of Heritage Conservancy. Both properties are related to the township's long-running recognition of Quakertown Swamp as a special environmental resource, and also its practice of preserving contiguous properties to promote natural corridors. Both purchases had been recommended by its Land Preservation

A 24-acre property on Axe Handle Road, owned by Agnes T. Maderson, was noted as containing "woodlands, a large pond, and trails," as well as

"rare and endangered plants in one portion" of the tract. The resolution authorizing the township's portion of the purchase of the easement is contingent upon the Heritage Conservancy receiving a grant award from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), or the resolution is nullified, pending possible presentation of another resolution.

With that grant in hand, the township and the conservancy would split the \$8,000 per-acre cost of the 21acre Highest Protection Area of the easement, as well as soft costs, with the township portion not to exceed \$17,000. In addition, the township would pay the conservancy a onetime fee of \$15,000 to cover its monitoring and enforcement of the terms of the easement.

For a 56-acre Hickory Lane property owned by Marlin, Joann and Jeffery Corn, the township again agreed, pending the Conservancy receiving a DCNR grant, to split soft costs in the same amount and provide the onetime enforcement fee, while this time splitting a cost of \$6,500 per acre for the Highest Protection Area of the easement. The tract was described as having similar conservation value to

The prized Quakertown Swamp resource, related to both purchases, was noted as an especially large internal wetland in the state, contributing to both water purification and controlling flood waters, while serving as a major heron rookery.

A comprehensive Open Space Plan guides township easement considerations. Funding is helped by 0.1% from residents' Earned Income Tax (E.I.T.) of 1.6%, with 1% going to the Quakertown Community School District and 0.5% otherwise to their township, through a special E.I.T. increase voted by the taxpayers in a 2002 referendum.

#### **Wrightstown Country Store** could see new life soon

and more.

iar faces.

The Wrightstown Country Store could be making a comeback.

The former deli/convenience store, a much-loved Wrightstown institution known for its delicious sandwiches and affordable coffee, closed in January 2020.

Now, new owner Eric Kretschman, who closed on the property this year, wants to establish an updated version of the store at its site at 557 Durham Road (Route 413) in Wrightstown – at the intersection with Penns Park Road.

Kretschman discussed some of his conceptual plans with the Wrightstown Board of Supervisors at their Monday, March 8 work session meeting.

Kretschman said he is looking to create a deli/bakery destination that, among other things, also sells fresh produce, a portion of which would be sourced from the nearby Hidden Valley Farm he owns in Jamison.

He's not planning any sit-down dining; the food would be for carry out. It's possible he could convert an existing residential cottage on the site into additional retail space,

Chris Ruvo possibly for selling produce, plants

Kretschman, a real estate investment professional who owns restaurants and was controller for Montgomery County from 2004 to 2008, noted that improvements will need to be made to the existing country store, including roofing.

"You name it, the property needs it," he said.

It's anticipated that Kretschman will discuss plans for the site with township professionals. He noted that, when the project comes to fruition and the store reopens, former loyal patrons might see some famil-

"A couple of former employees could be coming back," he said.

Bobbie Pringle and her husband, Tom, owned the Wrightstown Country Store for some 34 years. In their latter 70s and with health issues a concern, the couple closed the operation last year and put it and the site it sits on up for sale.

The store was in operation since the 1970s. It's situated on one of the primary north-south connector roads in Bucks County, and was a popular spot for locals and commuters alike. Now, it may yet be again.

and Hunterdon County for years.

Beginning in December 2017, the Herald began publishing a winter, spring, summer and fall "Guide to

Flemington" which largely focused

on events and activities in Flem-

ington Borough. Last fall, it was re-

placed with Flemington Life, which

focuses on the

mile area en-

compassing

150-square

#### Flemington Life coming March 25

On March 25, the Bucks County Herald will publish the spring digital and print issues of Flemington Life, a new quarterly lifestyle magazine that features people and topics of local interest for readers in the greater Flemington, N.J., area.

We are so excited about this issue," said Ann

100% locally sourced stories about

fascinating Flemingtonians, import-

ant trends in real estate and economic

development, and fun things to do

The Bucks County Herald has cov-

ered news and events in Flemington

Meredith, who oversees

lications

this spring.'

Flemington Life special pub-Herald Pub-

lishing. "It's going to be filled with

Flemington Borough and Raritan, Delaware, Readington and Delaware townships.

Flemington Life, a free publication, is distributed at over 150 locations in the greater Flemington area and in the Delaware river towns. For more information visit buckscountyherald. com or call 215-794-1096.



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## A daunting investigation: 256 windows, dormers and skylights in a 1916 concrete building

efforts on a grant-funded preservation project that will result in a detailed condition survey of all 256 windows, dormers, and skylights located in the original 1916 National Landmark Mercer Museum building in Doylestown.

The museum, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society, was the recipient of a \$40,000 matching grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency, in 2020 as part of IMLS' Museums for America grant program, which will support the Mercer Museum's need of preserving and providing access to the collections entrusted

The condition survey will be conducted by the Philadelphia firm Materials Conservation, LLC, and will result in a comprehensive report, with recommendations and methodologies for repair and remediation intended to improve environmental conditions for exhibited collections.

In the past few months, conservators have been classifying window ty-

pologies, taking photographs, and examining window conditions from the museum's interior, as well as surveying the lower level exterior windows.

In March, a hydraulic lift is being used to survey exterior conditions for all of the Mercer Museum's upper level windows, dormers and skylights unreachable otherwise from the ground. The lift work will be followed by additional examination of the exterior of the museum with the aid of an aerial drone to access the castle's highest windows. The survey will be completed by early summer.

As the condition of the windows has deteriorated over time with exposure to the elements, water penetration has threatened certain vulnerable exhibition areas, and their collections of hand tools, folk art, musical instruments, metalwork, pottery, and a variety of other artifacts, and this survey will allow museum staff to create a plan for improving the windows and exterior conditions of the museum.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's



A hyraulic lift is being used to examine the condition of the Mercer Museum's windows, made of concrete.

libraries and museums. It advances, supports, and empowers America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. The institute's vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities.

The Mercer Museum project was one of 109 projects nationwide funded through IMLS' Museums for Amer-

ica grant program in 2020. Of these 109 grants, only six were for projects in Pennsylvania. The matching portion of the Mercer Museum grant, \$40,340, is being supported by community contributions and the museum's operating funds.

"These grants help museums at the institutional level and are essential for the vital role they play in their local communities," said Paula Gangopadhyay, deputy director of the IMLS Office of Museum Services.

The Bucks County Historical Society's Vice President of Collections and Interpretation Cory Amsler added, "The architectural marvels left to our community by Henry Mercer-the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle require an extraordinary amount of care. They are continually threatened both by time and the elements. This project will help us to prioritize and plan our future preservation efforts, and define the methodologies necessary to restore and preserve one of the Mercer Museum's most remarkable features – its more than 250 concrete sash windows.'

## Voice and Vision releases guide on substance abuse

Michael Guarino

Voice and Vision Inc., a nonprofit based in Warrington, recently released the second guide in its "Help and Hope: From Families Who Have Walked the Walk" series, which aims to assist families struggling with issues involving mental illness, disabilities and addictions.

The guide, titled "Substance Use: The Growing Need to Know," covers a broad range of topics related to substance use and addiction and provides resources for recovery

However, services go far beyond constructing guides. In 1997, Voice and Vision began working in Bucks County to fill the need for advocacy in health care services. It started by interviewing patients recently discharged from state-run mental hospitals, trying to capture their feelings on the services provided to them. The organization soon expanded to interview families and individuals of all ages who accepted state services relating to disabilities, mental illness and addiction.

Continued expansion allowed Voice and Vision to produce more programs, including College Plus, which supports students with a documented mental health or co-occurring diagnosis in achieving higher education, and Compeer, which pairs volunteers with adults in mental health recovery. Voice and Vision currently gathers the experiences and views of over 1,600 people a year in Bucks, Chester and Delaware counties, according to the website.

According to Associate Director Karen Plummer, data collection regarding people with disabilities, mental illness and addiction is a large part of the organization, as is assisting families. "Supporting people is our primary objective. We try to understand what they're going through and how we can help with that."

The experiences of people were collected as part of "Substance Use" guide and can be found at the start of every chapter as a personal anecdote or story. Plummer says this was both intentional and research-based. "Families learn best from other families, other people. Stories help them realize 'you're not alone in this."

Stories also help readers connect with those who have lived experience with substance use, especially if they lack that experience themselves. Many of the stories are haunting, with a few containing graphic scenes; however, each is armed with a purpose and lesson at the end.

These takeaways helped inspire the original guide, which was published in 2016. "[We were] sitting around the table at a family meeting saying, 'There's so much knowledge here, we need to pass it on," said Plummer. Voice and Vision published 5,000 copies of their first guide, distributing it to families, health professionals and providers of health services, who often used it for internal training purposes.

Professional contributors played a vital role in constructing the newest guide, lending their expertise on substance use issues to many of the

chapters. Plummer emphasized her organization's gratitude for their assistance, acknowledging that the guide functions almost as a collection of expert advice and care.

"Unfortunately, you can't be an expert in every area," said Plummer. "And often families don't know where to go for the resources they need. Being able to pass on the knowledge and the hope they need to travel this journey and being able to be a catalyst for change is our goal with this guide."

Feedback on the guides has been

encouraging for Voice and Vision, with many quotes highlighting the difficulty families encounter when searching for resources or services. An anonymous source, provided by the organization, stated: "Thank you for the opportunity of sharing our family's story with others. It is so helpful to know that you are never alone in the struggles of addiction. Reading through the book is so encouraging. There are so many resources available that we didn't know about when going through our

anonymous echoed similar ideas: "I wish I would have had this book when we embarked on our 'adventure."

'Substance Use: The Growing Need to Know," is available for download in full on Voice and Vision's website. According to Plummer, the organization hopes to hold meet and greets for each chapter of the 300-page guide once the pandemic subsides. The first guide, while not currently available, is being primed for updates and a reprint in the future.

#### Students compete virtually in spelling bee, art show

The show will go on. While last year's spelling bee scheduled at Pennridge Central Middle School clashed with the debut of COVID-19 and was canceled, this year it is taking place virtually, in real time.

Like many folks over the past 12 months, we've decided to pivot both our Bucks/Mont Regional Spelling Bee and 34th annual 'Touch the Future' art show to virtual platforms this year," said Danielle Gross, director of communications at Shelly/ Lyons Public Affairs and Communications, Harrisburg.

The Mideastern Region of the Pennsylvania State Education Association (MER/PSEA) and PSEA-CAPS hosted the Bucks/Mont Regional Spelling Bee, a regional qualifier, virtually on March 9, and will announce the winner via a Face-book Live event 10 a.m. Saturday, March 20.

"This year's bee will look different than in years past, but we are so thankful that we could provide the opportunity for Bucks and Montgomery County students to compete virtually," said Bill Senavaitis, president of PSEA's Mideastern Region. "Our online celebration should also be a fun way to celebrate all of our

think

Connie Wrzesniewski spellers' accomplishments.'

Twenty-four local students in grades four through eight are expected to compete this year. The winner will be named local champion and will move on to the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee, with 10 to 12 finalists meeting in person on July 8. The final rounds of this year's bee will be hosted in person at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort. The finals, featuring 10 to 12 accomplished spellers, will be broadcast live in primetime on ESPN2.

We are also planning on a virtual event for our 34th annual 'Touch the Future' art show," said Gross. "For this year's art show, we are partnering with Montgomery County Community College. We will have more details regarding the timing and celebration for the 'Touch the Future' art show shortly, but are excited to be able to display the works of our amazing Bucks and Montgomery County public school student art-

In the past the "Touch the Future" art show was held at Arcadia University in Glenside. A piece called "Stretch for Time" by Caroline Snyder of Spring-Ford Area was chosen as last year's Best In Show High School, taught by Corrine Rudloff.





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## OPINION & Editorial



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#### **LETTERS** TO THE HERALD

#### This is what our country and people have become

that he had executed 234 people on his watch and the audience cheered. The audience erupted in cheers

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said

when they thought Ron Paul said that the uninsured should just die.

The audience booed when a gay soldier in Afghanistan asked a candidate via video if the Congress would reinstate don't ask don't tell.

A small contingent of Tinicum Township residents puts historical relevance of a bridge as more important than the lives of those impacted by delayed emergency

Charles Reichner, Revere

#### Family in need searches for organ donor

This morning, we had a knock at our front door. It was our neighbor, Tom Hiriak, who said that he and his wife had some bad news. Their son Colin, who is 24 years old and a graduate of New Hope-Solebury High School has been diagnosed with Cholangiocarcinoma, a rare and aggressive form of bile duct cancer

After extensive testing Penn Medicine, Colin needs radiation and chemo followed by a liver transplant. Due to a national shortage of cadaver livers, Colin is in urgent need of a living donor liver. This donor must be between 18-60 years old and have type O blood.

The generous donor would provide a piece of his/her liver that would immediately be transplanted into Colin. Through the liver's amazing ability to regenerate, both livers proceed to return to normal size and function. If you can provide Colin with the ultimate gift of life, please call Tom Hiriak at 215-872-9270.

Larry Fieber, Solebury Township

#### House bill would harm voters, not help

In the March 11 issue of the Herald, you published a letter titled "Without reform, system is not truly democratic."

The writer begins by naming the "For the People Act," rather than HR1 – passed by the House of Representatives of the 117th United States Congress.

Reading her letter makes this bill sound so altruistic, and that's the way it's being reported by so much of the news media. Yet, while all of the points she describes do make it sound well-meaning, when you dig into the text of the endless document - which I doubt most congressmen who voted for it have barely read – the bill's true purpose is to take away and restrict the rights of all freedom-loving Americans and usurp rights carefully defined in the Constitution, including taking control of voting laws by the federal government, which are mandated as being under control of the individual states.

The letter concludes "... our government will continue to work only for the privileged few." That, sadly, is the real purpose of this bill is to keep those presently in Washington, their special friends and other well-connected individuals in power for decades

If you and your family are ordinary citizens who go to work regularly to keep food on the table and a roof over your head, HR1 will only make your life less enjoyable, likely more difficult certainly not more safe.

M.R. Taylor, Doylestown

#### **Tinicum must live** with bridge a long time

The quest to build or rebuild the Headquarters bridge has been by far one of the greatest undertakings since the building of the Golden Gate bridge.

We have established so far that the piers are good or maybe bad or they can be rebuilt or replaced. Decisions for a one lane, two lanes, or maybe a two lane with a third lane for passing are still being debated. Maybe there should be a shoulder so people can stop to take a quick snapshot.

Let me say I don't care if the bridge ever gets completed. Yes, it has been an inconvenience but it has been a great walking path and a much quieter road. As for emergency services, we have had to have an ambulance twice during the shutdown and have had help within approximately 7 minutes. Do people remember the motorcycle noise that was a weekend event? We should ask ourselves why is PennDOT pushing for a two-lane bridge.

From what I heard it would cost \$4-plus million for the two lanes versus the reconstruction with the existing piers of the one

lane bridge for \$1-plus million. When and if ever completed will the future agenda of township meetings be about increased noise from the motorcycle traffic, or the excessive speeding traffic,?

Think about what you are asking for because we will have to live with the results for a long time.

Nick Domiano, Ottsville

#### Quaint is peeling away

The letter to the Herald by the intrepid Eleanor Miller again sounds the alarm of our preservationist canary in the coal mine.

She is appealing to us to "stop, look and listen" to what we have lost and what we are loosing as the charm, character and soul of many of our small historic towns are eroding beneath our feet and before our eyes.

In New Hope, we are placing pseudo-Greek columns on a landmark colonial era tavern. One road coming into town is bordered by a behemoth hotel, replacing a legendary watering hole that invited our voices on a cold night.

And then, there is the sweeping black-topped parking lot, that replaces The Raven, as it sits in wait of the spill-over cars from the "new Odette." And there is more (more is better) on the near horizon with another "boutique" hotel and another new restaurant in the center of town.

Are we being lulled into complacency, like the frogs in the slowly heating pot of water? To those that say, "There is nothing we can do about it," I am reminded of the evident success of some other historic communities in maintaining their character, though Stockton, beware our example. We are the victims of our

Charles Huchet, New Hope

#### It's in the mail – but where?

#### The unfathomable system for delivery

I understand that none of us (taxpayers) can control anything the federal government does, but we now know who is at fault for the unacceptable delays in United States Postal Service deliveries.

If a few hundred thousand mailers and a few million recipients of late mail were to contact the Board of Governors for the USPS, and complain, perhaps they might be able to remove the Trump supported Louis DeJoy, or at least take him out of the position of postmaster general. On March 10 I received (by

snail-mail) volume 19, number 21 edition of the Bucks County Herald, dated Feb. 25, 2021. Today (March 13) I received not one, not two but three editions of your paper with the following dates: Jan. 7, Feb. 18 and March 4. All in one

Where had they been all this time? I don't know where your paper is printed, but even at the age of 75 I'll be willing to bet that I could have grabbed a copy and walked home with it in less than two months.

Jerry Purdum, Fairless Hills

#### No logic seen in USPS processes

I have a current mail subscription to the Herald. The postal service continues to be incapable in getting the paper delivered. Don't know where the bottle neck is, be it Doylestown or a regional sorting center.

My most recent delivery was of two issues. One the Jan. 7 edition and the other, Feb. 15 edition. There seems to be no logic in how USPS is processing your newspaper.

We love the paper, the postal service not so much.

Donald Richardson, Telford

#### Love is in the air as spring arrives

My wife and I are longtime readers of the Bucks County Herald. We enjoy Bucks County and Doylestown as we live in Buckingham. I serve on the YMCA board of directors and the Fanny Chapman board and we are longtime members of Doylestown Presbyterian Church. We love this

Our purpose in writing this story is we found a perfect picture and story to be included in your newspaper - the Bucks County Herald.

The attached picture is of our son, Matthew Purdy proposing to his future wife, Brittany Kucsan, in front of the Domani Star Restaurant. The picture captures the love being embraced by the wonderful town ambiance of Doylestown.

Matthew worked many years while he was in high school and

college at Domani Star. He has come to know the owners - past and present, waiters, and customers. He chose Doylestown and specifically Domani Star to ask his now financee for her hand in marriage.

They did proceed to have a wonderful dinner celebrating with the employees videotaping and congratulating the newly engaged couple. In fact, so many customers stopped by, horns were blowing and customers and pedestrians cheering. It seemed to lift many people's spirits.

This is a bright and warming story amid the pandemic. As of today, the sign "Will You Marry Me?" remains in the Domani Star window. As spring shows signs of new beginnings this photo shows the sign of all of us being loved and new beginnings.

Robert Purdy, Doylestown



Matthew Purdy proposed to Brittany Kucsan in front of the Doylestown restaurant where he worked for many years.

#### A year of loss, lasts and delayeds

If you have not yet received your first COVID vaccination, be

forewarned. No – not the shot discomfort, not bureaucratic confusion, not the long process; not irritable vaccinators, not the post-shot stress in the waiting area, and not the angst of scheduling difficulties for the second shot - none of which occurred in the calm, pleasant, professional, quick and easy process in the appealing and airy space of Bristol's community college building. Everything was

smooth and organized. No, the surprise is the unexpected reaction of relief and even euphoria. Like a lifted weight. The bottle of water I grabbed on my way out (kindly provided on a big table) tasted like champagne and the bright, breezy, sunny afternoon was startlingly uplifting. In mere minutes, life becomes better and brighter.

Nobody prepares you for that surprise. No one warns that you will smile and feel elated.

We have lived so long with this pandemic, in all its difficulties or worse — as well as a dark, cold, snowy winter, a fraught election and Capitol riot, conflicting information on vaccines and supply, disorganized vaccine distribution, the constant stress and strain of COVID protections and worries, family and social upheaval and sadness. A year of loss, lasts and

delayeds. Maybe we didn't realize how big a toll it has all taken and how long we have held our breath until the vaccine wakes us up from all that. It is, indeed, a welcome and overdue emotional shot that the world is opening up, unfreezing. And it's terrific.

We all deserve this delightful gift of light and hope and relief. Mimi Reimel, Langhorne

#### What should have been said ...

To the Count the Shamrocks contest manager: I emailed my answers for the shamrocks on March 8. Looks like my entry was not there. I did not get into the drawing for prizes. I was so disappointed – not sure what happened. There was only one person from Langhorne who got her name in the paper.

Janet Lisa, Langhorne

#### **Spring arrives Sunday**

On Thursday, March 18, sunrise is at 7:07 a.m. Sunset is at 7:10 p.m. On Wednesday, March 24, sunrise is at 6:58 a.m. Sunset is at 7:16 p.m.

#### 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.

#### **HISTORY LIVES**

#### Jean Rollo, Doylestown Historical Society



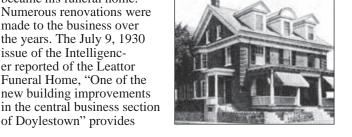
**Leattor Funeral Home.** The photo below on the right, taken in 1937, shows the Leattor Funeral Home at 39 W. State St. in Doylestown. George R. Leattor attended the Doylestown High School and was on the first editorial board of The Torch, the high school yearbook. He graduated in 1918. Circa 1920, this building, originally the Walker house built in 1902, became his funeral home. Numerous renovations were made to the business over the years. The July 9, 1930 issue of the Intelligencer reported of the Leattor Funeral Home, "One of the

new building improvements

of Doylestown" provides

"the very latest in a mortician's profession. The new mortuary is an addition to the already well equipped funeral home located at the corner of West State and Hamilton streets." The photo above shows 39 W. State St. today, the site of An Enchanted Florist gift and flower shop.

**Doylestownhistorical.org** 



Retired Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben, a native of Warrington, will participate in a virtual discussion March 24 hosted by Bucks County Community College.

#### **Bridget Wingert: Happy to Be Here** Chaplain of the House

When I asked Margaret Grun Kibben how she felt when she was sworn at the U.S. Capitol, she answered, "Oh my God!" Anything else would have been an understatement.

And this was not someone who lacked honors in her lifetime.

Rear Admiral Kibben, also known as the Rev. Dr. Kibben, retired from the U.S. Navy, was taking on a new role – chaplain to the U.S. House of Representatives. Born and raised in Bucks County, she is the 65th chaplain to serve and, not a surprise, the first woman. The first chaplain, the Rev. William Linn, born in Shippensburg, Pa., served from 1789 to 1791.

The chaplain, a House officer elected at the beginning of the 117th Congress, was sworn in on Jan. 3, along with the other house officers – the chief administrative officer, the clerk of the House, and the sergeant at arms.

On her third day in office, Jan. 6, Kibben was at the House for the certification of the Electoral College votes. A joint session of Congress was meeting to confirm Joe Biden as president.

"As she walked through the

Capitol, Kibben, a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister who had been sworn in Sunday, peeked out a window and saw a swelling crowd of Trump supporters massing at the East front of the building," a reporter from the Religious News Service (RNS) later wrote. "She thought little more about it than what she'd said in her prayer before the House that morning: America is enduring a time of 'great discord, uncertainty and unrest."

About an hour later, she observed a "flurry of activity" around House leadership as members, separated from their Senate colleagues into their chambers, debated the election results. Kibben saw Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others whisked away. The rest were told to fall to the floor.

Kibben's work as chaplain had begun in earnest. The crowd outside had turned into a violent mob. Extremists had overpowered police and were storming the Capitol. As the evacuation began, a clerk asked Kibben if she could offer a prayer. "I was praying all along," she thought. She was glad she wore a clerical collar that day since few people recognized her.

Kibben knew what to do. As she approached the microphone an aide handed her an "escape hood." There was a sense of terror in the room as legislators

and staffs scrambled to escape. Was she afraid? "No," she said. "I've served in combat." She set the mask aside and prayed.

"It was a matter of asking for God's covering and a hedge of protection around us," she said. "And that in the chaos, the spirit would descend in the room to offer us peace and order. That we would look to care for each other, even as we are under stress.

As Capitol police moved people out, Kibben walked among them, helping and consoling. Some had health conditions, some were struggling, some more frightened than others. She tried to comfort them when she saw problems.

By the time the group reached a secure location, tensions ran high. "As security personnel offered status updates, those sequestered with Kibben were increasingly aware of the chaos swarming outside the door," RNS reported.

Asked to pray again, Kibben read from the Bible's Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea."

In another secure location on the Senate side, Barry C. Black, the Senate chaplain, led senators in prayer. Also a newcomer, Black, a retired Navy rear admiral and

former chief of Navy chaplains is the first Seventh-day Adventist and the first African-American to hold the position.

After law enforcement cleared the area, around 6 p.m., Kibben was able to go to her office. The joint session of Congress reconvened at 8 p.m. to do the business of government. The session ended with Black's closing prayer early in the morning of Jan. 7.

Kibben was back in her office the next day ready to help. She was especially cognizant of the Capitol police, who had lost one of their own.

The experience, she said, confirmed why there are chaplains in Congress. "It's not related to a particular faith tradition, it's that there is somebody here who comes alongside in this moment."

Margaret Grun knew at 14 that she wanted to be a minister. She grew up in a house her father built on Bristol Road in Warrington. Her father, a World War II veteran, William A. Grun, her father, taught industrial arts at Abington High School. The family was active in Neshaminy Warwick Presbyterian Church in Hartsville, where Margaret was inspired to follow a religious path. She attended Titus Elementary School, Tamanend Middle School and Central Bucks East High School.

Kibben earned a B.A. degree from Goucher College in Towson, Md. in 1982 and entered active duty in the U.S. Navy in 1986. She received her Master of Divinity (1986) and Doctor of Ministry (2002) degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary. She also earned an M.A. degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in 1996. Kibben was a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace.

She served as the Navy's 26th chief of chaplains from 2014 to 2018; she was the 18th chaplain of the United States Marine Corps (CHMC).

Kibben's Marine Corps assignments have included Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where she served with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Security Battalion, the Brig, Marine Corps Air Facility and the president's Helicopter Squadron, HMX-1. She also served with the Marines of Camp Lejeune, N.C., making deployments to both Turkey and Norway. Later she was assigned to the Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico as the doctrine writer for Religious Ministry.

Kibben's Navy assignments included the U.S. Naval Academy as the first female chaplain.

After retirement from the Navy, Kibben became a lecturer in Leadership and Ethics at the School of Engineering of the Catholic University of America.

From 3 to 4 p.m. March 24, Rear Admiral Kibben will join a virtual conversation You're invited to join a virtual conversation to celebrate Women's History Month, hosted by Bucks County Community College. Her topic, "Leadership in the Public and Private Sector, Dr. Kibben's Journey' will provide a personal perspective.

As an indication of Dr. Kibben's thoughts on leadership, she's been recently quoted, "Throughout my experience in the military and now in government, I have been made keenly aware that when people acknowledge their innate skills, ground their actions in moral purpose, and use their God-given voice, their leadership can't help but make a difference.'

As a founding member of AI and Faith, she has engaged herself in the emerging debate on the ethical development of artificial intelligence and related technologies, researching and speaking on the

ethics of artificial intelligence. There is no charge to participate in the Zoom presentation, but preregistration is required: http://bit.ly/zoombccc.

## OPINION & Editorial

#### Enter the owner:

### Headquarters Bridge land belongs to him

I am the owner of the land on both sides of the Headquarters Road bridge.

I bought the property last year for its historic significance, the beauty of its ancient meadows and the historic "Exceptional Value" creek that ran through my property.

I was pleased that the federal government recognized and protects by law this historic landscape and this scenic creek. I believed that I was buying into a community that treasured this beauty and history, an area so precious that it has been put on the National Register.

I was not aware that I was buying into a firestorm. Having remained silent for perhaps too long, allow me to state my views of the bridge that is 100% on my property and how I see this situation unfolding.

I am a first generation immigrant American. My father was born in now Pakistan. On a business trip in the 1950s, he met my mother, an American fashion model living in New York. I was born overseas and came to America as a baby. I became a U.S. citizen at age 13, two years after my father. To paraphrase Ulysses S. Grant

from his famous autobiography: "I am American in all my mannerisms, direct and collateral." The sheer joy of being American is that the heroes that stormed Normandy on D-Day, that fought at Little Round Top at Gettysburg, that defeated the British in the War of 1812, that crossed the Delaware River to defeat the British in arguably the most critical battle of the Revolutionary War; and perhaps collected the launch boats and warmed themselves in my 8-foot circa 1747 fireplace prior to the crossing, all became my heroes.

This became my history almost 50 years ago, and it is part of every American citizen living in Upper Bucks County; this lineage, which connects through our bridge on my property is "direct and collateral" for all of us. My own brother, a retired U.S. Army Special Forces officer and marksman, became my modern day hero and parachuted and fought in Grenada, Panama City, Desert Storm and ran a special ops base in Iraq until 2012. We are American in deeds, direct and collateral.

The Tinicum Creek bridge is an engineering marvel. The support pillars indent towards the hillside to push back against the pressure of the hill. The knowledge that went into understanding the physics of pressure in 1812 was extraordinary and the designers can look with pride that their craftsmanship has lasted 209 years, and with proper care should last another 100 years. It's interesting that while America was at war with the superpower England in 1812, engineers in Ottsville and Tinicum were planning and

building a bridge to last 300 years. PennDOT proposes to tear

Steve Gidumal that history down. And for what purpose? The obvious answer is that our quaint byway is a "choke point" preventing PennDOT from serving the interests of McMansion developers, oil drillers, quarry trucks loaded with gravel and stone, Amazon and FedEx 45-foot tractor-trailers, commercial oil tankers, as PennDOT's new bridge becomes the GPS access route to the Upper Black Eddy-Milford 80-ton bridge.

The supporters of the two-lane bridge may be the very people that enjoy walking or biking on our rural roads. Should a two-lane bridge ever be built, those bucolic days are over. The roads will not be safe for parents, children, leisurely couple walks and certainly not for cyclists. The accident and death toll that will be shepherded in by the new super active truck route will be unimaginable. And far from the specious argument that a two-lane bridge versus a one-lane bridge will rescue property values - as soon as the rural characteristic of our collective haven is destroyed by becoming a death-trap tractor-trailer shipping route, you can kiss premium home sale prices goodbye.

Why live in an area without sidewalks if the truck traffic will kill you? PennDOT hasn't studied or explained how all the access roads will change to accommodate the truck traffic and what the expected carnage and forecasted death tolls will be.

The destruction of the historic bridge will also alter the water flows of the creek and will create significant damage to my historic meadow and, as important, to those living downstream. Once my tree bank on the western side of the creek washes away, there will be nothing to support complete erosion of my property and to my neighbors' downstream.

For example, the trout stream will be destroyed. This certain damage has not been studied by PennDOT, and the lack of analysis now 10 years in is not accidental. The PennDOT engineers, and surely the National Parks Service representatives whose job it is to protect this priceless environment, know the damage the eastern bank dam fortifying the new bridge will create as it ricochets accelerating water against the western bank.

Of course, PennDOT and Tinicum Township supervisors can simply say, "Well you will be compensated for any damage. Yes, of course I will, because I will litigate the damage issue.

But what is the going price to replace the irreplaceable? To replace a priceless piece of history? As a person who has litigated many shareholder class actions and damage claims, I'd say the cost to replace a priceless piece of history for such a large class of property owners and stakeholders likely starts in today's world at well north of \$20 million.

It is inconceivable to believe a two-lane bridge can be built on my front yard without my support. PennDOT does not have the variances to place construction equipment in all the places it needs. Neighbors that want to monitor the daily construction of this super truck route would be welcome every day on my property to ensure there are no easement infractions. Residents know the record that

PennDOT has created for the courts

consultants paid by PennDOT using

is not clean. There are engineer

a maiden name and their married

name to support their own study. There are township officials who have or may have client relationships directly with PennDOT in seeming conflict with town residents. There are advocates with ties to PennDOT who are currently fighting Freedom of Information Requests. It's far cheaper to comply with FOIA requests than fight them - so why fight so hard and expensively? The question answers itself. PennDOT can bully its way through the agencies, and agencies and national stewards can ignore

the law until a tragic accident happens. And then an oversight agency with its unlimited budgets will scour the documentation to see where the short cuts and deceptions were. And they'll find them, and we all know they will find them. Turning my front lawn into a high volume super-truck route so

that runaway trucks can murder

innocent local drivers and cyclists in

front of my house, or crush children playing on any of the access roads to the Tinicum Creek bridge or sideswipe couples lost in discussion as they walk our rural roads is in no one's interest in this community. Conversely, here is what can happen and with full support of virtually every resident of Tinicum,

built and installed in six months. This will restore high property values, it will preserve the rural lifestyle that more and more people desire, and it will reduce unnec-

Ottsville, Pipersville – we can

restore the 16-foot wide deck on

this wonderful bridge and it can be

essary accidents and deaths. All that is needed is for township officials to withdraw their support for the project. All that's needed is for those neighbors fighting FOIA requests to produce the documents requested so all residents can understand a person's full motivation.

The fastest path forward to opening the bridge that PennDOT unilaterally closed is to repair and re-deck our existing historic bridge. It can be done in six months.

Why not support that approach? And vote and tell our elected officials this is the approach they too must support.

I support saving our history, saving lives and re-decking our bridge in six months.

#### Safety and experience important as always

Doylestown Health diagnosed the first few COVID-19 cases in Pennsylvania in March 2020. One year later, our physicians, nurses, technologists and support staff remain at the forefront in our community's battle with this disease.

In the past year, we adopted new treatments and safety precautions to enable Doylestown Health to continue its nearly 100-year legacy of proactively advocating for the health and well-being of our community. Today, we are leading the vaccination effort in Bucks County.



ChristineDr. Roussel, Doylestown Health's senior executive director of Pharmacy, Laboratory and Medical Research, and Filip Krezel R.N., clinical systems analyst.

On March 8, 2021 we delivered our 25,000th dose, more than any other entity in the county.

Throughout our years of service in a variety of specialties, the safety and experience of our patients are at the core of our practice. Especially now, during a pandemic, safety is the preeminent goal of the practice of medicine at Doylestown Health.

Doylestown Hospital and our surgery and urgent care centers are safe. The greatest danger to patients is delaying care that might result in worsening disease or exacerbation of chronic conditions.

As leaders of the Doylestown Hospital Medical Staff, we encourage you to return to your physicians and hospital if you have been hesitant to do so. We're ready for you, we provide a safe environment – and we are dedicated to excellence in care.

Past Presidents of Doylestown Hospital Medical Staff Mary Ellen Pelletier M.D. Eric Marchant M.D.



sterile compounding supervisor, prepares a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

David L. Smith M.D. Bruce Derrick M.D. Gregory Gallant M.D. Michael Mooradd M.D. Robert Linkenheimer D.O. Gene Levin M.D. George Wiemann M.D. Brett Harrison M.D. Andrew Krick M.D.

#### Health system crosses milestones

Doylestown Health administered its 25,000th dose of COVID-19 vaccine on March 8, in a moment that marked a milestone in the fight against the deadly disease. The health system has held more than 50 vaccine clinics, the largest taking place at Doylestown Hospital and Doylestown Health Urgent Care.

The health system also recently performed its 50,000th COVID-19 test. Doylestown Hospital opened the first drivethrough COVID-19 testing site in Bucks County on March 17,

## Bucks Recorder of Deeds brings local history home via Zoom

Deeds Robin Robinson plans a special Zoom presentation to celebrate her social media's "Did You Know..." series one year anniversary.

She began the series after the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

With the help of staff, and the public, over 60 stories about properties and people that are important to Bucks County have favorite story to tell happens to be the first "Did You Know..." shared on March 24, 2020. It was about the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and the creation of Core Creek Park in Middletown Township.

This series has been so successful that Robinson wanted to put it all together in one presentation to present to the



ROBIN ROBINSON

public. So, one year since the start of the social media series, her office will hold Zoom presentations, free to the public, to celebrate.

There will be two presentations, the first at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 23, and the second at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 25. To join Roberts and her staff, RSVP to Nicole Douglas at nmdouglas@buckscounty. org by Friday, March 19.

To follow Robinson and this series follow her on Facebook @RobinRobinsonBCRecorderofDeeds, Instagram at robinrobinsonbuckscorod, or on Twitter @BucksROD.

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



## ELECTION 2021



### Kristin Schrader Marcell bids for Council Rock School Board reelection

resident and lots. Wrightstown Council Rock alumna Kristin Schrader Marcell, has announced her reelection campaign and candidacy for the Council Rock School Board to represent Region 9 (Wrightstown and Newtown Township Districts 1 and 2).

Marcell was appointed to the board in August 2018, following the resignation of Kyle McKessy. She won the November 2019 election, appearing on both the Republican and Democratic bal-

Noni West, vice president of

West has been a member of

Doylestown Borough Council since

2017, has announced that she is run-

Doylestown Borough Council for 12

years. She is employed as a public

policy specialist for the Council of

Southeast Pennsylvania/PRO-ACT,

a nonprofit addiction prevention, ed-

ucation, advocacy, intervention, and

ning for mayor.

"Serving the Council Rock community over the last two and a half years has been a tremendous honor. I couldn't be prouder to announce my candidacy to continue representing the Wrightstown and Newtown communities on the school board," said Marcell. "As the daughter of two teachers, education and the Council Rock School District have been an important part of my life."

She is committed to ensuring



KRISTIN SCHRADER MARCELL

that the district provides an excellent education at a reasonable

Marcell is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and earned her master's degree from George Washington University, while working full-time in Washington, D.C. She is a public relations and marketing executive with experience working in media relations, reputation management, content marketing and public af-

She resides in Wrightstown with her husband, Steve Marcell, and their children. Her daughter and son attend Sol Feinstone Elementary after being redistricted from Wrightstown Elementary in 2019. Marcell was previously a representative for the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council. She leads her daughter's Girl Scout Troop, comprised of students from Newtown, Wrightstown and Sol Feinstone elementary schools.

## Noni West vies for Doylestown mayor position

recovery support organization.

In announcing her candidacy, West stated, "The COVID pandemic has created enormous challenges for the businesses, institutions, and residents of Doylestown Borough. Doylestown needs and deserves a mayor with the experience I can draw on from my very first moment on the job." She added, "I bring vision, energy, compassion, and confidence in the future

of our community – key ingredients for serving in this leadership role."

West serves on the borough's COVID Community Recovery Task Force. She has participated on every Borough Council committee, including the Central Bucks Regional Police Commission. As chair of the Finance Committee, she has oversight of the financial health of the borough.

"My familiarity with every aspect

of borough governance is why I am uniquely qualified to replace Ron Strouse as the mayor of Doylestown Borough," West said. Mayor Ron Strouse has endorsed West for may-

Noni West grew up in Doylestown and attended Lenape and Central Bucks West schools. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Wilson



NONI WEST

#### Jeff Bartos puts hat in the ring for U.S. Senate

Jeff Bartos, small business owner and co-founder of the Pennsylvania 30 Day Fund, has announced his candidacy for the United States Sen-

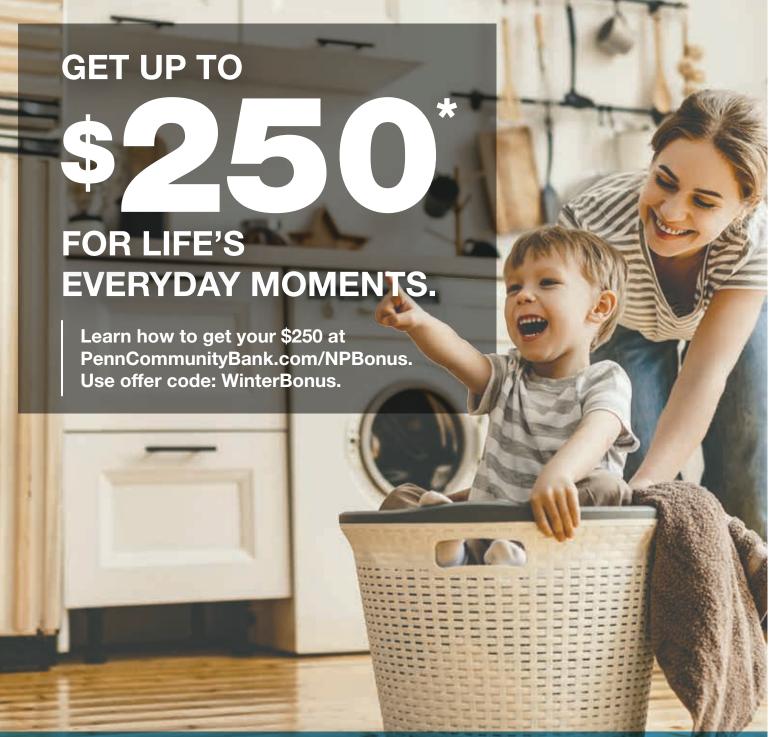
During the Trump administration, millions of Pennsylvanians who had felt abandoned and forgotten had someone fighting for them in Washington and delivering real results for their communities. We cannot afford to return to a time when working families and small businesses, which are the lifeblood of our communities, had their priorities and well-being ignored by their elected officials," said Bartos. "Pennsylvanians deserve to have someone fighting for them and that's why I'm running for U.S.

Born and raised in Berks County, Bartos has been a Pennsylvania resident his entire life. Bartos is a small business owner and real estate developer active in the Greater Philadelphia market. Bartos co-founded and led an effort to raise and distribute over \$3.3 million to struggling small businesses in Pennsylvania through the Pennsylvania 30 Day Fund.

Bartos was the Republican nominee in 2018 for lieutenant governor. Jeff and his wife, Sheryl, have two daughters, Emily and Sarah. To learn more about Jeff and his campaign for

U.S. Senate, visit JeffBartos.com. In coordination with his launch, Bartos released a video outlining the critical work for small businesses he had been leading throughout the pandemic.

"Donald Trump represented someone listening to millions of Pennsylvanians who felt like no one was fighting for them - and we cannot go back to the days when elected officials in Washington thought of Pennsylvania as just two cities and a whole lot of farmland in between,' Bartos says in the video.











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Here We

\*The up to \$250 new account cash bonus offer is available on any new Penn Community personal checking account type, as long as the customer meets standard account eligibility requirements. The program promotional code must be presented at account opening. To receive the \$200 new checking cash bonus, the account must be opened with \$25 or more and complete one of the following within the first sixty (60) days of account opening: 1) receive qualifying direct deposits totaling \$500 or more OR complete twenty (20) or more debit card purchase transactions of any amount. Qualifying direct deposits are defined as recurring electronic deposits of payroll, Social Security, pension, government benefits or other eligible regular monthly income. To earn an additional \$50 cash bonus, checking bonus offer requirements must be met, and must 1) open a new Statement Savings, Common Cents Savings or Ultra Money Market account with standard account minimum opening deposit or more at the same time as qualifying checking account, and 2) maintain the account minimum daily balance for 60 days from account opening. Minimum balance to open and minimum daily balance to earn annual percentage yield and avoid monthly service fee for Statement Savings and Common Cents Savings accounts is \$100; for Ultra Money Market account is \$1,000. Standard savings and money market account requirements and transaction restrictions will apply. Interest rates are variable and subject to change. New account bonus(es) will be deposited to the checking account within 45 days after meeting offer requirements. New account bonus offer available to new checking customers only. Must not have closed a checking account within the preceding twelve (12) months or received a prior new checking account incentive. Limit one bonus offer per household. If multiple accounts are opened with the same signer, only one account will be eligible for the bonus. Account must be open, active and in good standing at time of incentive fulfillment to receive bonus(es). If account is closed within six (6) months from date of opening, early termination fee may apply, and amount of new account bonus received will be debited from final account balance. All bonuses are subject to 1099 reporting. New account cash bonus offer not available for business accounts. Offer expires April 15, 2021. Information accurate as of February 1, 2021 and subject to change without notice. Offer may be modified or withdrawn at any time. All standard account requirements apply. Subject to approval. Fees may reduce earnings. Ask for full details. Member FDIC.



Pickleball is arriving in Solebury Township this spring with an official, grand opening ceremony set for 9 a.m. Saturday, March 27.

Following some brief remarks, play will commence with two township teams battling each other for first place in the novice division. The courts will be available for open play every day during the established park hours.

Prior to the heavy ground covering snowfall this past winter, Solebury Township completed the construction of two pickleball courts which are located between the multi-purpose field and the football field in Laurel Park, immediately behind the township municipal building at 3092 Sugan Road.

Both courts are side-by-side, each accommodating four players, with ample parking available nearby. A walkway of brownstone pavers leads from the parking area to the gated entrances to the courts. Benches with the Solebury Parks name and logo are provided near the gates for waiting players and for those resting from a vigorous game of pickleball.

Players will initially use the courts without membership fees while the township monitors the level of participation and assesses the program. Pickleball rules for "court etiquette" will be posted, with time limits set for games, in order to maximize the use and to give everyone a fair opportunity to play and enjoy the new facility (sneakers only on the new courts).



A grand opening ceremony for Solebury Township's pickleball courts will take place 9 a.m. Saturday, March 27

## Quakertown Farmers Market announces three spring events

Quakertown Farmers Market will host several spring events at the end of March, including two Easter holiday traditions. All events are held at 201 Station Road, Quakertown, Pa.

On March 20 and 21, the Market will host the outdoor Spring Craft

Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the North Lot, across from the Garden Center. The event features local vendors and artists selling handmade art, paintings, repurposed items, florals and wreaths, jewlery, pet treats, wood carvings, home decor, and more.

The market will welcome the Easter Bunny on March 20. Between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., the Bunny will be available for pictures. These photo opportunities continue every Saturday (11 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and Sunday (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) through April 3. Photos are \$4 each or three for \$10.

the Mercer Museum, 1 to 2 p.m. March

19, April 16. Join a Colonial shoemak-

er and the owner of a general store and

learn how people in early America bar-

Face coverings are required but appointments are not.

The 45th Annual Easter Egg Hunt is set for March 28. Participants must bring a basket to fill with eggs, of which there are over 10,000 scattered throughout the site. The hunting grounds are located near the North Entrance across from the Garden Center. Age groups will hunt separately, with each beginning at a different time. Ages 0 to 3 will begin at 1 p.m., followed by ages 4 to 6 at 2 p.m. and ages 7 to 9 at 3 p.m. All participants must wear a mask. The rain date for this event is April 3.



#### Arts

The Eyes of March, featuring 100 paintings by Brian Gormley, at J.B. Kline Gallery, 25 Bridge St., Lambertville, N.J., open through April 30. Paintings are representational, expressionistic landscapes. Call 609-397-7026 or email jbklineson@yahoo.com for details.

**2021 Phillips' Mill Youth Art Exhibition** now online, featuring 153 pieces of fine art from 22 local high schools. To view the exhibition visit phillipsmill. artspan.com.

#### Fairs

**Spring Craft Fair** at Quakertown Farmers Market, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 20 and 21. Located in the North Lot, features local artists with handmade items. Visit quakertownfarmersmkt.com for details or call 215-536-4115.

#### **Festivals**

**45th Annual Alpaca & Llama Shearing Fest** at WoodsEdge Farm, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 27. Event is rain or shine, appropriate dress and face coverings required. Event is free, no registration required, email info@woodsedge.com for details.

#### **Games/Sports**

**Bingo with Tylersport Fire Co.** every Tuesday night, includes \$1,000 jackpot. Doors open 4:30 p.m., dinner served at 5 p.m., game begins at 6:30 p.m. Call 215-257-5900 ext. 171 for details.

#### **Holidays**

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Alba Vineyards, three seatings: noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on March 20 and 21. Includes one wine flight and one charcuterie, advance registration required, for more information call 908-995-7800 or email wine@albavineyard.com.

Meet the Easter Bunny on March 20 at Quakertown Farmers Market. Photos with the Bunny available 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays through April 3. Appointments not needed, for details visit quakertownfarmersmkt.com.

**45th Annual Easter Egg Hunt** with Quakertown Farmers Market on March 28. Age groups hunt at different times: 0 to 3-year-olds at 1 p.m., 4 to 6-year-olds at 2 p.m., 7 to 9-year-olds at 3 p.m. Details at quakertownfarmersmkt.com.

#### Lectures/Seminars

Grand Homes & Gardens Distinguished Speakers Series, hosted by Morven Museum and Garden. Join the armchair travel series with "The Woman of the House" as this year's theme. Programs are all virtual, 6:30 p.m. on

March 23. Visit morven.org/grand-homes-gardens or call 609-924-8144 for details.

Symbols from within, and symbols from without: The Celtic Revival and the Harlem Renaissance, a virtual lecture by Tara Guissin-Stubbs of Oxford University. 4:30 p.m. on March 19. Free, no registration required. For more information and Zoom link visit arts. princeton.edu/events.

Special needs trusts and planning with Law office of Richard L. Newman, 6 to 7 p.m. on March 23. Know all of your options when planning for the future of your loved one with disabilities. Email michele@newmanelderlaw.com for a link to join.

BCFA Cooking Live! Sweet Dreams are Made of Cheese, virtual cooking event featuring fondue and raclette with Bucks County Foodshed Alliance, 6 p.m. on March 25 via Facebook Live. RSVP on bucksfoodshed.org, on Facebook or by emailing info@bucksfoodshed.org.

"Did You Know..." history presentations hosted by Bucks County Recorder of Deeds Robin Robinson, follows stories of important places and people in the county. 10:30 a.m. on March 23 and 6:30 p.m. on March 25. To join RSVP to nmdouglas@buckscounty.org by March 19.

#### **Movies**

ACME Screening Room, virtual screenings. New releases include "F.T.A," "Long Live Rock" and "Stray." For details and tickets visit acmescreeningroom.org.

ACME Film Club, watch the film on your schedule and join the Zoom meeting each week.

County Theater, Doylestown. "Frida: Viva la Vida," one week only starting March 17. Virtual documentary featuring the life and work of Frida Kahlo. "Sin," follows the life of Michelangelo as he paints the Sistine Chapel ceiling. Offered on the Stellar Tickets platform via viewing slots. For details visit countytheater.org/events.

#### Museums

Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tours include new offerings to explore, timed tickets must be purchased online in advance at easternstate.org.

Historic Nazareth walking tours, hosted by Moravian Historical Society, 4 p.m. every second Saturday from March through September. Tours last 45 minutes to 1 hour, more info at moravianhistory.org/walking-tour or call 610-759-5070.

Virtual tours of Fonthill Castle and Central Court at the Mercer Museum, 45-minute virtual experiences feature a 30-minute recorded guided journey followed by a live Q&A conversation with experienced tour guides. Tours run through March and April, various dates and times, visit mercermuseum.org/virtualprograms for details.

Meet the Makers: Batering in Colonial Times, a virtual presentation from

tered for the household objects they needed to survive. Visit mercermuseum.org/virtualprograms for info.

### Music & More Ulysses Quartet, through March 26, part of the Zoellner Arts Center at Le-

part of the Zoellner Arts Center at Lehigh University's "On Stage at Home" series. Information: zoellnerartscenter. org, inzactix@lehigh.edu or 610-758-2787 x0.

**Sellersville Theater,** live events with limited in-person seating and livestream options. Tickets and information: st94. com.

Sourland Mountain Happy Hours, hosted by the Sourland Conservancy, held via Zoom from 6 to 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month through June 3. Local artist performances, bespoke cocktail and other happy hour deals. Ticket holders will receive a link via email, proceeds benefit the musicians and the conservancy. Information and tickets: sourland.org.

Celtic and roots music virtual concert from Perkasie Patchwork Coffeehouse featuring Seasons, five siblings who play a fusion of the two genres. Live on the Coffeehouse YouTube channel from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on March 20, link available at perkmenno.net/calendar-of-events.

Town and Country Players announces Signature Series Sundays, featuring free Zoom plays. "Cozy Murder" by Judy Klass, 1 p.m. on March 21; "Miss Woodhouse Presents" by Kayla Hambek, 1 p.m. on March 28. Request link via tandcplayersonline@gmail.com.

Princeton Symphony Orchestra presents the Buskaid Soweto String Ensemble concert, "A Lark and Diverse Dances." Virtual performance, available March 26 through 28. Tickets include digital program and on-demand access, visit princetonsymphony.org or

call 609-497-0020 for details.

Villanova Theater presents "The Scar Test" by Hannah Khalil, a virtual production directed by Claire Moyer focusing on themes of emigration and detention. Available March 25 through April 4, details at villanovatheatre.org/scar-test.

#### Nature

Saturday morning bird walks at Silver Lake Nature Center, offered at 7:30 a.m. March through May. Meet outside of the SLNC Visitors' Center at the Welcome Kiosk near the parking area. Free, email pacutter@buckscounty.org or visit silverlakenaturecenter.org for details.

Swamp Tromp at Quakertown Swamp with herpetologist Kyle Loucks, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on March 20 at the Richland Township Building. Learn about the types of amphibians that call the swamp home and then "tromp" to vernal pools in the forest. Details at heritageconservancy.org/news-and-events. Free guided walk on Silver Lake Na-

ture Center trails, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on March 21. Leisurely and informative walk covering seasonal topics. Meet outside of the SLNC Visitors' Center at the kiosk near the parking area. Register by visiting silverlakenaturecenter.org or by calling 215-785-1177.

Winter birds of the park at Washington Crossing State Park, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on March 21. Walk in search of a variety of winter bird species and some early spring migrants. Advanced registration required, call 609-737-0609.

The Natural Web: Who Needs Plants? with Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Mary Ann Borge, virtual presentation at 7 p.m. on March 25. Look at specific plant species and their importance to all forms of life with Tinicum Conservatory. To register email kbudd3030@gmail.com or call 610-294-9069

**Shofuso Japanese Cultural Center** in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, opens

March 20, in time for Cherry Blossom season (estimated early April). The site will be open for visitation 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, through Dec. 12. For information on in-person and virtual events: japan-philly.org.

#### Sales

Soup sale at Lahaska United Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to noon on March 20, many varities available, call 215-788-4236 for details or visit lahaskaumchurch.org. Book sale at Milford Public Library

in Milford, N.J. Sale is open during business hours through the end of March. Book genres include history, biography, art, short story collections and National Geographic magazines from 1915 to the present. For more information visit milfordnjlibrary.org.

#### Support Groups Virtual Parent & Caregiver Support

**Groups,** offered weekly in English and Spanish by The Family Support Organization of Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren counties. Information and Zoom link at 908-223-1191 or FSO-HSW.org.

Virtual Memory Care Support Group for caregivers and families of those with dementia and Alzheimer's, noon to 1 p.m., first Thursday of each month via Zoom. Facilitated by Brianne Gerhard, provided by Artis Senior Living of Yardley. Contact charris@ artismgmt.com or 267-392-5945 for the Zoom invite. Attendees are welcome to eat lunch during the meeting.

#### Youth Programs RVCC Youth Programs Virtual

**Open House**, 1 to 3 p.m. March 21, via Zoom. For a listing of spring courses for ages

4 to 17, or to register for classes, visit raritanval.edu/youth. For additional information, email youth@raritanval.edu or sandile.manzini@raritanval.edu.

## We've *Rolled Up* Our Sleeves to Support Our Community

We are grateful that most of our community members have received both a first and second vaccination, making significant progress in protecting our residents and staff from the deadly pandemic.



Contact us for information on becoming a member of an exceptional senior living community, focused on safety, wellness, and maximizing independence.









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# Experience required...





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**CB South** seniors choose colleges



Ann's Choice achieves vaccine milestone

March 18, 2021

Karen Sangillo

overtime

victory in

the semi-

finals

**Abington** 

**CB** East

It was about as dramatic a

finish as anyone could imagine. A layup by Abington's Rob

Bell at the buzzer ended the sea-

son for the Central Bucks East

Galloping Ghosts a 56-54 double

District One Class 6A tournament

The Ghosts (13-5) travel to

ninth seed Lower Merion (11-

3), a 56-41 winner over fourth

seed Garnet Valley (16-4), for

the district title on Saturday.

The winner receives the lone

District One berth in the PIAA

tournament and a bye into the

CB East, the seventh seed

of the tournament, jumped out

to an early 8-1 lead. Abington

struggled to hit shots early in the

game, but the Ghosts found their

groove and by halftime, CB East

That lead disappeared in the

third quarter, which ended with

the teams tied, 36-36. The lead

in the fourth quarter and as the

changed hands several times

clock ticked down, Abington

was ahead by two, 51-49. Joe

East in the final seconds tied the

Both teams scored three points

in the first overtime period, forc-

"It stinks," CB East senior

we were in third grade. And not

just basketball, we've been best

friends. To never step on the court

again with them just hurts. All the

players have such a close relation-

ship with the coaches and with the

younger players. To not have that

"We played well. We got turnovers and guys took charges and

got steals and stepped up and I

couldn't be prouder. Look at Jacob

(Cummiskey). He stepped up as a

freshman. He did so much more than expected and I'm so grateful

"I'm so happy that we even had a season. Over the summer

I wasn't sure what was going to happen. Joe Jackman and I were at

the Y every single day and I know the other guys were working out

every single day. We put in a lot of

The Patriots knew they had their work cut out for them.

battling with him for a while," Harte said. "We lost to them last

year. We tried to get them back

Continued on page B2

"Their point guard, Bell, he played for Cheltenham when we were little so we've been

anymore is going to stink.

for that.

captain Brendan Harte said. "I've

been playing with these guys since

Jackman's field goal for CB

game to force overtime.

ing the second overtime.

was clinging to a 28-25 lead.

semifinals.

on Tuesday night at CB East.

Bell's field goal gave the

Boys

basketball

boys basketball team.

eliminates

## **Bucks** grapplers win PIAA medals

SECTION B

Jeff Moeller

Palisades senior Ben Haubert didn't have a good feeling about the rest of his tournament after he suf-

Wrestling

fered a loss in the recent semifinals of the PIAA Class 2A championships at the Giant

Center in Hershey. "I didn't have the right mindset at the time," recalled Haubert after his 1-0 loss to Frazier's Rune Lawrence in their 172-pound bout. It was a

huge momentum swing in the other

direction for me. "I had high goals for myself, and I was disappointed in the end. I expected to be in the final.'

Haubert, one of seven local wrestlers in both the 2A and 3A tournaments, was fifth overall after he was eliminated in the blood round last year. Faith Chistian 138-pound junior Eric Alderfer claimed a fourthplace finish also in the 2A division.

In Class 3A, Council Rock North senior Kyle Hauserman captured a bronze medal in the 138-pound weight class. Teammate junior Tony Burke was seventh at 106.

Council Rock South junior Matt Colajezzi took fourth place at 160. Central Bucks West junior Carl DiGiorgio and Central Bucks East junior Quinn Collins met for the 10th time in their careers in the 215-pound fifth-place bout and DiGiorgio worked his way to a 13-4 decision.

Quakertown freshman Mason Ziegler came home with a seventh-place medal at 113.

Haubert faced Saucon Valley Jake Jones – who he beat three previous times this season – in the fifth-place bout, but he couldn't muster the right mental framework in a 4-2 loss.

"I still wasn't in the right mindset," noted Haubert, who finished with a 92-22 career record. "He caught me at the wrong time. I didn't want to go upper body, and I thought I could open up and do my

"I'll talk things over with my coach, and see what my next step will be this spring. I will probably just enjoy my high school life for a while."

Continued on page B2

#### Charlton's swan song: South senior finishes fourth at states

Karen Sangillo

And just like that, Alexandra Charlton's diving career was over. But what a fabulous finish. The Central Bucks South senior

Diving

fourth at the PIAA

placed

Class 3A girls diving championships, held at Cumberland Valley High School on Saturday. "It was an exciting year," she

said. "I came into states knowing it was going to be a hard competition, but I just wanted to have fun. I did my work at the beginning of the season, I did my work at districts, this was just for me.'

Charlton, the District One champion, posted a score of 344.45 points over 11 dives. She had been in fifth place after the preliminaries but moved up to fourth after the semifinals.

"I had a rough first five dives," she said. "I think the magnitude of being at states got to me a little and I don't think I dove my strongest, but I went for it and it went pretty

well at the end. "I think all my dives could have been a little better, but I did my best. Fred (Dunn, diving coach) is the best coach ever. He's been my

only coach and he got me to where I am. I'm so lucky to have him."

Continued on page B2



CHRIS MARKLEY

CB East's Emily Chmiel battles three Pennsbury players for a loose ball.

## **CB** East final four, honors highlight playoff week

Don Leypoldt

It's CB East's turn.

Archrival CB West reached the District One Class 6A final four last year; nemesis CB South got there in 2018.

The No. 3 Patriots (17-1) punched their final four ticket on Saturday afternoon with a 34-29 win over No. 11 Pennsbury. It earned CB East a St. Patrick's Day district semifinal date at No. 2 Plymouth Whitemarsh (late game). East topped PW 32-29 on March 2.

On Saturday, Elise Duffy sank two free throws to put the Patriots up 32-29 with 19 seconds left. Chestnut Hill-commit Emily Chmiel stole the ball at midcourt and sank both free throws with six seconds remaining to end the game. Chmiel's

13 points paced East. Sharpshooter Mia Salvati added 12.

Earlier in the week, the SOL Colonial division champion Patriots defeated a very familiar foe – No. 19 **CB South** – by a nearly identical 37-32 score in a March 10 second-round contest. The Titans opened the game with a 13-6 lead, but the Patriots responded with a 15-2 run. Salvati's 18 and Chmiel's 13 led East. Chmiel sank two big free throws with 17 seconds left to ice the win.

The "L" ended South's (9-9) season. Junior Taylor Hinkle scored nearly half of the Titans' points in the postseason. She had 17 against East and scored 21 in South's first-round 43-26 thumping at No. 14 WC Henderson. South closed the year as winners of its last three regular

The No. 10 CB West Bucks (12-6) bowed out in Saturday's quarterfinal with a 52-32 loss at No. 2 Plymouth Whitemarsh. Despite graduating state player of the year Maddie Burke, West still finished second in the SOL Colonial. In March 10 second-round action, West went wire-to-wire in its 50-29 rout of host No. 7 Unionville. Emily Spratt led the Bucks with 17 points, Anna Blue sank three triples and Paige Gilbert added seven.

West, who trailed Plymouth Whitemarsh by just four through three quarters in its 62-51 regular season defeat, had a tougher time with the bigger Colonials on Saturday. Spratt's 17 points led the Bucks.

Continued on page B3



CHRIS MARKI EY

CB East's Elise Duffy fires off a shot.



CB East's Mia Salvati scored 12 points in the Patriots' 34-29 district quarterfinal victory over Penns-

this year, we just came up a little short."

## New Hope impresses with share of division crown

While the New Hope-Solebury girls held their own against a handful of Suburban One League (SOL) foes

> Girls son, there was some

basketball trepidation about

the Lions playing a full slate of SOL foes this year. Goodbye Morrisville, Bristol and

Jenkintown. Hello Bensalem, Quakertown and a pair of Council Rocks. Consider all the questions

answered as New Hope posted an impressive 15-4 mark facing SOL rivals as the Lions stepped up to Class 4A competition in 2021.

In its first season as a member of the SOL Freedom Division, New Hope grabbed a share of the conference crown, thanks to a resounding

Moreland the second time the sides

win over co-champion Upper

squared off and a convincing 9-1 mark in the conference.

"Coming into this (season), we knew we had tougher competition, but I think the girls really bonded together in the sense of rising to the occasion and knowing that we are a small school coming into it," stated NH-S senior Juliana Covino.

"I think our coaches, too, they really gave us the confidence and that sense where we're going to go out on that court and we're going to make a name for ourselves as a small school, first year.'

After a season-opening loss to fourth-ranked 6A rival Upper Dublin, the Lions reeled off four

straight double-digit road wins over their SOL rivals before coming home to face Upper Moreland. Up 33-27 after three quarters, New Hope saw its lead – and the game - slip away in the fourth

quarter. Two weeks later in their

rivals' territory, the Lions turned

their fate in the division around, posting a double-digit win over the Golden Bears.

No. 24 and No. 11 - we fronted both of them and denied them the ball," explained NH-S senior Kate Dougherty. "We wanted to allow them the least amount of shots as possible and that's what helped

Dougherty was referring to UM freshman Holly Gohl (No. 24) and sophomore EmmyFaith Wood (No. 11). In the initial matchup, Gohl tallied nine of her game-high 18 points in the fourth quarter to lead Upper Moreland to a 44-39 triumph.

In the rematch, with the sides deadlocked at 15 at the half, the Lions outscored the Golden Bears 24-6 the rest of the way to emerge with a 39-21 triumph that essen-

tially earned them a share of the

league crown. Gohl was held to a

single field goal in the game and

Upper Moreland never reached double digits in any quarter in a 39-21 victory for New Hope.

"Going into that game, we knew we had to take care of business in the sense of the (league) title," said Covino. "The first game, we were really amped up and it got away from us and we really didn't stay focused.

"In the second game, we really stressed making the extra pass and playing great defense and that's how we came out on top.'

The Lions came out on top more recently in their very first foray into the District One Class 4A tournament, outpacing No. 3 seed John Paul II in a close game decided on successful free throw shooting by New Hope. Rachel Saxton, Madi Fasti and Dougherty each hit a pair of shots from the foul line in a 39-35 Lions' triumph.

Continued on page B2



## SPORTS



## **New Hope caps off** season with crown

Continued from page B1

For the game, Saxton and Dougherty canned seven points each and Fasti and Covino added five, each. Sophomore Reagan Chrencik hit five shots from the floor and a foul shot and junior Emily Primavera made a shot from 3-point land.

'We share the ball," said Saxton. "We're not just a one- or two-person team. Everybody on the floor can score. Everybody brings heart and hustle every single game."

Unfortunately, the shots failed to fall for visiting New Hope last Friday, March 12 in the District One championship.

Facing top seed and host Gwynedd Mercy Academy, the Lions held their own in the first half but had no answer for some hot shooting by the Monarchs, who pulled away with 19 points in the third quarter.

At the half, however, it was anyone's game, with New Hope trailing by just four, 19-15.

A few minutes into the third quarter, Covino sandwiched a pair of 3s around a trey by Gwynedd Mercy junior Sophia Coleman to draw the visitors within a pair. A 7-0 scoring string by the Monarchs spurred on by Lions' turnovers – gave the top seed some breathing room and four 3-pointers including a pair by Coleman put Gwynedd Mercy up 38-23 heading into the

The sides fought to a 5-5 draw in the final frame, putting the game, the District One crown and a PIAA tournament berth in the hands of the Monarchs, who have now won four straight D1/4A trophies.

"I thought we had some good momentum going in the first half," said Lions head coach Steve Polinsky. "In the third quarter, we just dropped the ball, we started thinking way too much and not just playing the game in front of us.

"That got us in trouble with them; they'll capitalize on your mistakes right away.
"I give them kudos; they came

and they brought it."

"We just let things get a little hectic and we weren't keeping control of the ball," added Dougherty. "Even on defense, we were letting a lot of shots go.

Every time we lost (the ball), it was hard to get back in the mojo and get our groove back."

With the win, Gwynedd Mercy advances to states. If not for COVID-19, New Hope would have itself a state

berth as well, but the pandemic has shortened the PIAA brackets so the Lions' season is over. New Hope waves goodbye to Covino, Dougherty and Saxton but will be back next year with returning starters Fasti and Chrencik in addition to Primavera, who oftentimes was the first player off the bench.

stevesherman222@gmail.com @stevesherman222 on Twitter



New Hope-Solebury sophomore Reagan Chrencik takes the ball to the basket in the District One final March 12 at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School.



Hope-Solebury's Dougherty is one of three seniors



New Hope-Solebury senior Rachel Saxton, right, is defended by

### East's year ends in district semifinals

Continued from page B1

Harte is considering attending Temple, where he hopes to major in business.

The Patriots can still look back on a fine season. They finished up 14-4 and won the Suburban One League Colonial Division

"Looking back on it all, it was so worth it," said Jackman, a senior captain. "I'm just so happy I got to play my senior year. There was a chance we might never have gotten the chance to play in a game like this.

"Both teams gave it their all. I don't think either team had anything left at the end. It was a pleasure to go up against competition like them, and I wish them the best of luck. They played really hard. I'm proud of everyone on this team. We fought so hard. It just sucks to come up short. We'll be thinking about that for

"But no matter where we fell and how far we got, I'd be proud of this team. We left it all out on the court, we really did."

Jackman is likely to commit to West Chester, where he plans to play basketball. He is undecided on a major but leaning toward business.

CB East coach Erik Henrysen had a long talk with the team after the game.

You don't focus on the game," Henrysen said of his postgame talk. "We focused on the six seniors that we have and the impact they've had on our program, the bar that they've raised. I can't say enough about

"We felt like we put ourselves in a great spot. We battled through. We had our opportunity at the end. I'm proud of the

"We're looking forward to next year. We have a nice group coming back. They have a lot to live up to with the group that we're seeing go.'

Aside from Harte, a forward, and Jackman, a guard, the other seniors are guard Jason Markowitz, guard Shane Kennedy, forward Jack Hamilton and forward Anthony Giordano.

Jackman led all scorers with 27 points including three 3-point goals. He ends his career as CB East's all-time leader in 3-pointers with 136.

Harte had eight points and Markowitz had six for the

#### **Alexandra Charlton**

Continued from page B1

This was her only trip to the state meet. Charlton didn't start diving until her freshman year at CB South after attending a clinic at the end of eighth grade.

Gwynedd Mercy junior Maddie Newell.

"I can't believe I made it to states," she said. "I thought districts was going to be the end for me. It was just so exciting to make it here and just to be able to dive. It didn't even matter how I did.

"It's so hard to say goodbye to the sport but at the same time I feel like with everything going on I was lucky to have a season, and this is a great way to end my

Dunn recalled the beginning of Charlton's career.

"It took over a week to get her to go head-first off the board," he said. "We just worked up to it. When she was ready, she knew.

"Four years ago, when she first came to me, I thought it was possible that she could reach this level. She listens really well

and she learns very well. I love coaching kids like that. The question in my head her freshman year was if there was enough time for her to catch up.

"I thought she dove a little cautiously. She wasn't feeling the board, she was just trying not to make mistakes as opposed to going for it, but she got better as the meet went on. I'm very, very

happy for her." Although she hasn't committed yet, Charlton plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh, where she will major in nursing.

"I grew up around hospitals and doctors," she said. "My father had cancer. He passed away five years ago. It's given me a passion to give to people and help people."

Outside of diving, Charlton is in a book club, and works with children with special needs in programs such as Unified Track, Titans Connect and Multiple Disabilities Support (MDS), a program for children with multiple disabilities.

#### Wrestling championships

gold."

\*\*\*)) Listen Local ((\*\*)

Radio Delaware Valley

Continued from page B1

Alderfer didn't miss the usual surroundings. He lost to St. Joseph Academy's Amonn Ohl, 2-0, in the third-place bout. Last year, he became the first medal winner in school history with an eighth-place finish.

"It was definitely different because there were a lot less spectators, which took the pressure off," he said. "I thought my toughest match was in the semifinals.

"My goal was to be among the

top three. But I am going back to work as soon as I can. I'll start training again to work for the

Hauserman, who finished third as a sophomore, battled back to capture that same spot this year with a 8-4 victory over Chartiers Valley's Dylan Evans.

"This tournament gives you a kind of grit," said Hauserman, who amassed a sterling 137-20 career mark. "I don't think there isn't any other tournament around where this happens."

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## SPORTS





CB East's Elise Duffy brings the ball up the court.

## Playoff highlights

Continued from page B1

No. 2 New Hope-Solebury fought like Lions but ultimately fell 45-30 at No. 1 Pope John Paul II in the Class 4A final on March 10. A Charlie Albano layup gave NH-S an 18-17 lead at halftime, and the Lions scored the first four points of the second half. A Bryan Dougherty bucket cut PJP's lead to 30-28 at the end of the third quarter. Phil Weinseimer's 10 points paced NH-S (6-15) who won three of its final five regular season games. It was NH-S' first season in the Suburban One League and first under head coach Derek Brooks.

Awards ... Penn State freshman Maddie Burke (CB West) was named the Big 10's Sixth Man of the Year and selected to the Big 10 all-freshman team. She averaged 8.3 points and 3.4 rebounds per game. Despite the COVID shortened season, her 58 3-pointers rank as one of the most proficient in Penn State freshman history ... Bucknell junior Andrew Funk (Warrington) joined Colgate junior Tucker

Richardson (Flemington) as selections on the All-Patriot League Academic team. Funk's 13 points per game were second on Bucknell and his 85% free throw percentage ranked among Patriot leaders. Richardson, a third-team all-League basketball selection, led first place Colgate in minutes and double-doubles

... the All-Bicentennial League team was announced Saturday. Plumstead Christian's Nick **Phillipps** earned first team honors. Faith Christian's Chris Evans and Branko Stanisic were selected to the second team. Plumstead's Zach Knudsen and Faith's Dylan Ziccardi and Daniel Meeh rounded out the honorable mention team.

Bridget Birkhead is going dancing! The CB East graduate grabbed four rebounds in Mount St. Mary's 70-38 thumping of Wagner in Sunday's NEC championship. It's the first NCAA Tournament berth in 26 years for the Mountaineer women. Birkhead's 37 triples rank third on the team. She is on the Mount's top five in minutes and assists.

#### Photographs by Chris Markley



CB East's Emily Barry looks to make a pass.

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CB East's Emily Curran leaps for the rebound.

#### **CB** East eyes strong finish to regular season

Jeff Moeller

Over the next few weeks, Central Bucks East Ice Hockey Board President Mike Capps believes his team will hit its

peak.
"We expect to get our act together and get going," offered Capps. "We let some games slip away. We don't make cuts, and we have some guys who are

still learning the game. We still expect to be near the top of the league

hockey

at the end." Entering the final week of the

regular season, the Patriots had a 5-4-1 record and remained in the hunt for the playoffs in the Suburban High School Hockey League (SHSHL) Conti-

nental Division. CB East has a busy end of the week with a key matchup with Neshaminy Wednesday (results unavailable at press time) and then finishes the calendar with Souderton Thursday and Central Bucks West Friday.

Former head coach Ken Latchum retired at the end of last season, and Jeff Mitchell is in his first season.

"We had a number of coaches who have been with the program for a long time," said Capps, who also is an assistant coach. "Ken does a lot of refereeing, and decided it was a lot for him.

"We wanted to bring in some young blood."

Senior Adam Bostock is the team's leading scorer and among the league leaders with 23 points (11 goals, 12 assists) and is one of seven seniors on the roster. He and fellow senior Chris Mangiacapre (seven goals,

seven assists) have helped form the team's most productive line. Both of them also play together on the Genesis travel "Adam is a transfer and is in his first year with us," said

Capps. "Chris was one of our top defensemen and wound up on a line with Adam. They both know each other very well out there.'

Senior Connor Keiser (five goals, seven assists) is the hub of the defense and team captain.

"He is a big, strong defenseman who can dominate the game," said Capps about Keiser. "All of them have really helped our younger players." Junior Phil McIntyre also has been a steady contributor

among the junior players. His older brother Chris was the starting goalie as a junior and voted the team MVP and top netminder in the league. However, the current senior decided to opt out this season due to COVID concerns and enlisted with the United States Marines, deciding to end his hockey career.

Sophomore Matt Mangiacapre, Chris' younger brother, has had a strong debut in his inaugural season with a 2.85 goals against average.

With a busy week ahead, Capps liked his team's chances. 'I'd like to take all three games," he noted. "Souderton and CB West are struggling, and we should be able to beat them. Neshaminy will be a tough challenge.'

"We have a boatload of talent, and everyone expected us to be better. Pennsbury came out of the woodwork and surprised everyone. We just have to get our act together."

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## SPORTS



## Central Bucks South seniors choose colleges

Mary Jane Souder

Aaron Collachi grew up with a

football in his hand. With football the sport of choice for the Collachi family, it's hardly surprising that the Central Bucks South senior will be playing football at the collegiate level.

"From day one, I wanted to play in college," Collachi said. "From my dad (Adam Collachi) being a college player and my brother (Noah) who's going to West Chester being a football player - it just runs in the fam-

ily. The all-league lineman, whose father is an assistant football coach at South, plans to major in sports administration with a coaching minor. He chose Millersville University and also considered Widener University.

"I chose Millersville for the team aspect and what coach (J.C.) Morgan is going to do with the team and the way we're trending," Collachi said of his reasons for choosing Millersville.

Collachi and four of his teammates were part of a group of 13 South seniors recognized Feb.

Carter Hallgren will continue his football career at Ursinus College where he will major in business or communications. The first team All-SOL Continental quarterback also considered Widener and Lycoming.

"It was just the right spot for me," Hallgren said. "I liked the school, the football program, and I liked the area. I just couldn't see myself not playing for the next four years.

Tom Wood will be joining Hallgren at Ursinus where he will also continue his track and field career. He chose the Centennial Conference school from a final list that included Allegheny and Misericordia.

"At Ursinus, I have a great connection with the coaches, and I will have a great education program," said Wood, who is on the career leader board at South in the discus and shot put. "I've been committed to football and track and field for years and years. It would tear me apart to try and decide. When the throw-



Seniors who were recently recognized at CB South's college commitment ceremony are, from left, front row, Alyson Cutter, Bridget Curtis, Alyssa Endrick, Maddy White; back row, Ryan Schaub, Carter Hallgren, Shane Landue, Garrett MacClay, Ryan Gross, Aaron Collachi, Tom Wood, Corey Bethel and Christian Manibo.

ing coach from Ursinus originally reached out to me, he got me in contact with the football coach. I think it was the right choice for me.'

Garrett MacClay, a first team all-league placekicker, will continue his career at Lebanon Valley College where he will major in physical therapy.

'Growing up, I was always a soccer player, and it wasn't until junior year that I started football," MacClay said. "I worked hard in the offseason just to get better at what I was doing, and by the end of the senior year, I was getting a few looks from

"The coaches at Lebanon Valley were so welcoming and friendly. Also, the PT program is awesome, and it blew everything else out of the water.'

Ryan Schaub chose Misericordia from a final list that included Fairleigh Dickinson, Western New England, Ursinus and several PSAC schools.

"Ever since I was a kid playing football, it's been my dream to play in college," said Schaub, a first team all-league tight end. "It became a reality this year when I had a breakout season.

"The relationship with the coaches at Misericordia that I built and just the time they put into me to come to their program - I'm just excited to continue my next four years there."

Corey Bethel, Ryan Gross and Shane Landue have committed to play collegiate soccer. Bethel will take his talents to Drew University where he will major in business.

"My entire life I planned on playing in college," Bethel said. "When I took my tour of the (Drew) campus, it was secluded but also big enough and had plenty of options on campus. I liked the soccer field, the coaches, and I met a couple of the guys.

Gross, who will major in psychology, chose Lehigh from a list that included Drexel, Villanova, Colgate and Northeastern.

"I always knew from a young age I wanted to play college soccer," Gross said. "I made the jump from my local township team to a highly competitive club, and from then on, I just kept working.

"I chose Lehigh for the family setting it had. All the coaches, all the players got along well, everyone there was really nice, and it just felt

Landue will major in business at Alvernia University. He also considered Widener and Stevenson.

"I saw the opportunity to continue my academics and athletics with Alvernia," Landue said. "I like the business program they offer and the soccer program." Alyson Cutter and Bridget Curtis

will also play collegiate soccer. Cutter chose West Chester from a final list that included Temple, Longwood and Kutztown. "When I visited the campus,

it was different than all the other colleges I visited," said Cutter, who is undecided on a major. "I fell in love with it, and I loved the coaches as well.' Curtis, who will major in busi-

ness management, chose Kutztown but also considered West Chester and St. Joseph's.

"When I walked on the campus, I got that homey feeling, and I knew it was the exact place I wanted to spend my next four years," Curtis said. "My dad played soccer at West Chester, so I grew up living up to that legacy he had.

Maddy White will major in athletic training at King's College where she will continue her basketball career.

"I didn't always want to play in college, but especially with COVID and everything, I wasn't ready to let it go and stop playing," said White, who also considered Marywood. "King's just has a

really good atmosphere. I met the coach and the girls on the team, and I just thought it was definitely the place for me."

Alyssa Endrick will continue her field hockey career at Lock Haven University where she will major in sports management.

"I chose Lock Haven because of

the location and how dedicated the coaches were," said Endrick, who also considered Widener. "I talked to (coach) Anna Rogers and PR (coach Pat Rudy), and they made me feel welcome when I wasn't even there yet."

Christian Manibo will continue his lacrosse career at Stockton University, choosing the Colonial States Athletic Conference power from a final list that also included Cabrini and Sacred Heart.

"When I arrived at the campus and took a tour with the coach, I felt like I belonged there," said Manibo, who will major in business management. "I could see myself going there, attending classes every day, and practicing with the team.

"In the beginning of my lacrosse career, I didn't really think I had the skill level to play in college, but as I progressed with my coaches' help, they made me realize I had serious potential to play in college."



## **EDUCATION**



## **Anti-Asian discrimination surges** amid coronavirus pandemic

#### 'Stop the hatred to start the change'

Ananya Siragavarapu STUDENT WRITER

I am a young person. Because I am a young person, many people who are older than I find immense delight in inquiring what I feel about the future. "Are you excited to be an adult?" they ask. "Are you ready to take your life into your own hands, to brave the unknown, to explore all that the world has to

Before, even just a few years ago, my answer was always yes. Yes, of course. Yes, of course, why wouldn't I want to grow up and see and feel and experience everything, free of the limitations that childhood burdens upon us? But now, when people ask me about the future, I no longer feel enthusiasm laced with the slightest sliver of apprehension: I feel fear.

Fear that people, people like you and me, are being hurt. Fear that America, which was founded on the promise of liberty and justice for all, is crumbling under this façade of equality. Because despite what we tell ourselves, the current plight of the nation is passable at best.

Everyone knows of the coronavirus. The disastrous, horrifying jail cell which has confined every man, woman, and child to the four walls of his or her abode for the past year. It has taken a toll on Americans, for sure. But the coronavirus also gave way to another disease: racism.

It is common knowledge that the coronavirus originated in Wuhan, China in late 2019. Many people including politicians and other figures of authority – have dubbed the coronavirus the "China Virus" and "Kung Flu" in reference to its area of origin. But what makes this supposedly minor slight an alarming issue is that along with blaming the Asian American and Pacific Islander community for causing the pandemic, people are also physically hurting them.

Since the coronavirus has ungraciously made itself an American household name, hate crimes against Americans of Asian descent have skyrocketed.

According to data analyzed by the California State University's Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, hate crimes against people of Asian descent in America have increase by 150% since

In metropolitan areas, the increase is even more marked. Take New York for example. In 2019, there were three reported incidents of violence against those of Asian descent. In 2020, this number shot up to 29, which is an 833% increase.

In Los Angeles, the number of hate crimes against Asians increased from 7 to 15 - 115%. In Philadelphia, 2 to 6 – 200%. In Boston, 6 to 14 – 133%.

Numbers may not speak to everyone. But there are people behind these faceless numbers, people who are impacted by the brutality that this country has burdened the unlucky few who happen to fit a certain physical description.

Two elderly women were punched on a NYC subway. Three 50-plus men were pushed to the ground in broad daylight in Oakland, Chinatown. An elderly Asian woman was assaulted and called racial slurs in Queens. Many, many more people from the AAPI community were attacked, assaulted, punched, kicked, shoved, maimed and verbally abused.

What strikes me the most is that the targets seem to be the elderly Asian folks. People who have overcome the numerous obstacles presented in life, whose wisdom is as wide as a canyon and as deep as the sea, are looked upon as enemies rather than idols.

While I do not fit the phenotype of the people who are being persecuted, as a fellow Asian, I am alarmed to see that others of Asian descent are undergoing such terrifying ordeals. I can only imagine what people who do fit the phenotype, especially people my age, are wondering about the current social

Allison Shin, a Korean American high school student, is one such individual.

"I am very disappointed in our country," she said. "We always talk about democracy, but then we don't treat everyone equally. It makes me feel really discouraged." When asked about if she feels afraid for her fellow Asian Americans, she replied, "Of course. I feel safe in my suburban community, but I am scared for them and the future."

Our country clearly needs to step it up. Simply turning our heads one way while yet another group is waylaid by the unfortunate, ignorant occurrence of racism is not the way to go.

You can help by reporting anti-Asian hate crimes at stopaapihate.org and donating to organizations dedicated to combating AAPI racism. Educate your family and friends. Stop the hatred to start

#### BCCC lands \$100,000 grant for woodworking program

Bucks County Community College has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Windgate Foundation to support the fine woodworking program in the arts department, college officials announced.

The two-year award funds the Windgate Fine Woodworking Legacy Residency, coordinated by associate orofessor Chris Todd, and keeps the program that was founded by Professor Emeritus Mark Sfirri running.

"There is a long tradition of fine woodworking in Bucks County and southeastern Pennsylvania,' said Todd, who is in her fourth year teaching under the Windgate Legacy Residency. "Windgate's gener-ous support of our program allows us to continue to offer a high quality woodworking education to those in the area.'

Todd notes that as trades across the country have seen a decline in interest among younger people, the program remains even more vital. 'It prepares those interested in crafting fine pieces in wood an opportunity to develop their skills and the time to find their own artistic voice.

In addition, Todd is also grateful for previous grants from the Windgate Foundation that have helped outfit the shop on the Newtown Campus with high quality machinery, and another that allows Bucks to give awards for outstanding works in wood to students each year. "They are indeed an extraordinary source of support in the wood arts," said

Based in Little Rock, Ark., the Windgate Foundation is a private grant-making foundation established in 1993.

The Bucks County Community College Arts Department offers a 62-credit Associate of Fine Arts in fine woodworking, designed for students who plan to transfer to a fouryear college; and a 31-credit certificate in furniture and cabinetmaking, for students looking to directly launch a career. The college is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and

To learn more, visit bucks.edu/arts.

#### **Deadline nears for Mook Poetry Contest**

The deadline to enter the Sarah Mook Poetry contest for students is approaching.

Cash awards are \$100 first prize, \$50 second prize, \$25 third prize in each of four categories: kindergarten through second, third through fifth, sixth through eighth, and ninth through 12th. Previous winners and runners-up are allowed to

enter again (as they often have over the years) provided they use different poems.

The postmark deadline is March 31; winners will be announced in late May. Mail entries to: Sarah Mook

Poetry Prize, 896 Ferncliff Road, Poultney, VT 05764. For information and guidelines, visit sarahmookpoetrycontest.com.

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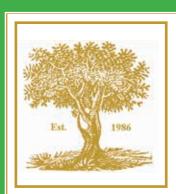




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## Synchronicity Recovery Foundation receives \$10K grant

Synchronicity Recovery Foundation Ltd of Riegelsville has received a \$10,000 grant from Today Inc. Foundation.

Sync Recovery Community (SRC) provides action based peer support for people affected by substance use conditions. SRC uses outdoor recovery adventures, creative arts, sports competitions and other recreational activities to educate community members about recovery resources and assist people in maintaining a long-term recovery lifestyle. The Today, Inc. Foundation grant will help administrate the cost of these events.

Participants include those in early recovery and those with recovery experience, an important dynamic in peer support programs. Family members, friends, and supportive advocates are welcome to participate in the activities as well. SRC positively impacts the individuals directly affected by substance use disorder and the community that surrounds them.

Sync Recovery Community (SRC) provides action based peer support for people affected by substance use conditions. SRC uses outdoor recovery adventures, creative arts, sports competitions and other recreational activities to educate community members about recovery resources and assist people in maintaining a long-term recovery lifestyle.

"The support from TODAY, Inc. Foundation is tremendous and will help our participants reclaim a meaningful life in the face of all the hardships he or she has experienced," said organization founder Laura Waits. "SRC reinforces the importance of social connectedness, spirituality, health and service taught in treatment programs and encouraged in after-care plans. The TODAY, Inc. Foundation enables us to help reduce the rate of recidivism over the long term."

The TODAY, Inc. Foundation is a private nonprofit organization that provides resources to help other nonprofits and grass roots coalitions implement community initiatives in the substance abuse/mental health arena.

For information visit http://to-dayinc.org/ and https://syncrecovery.



Sync Recovery Community participants gather for a hike.





Sync Recovery Community hosts yoga outside in 2020.

#### Cooper University Health Care, Redeemer Health partner on new cancer program

Cooper University Health Care and Redeemer Health announced a new partnership creating an integrated cancer program at Holy Redeemer Hospital that will be overseen by MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper.

In September 2013, Cooper partnered with MD Anderson Cancer Center to create MD Anderson at Cooper. Through this partnership, MD Anderson at Cooper patients have access to the same cancer treatment plans delivered at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas, as well as access to innovative diagnostic and treatment technologies and groundbreaking clinical research.

The partnership between Cooper and Redeemer Health expands the advanced cancer care provided by MD Anderson at Cooper to Phila-

delphia, Montgomery, and Bucks counties. Local residents can stay close to home and have convenient access to proven cancer treatment protocols, cancer experts, clinical research, and patient support and education resources through MD Anderson at Cooper.

Several MD Anderson at Cooper physicians are already based at Redeemer Cancer Center and are working in collaboration with Redeemer's cancer physicians to develop a new multidisciplinary approach to cancer care, focusing on breast, lung, gynecological, and colorectal cancers. Additional hematology/oncology physicians are actively being recruited to join the program. The program offers comprehensive cancer care including hematology/oncology, radiation therapy, surgery and other treatments and services.

## St. Mary webinar discusses risks for colorectal cancer

In recognition of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, St. Mary Cancer Center in Langhorne will host a free webinar on understanding your risk for col-

orectal cancer.

The virtual event will take place from 5 to 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, March 25. The webinar will be led by St. Mary Surgical Associates Langhorne board-certified gener-

colorectal surgery, will review a variety of topics such as colorectal cancer warning signs and what steps you can take to reduce your risk. Attendees will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

The webinar is free of charge, but registration is required. To register, visit trinityhealthma.org/

cha-webinar. Upon registration, an event link will be emailed to

al surgeon Dr. Esther Cha. Cha,

who also is fellowship-trained in

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## Dr. Ruth to participate in Phoebe Institute virtual conference

Dr. Ruth Westheimer, world-renowned sex therapist who pioneered discussing human sexuality on radio and television, will present a live Q&A session on March 18 at the Phoebe Institute on Aging's free virtual conference on "Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll: Baby Boomers and Aging." This conference is presented by Cura Hospitality.

The 92-year-old author and professor will present live from her home in Manhattan in a moderated question-and-answer format, led by local PBS39 "Counter Culture" host, Grover Silcox. Upon registering for the conference, attendees,

#### Ann's Choice vaccinates 95% of residents against COVID-19 by the staff. Ann's Choice made the experience easy for us, and

ers will present, including Robert Torres, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, and Jane Fleishman, presenter of the TEDx Talk "Is it OK for Grandma to Have Sex? Lessons from an Aging Sexuality Educator."

"Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll: Baby Boomers and Aging" is free to the public and will be presented live, in part, through a collab-

ic conference will focus on the 70 million-plus self-reliant, highly-educated baby boomers who strive to take a proactive role in their aging process as they face the challenges of navigating an increasingly complex health care landscape.

For more information and registration, visit phoebe.org/piaconfer-

## Ann's Choice, a senior living

community managed by Erickson Living in Bucks County, has completed its COVID-19 vaccination clinics with 95% of its residents receiving both doses.

"Since the onset of the pandemic more than 12 months ago, our team has worked diligently with residents, their families and local health officials to help safeguard the well-being of everyone who calls Ann's Choice home,' said Chris Donati, executive director of Ann's Choice. "I'm proud of the exceptional results we have achieved by working together – and I'm thrilled that so many of our residents now have an additional level of protection against COVID-19. We could not have reached this important landmark without the professionalism and cooperation of our partners at CVS, the unwavering commitment of our staff and the resilience of our residents."

Nearly every resident who wanted a vaccine at Ann's Choice has received both doses, with a few residents getting their second dose in the next few weeks. Residents look forward to safely enjoying the abundant on-campus amenities, dining experiences, and friendships that are hallmarks of Ann's Choice's active, vibrant lifestyle. Residents, staff and visitors continue to take precautionary measures, including wearing masks, maintaining social distance and frequent hand-washing, to keep each other safe and well-protect-

Residents have expressed gratitude for the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccination conveniently on campus.

"Thank you to the Ann's Choice staff for such a well-organized vaccine clinic," said resident Ken Kastle. "My wife Merilyn and I appreciate very much the planning, the organization involved, and the great effort given

#### **Hunterdon County** offers online programs for seniors

Hunterdon County's Senior Center continues to provide remote programs for seniors, offering activities normally held at Gauntt Place in an online format.

Hunterdon County Board of County Commissioners Director Susan J. Soloway said, "The Board of Commissioners are most grateful to the inventive and creative Senior Center staff for providing instructional and entertaining classes and videos for our seniors in the county while the center has been closed. The pandemic has been isolating for so many, especially Covid-19 vulnerable seniors, and having options to engage both physically and mentally continues to be a salve for so many in our commu-

Classes for seniors fall into two categories: fitness and traditional activities. Fitness classes include tap, ballet, low impact aerobics, gentle exercise, Zumba Gold, Qi Gong and wellness lectures. Traditional classes include Italian lessons, scrapbooking, guitar jam, and games like Trivial Pursuit and Bingo.

Laine Nauman, division head for Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services, said, "Seniors not originally signed up for the activities prior to the pandemic are able to do so with an online registration form. Once completed, seniors are able to participate in as many remote classes as they choose. Other activities are in the pipeline. We have been pleased with the positive response from seniors who had to adapt and learn how to connect with their community online.'

Activities are listed on the county's website, co.hunterdon. nj.us/aging/seniorcenter. 908-788-1361 with questions.

now my wife and I feel safer and can't wait for the day when we can hug our grandchildren and travel without fear.'



questions to Dr. Ruth about sexuality, aging, and isolation. In addition to Dr. Ruth, 17 speak-

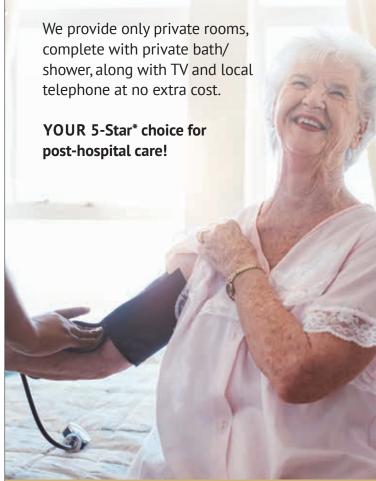


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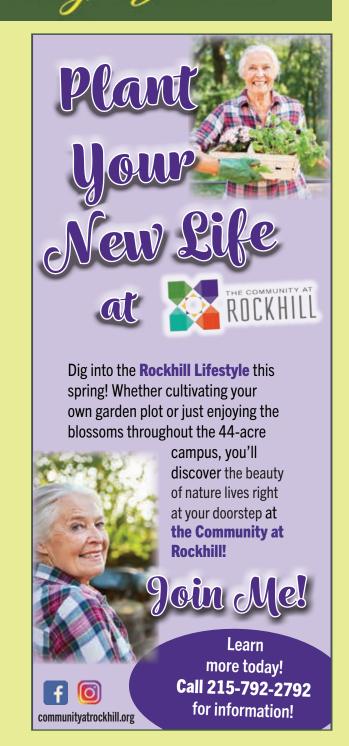
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## Police News

## Bucks mom charged with cyberbullying cheerleading teens

Jodi Spiegel Arthur

A Bucks County mom has been charged with cyberbullying three teens on her daughter's cheerleading squad, in part by using "deep fake" technology to doctor photos and videos of one of the girls to make her appear to be drinking, vaping, and in one photo, nude.

Raffaela Marie Spone, 50, of the 100 block of Tartan Terrace, Chalfont (New Britain Township), was charged with three counts each of cyber harassment of a child and harassment. Bucks County District Attorney Matt Weintraub said Spone's daughter "did absolutely nothing wrong" and is "completely blameless in this."

Spone also is accused of sending calls and texts from a blocked phone number, telling one of the girls, "You should kill yourself," Weintraub said in a press conference Monday, after that teen appeared on the "Today" show Monday morning with her mother.

This tech is now available to anyone with a smart phone," Weintraub said. "This is also another way for an adult to prey on children." Weintraub said he believes this is the first incident where it has come to light that it has been an adult preying on juveniles with the use of "deep fakes."

Spone's attorney, Robert Birch, also appeared on "Today," saying, "My client denies what they have charged her with, and we are going to aggressively fight this."

Her preliminary hearing is scheduled for March 30 before District Judge Regina Armitage. Each of the charges is a misdemeanor of the third degree, and Spone has no criminal history, the DA said.

All three victims cheer for the Victory Vipers in Doylestown. Weintraub said, adding Spone has a daughter who cheered with the victims. In a press release, the DA's office called them "cheerleading rivals."

According to the press release, the investigation began in July after the mother of one of the victim's reported she received text messages and phone calls from blocked or



RAFFAELA MARIE SPONE

unknown numbers telling the teen 'You should kill yourself.'

She also reported that photos were taken from her daughter's social media and edited to make her appear to be drinking, vaping, and in one photo, her bathing suit was edited out and covered with skintone color to make it appear as if she was naked.

A video also was sent to the Victory Vipers cheer gym, showing the victim vaping, the DA's office said. Hilltown Township Police Officer Matthew Reiss "reviewed the video and found it to be the work of a program that is or is similar to 'Deep Fakes,' where

a still image can be mapped onto an existing video and alter the appearance of the person in the video to show the likeness of the victim's image instead," according to a criminal complaint.

The DA's office said Reiss met with the parents of two additional victims in December who reported receiving messages in August showing photos of their daughters with captions "toxic traits, revenge, dating boys, and smoking' and "was drinking at the shore, smokes, pot, and uses 'attentionwh0re69 as a screen name."

Police used search warrants to determine information about the phone numbers from which the messages were sent, leading them to the IP address that traced back to Spone, the DA's office said.

The search warrants of devices seized confirmed use of Spone's cellphone to use the "Pinger" application to download, access and or manipulate data. This also confirmed the phone numbers and IP addresses previously searched, the DA's office said.

"It only takes moments to create these deep fakes, but it takes us months to investigate," Weintraub said. He added that in the future it won't be as easy for law enforcement to prove photos and videos are real, as opposed to fakes, in other cases.

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

#### **Newtown Township**

Charged: Lamir L. Carson, March 15, for identity theft and related charges.

On May 28, a Newtown Township resident reported mailing a utility bill several weeks prior, with an attached personal check for the balance of approximately \$180. The resident was later notified by the bank that the check had been altered and deposited for \$3,700 into a bank account unrelated to the utility company.

Township police conducted an investigation in conjunction with the United States Postal Service and the Limerick

Township Police Department. Through the investigation, several additional victims were identified.

As a result, arrest warrants were issued for Julius Logan of Atlantic City, N.J.; Lamir Carson of Newark, N.J.; and Tyric Butler of New York, N.Y., for their alleged involvement in the fraudulent ac-

All three have been charged with identity theft, forgery, theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property, theft by deception, access device fraud, computer trespass, and unlawful use of a computer as well as conspiring to commit these crimes.

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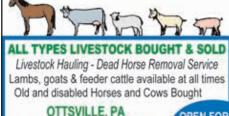


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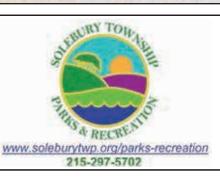
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March 18, 2021 **C1** 

## Three cheers for Mr. Wilson

## Linden Elementary community honors retiring facility specialist

Linden Elementary School recently honored facility specialist Don Wilson, who retired earlier this month after serving the students, faculty. and staff of Central Bucks School District for more than 40 years.

While Wilson's official "last day" was March 5, the school hosted a parade

"clap-out" for him on March 4. Students, teachers and staff stretched out from the bottom of Linden Avenue all the way around the building in a socially distanced line to clap for their friend, Mr. Wilson. Wilson sat in a trailer attached to a tractor driven by Linden Principal Mike Testani, who was dressed as "Linden Leopard."



Lauren and Don Wilson.



for Don Wilson.



Oliver Rennie holds up a thank you sign for Don Wilson.



Don Wilson is driven around the gounds of Linden Elementary School by Principal



Students clap as Don Wilson drives by.



Safe, Secure & Vibrant

A student holds up a thank you sign for Don Wilson. Don Wilson, driven by Linden Leopard, aka Principal Mike Testani, waves to well-wishers.



#### Susan S. Yeske: Recipe of the Week Irish stew for the American palate

If you didn't make something special for dinner on St. Patrick's Day, you can still enjoy your favorites because most Irish dishes are terrific all year round.

Shepherd's pie is a homespun staple, especially when paired with Irish soda bread, which is a

breeze to bake. Corned beef and cabbage is a hearty entrée you can make in your Dutch oven, pressure cooker or Instant Pot. Bangers and mash is sausage with mashed potatoes, while colcannon is a mixture of mashed potatoes and cabbage. Scones and Irish coffee are a treat anytime, especially when March winds are blowing.

Irish stew may be the most popular of all. In Ireland it traditionally is made with lamb, but here in the U.S. we like beef, so this recipe from simplyrecipes. com is designed for the American palate. A cup of Guinness stout adds traditional Irish fla-

#### **Beef Irish Stew**

11/4 pounds well-marbled chuck beef stew meat, cut into

11/2-inch chunks

- 3 teaspoons of salt (more to taste)
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil 6 large garlic cloves, minced
- 4 cups beef stock or broth 2 cups water
- 1 cup of Guinness extra stout
- 1 cup of hearty red wine
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme 1 tablespoon Worcestershire
- sauce
- 2 bay leaves 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 pounds russet po-
- tatoes, peeled,



In the U.S. we prefer beef stew over lamb, but it can still be Irish with the addition of some Guinness stout.

cut into ½-inch pieces (about 7 cups) 1 large onion, chopped  $(1\frac{1}{2} \text{ to } 2 \text{ cups})$ 

2 cups ½-inch pieces peeled carrots and/or parsnips

(3 to 4 carrots or parsnips) ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parslev

1. Brown the beef: Sprinkle about a teaspoon of salt over the beef pieces. Heat the olive oil in a large (6 to 8 quart), thick-bottomed pot over medium-high heat. Working in batches, add the beef (do not crowd the pan or the meat will steam and not brown) and cook, without stirring, until well browned on one side, then use tongs to turn the pieces over and brown on another side.

2. Add garlic to the pot with the beef and sauté 30 seconds or until fragrant. Add the beef stock, water, Guinness, red wine, tomato paste, sugar, thyme, Worcestershire

sauce, and bay leaves. Stir to combine. Bring mixture to a simmer. Reduce heat to the lowest setting, then cover and cook at a bare simmer for 1 hour, stirring occasional-

3. While the pot of meat and stock is simmering, melt the butter in another pot over medium heat. Add the onions and carrots. Sauté the onions and carrots until the onions are golden, about 15 minutes. Set aside until the beef stew in step 2 has simmered for one hour.

4. Add the onions, carrots, and the potatoes to the beef stew. Add black pepper and two teaspoons of salt. Simmer uncovered until vegetables and beef are very tender, about 40 minutes. Discard bay

Tilt pan and spoon off any excess fat. Transfer stew to serving bowls. Add more salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

#### Lew Larason: Thoughts from an Epicure Enjoying the fruits of winter

I haven't liked winter since I turned 16.

We lived at the top of a hill. I had a 1929 Model-A Ford with bad tires and got stuck a lot. Also, that was the winter I broke my ankle skiing.

The only redeeming feature of winter is it's followed by spring with lots of green and flowers, and starting seeds for the garden. I was talking to a friend recently who said she was about to start her tomato

Ever since I became an adult,

during winter I miss local fresh garden vegetables, especially sweet corn and tomatoes. I can buy frozen white sweet corn without salt. It isn't quite as good as fresh, but not bad. However, tomatoes are a different story.

So many "regular" tomatoes are picked green and gassed to turn them red. They're tasteless and too solid with little juice, a waste of money. Several years ago, I bought tomatoes on the vine from Canada or Mexica. They weren't too bad, but lacked real taste.

I tried plum or Roma tomatoes, solid, and I think picked when ripe. Cherry tomatoes are another flavorful wintertime tomato that is great in salads. As a treat, sauté these little gems in olive oil and serve with fresh or dried basil leaves and a pinch of salt.

Recently, I tried Tasti-Lee brand tomatoes. Generally, I don't pay much attention to information on a package if it's a sales pitch. However, if half of the writing is true, these are good for you and grown the way they should be.

With non-GMO seeds and being picked when they're red, the tomatoes taste almost like our local summer ones. At this point, these are the only ones I buy except for cherry tomatoes. Unless you can wait for summer produce, Tasti-Lee is a good substitute in the off season. Enjoy and stay safe!

If you have any questions or suggestions for this column, please contact me either through this newspaper atbuckscountyherald. com or directly at guthrielatason@

#### Celebrity chefs plan launch of Jewish deli in Stockton

Founders of the 618 Hospitality Group, Nick Liberato (Paramount Network's "Bar Rescue," Netflix's "Restaurants on the Edge"), Michael Dalewitz and Steve Lau, announced their partnership and the launch of The Borscht Belt Delicatessen, a New Yorkstyle deli that has been declared as Liberato's "love letter" to the Jewish Deli.

The Borscht Belt will be located within the Stockton Market at 19 Bridge St., Stockton, N.J. The Borscht Belt will assume the market's near entire west side with planned indoor and outdoor seating to accommodate 72 guests (post-COVID restrictions) and offer a six-day-a-week, robust dinein, take-out and catering menu. With a full- and part-time local staff in the development, the opening is slated for April.

"Top-priority is to serve-up safe and convenient NY-style, old-school delicatessen favorites with a savory and contemporary twist, satisfying a variety of food-connoisseurs while keeping every wallet size in mind," said Liberato.

Key menu offerings will include various platters with fresh lox, meats, spreads, daily fresh bagels and baked goods, pickles, Bubby Bell's Matzo Ball soup, Borscht Beet salad, and piled-high pastrami sandwiches fresh from their custom-built pastrami machine made in New York. Coffee will be poured fresh with an exclusive arrangement made with award-winning, Paper Plane Coffee, a 5th generation Colombian-family coffee company.

The Borscht Belt will open each morning at 7 a.m. with varying closing hours. To learn more and sign-up for special announcements and offerings, visit The Borscht Belt online.

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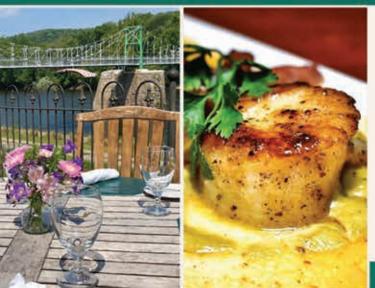
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March 18, 2021

## Penn Community Bank unveils branch revitalization initiative

Perkasie-based Penn Community Bank is launching a plan to improve operational efficiencies and better position the bank for future growth with a network revitalization effort.

"Even during these uncertain times, branch revitalization is crucial. Focusing our attention on opportunities to improve and enhance our physical offices offers a number of benefits that increase the quality of interactions between our team members and customers," said Jake Iampietro, Penn Community Bank's director of retail banking.

The network revitalization initiative, beginning with one of the bank's most active branches - on Market Street in Perkasie - focuses on design and layout changes that offer significant enhancements that address changing health and safety considerations introduced by the pandemic in public spaces and interaction areas, and additional investment in technology to promote an interactive and intuitive customer experience.

The revitalization work will encompass interior and exterior phases.

Inside the branches, customers and team members will experience increased branding features and messaging, refreshed finishes, curated furnishings, restructured teller lines and customer interaction points, and On the outside, ATM upgrades,

drive-up updates, and enhanced signage will highlight the bank's mission and service commitments to both customers visiting the branch and the community at large.

"In addition to modest changes to the physical layout that will help improve space usage, the plan calls for infusing the bank's refreshed and sharpened brand in the redesign program, to ensure our physical locations exemplify and communicate our mission and over-arching brand promise to the communities we serve," said Bernard Tynes, director of marketing.

"The revitalization efforts will highlight our commitment to these communities; but that's just the starting point. This refresh will set the table for future branch efforts and establish best practices for how we enhance and utilize our locations throughout the network," said Jessica Sweeney, director of building operations and planning.

The project is led by Diane Brown, executive vice president, chief administrative officer, and includes an inter-departmental team of Iampietro, Tynes, Sweeney and Melissa Belier, vice president, retail strategy and distribution manager.

Construction on the Market Street branch in Perkasie is expected to begin in April.



Penn Community Bank Team Members, from left, Bernard Tynes (SVP, Director of Marketing), Jessica Sweeney (VP, Director of Building Operations and Planning) and Jake Iampietro (SVP, Director of Retail Banking) outside the Perkasie – Market Street Branch.

## C&N bank announces strategic changes to pursue continued growth

Wellsboro-based C&N announced strategic organizational changes to align with its value-based, relationship model and the company's ability to pursue continued growth in a fast-changing marketplace.

"C&N has been on a multi-year journey to optimize our organization for the future," said C&N President & CEO Brad Scovill. "Our most recent expansions into York and southeastern PA have created the need to adjust the company's structure and align more closely with our mission of creating value through lifelong relationships. These adjustments will create focus for our team and enable them to further strengthen relationships with our customers and communities."

In pursuit of the company's goal to drive substantial, profitable growth, the changes enhance the company's ability to further its progress in existing regional markets while continuing to look for expansion opportunities. In addition, clarifying and maturing the regional structure will continue to empower those closest

to each market to focus on nurturing relationships and implementing market plans.

Finally, several new positions create professional development and career opportunities. C&N expects to fill open roles with as many current team members as possible by year-

Two of the new positions include a Chief information officer to lead C&N in identifying and implementing the most effective and secure infrastructure, software applications and information systems to support business needs and a chief delivery officer, who will focus on advancing the company's delivery channel strategy to meet current and future customers' needs and expectations. While some positions have yet

to be filled, the current list of newly appointed officers includes: Hal Hoose, chief revenue officer; Kelley Cwiklinski, director of commercial lending; Cassie Brelo, director of retail operations; and Tom Rudy, chief delivery officer and region president for the north and northcentral re-

The list also includes: Blair Rush, region president for the southeast, who will lead the teams based in Chester and Bucks counties; Chris Nardo, southeast region retail executive, who will lead and coordinate the branch network in Chester and Bucks counties; Shelley D'Haene, chief digital channels and payments officer; and Brandy Allen, digital channel coordinator.

Scovill added, "These adjustments place even more emphasis on our client-focused approach by enabling the team to move faster for our customers and bringing our specialists together for improved collaboration. Furthermore, we are poised to connect best-in-class technology and personal, localized service to create value for our customers and communities for many years to come.'

#### Noel lapalucci joins Herald sales team

Noel Iapalucci has joined the Now she is Herald sales team. A seasoned pro in newspaper and media sales, she worked at the Philadelphia Inquirer for 20 years. While at the Inquirer, she was named sales person of the year several

Until recently, she sold sponsorship advertising at the Newtown Athletic Club (NAC).

positioned to expand sales for the Herald and River Towns Magazine in Lower Bucks - Newtown. Yardley, Richboro,



NOEL **IAPALUCCI** 

and Northampton, Middletown and Lower Makefield townships.

She lives with her husband, a teacher in the Trenton School District, in Newtown Township. She has been active with the Newtown Business Association and the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce, two groups in which the Herald is a member and is seeking to become more active.

## **Tohickon Settlement Services grows** despite pandemic measures

serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey's real estate community for over 45 years, has been growing rapidly even as the pandemic forces it and many other companies to revise how they do business.

"Despite the pandemic that's hobbled so many businesses over the past year, Tohickon has been experiencing unprecedented growth," said CEO Brendan Nolan, whose family founded the title services company in 1976. "It's a measure of our ability to adjust and find a path forward that we've had to hire more people to meet the demand more than doubling our workforce

in just two years. "In fact, had the pandemic not forced nearly all employees to work from home, we would have surpassed our capacity here in the spacious new headquarters we es-

Tohickon Settlement Services, tablished in New Hope in March 2019.

> To improve efficiency, during this growth period the 45-year-old family-owned firm added 21 closers, coordinators, conveyancers, title examiners and client services associates; added an affiliate office serving Keller Williams Real Estate's clients at its New Hope and Doylestown locations; has restructured its business model; and is transitioning to new title software.

> "I'm amazed and grateful that our team of talented, dedicated individuals has maintained our signature level of service — seamlessly — from their home offices," said Nolan. "I could not be more proud of them and how smoothly they've handled the past challenging year."

> Besides its exclusive relationships providing title and settlement services to various real estate firms in



BRENDAN NOLAN

the area, Tohickon is the choice of individual buyers, sellers and lenders in Bucks County and adjacent counties. It also oversees five local affiliate offices.

To learn more, contact info@ Tohickon.com or 215-794-0700, or visit online.

Perkasie-based Penn Community Bank announced the hiring of Craig Morrow, senior vice president - team leader, commercial and industrial

Noteworthy

Morrow leads an existing team of commercial bankers in Bucks County, which will also include those focused on the bank's strategic

C&I expansion into Montgomery County and other adjacent markets. With 34 years in financial services, Morrow joins Penn Community Bank after spending the last eight as SVP, commercial banking team

leader at First National Bank of Pennsylvania. Deeply involved in the community, his affiliations have included the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Commerce for Greater Montgomery County, Bucks County Historical Society, Heritage Conservancy, and a trustee of the Boy Scouts of America - Bucks County Council. Morrow holds degrees from Shenandoah University and Allegheny College, as well a certificate from the PA Bankers' Central Atlantic Advanced School of Banking.

American Heritage Credit Union ("American Heritage") has opened

its two newest branches, Market East and Fairless Hills. Both are full-service solution centers for individuals, families and business in the local community, delivering affordable and premiere banking, borrowing, payment solutions, business services, investments, and realty services via the latest technology, safety, and convenience

The opening of the newly constructed Fairless Hills branch at 501 S. Oxford Valley Road replaces American Heritage's location within the

Fairless Hills Shoprite. The new full-service Market East branch is in Center City Philadelphia at 714 Market St., and is American Heritage's second branch in

For information, visit American Heritage Credit Union online.

Gerry Donlon was recently named vice president, director of information technology at QNB's

Towne Bank Center. He is responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the IT Department. His responsibilities include core and item processing, telecommunications, internet and voice banking, operations,

and database management. Donlon has been in banking for seven years, previously serving as assistant vice president, net-

work administrator at QNB. He attended Penn State **DONLON** University for Computer Science and is currently pursuing a degree in business management. Donlon is also a Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert, Watchguard Certified Security Professional,

and VMware Certified Professional. He is a member of the PA Bankers Information Security and Tech-

nology committee.



**SZUHAJ** 

Curtin & Heefner partner Timothy Szuhaj produced, and was a panelist for the recent webinar, "Staffing in the Time of COVID," presented to the franchise owners of the AtWork Group, a national franchisor of staffing services with 75-plus locations in 28 states.

**GERRY** 

Due to the webinar success, an expanded version will be produced for the general public.

Szuhaj is a member of the Staffing, Recruiting and Workforce practice group. Tim counsels his staffing industry clients in all aspects of their business, including counsel regarding growth strategies, mergers and acquisition, intellectual property issues, operational

issues, indemnity and risk management issues, and the structure and content of SaaS, Employment, Phantom Stock, MSA, VMS and PEO

He is a frequent contributor to legal and business publications and lectures across the country on emerging issues affecting the staffing in-

## **Penn Community Bank CEO** named Woman of Influence

Perkasie-based Penn Community Bank President and CEO Jeane M. Vidoni has been named a 2021 Women of Influence – Circle of Excellence honoree by Lehigh Valley Business.

The Circle of Excellence award recognizes women of longstanding, notable success in the community who are leading the way for other women.

"I am honored to be recognized

by one of the area's leading business publications," said Vidoni. "I truly believe in the power of community banking to help businesses and families thrive. Every day I'm proud to lead a dynamic, dedicated team focused on fulfilling Penn Community Bank's longterm mission to act as a catalyst

for growth in every community we serve. "The 2021 Women of Influence honorees are extremely accomplished. They are innovators, cre-

ators and mentors who inspire others with service to their professions and to their commu-nities," said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, group publisher of Le-

high Valley Business. "They mentor pave the way for future

generations of women leaders. Lehigh Valley Business is pleased to honor them.' In her years as head of Penn Community Bank, Vidoni has lead the bank's growth in

becoming the largest in-

nia. Today, the bank Lehigh Valley Business. employs more than 330 people and offers banking, lending, and investment services at 23 bank branches and three



in eastern Pennsylva- of Influence - Circle of Excellence honoree by

administrative centers throughout Bucks and Montgomery counties.

## Woodside Road closure planned in Lower Makefield

The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission is planning to close Woodside Road between Route 32 (River Road) and Taylorsville Road, in Low-

F. Morgenthaler Sr., 83,

passed away peacefully at his home

on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 in

Born and raised in Philadelphia,

Paul attended Malvern Prep and graduated from LaSalle University.

His achievements during his 40-plus-year career as a State Farm

agent in Yardley, Pa., placed him

among the top agents in the history of

the company. That dedication carried over into his involvement in many

civic and professional organizations,

most recently serving as president of

during his life including Doylestown Country Club and the Union League

of Philadelphia. Having briefly attended St. Charles Borromeo Semi-

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He belonged to many social clubs

the Yardley Business Association.

Doylestown.

er Makefield Township, Bucks County, beginning Monday, March 22, for wetlands excavation, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) said.

The closure will be in place weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

through Thursday, April 15. Northbound motorists will be

detoured to Taylorsville Road, Mount Eyre Road and Route 32 (River Road). Southbound motorists will be directed to use Taylorsville Road, Main Street,

Route 332 (Afton Road) and Route 32 (Delaware Avenue) River Road). Local access will be maintained up to the construction zone.

## OBITUARIES

Paul F. Morgenthaler Sr. nary before college, Paul never lost

of his local church.

him. His gentle, kind and generous nature instantly warmed your heart. He enjoyed spending time golfing, traveling and most importantly with

He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Brenda Romano Morgenthaler (Doylestown, Pa.); his children: Kristen Mallon (Charleston, S.C.), Marc Morgenthaler (Philadelphia, Pa.); his grandchildren: Morgen and Devon Mallon (Charleston, S.C.), Quintin Morgenthaler (Newtown, Pa). He was predeceased by his eldest son, Paul Morgenthaler Jr. (Newtown, Pa.).

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., Friday, March, 19, a visitation will be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 235 E. State St., Doylestown, with Mass beginning at 10:15. Interment will follow Mass in Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Paul's name may be made to: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Reed and Steinbach Funeral Home, Doylestown

www.reedandsteinbach.com

#### Louisa S. Murtha

Louisa S. Murtha of Warminster, Pa., passed away Nov. 21, 2020. She was 96 years old. Born in Winchester, Tenn., she was the daughter of the late Thomas and Bertha (nee Montgomery) Embry.

She was the beloved wife of the his faith and was an active member late Kenneth Murtha Sr. and loving mother of Kenneth Jr. (Nancy), Paul was beloved by all who knew Ronald Sr. (Ruth), John and the late Thomas Murtha.

> Also surviving is her sister of Nancy Cohee and grandchildren, Ronald Jr. (Erin) and William Murtha and great-grandson Charles Murtha.

Relatives and friends will be received Friday, March 26, 2021 after 12:30 p.m. until time of her Life Celebration at 1:30 p.m. in the Decker/ Givnish Life Celebration Home, 216 York Road, Warminster, Pa.

Interment Whitemarsh Memorial

Arrangement By Decker/Givnish Life Celebration Home, Warminster

#### Ted H. Snyder Sr.



Ted H. Snyder Sr., 68, of Ottsville, Pa., passed away Friday, March 12, 2021 in his home.

He was born Aug. 14, 1952 in Abington, Pa., a son of the late Raymond and Hilda Fabian Snyder Jr.

Ted was a 1971 graduate of Palisades High School. He was last employed by Penn Color for 33 years, retiring in 2016 and prior to that worked for Siplers Plastic for 10 years.

Ted attended the former Baptist Church in Frenchtown, NJ. He enjoyed being outdoors, hunting, bowling, traveling and especially playing games and spending time with his family. He will be remembered as a caregiver and loving family man.

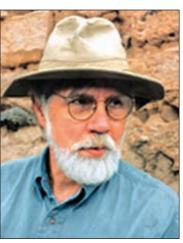
He will be missed by his wife, Diane, of 51 years; his children, Cora Corett (Jordan Holmes), Ted Jr., and Heather Snyder (Doug Roberts); five grandchildren (will be six in April) and three great-grandchildren; his sister, Pat Tscheschlog and sister-in-law, Patty Snyder (Lowell's second wife); many nieces and nephews and sister and brother-inlaws. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Ray Snyder III, Lowell Snyder and his first wife, Rosemary, George Snyder and his brother-in-law, John Tscheschlog.

A celebration of his life will be held in July due to COVID restrictions and will be announced at a later time.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the American Heart Associta-

Arrangements by the Robert W. Snyder Funeral Home, Riegelsville, Pa.

#### **Dennis Conklin**



Dennis Conklin departed this life on March 10 at age 81 at his home in Stockton N.J., with his wife Barbara at

Dennis' childhood in Peekskill, N.Y., was spent reading comic books, swimming in Lake Mahopac, disassembling anything mechanical and watching NY Central's steam-powered locomotives pass through Mahopac. From these years came Dennis' enduring fondness for all things mechanical - locomotives, old cameras, wind-up clocks and auto-

Dennis enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at 17, where he was selected for Chinese language training by Robert Tharp, founder of the Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages, an affiliate of NSA and the U.S. Air Force Security Service. Following IFEL graduation in 1957 and four years of intelligence work in Taiwan for USAFSS, Dennis toured the Far East with his friends. He was particularly fond of old Taipei for its tottering buildings and Dickensian cast

due to need to escape covid

Deadline for Obituary submission - Wednesday, 2 p.m.

Dennis later attended Princeton University's Critical Languages Program and studied at the University of Hawaii, Middlebury College and Columbia University. He was awarded a degree in Oriental studies from Rutgers University in 1968. Between grants, Dennis learned how to keep a VW in running order and obtained a banjo which he played "after a fashion" all his life. He toured swaths of America and Canada with friends in his VW microbus, at speeds occasionally exceeding 45 miles per hour. He was a dedicated photographer and an enthusiastic cartoonist of frogs, his favorite animal. To pay for car parts and cameras, Dennis held a variety of jobs which generated a lifetime of anecdotes - Fish and Game warden in Alaska; personnel manager at E.J. Korvette's in North Brunswick, where he was known affectionately as "Tojo" by locals unfamiliar with far Eastern languages; guide for the Italian news network RAI covering the Vietnam war protests in Washington and N.Y.; caseworker for the NYC Department of Social Services and later, director of legal and medical assistance programs for the city's SRO hotels.

After receiving his law degree from Rutgers-Newark in 1975, Dennis became a staff attorney for the Office of Inmate Legal Services in Rahway Prison. He was a member of the NJ Bar Association's Correctional Reform Committee, focusing on speedy trial legislation. He wrote New Jersey's first Prisoner's Legal Manual, which provided legal analysis and forms for prisoners representing themselves in state and federal court litigation.

Dennis joined the NJ Attorney General's office in 1980 where he became expert in programs administered by the NJ Department of Human Services. As a senior deputy attorney general, he briefed and argued the state and federal cases which established the legal principles and procedures for social service programs that serve millions of New Jersey residents. He was a superb writer and legal advocate. In his private time, Dennis built his own computer, which he used for years, and continued tinkering with cameras and clocks. He acquired more banjos and switched from fixing old VWs to fixing old Volvos. Following retirement in 2007, he built an extensive wood-working shop in his garage and built arts-and-crafts style furniture featuring beautiful joinery and expert-level finishes. He had a sonorous voice and sang bass in the choir at St. Andrew's Church in Lambertville, N.J. His recordings of the choir are on You-Tube. He was a member of the church

Dennis is survived by his wife of 32 years, Barbara, his sister Bonnie Kosakowski of Cleveland, nephew Glen Hlavsa, nieces Jacqueline Kelly Hlavsa-Morales and Dawn Hlavsa-Suk, all of New Jersey, and a dear, honorary nephew, Scott St. Peter of Peekskill N.Y. He was predeceased by his sisters Jacqueline and Irene and his Uncle Francis Conklin and wife, Sally, of Peekskill,

Relatives and friends are invited to attend funeral services on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 1 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 50 York St., Lambertville, NJ 08530. Interment will follow at Rosemont Cemetery, 100 Kingwood-Stockton Road (Rt. 519),

Rosemont, NJ 08556. For the safety and comfort of all, attendees must wear masks and maintain

social distancing. To attend services remotely go to: https://livestream.com/aritonvideolive/

conklin. A memorial gathering will be an-

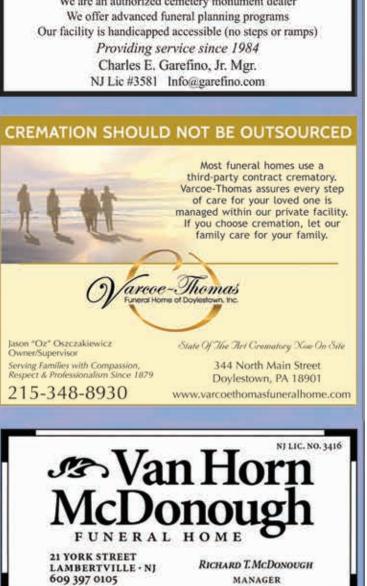
nounced at a later date. Donations in Dennis' memory may

be made to Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, 50 York St., Lambertville NJ (www.Standrewslambertville. org), which desperately needs a new roof, or to the Seashore Trolley Museum, 195 Log Cabin Road, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046 which restores

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

and operates the trolley cars Dennis so



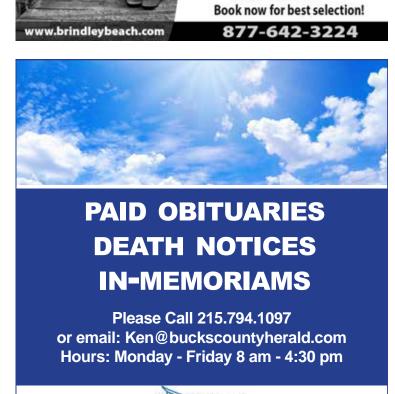


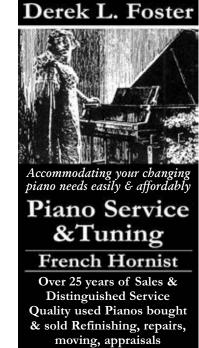
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## On the Spiritual Side

## Newtown Quakers get update on historic Arch Street Meetinghouse

The adult class of Newtown Quaker Meeting will get an update via Zoom on activities of the historic Philadelphia Arch Street Meetinghouse from new Executive Director Sean Connolly at 9:45 a.m. on First Day (Sunday), March 21, via Zoom.

Connolly will discuss how Arch Street Meeting House has weathered the pandemic, the updates and improvements made while the building has been closed, and Meetinghouse programs and activities planned for the future.

Arch Street Meeting House at Fourth and Arch streets in Old City is one of the largest Quaker Meetinghouses in the world.



SEAN CONNOLLY

school students and tourists each year and has been central to Quakerism and key events in American history for over 200 years.

Pennsylvania founder Quaker William Penn deeded land to the Society of Friends in 1701 to be used as a burial ground, though burials had been taking place there since 1683. Among those buried there is James Logan (1674-1751), secretary to William Penn.

Another buried there is Samuel Nicholas (1744-1790), founder and first commandant of the United States Marine Corps. Each November 10, Marines mark his grave with a wreath at dawn, though the Honor Guard leaves its traditional rifles at home out of respect for the Quakers.

The Arch Street Meetinghouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, and declared a National Historic Landmark in 2011.

Connolly's previous work experience includes positions with Pennsbury Manor and Historic Philadelphia Inc.'s Once Upon A Nation program.

#### Philadelphia Archbishop named to Pontifical Commission for Latin America

The Most Rev. Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, has been appointed by Pope Francis to serve as a member of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

The commission, which was established by Pius Pope XII on April 21, 1958, and is currently under the direction of Cardinal Marc Ouellet, is made up of bishops from around the world who have been tasked by Pope Francis with studying the church in Latin America and working to provide it with every possible assistance.

Catholics in these countries often face challenges to their faith life that are unimaginable in the United States, including extreme poverty, intimidation by organized crime, and lack of transportation, Pérez said.

"I express my deep gratitude to Pope Francis for his confidence in my ability to provide counsel and serve the best interests of the faithful in Latin America," he said.

The archbishop added that he looks forward to working with the other members of the commis-







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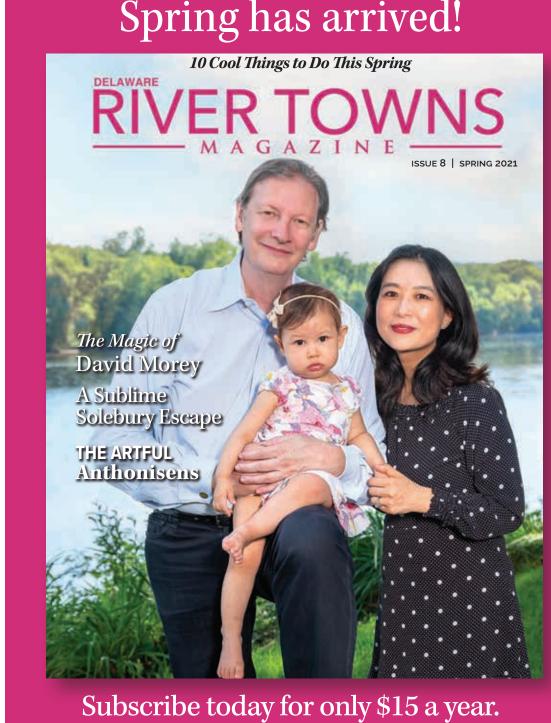
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## New player emerges on Tinicum bridge scene

Continued from page A1

Those residents have long complained of the long delay in restoration of the crossing as causing significant hardship, while threatening their safety as a result of longer response times for emergency vehicles, and say they want any bridge to solve the problem. Other residents have insisted the one-lane structure could be rehabilitated, at onethird the cost of the two-lane proposal, which they have rejected on grounds of historic preservation, environmental protection, and traffic safety.

Gidumal said he had already received extensive consultations on the matter, and added that he had significant experience with facilitating public works projects, such as a major tunnel in Europe.

He was confident he could help establish a one-lane solution to get the crossing back for the community, and supervisors said they would engage him in discussion.

As they have done in recent previous discussions of the matter, supervisors noted PennDOT's position that federal funding would be available only for building a two-lane bridge, per the Federal Highway Administration requirement, and that there was no state funding available in any case.

Gidumal said he did not think that ended one-lane consideration. Supervisors and their solici-

tor also reiterated that PennDOT declined to be responsible for maintenance for any bridge proposal that was not theirs, which Gidumal again stated did not rule out a one-lane option.



The March 16 Tinicum Township Public Board of Supervisors meeting was held in the parking lot in near freezing temperature to accommodate social distancing. Supervisors conducted a discussion on the Headquarters Road bridge closure at Sheep Hole Road.

## Richlandtown mail delivery finally free

Continued from page A1

Richland Township, about 50 percent of borough residents receive free home postal delivery service.

Dunn said the borough's older homes and those in newer developments with cluster mailboxes were the ones to receive free postal service. Those homes outside the parameters did not.

"Our oldest resident, John Kandel, who will be 90 years old this year, said during his entire life his mail has never been delivered to his home," Dunn said.

Another stretch of homes located on a road that becomes Richland Township at the boundary line receives free postal delivery

Dunn said in the past residents with a doctor-certified medical hardship could petition to have their mail delivered for free.

"It was those residents who were for whatever reason, were medically unable to come to the post office and collect their mail,"

Dunn said borough residents who had purchased larger-sized P.O. boxes would also receive them free moving forward.

"It's a new era for residents who will continue to pick up their mail but no longer pay for it," Dunn said.

He credited Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick with successfully navigating the postal administration, helping to get the borough's case heard and positively resolved.

"For nearly two years, our office has worked closely with Mayor Dunn and the United States Postal Service staff advocating for our constituents who were unable to receive home postal delivery in Richlandtown Borough," said Casey-Lee Waldron, a Fitzpatrick spokesperson.

She said the effort and advocacy

on behalf of the borough's underserved residents helped "in finding a solution that best serves our community.

Expanding home delivery to everyone in Richlandtown, a service it's easy to take for granted, is another matter for another day.

"To get home delivery for all would have to be something the next mayor would pursue," Dunn

## New Hope will proceed with parking garage project

Continued from page A1

choice except to pursue litigation to clear this obstacle.

complaint borough's against Union Square and its motion to expedite the court intervention is docketed as Civil Action No. 2021-01265 in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas.

New Hope Council members stress that litigation is not their preferred option. They have spent considerable time and energy over many weeks to resolve differences

with Union Square.

But council has a responsibility to protect the interests of its community, Gering said. Members feel they must act quickly to

prevent the loss of \$1.75 million in state funds for the project.

The legal owner of the Union Square Development property is Union Square Limited Partnership; the borough's Aug. 23, 2000 Conditional Use Approval Letter was issued to George E. Michael and Union Square's

Michael is president and partner of Union Square Complex Inc., the General Partner of Union Square Limited Partnership.

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- 1. Channels included in some premium cable bundles
- 5. Streisand, to pals
- 9. Tube top
- 12. Bounty competitor
- 13. Baroness Karen's pseudonym
- 14. Avocado center?
- 15. Schiff in Congress
- 16. Pacifica Hybrid maker 18 Bloody Mary garnish
- 20. Carrier whose name means
- "to the skies"
- 21. Trumpeter Severinsen
- 22. Venturesome ones
- 25. Filled Italian fare
- 29. Ring for breakfast
- 30. Dam extension?
- 31 Shut down
- 33. "Bambi" character 34. Magna follower
- 37. Laura Lee Hope's Twins
- 40. White-coated weasel
- 42. Progressive, for one
- 43. Eye, in Versailles 44. Deserved
- 48. Type of call
- 51. Moreno of "West Side Story"
- 52. Works at a museum
- 53. Tip
- 54. Budget subj.
- 55. Encouraging word
- 56. Hoop alternative
- 57. It's close to your heart

- 1. Indoor climate-control syst.
- 2. Sit tight
- 3. Like most cameos
- 4. Day of la semaine
- 5. Tandem
- 6. Louisville Slugger material, frequently
- 7. Revealed
- 8. Former NASA space station
- 9. Emerson and Dickinson
- 10. Tennis feat
- 11. Professional drivers usually
- break this
- 17. Lee of dessert fame
- 19. Milne critter
- 23. Lacoste or Lalique
- 24. Emulate Buffy
- 25. Hurtle
- 26. Seaweed substance
- 27. Martini ingredient
- 28. Chopin's "Nocturne \_ \_
- Major"
- 32. Childishly innocent-looking
- 35. Upper deck, e.g.
- 36. Baker, Brookner, and Bryant
- 38. Top usually hidden
- 39. Cooper's product
- 41. Provide a seat for
- 45. Preemie's ward, for short
- 46. Harry's alma mater
- 47. "Aw, heck!"
- 48. Road runner?
- 49. Diorama, at heart
- 50. Home of the Mustangs, in

brief

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#### Puzzle by Linda Dunn of Furlong.

## It's official: Herald has federal approval as a nonprofit

The Bucks County Herald, owned and operated by the Wingert family for the last two decades, is now owned by the Bucks County Herald Foundation, a new nonprofit charity recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a public charity.

Bridget Wingert, editor and founder with her late husband, Joseph T. Wingert, and Joseph G. Wingert, publisher, announced their plans to convert the Herald into a charitable organization last summer, when advertising revenue sharply declined as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In order to become a nonprofit, the Wingert family members elected to donate their ownership of the company to the Bucks County Herald Foundation. "We believe our readers want and deserve a local newspaper," said Bridget Wingert. "As a nonprofit organization, we are securing the future of nonpartisan and tru-

ly local journalism in our community for years to come."

"With more than one in five newspapers shuttering over the past 15 years, many news organizations have successfully embraced nonprofit operating models as a means of survival," said Joe Wingert, who also serves as chairman of the Pennsylva-nia Newsmedia Association. "Now that we can receive public support such as foundation grants and tax-deductible donations, the Herald is positioned to be stronger than ever."

The Bucks County Herald Foundation will be governed by a board of directors chaired by Bridget Wingert. Ann Meredith, who has led several nonprofits in the Philadelphia region, will serve as the foundation's executive director.

Since asking for public support of the free weekly newspaper last March, the Herald has received over 2,000 donations from individuals, businesses and foundations. "The groundswell of public support for our fundraising efforts to date has shown that our community is ready, willing and able to invest the resources necessary for the Herald's long-term survival," said Meredith. "Our future as a nonprofit is already looking very

the Bucks County Herald Foundation made since May 20, 2020, when the Herald first registered as a charitable organization in Pennsylvania, will be tax-deductible. Donations to the Bucks County Herald Foundation's Communi-

All charitable contributions to

ty Journalism Fund can be made online at buckscountyherald.com/ donate, by phone at 215-794-1096 (Monday-Friday) or by mail: P.O. Box 685, Lahaska, PA, 18931.

#### **Bucks health organizations partner to bring COVID-19 vaccine to clinic**

Continued from page A1

Dr. Roussel and the Doylestown Health vaccine team offered to collaborate with the clinic and Christ's Home to vaccinate the uninsured Spanish-speaking community that met the Pennsylvania Department of Health's criteria for vaccination.

There were many details to be worked out: arranging for nurses to administer the vaccine, volunteers to help interpret, laptops for registration of each individual and the required transfer of data to the state after vaccination, in addition to organizing space for administering the vaccine. Weather was also a hurdle: The first vaccine clinic was postponed due to one of February's snowstorms.

Finally, on Feb. 17, a first-dose clinic was set up at Christ's Home. There were six vaccination stations, each with a Spanish interpreter to assist nurses and patients. A total of

187 individuals received their first dose that day, in addition to free "healthy living bags" consisting of a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, weekly pill organizer, bottle of water, mask and fresh fruit. Second doses were administered

on March 10 at Christ's Home. State Sen. Maria Collett was in attendance. A registered nurse, Collett offered to don personal protection equipment and help administer the vaccine. She praised the effort to reach out to the high-risk patients. In addition to COVID vaccinations, The Ann Silverman Com-

munity Health Clinic provides free medical, dental and behavioral health counseling to low-income, uninsured adults and children who live in Bucks County. The pandemic has disrupted many

of lives, leaving families without in-

come to purchase even basic grocer-

help these patients purchase needed food. In the past pandemic year ASCHC has distributed more than \$70,000 in gift cards made possible by funders including the Philadelphia Foundation, Norman Raab Foundation, Haley Foundation and many individual donors in our community. At the March 10 vaccine clinic patients received a \$50 Gift Card for Groceries thanks to the generosity of those grantors, in addition to their

ies. The clinic developed the "Giff

Cards for Groceries Initiative" to

another COVID-19 vaccination clinic on March 18 for Spanish-speaking patients and other minorities of the community. For more information or to become a patient of the Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic, call 215-

second dose. Plans are underway for

## Democrats step in to counter **GOP fracking suit**

Continued from page A1 those rights are not infringed upon," said Santarsiero. "Thanks to the DRBC and the work of environmental advocates, an incredible amount of progress has been made over the years to clean our waterways and create a reliable source of drinking water for millions of people. We have come too far to cede that progress to the damaging

effects of fracking on our environ-

ment and land." "The DRBC was created 60 years ago to manage the river system and protect our water resources, including protecting the watershed from the harmful impacts of fracking," said Sen. Carolyn Comitta (D-19), minority chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "The DRBC exercised its authority, with all four basin states voting to ban fracking. Individual Pennsylvania legislators don't get to

pick and choose when it comes to the compact's decisions. More than a decade ago, DRBC unanimously voted in favor of a moratorium on fracking pending the adoption of new regulations. Since then, the commission has received almost 80,000 public comments, which have been con-

sidered in updated draft rules. "There is mounting evidence from throughout our commonwealth that fracking cannot be conducted safely and, in many cases, permanently and completely contaminates our shared drinking water resources," said Sen. Katie Muth.

Five million Pennsylvanians across 17 counties reside in the basin, which includes Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery, Chester and Philadelphia counties. The Delaware River Basin spans 6,471 square miles in the commonwealth, across 522 municipalities.

"I chose to sign on as an intervenor in this case because I know my constituents and all Pennsylvanians take seriously their constitutional right to clean air and water,' said Sen. Judy Schwank (D-11). "This may be our last stand in attempting to protect the waters of the Delaware River Basin from the environmental hazards created by fracking."
Sen. Maria Collett (D-12) add-

ed, "My constituents and I know firsthand what it's like to have to fight for 'pure water.' ... The argument made by my Republican colleagues that, as trustees of Pennsylvania's national resources under this amendment, they must protect the pecuniary value of such resources over the health and survival of the people and ecosystems dependent on them is not just unconstitutional, it's inhuman.

In a February DRBC meeting the four member states unanimously voted to ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin. During the special meeting, the United States ( Army Corps of Engineers) ab-

support for the result. Environmental groups shared their support for the Democratic senators' intervention in the lawsuit in written statements.

stained from the vote, but indicated

In a statement read during the press conference, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania said, "Thousands of residents and countless elected officials and experts have spoken out in support of banning fracking in the Delaware River

Maya van Rossum, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network said, "The Delaware River is irreplaceably important to our entire region. To allow it to be sacrificed to the fracking industry, to be used to advance the climate crisis, and to be used to help advance an industry that is devastating the health, safety, lives, property values, quality of life and local economies of entire com-

munities is indefensible.' "PennEnvironment Executive Director David Masur said in a written statement. "Fracking shouldn't be allowed anywhere, much less near an iconic natural waterway like the Delaware River, which provides drinking water for millions of Americans. Given that local Pennsylvanians voiced their overwhelming support for protecting the Delaware River from fracking during the public input processes, it's unfortunate that the elected officials who are the plaintiffs in the 'Yaw v. DRBC' case are using the courts to undo the will of local res-

The Democratic Caucus members who have signed onto the lawsuit are Senators Steve Santarsiero (Bucks), Carolyn Comitta (Chester). Amanda Cappelletti (Montgomery, Delaware), Maria Collett (Montgomery, Bucks), Wayne Fontana (Allegheny), Art Haywood (Montgomery, Philadelphia), Vince Hughes (Philadelphia), John Kane (Chester, Delaware), Tim Kearney (Delaware), Katie Muth (Berks, Chester, Montgomery), John Sabatina (Philadelphia), Nikil Saval (Philadelphia), Judy Schwank (Berks), Sharif Street (Philadel-phia), Tina Tartaglione (Phila-delphia), and Anthony Williams (Philadelphia).

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## Arts & Galleries

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## Phillips' Mill Photo Committee hosts online member show

Phillips' Mill Photo Committee announced its first-ever member show will go live on April 3.

For this exhibition, each of the 36 Phillips' Mill Photo Committee members have submitted up to eight fine art photographs for display. It's an opportunity for all to see the body of work these photographers create.

"The talented photographic artists who volunteer

their time every year to produce the prestigious Phillips' Mill Photo Exhibition, our juried photo show, are excited to have this chance to share their personal imagery," said Spencer Saunders, who chairs the



"Awakening."

committee.

Show organizers encourage viewers to sit back and binge-

Let's talk digital

watch the photography. "Each artist has been given the freedom to present a body of work that "Stacking 'em Up!"

represents their vision, which gives us all an unusual opportunity to appreciate the breadth

All photographs at the exhibition are for sale. The show can be viewed at phillipsmillphoto.com.



Lambertville Historical Society's Plein Air Plus will be held this year as a virtual tribute, celebrating last year's plein air artists, who worked so hard to make it such a joyful community gathering and successful fundraiser.

The online tribute is featured on the LHS website atlambertvillehistoricalsociety.org.

LHS hopes the event will provide an opportunity for viewers to support these artists during these difficult times.

On this special Plein Air Tribute web page, LHS will share images and links to short videos of the following artists: Kathleen Zwizanski; Nancy Lloyd; Martha Wikijowski; Cathy Begg; Helene Mazur; Bob Richey; Debra Pisacreta;

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that make it



Art supporters attend Lambertville Historical Society's Plein Air Plus 2020, prior to pandemic shutdowns. This year's event will be virtual.

Green; SiriOm Singh; and Stacey Speer Scott. View the works, enjoy their

videos and feel free to contact the artists for more information and to

Jean Burdick; Al Barker; Aylin

of their creative works," noted

purchase a piece.

LHS is looking ahead with hopes of holding its silent auction in per-

For information, visit lambertvillehistoricalsociety.org.

## **Mural Arts Philadelphia** schedules spring tours

Four walking tours, including three brand new tours, highlight the season for Mural Arts Philadelphia's spring schedule.

West Philly Inspired Mural Arts Walking Tour, New Bella Vistas Mural Arts Walking Tour, and Spring Into the Arts Mural Arts Walking Tour are all new for 2021, and will rotate schedules on Saturday and Sunday afternoons through May 30.

The Mural Mile Center City Walking Tour will run every Saturday and Sunday morning at 11 a.m. through May 30.

Explore the world's largest outdoor art gallery and get to know Philadelphia's mural collection on a borhood streets on foot and get inspired by the public art that makes Philadelphia the Mural Capital of the

Professionally trained guides offer a behind-the-scenes look and share the in-depth stories about the people and communities that inspired and shaped each Mural Arts Philadelphia project. Visitors also learn about the mural-making processes and how the work of the organization has evolved over its nearly 40-year his-

Masks are required for participation in the tour, with a maximum of 10 guests per tour. Tickets must be purchased in advance on the Mural Arts website, muralarts.org/tours.



#### Scrambled! plans opening for Scenes and Dreams

A new exhibition by Joshua Lance is now open at Scrambled! Gallery of Gifts, 39 W. Bridge St., New Hope.

The exhibition in the gallery behind New Hope Arts will run through April 25, with an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday March 20. The reception will feature an opportunity to meet the artist while he paints along the canal just in front of the gallery.

In the show, Lance displays a curated group of paintings from his travels up and down the Delaware River towns. His impressionistic works feature a simple palette of colors that reflect the harmony Lance feels in life.

After living and working in Asia and Europe for years, he returned to his hometown of Lambertville, N.J., to recreate his life there. He considers the bucolic river town of Lambertville to be one of the most

beautiful places on earth. "I feel inspired here to do my part by giving back to the community through my work," he said.

As a street painter, Lance sets up his easel all over the picturesque towns of Lambertville and New Hope to paint on location. He enjoys interacting with curious passersby as he paints.

"I always want to share my art," he said with a smile. "I want to be able to touch people with it."

Lance is excited to be the first featured artist at Scrambled!, a gallery dedicated to spreading joy through





## ENTERTAINMENT

## Bucks Playhouse launches intimate, socially distanced live music series

Bucks County Playhouse celebrates the arrival of spring with the return of live music and the launch of a Spring Music Series for the months of April and May.

The marquee event of the series is the Playhouse debut of jazz artist Wynton Marsalis with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Septet. The world-famous jazz ensemble will present three concerts to benefit the Playhouse, at 3 and 7:30 p.m. April 17 and 2 p.m. April 18.

With ongoing capacity limits mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, these Playhouse performances showcase the JLCO Septet with Wynton Marsalis in a rare small-group configuration.

"Needless to say, we're all ready for a little live music in our lives, and we're delighted to launch our spring season with this series of intimate concerts that celebrate the human spirit ... with all audiences six feet apart," said Alexander Fraser, producing director.

"And the music keeps coming with popular appearances by Thatcher and Sharkey, Hot Club of Philadelphia with Phyllis Chapell, Swearingen & Kelli and the

Jazz musician, trumpeter, composer, bandleader, advocate for the arts, and educator Wynton Marsalis became the first jazz artist to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize in music in April 1997, for his work "Blood on the Fields," which was commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center. In 2012, he was named managing and artistic director of the organization, which he co-founded in 1987.

Tickets to the concerts by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra Septet with Wynton Marsalis are \$250 for preferred seating, and \$750 for VIP seating. Preferred tickets come with a CD. The VIP tickets include priority seating, post-show champagne toast, a signed CD and an intimate talk-back with Marsalis. A portion of all tickets are tax deductible.

The Spring Music Series also features: Craig Thatcher and Cliff Starkey April 1 and 2; The Hot Club of Philadelphia with Phyllis Chapell April 23 and 24; Swearingen & Kelli with "The Music of Simon and Garfunkel," May 1 and 2; and The Zmed Brothers, Zachary and Dylan



Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Septet perform three concerts to benefit the Bucks County Playhouse in April. Tickets are on sale now.

May 7 and 8.

Bucks County Playhouse is offering special series discounts for patrons wishing to attend two or more of the spring concerts events (excluding Wynton Marsalis). For information visit, BucksCountyPlayhouse.org/SpringConcertSeries.

Bucks County Playhouse has developed rigorous safety protocols to protect those working backstage and front-of-house, including virus testing, mask requirements for all those inside the Playhouse, frequent cleaning, Merv 15-rated HVAC filters, and restricted access backstage. A list of protocols can be found on the Playhouse website.

Tickets to these live music events are available at BucksCountyPlayhouse.org or call 215-862-2121.

#### Jean Brenner: Review

## "The Sexton" performed by Town and County Players

On Sunday, March 7, I tuned into a free Zoom production performed by Town & Country Players in

Not a fan of Zoom theater, I was curious to see how it would go.

Performing arts people everywhere have been creatively struggling to find ways to present their talents, whether it be in writing or acting or directing. While some of the Zoom performances have been sadly lacking, this first one by T&C well-exceeded my expectations.

The play was a new one: "The Sexton," one of many original plays which have been submitted by playwrights from all over the country to Town & Country Players for consideration to be performed in their "Signature Series," a special part of their summers begun several years ago.

Since I knew several of the cast to be good actors, I set up my computer and tuned in hopefully, knowing I could stop watching at any time and no one would know.

What a genuine surprise! "The Sexton" was excellent! The story lent itself to being performed on Zoom. It was interesting; the acting was outstanding; the pace was excellent; the story was compelling.

One reason the presentation was so good was that director Alana Caraccio paid attention to every detail. Each character's image on the screen was the same size. Care was taken to keep the volume level of their dialogue about the same, too, which increased consistency.

Sometimes on Zoom, one or more actors' faces look too large in comparison to the others, and often one actor is louder than everyone else, destroying believability.
All of the actors in "The Sexton"

were experienced and excellent. Some of them had never done Zoom shows before, but they carefully transferred their stage talent to the small screen, each performing in his or her own home.

This type of production was a first for Caraccio, although the manner in which she conceived and directed it looked as though she were as experienced at Zoom productions as she is on the live stage.

All of the actors deserve accolades: Playing the leading characters were David Levy, as Wally Boswell, the newly hired sexton or caretaker of the cemetery. He was the good guy, the protagonist.

Opposite him was Suzanne Ardite as cemetery owner Karen Peterson, the nasty, selfish, cheating antago-

Interesting dead people in the cemetery, each with a poignant story

to explain why his or her spirit was still in the grave, were Jean Laustsen, Ken Marblestone, Joseph Perignant and Susan Galli.

They have been unable to move on because of some personal issue, some lingering debt to family or society. Enter Kim O'Byrne, a naturalist and tree-hugger. She understands what is going on and supports Boswell and the spirits.

When Boswell learns that amoral Peterson is trying to sell the cemetery land to a developer and all the remains of those buried there would be moved to another location, he takes on the job of confronting his boss, and is supported by the deceased and a new female friend. Dead people and the sexton oppose the sale, and therein lies the conflict, which every good play must have.

Buyers and brokers were Christopher Serpico, Shaun Williams and Gary Beck. Director Caraccio read stage directions.

No, it is not a comedy, but "The Sexton" is entertaining and interesting. David Rousculp of Ft. Wayne, Ind., is the playwright. A funeral director with an avid interest in theater, he appeared on camera for an interview at the conclusion of the 2 ½ hour show.

Viewers of "The Sexton" made much-appreciated contributions totaling \$800 to T & C. On March 14, "Backyard Fairy-

tale," by Michael John McGoldrick, a playwright from Jersey City, N.J., was presented. March 21: "Cozy Murder," a murder mystery set in a small-town

summer mystery play festival was written by Judy Klass, a professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. March 28: "Miss Woodhouse Presents" is by Kayla Hambek of Minneapolis, Minn. Set in modern day, Miss Woodhouse is the star of

Maine Bed and Breakfast during a

beloved Jane Austen characters. All performances are at 1 p.m. To watch. email tandcplayersonline@ gmail.com.

her own TV show, where she gives

opinions of the love lives of several

To donate, visit townandcountryplayers.org/donate.html#Show.

Overseeing this series of new productions is Victoria Schulteis, T & C vice president of productions.

Jeanbrenner3@gmail.com

#### **Dryden Ensemble celebrates** Bach's birthday with concert

The Dryden Ensemble will celebrate Bach's birthday by streaming its 2020 performance of J.S. Bach's "St. John Passion," beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 21 and then on The program is a streaming of the

recording of the live concert performance on Friday, March 13, 2020 as the world was shutting down. The concert is a rare opportunity to

hear the "St. John Passion" in a rendition Bach might recognize. The St John Passion is a choral work — but the choir Bach had in mind was not what most people think of today. Bach performed the Passion with a

choir of just eight singers, two singers



SCOTT METCALFE

per part, and those eight singers sang all the solo parts as well, including

that of the Evangelist. When a choir like Bach's is used, together with a small orchestra of 18th-century instruments like those he wrote for, the effect is direct



Metcalfe, music director of Blue Heron in Boston. The choir includes eight Baroque singers: sopranos Teresa Wakim and Margot Rood; mezzo-sopranos Kristen Dubenion-Smith and Kim Leeds; tenors Jason McStoots (Evangelist) and Aaron Sheehan; and baritones William Sharp (Jesus) and Brian Ming Chu (Pilate). The orchestra includes current members, past members, and two newcomers.

For details, visit drydenensemble.





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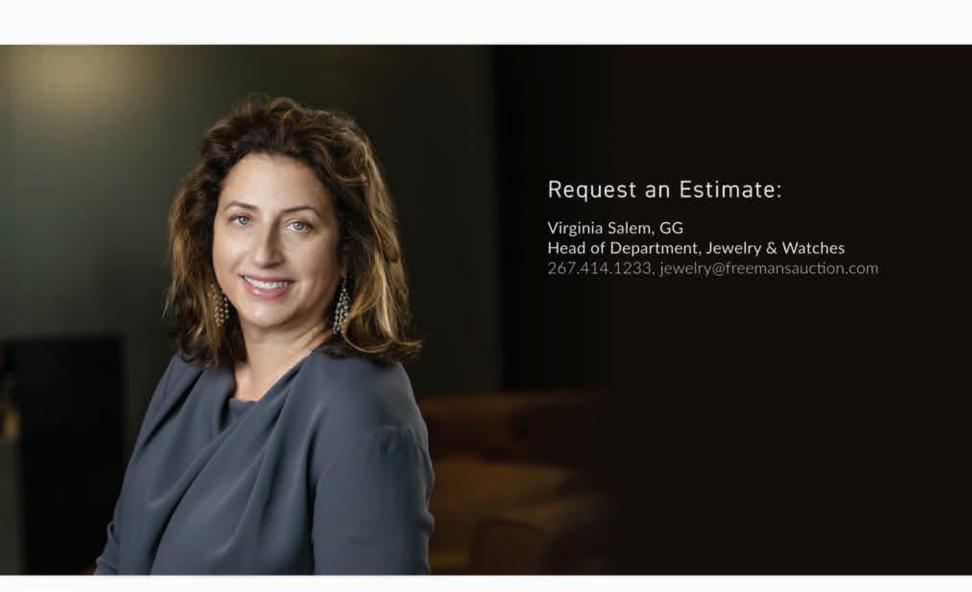
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#### Central Bucks homes prices remained robust in February

The numbers are in for February homes sales in Central Bucks, and like prior months, inventory remains low, making it difficult for buyers and at times, lucrative for sellers. A look at the February data from Bright MLS for New Hope Borough and Solebury Township show there were 13 properties sold, ranging from a \$385,000, 3-bedroom townhouse in Village 2 to a 6400SF, 5-bedroom home with pool in the Rockwood community that closed at \$2,650,000. The median sold price in these communities was \$880,000 (half of all homes sold for more, half sold for less), while the average sold price was \$1,293,300. There was 3.4 months of inventory available; six months of inventory is considered a balanced market between buyers and sellers.

#### Newtown Borough & Upper Makefield

The story is much the same in Newtown Borough and Upper Makefield Township, where 14 homes closed in February, ranging from a brick cape in the borough that sold for \$450,000 to a custom-built, 8,100-square-foot residence in Ely Farm that closed for \$1,962,500. The average and median

sold prices in these communities were \$969,743 and \$903,950, respectively.

#### Doylestown, Plumstead & Tinicum

In a sign of just how low inventory is, a look at the February data for Doylestown Borough, Doylestown Township, Plumstead Township and Tinicum Township show a total of 25 properties closed, bookended by a \$188,000 apartment in Doylestown and an upscale Tinicum Township retreat on 6 acres with custom finishes that closed for \$1,325,500. The average sold price in these communities was \$537,703 while the median clocked in at \$494,000. Notably, there was only 1.7 months of inventory in February in these areas. As of March 15, that had inched up to 2.3 months of inventory.

If you are curious about your home's potential value, or about market specifics for your neighborhood or area, please contact the Kurfiss Sotheby's International Realty Bucks County office at 215-794-3227. The office serves buyers and sellers at all price points.



Submitted by This home in Rockwood was the highest-priced residence sold in February in Solebury Kurfiss Real Estate Township. It was listed by Ally Steffens of Kurfiss Sotheby's International Realty.



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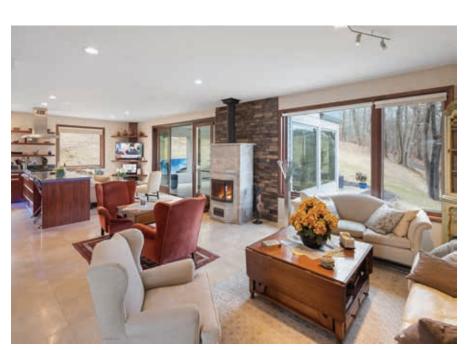




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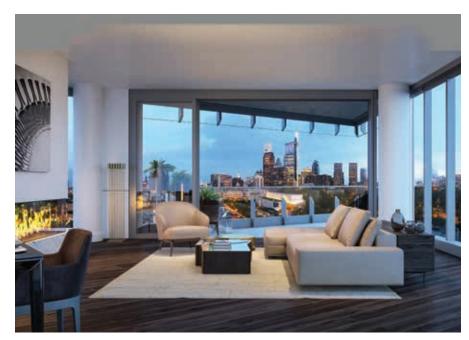


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## Where are my new neighbors coming from? Mobility during a pandemic

Kim Ward Bacso, Owner, River Valley Real Estate Companies

Moving trucks are in the neighborhood, lines form hours before an open house, and new faces fill your child's Zoom class. At River Valley, we've seen first hand, as low interest rates, the need for more space or land, and permanent tele-commuting have created huge buyer demand. The continuing appeal of small cities like Lambertville and New Hope is matched by a new found appreciation for suburbs and rural living. As the owner of River Valley, I am always looking to confirm my subjective opinions with facts and figures, and I came across a very compelling study.

To better understand the COVID-19 impact on U.S. mobility, the National Associ-



KIM WARD BASCO

ation of Realtors collected USPS changeof-address data from March to October 2020. As of Octo-ber, 8.93 million people relocated since the pandemic started. This is an increase of nearly 94,000 people from the previous year. Most of these moves were in the beginning of the pandemic, with 1.23 million moves in the month of March alone. The study also addressed inflow and outflow. NJ had the greatest inflow in the nation, with a net gain of 2,032 resi-dents, with NY and FL being the top suppliers of new residents. PA's inflow followed NJ in a top three spot, which validates what we have seen first hand. Both NJ and PA experi-enced a lot of outflow activity to FL . . . and that was before the strong winter weather!

Another interesting application of this study was to learn about potential long-term popu-lation shifts. Many states with a declining population size in 2019 experienced the highest inflow migration. For instance, NJ reversed its 2019 3% population decline by its pandem-ic gains.

This data is especially relative to our area of the country, where we were already seeing significant movement, primarily from Hunterdon and Mercer Counties to Bucks County. I'll be watching the data closely to better understand short- and long-term patterns, and ap-plying this information to our seller and buyer's objectives.

At River Valley, we are uniquely positioned to take advantage of this increased mobility, with offices on both sides of the Delaware. If you are planning a move in the near future, I invite you to reach out to Broker/Owner Kim Ward Bacso to discuss the market and how River Valley might become a part of your next move. Call me at the New Hope office, 215-321-3228 or Lambertville, 609-397-3007.

## Sotheby's International Realty achieves record \$150 billion in global sales volume as 2020 changes definition of home markets

NEW YORK, N.Y. (February 25, 2021) - Sotheby's International Realty is pleased to announce that its affiliated brokers and independent sales professionals, represented in the Bucks County market by Kurfiss Sotheby's International Realty, achieved a record \$150 billion in 2020 global sales volume, a nearly 32% increase in sales growth year over year, as the definition of home changed for consumers around the world. Due to a longstanding commitment to innovation, Sotheby's International Realty agents were able to seamlessly help clients navigate the changing market dynamics brought on by the global pandemic with existing technology offerings which propelled business momentum.

"Agents affiliated with Sotheby's International Realty quickly pivoted to address the impact of the global pandemic," said Philip White, president and CEO of Sotheby's International Realty. "Thanks to innovations we pioneered nearly a decade ago, our affiliated companies and agents made the impossible possible. Their adaptability to serve clients safely further extended our position as a leader in luxury real estate." Long-Standing Commitment to Virtual Technology Paved Way for Success

Sotheby's International Realty continued to lead the industry and was well-positioned to meet the needs of consumers as the buying and selling process became increasingly virtual. Sotheby's International Realty agents accelerated the use of the brand's existing video, virtual reality, and live-streaming technology to produce new forms of content that engaged buyers and set a new standard for marketing luxury properties. Currently, buyers can safely tour more than 6,000 properties via virtual reality or video on sothebysrealty.com. Property videos also proved engaging on social media where the brand's YouTube channel delivered 43 million views, or the equivalent of more than one million hours watched.

To view the complete report on 2020 results for Sotheby's International Realty, please visit http://www.kurfiss.com/blog.



One among many: The 2020 sale of this 13+ acre Solebury Township property for more than \$3,500,000 helped Sotheby's International Realty achieve a record in sales Submitted by volume. It was listed and sold by Dan Leuzzi and Beth Danese of Kurfiss Sotheby's Kurfiss Real Estate International Realty.

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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** 

any situation, and his solid real estate

knowledge make him one of the best

agents in our area. Clients love him and he's well respected by his peers."

As it turns out, their decision to

Chairman's Circle Gold award in both

top 2% of more than 45,000 Berkshire

2019 and 2020, placing them in the

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doubles the sales of any other local

brokerage, that's saying something.

"We're just lucky to live in such a

that Berkshire Hathaway Home

team up was a good one. In 2018, Fran and John received the President's

Circle award for real estate sales,

and they received the prestigious

#### They met as agent and client, then formed an award-winning team



Buying or selling a house is a big deal, so when John Clement decided to start looking for a new home in Bucks County, he knew one of the most important decisions he and his partner faced was picking the right real estate agent to help guide them. "At the time, I was working primarily as a writer," says John. "Although I'd been involved in real estate and property management for more than a decade, so I'd dealt with lots of real estate agents. The minute we met Fran, I knew she was different."

Frances McNinch started her real estate career after being a stay-at-home mom for about eleven years, all the while working with local charities, raising two children, and tending to her aging parents. Prior to that she had worked in clinical research, which left her well-prepared for a successful career in real estate. "There are so many moving parts," Fran says. "I think a lot of people don't realize how complicated buying or selling a house can get. With clinical research, every detail is hugely important, no matter how big or small. It's the same with real estate. You have to watch every

facet of the transaction like a hawk. If you do that, things go smoothly.'

Fran is consistently included in Philadelphia Magazine's annual list of 5-Star agents and has won numerous sales awards, including the 2013 Honor Society Award, the 2014 Sales Performance Award, the 2015 Leading Edge Award, the 2016 Honor Society Award, and the 2017 Leading Edge Award. But it was all the rave reviews from her clients that made the biggest impression on John. "Everybody talked about what a complete professional she was," he says. "And that turned out to be true. She helped us find our new house, which we totally love, and she had our

original house sold in a matter of weeks." After that, they kept in touch. Fran would enlist John's help with writing home descriptions or advertising copy, and John would refer friends who wanted to move to the area. Eventually, at Fran's encouragement,

John earned his real estate license and they formed a professional team of two. "I couldn't have asked for a better

partner," Fran says. "John's intuition

and personality, his ability to handle

beautiful area," says Fran. "Whether it's in Pennsylvania or New Jersey, we get to meet so many amazing people and help them find the house of their dreams or sell their current house. I know it sounds corny, but that's really the biggest reward."

Submitted by Berkshire Hathaway Fox & Roach - New Hope

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Now is the ideal time to put 34 years of experience to work for you. Steve Walny, licensed REALTOR with Weidel Real Estate, can be reached directly at 215-862-7207 or 215-348-5600.

Submitted byFiresideForSale.com



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Revi Haviv 845.492.1315

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Stephanie Schade 215.534.3381







HESSIAN WATERS

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Sitting on over I acre, this home full of history, charm and character. Historically a steam saw mill in the 1800, this home borders the Delaware Canal Towpath. The ultimate "work from home" dream house awaits you! Bert Reczenske 609.462.8338 or Daniela DeLuca 267.614.4345

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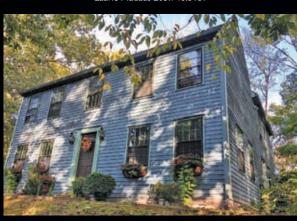
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Custom built 7,000 plus square foot home sited on 5.08 hilltop acres. This sprawling estate boasts 5+ bedrooms, five full baths and one half bath. Four wood burning fireplaces are strategically arranged throughout the home. Laurie Madaus 203.948.5157

Sited majestically, 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.

Custom Zaveta home on 4 acres in Solebury. This home features 6 beds, 6 baths, home theater, wine room and an in-law suite. Extensive hardscape, pool w/travertine decking, and fire pit. Easy access to New Jersey, NYC and Philadelphia. Evan Walton 215.327.4709 or Christa Conte 215.962.5971







**NEW HOPE HILLS** 

**INDIAN HILLS** 

Come see this Classic Bucks County Colonial. Simple and pure with great bones, this 7 room home with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths offers privacy down a long lane with 4.3 acres surrounded by acres of preserved land.

Donna Lacey 215.534.9143

Sited between River Road and Cafferty Road, in Point Pleasant, PA., is a pastoral 56 acre parcel waiting for your dream home. Here is a rare opportunity to acquire an even rarer parcel of land that is 20 minutes from New Hope and 1.2 hours from N.Y.C.

Victorian c.a. 1850 Lambertville End unit Townhouse in the heart of it all. On a quiet street with off street parking for 2 cars, possibly 4, this spacious Victorian could be your weekend retreat or your next full time home. Lambertville, NJ.

For additional information or a private tour, contact us at 215.862.5500 550 Union Square, New Hope, PA 18938