



KRISTIN MOORE

## Distance picnics ahead

Last summer, Joe Montone, the Rev. Daniel Moore and his wife, Kristin, found a way to bring people together. In the photo, Hay Sugar performs at the first Distance Picnic, last July. This year, Montone and the Moores plan to build on their successes with more Distance Picnic concerts, beginning in May. Sponsors are wanted, and vendors are invited to apply for space, both at [distancepicnic.com](http://distancepicnic.com). Story on page C7

## Lambertville votes to buy Closson property

*\$3.77 million bond is proposed; vote April 22*

Siobhan Donaldson

Lambertville, N.J., City Council voted 4 to 1 to move forward in purchasing the Closson family property after a robust debate and emotional public comment on March 25.

The council passed the first reading of a \$3.77 million bond ordinance to purchase the property, including the Homestead Market and the Holcombe House on Route 29. The next and final reading, including a final vote on the bond, is April 22.

Residents gave overwhelming support to purchase the Closson property during the city council Zoom call – including Haley Ubel, a young Lambertville resident who asked the council to protect the hill she and her friends sled down every year.

The 9-acre property has been the center of controversy in Lambertville since the Closson family placed it for sale in 2020. Lambertville residents have used the area recreationally for generations, and the property is considered one of the few open spaces in the city.

However, the bond amount led to a heated discussion between Councilwoman Benedetta Lambert and Mayor Julia Fahl on the purchase's economic impact on Lambertville.

"What I am asking the council to do, makes me a hypocrite," Mayor Fahl said.

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## Doylestown mayor weighs in on Tile Works decision

Freda R. Savana

In a "letter to the community" posted on social media Tuesday, Doylestown Borough Mayor Ron Strouse stressed the need for Bucks County officials to plan carefully as it considers partnering with a new non-profit to continue the mission of the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works.

"We appreciate the needs of the county to work with a partner and find a way forward that is much less costly to the county," the mayor said. "At the same time, future con-

servation and operation of the Tile Works requires a great deal of planning."

Strouse said, the Bucks County Historical Society should be a part of the historic landmark's long-term future. "They have the history of breathing life into historic institutions, and making them appealing and attractive, and destinations for today's residents and visitors alike."

News that The Tileworks of Bucks County, a nonprofit formed to continue and advance the mission of the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works, is preparing to enter into a

licensing agreement with Bucks County has spurred controversy among some. The county's board of commissioners is scheduled to consider the proposed agreement at its April 7 meeting.

In a recent letter to Commissioner Bob Harvie, the Bucks County Historical Society said it's "vigorously opposed to the proposed plan."

Saying the Tile Works is a "highly significant historical property," the historical society said it's "deeply concerned that the

Continued on page C6

## Borough seeks architects' qualifications for parking garage project

Bridget Wingert

New Hope Borough is forging ahead with plans to address parking, a problem for many years and growing.

Over the past 10 years, projects have been completed with approvals that did not require that their needs for parking would be met completely on their premises and visitor traffic has increased. The result is a parking nightmare.

Now New Hope is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for companies that can provide architectural and engineering design capacity to guide the borough's construction of a new parking garage.

The council has inherited some large developments, including the Riverhouse at Odette's, which was approved conditionally 12 years ago, the Logan Inn expansion on South Main Street, the Bucks County Playhouse and Playhouse Deck development, the Ghostlight Inn, and Stella's.

The garage is a response to unanticipated long-term consequences of past development decisions that were made during periods of limited local economic growth. The cumulative impacts of projects approved in the past have generated traffic snarls with visitors cruising in search of parking and major developers in need of stable off-site locations for valet parking.

"These businesses have opened their doors and need convenient and reliable off-site parking for them to survive, let

Continued on page C7

## Nockamixon greenlights Durham Road Dollar Store

Supervisors unanimously grant preliminary and final approval

Cliff Lebowitz

Following a thorough review by their township planning commission and engineer, and subsequent discussion at their March 18 public meeting, Nockamixon Township supervisors unanimously granted preliminary/final approval, and a zoning waiver request, for a new Dollar General store in Ottsville, on Durham Road (Route

412), across from St. John's Church's Regina Academy.

In addition to the supervisors, their engineer and solicitor, and the developer's representative, the March 18 discussion also included a resident who lives near the site; the township's environmental advisory committee (EAC) chair; and the fire chief for the Ottsville Volunteer Fire Company.

Unlike most Dollar General stores, and

thereby adding considerably to its cost, the new 9,100-square-foot, pre-engineered steel building with steel roof, is to have a "peak" roof, in keeping architecturally with the new 11,000-square-foot Kimberton supermarket to the east of the academy, as well as decorative windows.

Relevant regulations include on-site water through a well permit from the county,

Continued on page C7

## Doylestown Borough will reopen streets for dining

Freda R. Savana

When Doylestown Borough closed some of its downtown streets to allow room for outdoor dining and shopping on certain weekends during the COVID-19 pandemic, the public

and businesses loved it.

Now, as many pandemic-related restrictions are being lifted, the town is bringing the so-called pedestrian zones back, the borough announced this week.

Beginning the weekend after Easter, most

weekends through Labor Day will see rotating street closures for designated times, said John Davis, Doylestown's manager.

The closures will rotate between East State and West State streets, and Main Streets. North and South Main will be consolidated into a single, two-block zone. The zones may continue beyond Labor Day, although that decision hasn't yet been made. There will be no pedestrian zones on certain weekends, such as during the annual car show and Memorial Day.

Masking, social distancing and compliance with all CDC and Pennsylvania COVID protocol will be "strictly required." Alcohol can only be used when dining. Borough permission is required for any proposed outdoor entertainment, officials said, anticipating the warm season.

## Gift shop faces criticism, then it gains support

Freda R. Savana

Donna Gouldey never imagined she would create so much controversy when she posted on social media that she was offering a 10% discount at her Doylestown gift shop for those who had received a COVID-19 vaccine.

But, after a few days, the offer, Gouldey

said, sparked hundreds to "start attacking" her with derisive comments. "It was reposted on an anti-mask, anti-vaccine site and that's when I started getting flooded with hateful comments," said Gouldey, who owns Allora Gifts and Home Décor on West State Street.

"Internet warriors told people not to shop

Continued on page C6

### Judge grants intervention in DRBC fracking suit

State Sen. Steve Santarsiero (D-10) announced last week that Democratic senators' motion to intervene in *Yaw v. Delaware River Basin Commission* was granted by the judge on March 19. The move is to preserve the authority of the Delaware River Basin Commission.

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### Jazz great Deppenschmidt dies at Doylestown home

William Henry Deppenschmidt III, the jazz drummer and teacher, passed away peacefully March 20, in Doylestown. Known as Buddy, he was an influential musician who helped change the course of jazz history by sparking the bossa nova craze here and abroad.

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# Communication and Behaviors Associated with Dementia

*Presented by Amy Matthews, Dementia Consultant*



Perhaps some of the greatest challenges for care partners are communication and behavioral changes that can be associated with Alzheimer's disease and related

dementia disorders. This program will help participants understand how disease progression can affect communication and ways to identify and interpret behaviors. We will also provide tools to help minimize and even eliminate challenging behaviors.

*Please Register By Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>*

**Join us for a FREE Educational Webinar**

**Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**To Register**

**267-393-4040**

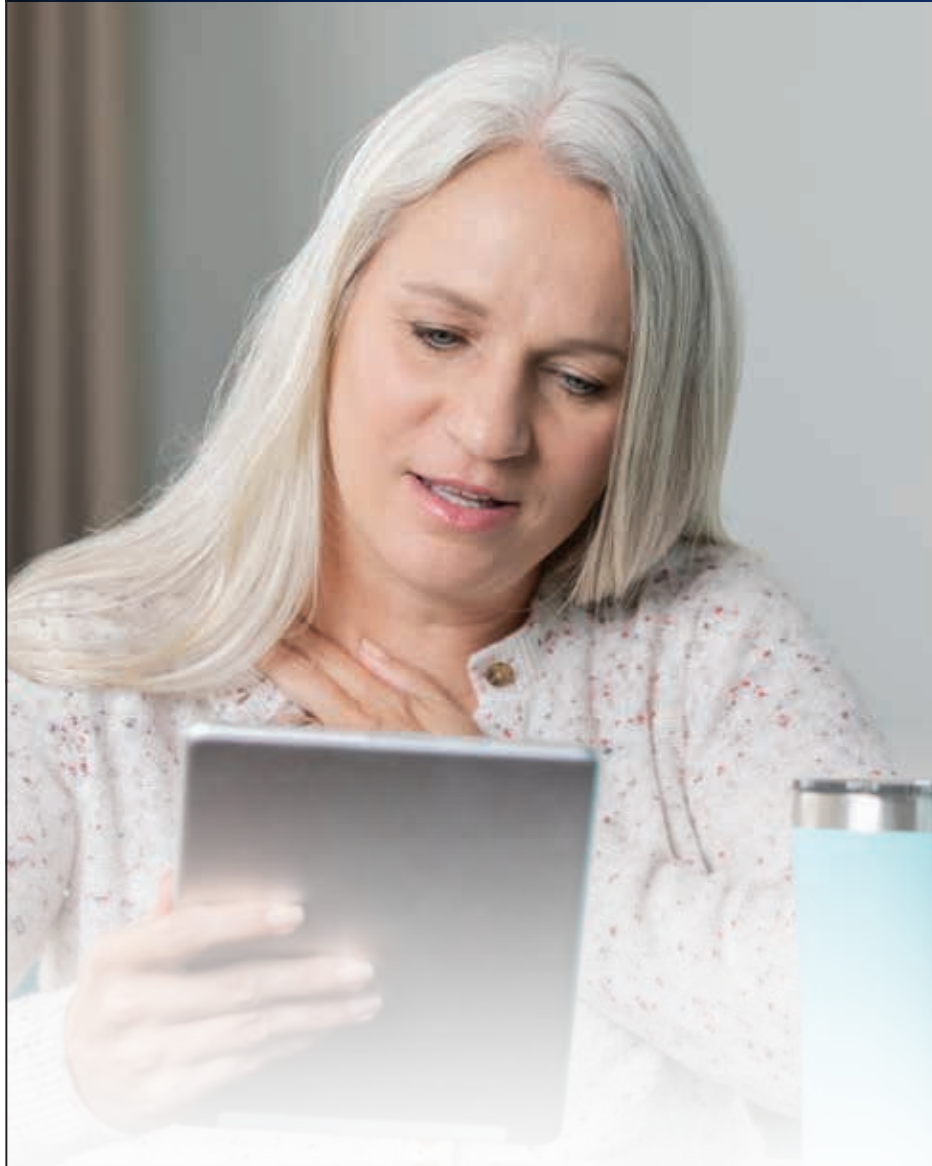
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# Virtual Dementia Support Group

If someone you care about has Alzheimer's or another related dementia, we invite you to visit our monthly support group. Here you'll find understanding conversation, shared experiences and important education. We welcome you to join us the first Thursday of every month for this valuable opportunity to share and learn with other families and caregivers.

**Join us for this FREE  
Virtual Support Group**

**Every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday  
of the Month**

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**To Register**

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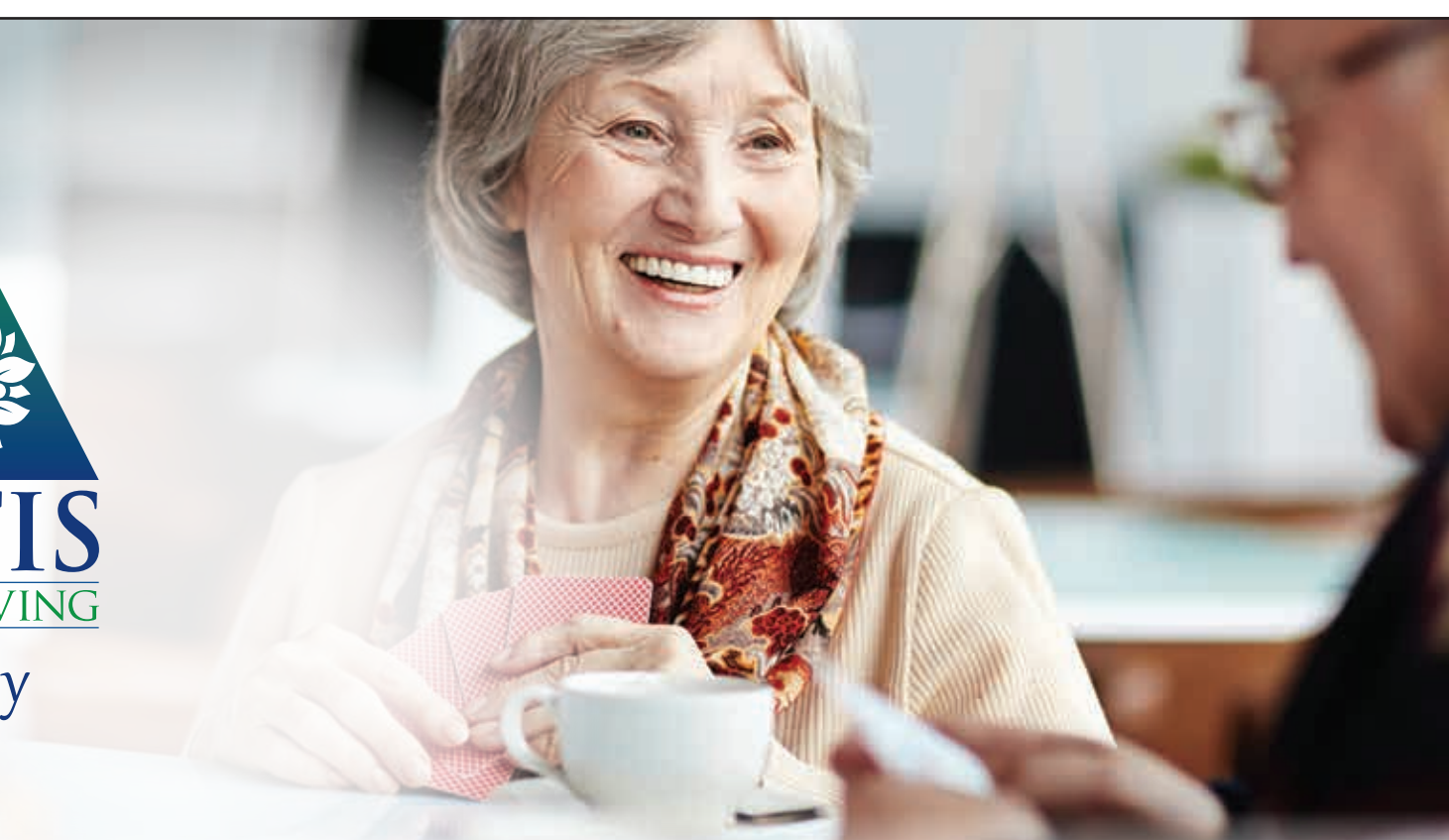
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## A Need for Engagement, A Need for Peace of Mind, Now Is the Time

With much recent focus on the impact that COVID-19 has had on seniors and their caregivers at home, it's important to think about how this is affecting your loved one as well as yourself. As the coronavirus has changed many parts of our day-to-day lives, everyone has been forced to adjust and those adjustments have not been easy. Caregiving for a loved one is already a full-time job before adding on the expectation that you have to understand and prepare for an infectious disease.

Through our support programs, we've found that many people are finding that this level of care has proven to be more than they are able to provide, but many are also hesitant to move a loved one to a memory care community over safety concerns during COVID-19. While moving into memory care during a global pandemic could be perceived as a challenging decision, we believe now could be the smartest time to make that move.

As you consider whether now is the right time for you and your loved one, think about what the upcoming months may bring, and the many things that memory care can offer you and your loved one.

**Safety**—This is the first thing we are all thinking about when considering a move for a loved one. At Artis, we have spent countless hours developing strict safety protocols

with staff members that are trained to follow best practices to prevent community spread of COVID-19. They are being screened before each shift for symptoms of the virus and are obligated to not come to work when they're sick. In addition, through our renowned partnership with physicians from John Hopkins, we have access to hospital-level infection control experts who are part of our Artis Safety Council which continually reviews and optimizes these practices, giving us insight to the most up-to-date COVID-19 research and information.

**Safe Socialization and Engagement**—Many seniors living at home have become more isolated as a result of precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Day programs have been closed, activities are no longer available, and the idea of taking your loved one into public causes considerable anxiety. This is leaving those with dementia feeling isolated in their own homes and caregivers are experiencing frustrations at an all-time high. At Artis, we've spent a great deal of time planning and implementing safe opportunities for engagement, continued learning, entertainment and the ability for our residents to move about with confidence. We know that those with cognitive impairments must be engaged, so we spend every day making sure we can offer our residents opportunities to thrive.

**Health Care Services On Site**—We know your loved one needs ongoing care but taking them to appointments right now can be tricky. Artis offers access to medical care on-site for primary care, medication management, prescription refills and even specialty services like physical therapy. We have outdoor spaces where residents can enjoy the sunshine and fresh air without risking exposure. Providing these services within our communities provides an extra layer of protection during a pandemic.

**Quality of Life and Peace of Mind**—If you are caring for a loved one with dementia, the relationship you once shared is likely strained. You've gone from being their spouse, child or sibling, to now being the nurse, chef, entertainer, maintenance, housekeeper and so much more. Now more than ever, caregivers are stretched to their mental limits, feeling exhausted and unsupported. Families who have made the transition to Artis amid the pandemic, say they wish they had made the decision sooner when they see their loved ones thriving in our community. Whether it be via video calls, window visits or outdoor porch visits the opportunity to just be the husband, or daughter, or sibling again is an amazing feeling. Find the quality of life you both deserve.

### Hear what some of our residents' family members had to say:

*"Thanks for keeping our loved ones safe during this pandemic. Special thanks for helping me stay in touch with my grandma through FaceTime! It's been so special to be able to connect with her in the only way possible right now. Our elders are so vulnerable and isolated and it's really nice to know you are doing what you can to keep them safe, healthy and loved."*

*"The staff is very caring. They have done a truly great job during the COVID-19 epidemic. They think of innovative ways for you to keep in touch with your loved ones during this difficult time."*

### For More Information

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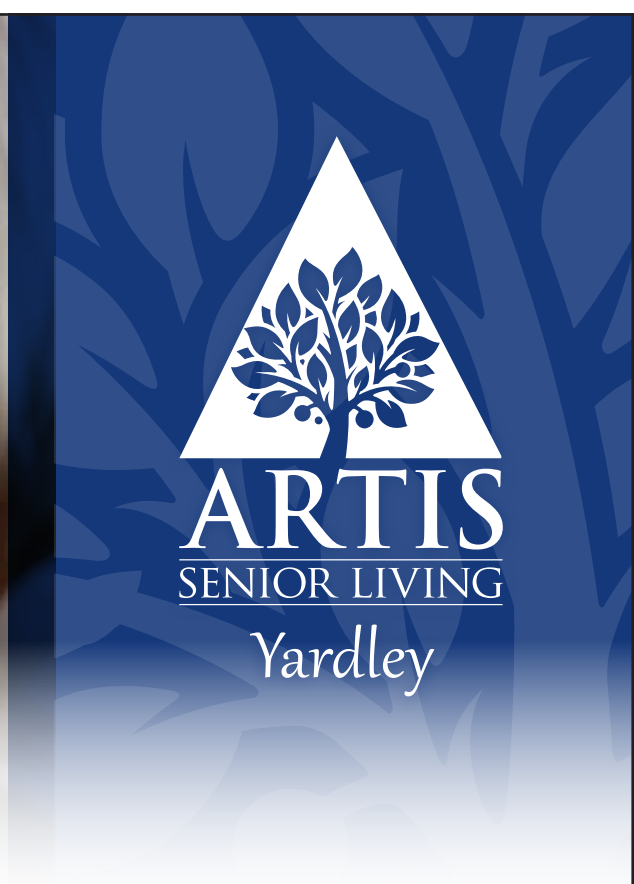
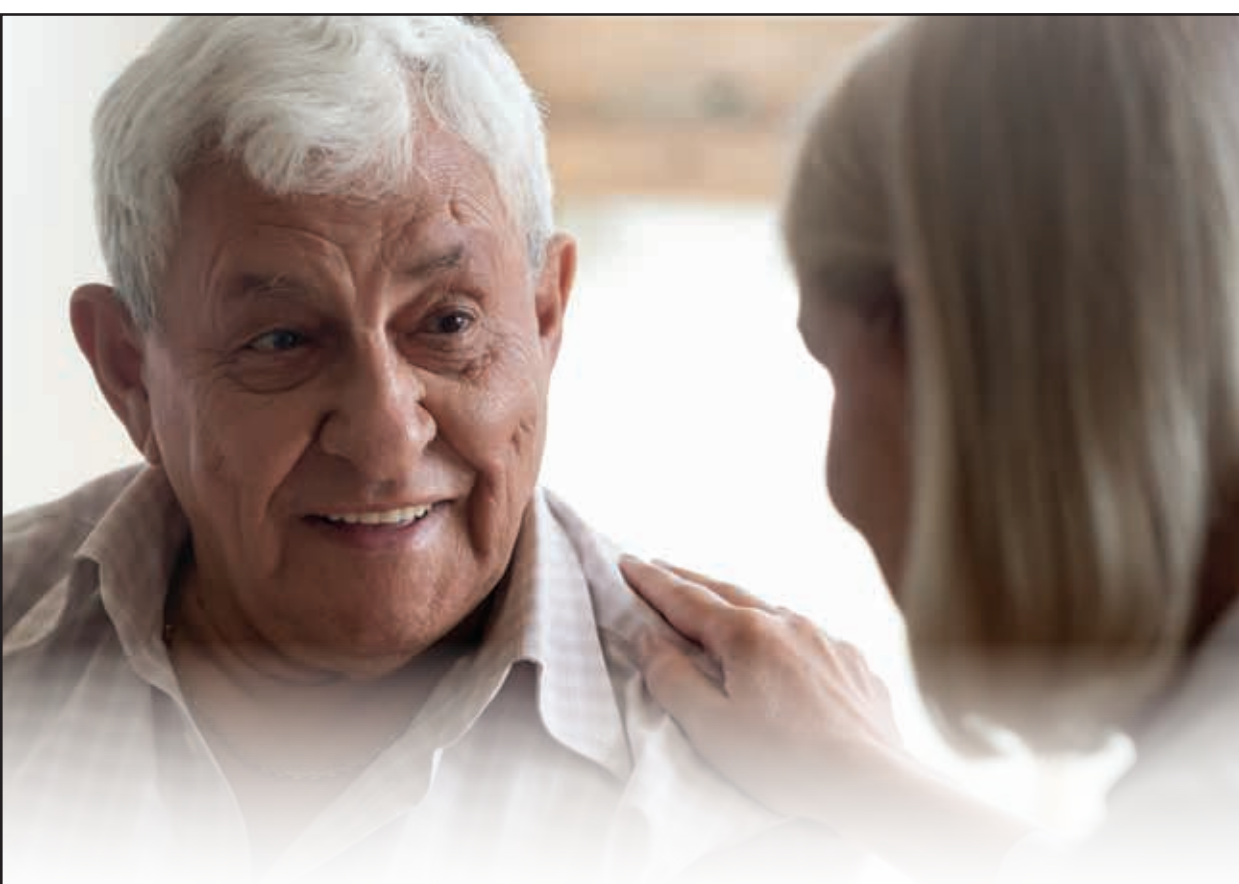
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# The Words We Use

*Presented by Susan I. Wranik, MS, MA, CCC-SLP; Susan is a national speaker, author, linguist and medical professional who is passionate about communication, quality of life and giving a voice to others.*

How we talk about things can change the way we act and react to the world around us. This can also have a profound effect on our health. Words count—and if we're going to change the way we cope and carry on, we must start with the words we use.

Learn more about:

- Attitude and how it affects your health
- Positivity as a life force
- Socialization and brain function
- Coping and creating with cognitive shift during confinement
- Reframing thoughts

This interactive program will offer exercises to help you change your words—and your world!

*Please Register By Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>*



## Join us for this **FREE** Educational Webinar

**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### To Register

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# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ryoung@buckscountyherald.com

## New Hope GIANT employee honored

The GIANT Company celebrated the achievements of its team members at its annual business meeting held virtually last week.

Twelve awards were presented recognizing the recipients' commitment to the company and their efforts to connect families for a better future.

Nicole Garafola, GIANT Direct lead at the New Hope GIANT, was named Retail Team Member of the Year. The award is given to a team member who consistently provides outstanding customer service, is always willing to support fellow team members and lives by the company's values.



**MORGAN Q. BRYAN**



**RACHAEL NEFF**

ment coordinator for the Travis Manion Foundation. She earned a Master of Science in nonprofit leadership from the University of Pennsylvania and was a Summer Youth Corps participant in 2016. Foundations Community Partnership's Summer Youth Corps is a service learning internship that blends student work at nonprofit human service agencies with community service and academic study.

Rachael serves as the human services director for the County of Bucks. She was formerly the director of special court programs in the State of Delaware Family Court, and she previously served as director of quality improvement and compliance at the Mental Health Association of Pennsylvania. She earned her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Pennsylvania and is a licensed social worker in Pennsylvania.

## New board members join Foundations Community Partnership

Foundations Community Partnership (FCP), a philanthropic grant-making foundation supporting the behavioral health and human service needs of children and young adults in Bucks County, has welcomed Morgan Q. Bryan and Rachael Neff as new board members. Their terms run through 2023.

Morgan serves as the develop-



## Aqua Pennsylvania donates to Parkland Fire Department

Aqua Pennsylvania recently donated \$2,000 to the Parkland Fire Department. Aqua Pennsylvania's Neshaminy water treatment plant is located in Middletown Township, Bucks County, and is served by the Parkland Fire Department. From left are: Aqua Pennsylvania Field Supervisor John Sperone, Parkland Fire Department President James McFadden and Aqua Pennsylvania Area Director Terry Roman.

## Camille Granito Mancuso: Chatterbox Staying on topic, not on top

It seems to me that news "reporters" in television, delivering news accompanied by a soliloquy of personal opinion and interpretation is a fairly new development. It came along with television networks actually owned by a person, people, or groups of people who take license because they can.

When I was a kid, news was what happened – as best as we could tell from the evidence and witnesses – not anyone's interpretation thereof. Though, most likely, nothing was ever completely pure, its delivery certainly was less discretionary than much of today's private stations' news compilations, sound bites and edits.

At Chatterbox, we've talked before about pundits expounding on what we heard – delivering the news as they see it. We've talked about too many show hosts clipping interviews to fit the network's views (no prejudice here; it goes both ways) and all those shows following up speeches and debates with translations for us. It's not that they think we don't know what we heard, but that they want to replace it with their spin on what we heard.

Recently, one news anchor asked

her guest a question, but she didn't get the answer she was anticipating; it didn't fit the station's profile, and it certainly wouldn't square with her base. In very short order, he was dismissed by her and technology. As all hosts do, even on the radio, she got the last word; the guest got disconnected.

Not only was their difference of opinion an unfair fight, but the topic was completely irrelevant at this time. We've talked before about truly valuable air time wasted on too much talk and opinion without enough substance and fact. Air time is often dedicated to topics that may be of great value to historians. Right now, however, they're far less urgent when compared to addressing any critical conditions at hand, and far more irrelevant than deciding who's responsible for them. Blame doesn't merit current air time; solution does.

It's important for us to decide what bears repetition and what doesn't, and we should know nothing is as important as finding resolution. After any crisis at hand is resolved and all the data is in, it will become part of history and deliberated as repetitively as desired.

The host and her guest argued over numbers of border detainees, dates, administrations, details of refugee detention conditions, who was really responsible for the horror, who addressed it, who ignored, who exacerbated it. The hostess even brought up the size of detention cages and who ordered them.

Blame can be left until the suffering has been resolved. Resolution is what we need to be advocating right now. The history of their disaster is irrelevant to all the refugees who sought asylum and found imprisonment, as well as to almost all Americans. Mediating the situation quickly and fairly is what matters. That is, indeed, what we should be investing our airtime in and putting our energy into right now.

When these horrors are all resolved, we can and should discuss it finitely, punish the guilty, and offer what little recompense we can to the victims. Time, itself, will bring full disclosure and assign all parties their march to glory or infamy; it always does. The historical fallout will be permanently attached to the appropriate names forever. Only then can we complete this hellacious chapter.

Right now, however, we can't waste valuable energy and air time to accuse, defend or judge anyone or anyone's past action or inaction. Rewinding to examine what went wrong and who called the shot is a vain attempt to commandeer that historical judgment, as well as a theatrical distraction from the real elephants in the room.

Voltaire said, "History is the lie commonly agreed upon." That agreement will take time, great discussion, massage, and compromise. Right now, let's work on solutions, not accusations. While so many are suffering in stagnant misery, no one should be spinning influential wheels, and a show hosts' focus should not be their career investment, and nothing should distract any of us from the red tape, inefficiency, and corruption that is power in politics.

We should demand better of those seeking fame and fortune while feigning their roles as reporters or analysts. Anyone of conscience with any kind of reach, influence, or visibility should be focusing on the greatest and swiftest good for those in the most dire need thereof, whether at the border or at their job.

No more divisive talk. Action. Sanctuary ... something American.

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### 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 for sale.

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 you 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 ones.

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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### How to reach editorial staff

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**Bridget Wingert, Editor, x101**  
bridget@buckscountyherald.com  
Government, Opinion and Editorial, Real Estate, Food, Photo Features

**Regina Young, News Editor, x103**  
ryoung@buckscountyherald.com  
Sports, Education, Health and Beauty, Pets, People in the News

**Jodi Spiegel Arthur, News Editor, x104**  
jarthur@buckscountyherald.com  
Events and Entertainment, Galleries, Religious News, Business

**Obituaries**  
obits@buckscountyherald.com

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# A NEW VISION FOR THE HERALD



We thank the following Friends of the Herald for their generous donations to our Community Journalism Fund this week:

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| Vicki Berryman & David C. Palmer, Doylestown | Gail Keim, Newtown                          |
| Shirley & Jack Blumenstock, Doylestown       | Kerie MacPherson & David Gatchell, New Hope |
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| Joseph Francht, Doylestown                   | Janis & George Wozar, Chalfont              |
| Barbara & John Hencheck, Lambertville        | Anonymous (6)                               |

Dear Readers,

What a difference a year has made.

One year ago the bottom fell out from under us. With a sudden drop of 50% in our advertising revenue, it was unimaginable that we could carry on. So we turned to you, our readers, and asked for your support. We waited, not knowing what the response might be.

Then, the miracle happened.

We will never forget the first day we received donations. They came in all sizes with notes of encouragement that we will treasure forever. Hope sprang.

So much and so little has changed since then. We are now a nonprofit organization which means that like many other nonprofit media organizations and newspapers across America, we will rely on grants and reader donations to fund our mission (in addition to advertising). We also have a board of directors, the Friends and the Business Friends of the Herald, and new relationships with foundations.

But much hasn't changed, too. We are still the Herald. Thanks to reader support, we never had to compromise our coverage, even during the most difficult times of the coronavirus pandemic. In fact, we have grown stronger as a result of your support and our adaptation.

If you have not yet made a tax-deductible donation to the Herald Foundation's Community Journalism Fund in 2021, we hope you will do so very soon. Our fight to keep local journalism alive in our community is not over. However, with your continued support, we will not only survive, but thrive, in the months and years ahead.

*Bridget Wingert*  
Bridget Wingert  
Editor

Sincerely,

*Joseph Wingert*  
Joseph Wingert  
Publisher

Donations to the Herald Foundation are fully tax-deductible.



**Friends of the Herald: Community Journalism Fund Donation Form**

I/we want to keep local journalism alive! Enclosed is our tax-deductible donation of:

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# Judge grants senators' motion to intervene in fracking case

State Sen. Steve Santarsiero (D-10) held a virtual press conference last week to announce the Democratic senators' motion to intervene in *Yaw v. Delaware River Basin Commission* was granted by the judge on March 19.

"My colleagues and I are participating in this lawsuit to preserve the authority of the Delaware River Basin Commission to protect the drinking water of more than 13 million individuals," said Sen. Santarsiero. "Working within its authority, the DRBC has been taking critical steps to protect both the waterways in the Delaware River Basin, and our land from the

harmful effects of fracking."

The next step, according to Sen. Santarsiero, will be to file a motion to dismiss the initial lawsuit, which is planned for April.

"The motion will seek to dismiss the case on the grounds that is not supported by state law and the plaintiffs lack standing," Santarsiero said. "I feel our position is strong. As I mentioned a few weeks ago when we filed to intervene, the Pennsylvania Constitution is pretty clear... The plaintiffs are trying to turn the state constitution's environmental rights amendment on its head, arguing the compact requires we monetize our resour-

es. That's not at all what the legislation stands for, and not what the people of Pennsylvania agreed to when they ratified it at the ballot box."

Santarsiero previously held a press conference, along with Senators Kearney and Cappelletti, on March 12, in New Hope to announce the filing of a motion to intervene in the lawsuit filed by Republican state senators, which would prohibit the Delaware River Basin Commission from banning the practice of fracking.

Photographs by Gordon H. Nieburg



Appearing in New Hope March 12 were Steven T. Miano, a partner in the Law Firm Hangley, Aronchick, Segal, Pudlin & Schiller, state Sen. Steve Santarsiero (D-10) and state Sen. Tim Kearney (D-26).



Local public and media observing the news conference



Members of the New Hope Borough Council, Connie Gering, president, and council members Laurie McHugh and Peter Meyer attended Sen. Santarsiero's press conference March 12.

## Milford joins other Hunterdon communities in easing burden on businesses

The Borough of Milford has become the latest Hunterdon municipality to review local ordinances and zoning in an effort to become more attractive for investment and more accommodating to business growth.

Eight additional county towns have completed similar projects through the use of grant funding from the county's economic development office through a program approved by county commissioners in 2018.

Hunterdon County commissioners recently received an update on Milford's initiative, which also included adoption of new zoning allowing for the expansion of the

borough's primary business district. County Commissioner Matt Holt, one of the board's liaisons for economic development, applauded Milford's efforts.

"A primary goal of our efforts was, and still is, to make Hunterdon as attractive for investment as possible," said Holt. "Towns making policy that encourages this is central to achieving that goal and, if the grant program can help get them there, we will partner with them at any time."

To date, the county has issued 17 economic development grants to 14 Hunterdon municipalities. Milford Mayor Henri Schepens said he expects the grant-funded project to have a strong local impact.

"The changes reflect the town's desire to create a thriving family-friendly business district that serves the needs of both residents and tourists alike," said Schepens. "There's currently a lot of economic progress in Milford and the town intends to act as a catalyst to that growing momentum, not a hindrance."

According to Schepens, the borough specifically reviewed its current business zone regulations to identify changes that would help facilitate business growth by eliminating cumbersome or antiquated regulations that hinder economic development opportunities.

Among the changes are that Milford expanded permitted uses in the

primary business district to include breweries, artisan shops, art galleries, spas and exercise facilities in an effort to attract visitors to the downtown zone. The borough also streamlined regulations by simplifying some approval processes and outdoor dining was given the greenlight as a specifically permitted use in the business zone. Other changes allow for conversion of existing residential structures to mixed use.

According to Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners Director Sue Soloway, also one of the board's economic development liaisons, Milford's changes come at an opportune time.

"Milford has really been experi-

encing an economic renaissance," she said. "Interest in the community, and in Hunterdon's river towns in general, has skyrocketed lately with new shops and business opening on a regular basis. You can see the progress by observing the lack of vacancies and by the foot traffic on the streets. It's very exciting to see."

Holt added, "As we reach the one year mark of the COVID-19 shutdown, with warm spring weather approaching, all Hunterdon downtowns will see both locals and tourists seeking out all that these towns and local businesses have to offer. Milford is but one of our numerous downtowns that are worth a drive to check out."

## Toll adjustments for Delaware River bridges approved for 2021 and 2024

The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC) this week approved a series of system-wide toll adjustments to offset continuing COVID-19-induced toll revenue declines, ensure payment of financial obligations, provide funding for planned capital projects throughout the agency's Pennsylvania-New Jersey service region, and establish a two-tier pricing structure

that assigns higher toll rates to cash/toll by plate transactions compared to E-ZPass transactions.

The first and broadest schedule of toll rate changes will take effect April 11. When implemented, it will be the commission's first system-wide toll adjustment in 10 years. The second and less impactful new toll schedule is projected to take effect in January 2024.

The full schedules of toll changes may be viewed on the commission website at [drjtbc.org/newtolls](http://drjtbc.org/newtolls). The most frequently paid commission toll – passenger vehicles equipped with E-ZPass – will rise 25 cents to a \$1.25 rate system-wide starting April 11.

The commission announced its proposed toll adjustments on Feb. 1 and then conducted a 26-day public

comment period that allowed motorists and residents to provide input via three virtual hearings, a special toll-free answering service, an online comment form portal and U.S. Mail.

The toll adjustments affect rates for every vehicle class and authorizes an immediate elimination of the commission's off-peak E-ZPass truck discount (for vehicles eight-feet and above in height) and a phased-in elimination of the agency's frequency-based E-ZPass commuter discount by early 2024. The off-peak truck discount will be eliminated April 11. The E-ZPass commuter discount will be reduced to 20% from the current 40% discount starting May 1.

One of the most significant

changes in the new toll schedules is the establishment of a two-tier system of toll rates, under which cash/toll by plate customers would pay higher tolls than E-ZPass-equipped motorists. This type of pricing is a prevailing trend among toll agencies nationally because it helps cover the increased processing costs associated with cash or license plate billing collection methods.

Under this change, the passenger vehicle cash toll will rise to \$3 from the current \$1 rate at the seven commission toll bridges that handle Cash and E-ZPass transactions. Meanwhile, the E-ZPass passenger vehicle toll at the same seven toll crossings will rise by 25 cents to a \$1.25 rate.

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# Buddy Deppenschmidt dies at Doylestown home

*Marjorie Danciger*

William Henry Deppenschmidt III, the jazz drummer and teacher, passed away peacefully March 20, in Doylestown. Known as Buddy, he was an influential musician who helped change the course of jazz history by sparking the bossa nova craze here and abroad.

Born in Philadelphia on Feb. 16, 1936, he moved to Richmond, Va., with his mother when he was 4.

At 17, he became a professional musician working in the local jazz clubs in town, which catered to mostly Black clientele in a segregated South. He actively defied this system. It was always about the music and who the best players were.

Buddy toured the country with several bands including Billy Butterfield's, before settling in the D.C. area where he was drummer for the Newton Thomas Trio, the Charlie Byrd Trio and the Tee Carson Trio.

He played a crucial and seminal role in bringing bossa nova to the states. In 1961, on a U.S. State Department tour of 18 countries in South America and Mexico, instigated by Charlie Byrd, on guitar and with Keter Betts, on bass, he and Keter learned the then new bossa nova rhythms from local musicians like Malu. Back in D.C., he and Keter urged Charlie to use some of what they had learned from the musicians in Brazil. It took about a year, but Buddy had vision.

He suggested they bring in Stan Getz because he knew he would offer just the right sound. The eventual result was the album "Jazz Samba," recorded in less than three hours. It set off the national and international craze for bossa nova. It was the only album ever to reach number one on both the jazz and pop Billboard charts and remained high on the charts for 70 weeks.

"Desafinado," the hit single was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2000 and the entire album was inducted in 2010.



**BUDDY DEPPENSCHMIDT**

This is elaborated on in the Jazz Times article of 2004, "Give the Drummer Some," by David Adler and in Buddy Deppenschmidt's Wikipedia entry.

Buddy moved to Bucks County, Pa., in the '60s where he played extensively as leader of his group, Jazz Renaissance.

He studied for three years with the great Joe Morello who became his

friend and told him he already knew how to play.

In his lifelong teaching career he taught about 40 students a week, mostly at the Newtown School of Music. He had a verbal method regarding the rudiments and a melodic approach to the drum set and the cymbals. He mentored many students of all ages. He played regularly at the Union Hotel in Flemington, N.J. and at the Deer Head Inn in Delaware Water Gap. This spanned many years of collaboration with an unsung hero of jazz piano, John Coates Jr.

Buddy saw himself as a team player. He told his students they should be musical chameleons – "they go blue, you go blue." He cared about making everyone sound his or her best but seldom strived to showcase his skill.

Buddy Deppenschmidt had incredible timing, encyclopedic knowledge in many fields, and a prodigious memory of his gigs and the people he worked with. He was a true artist in every sense of the word.

Buddy's playing has been recom-piled on many recordings, but here is a partial discography:

- "The Guitar Artistry of Charlie Byrd" (Riverside 1960)
- "Charlie Byrd at the Village Vanguard" (Riverside 1961)
- "Blues Sonata" (Riverside 1961)
- "Jazz Samba" (Verve 1962)
- "Latin Impressions" (Riverside 1962)
- "Once More! Charlie Byrd's Bossa Nova" (Riverside 1963)

Buddy's work has been heard on several movie sound tracks and transcribed in Modern Drummer Magazine and Creative Coordination for the Modern Drummer. He has biographical listings in "The Encyclopedia of Jazz in the '60s" and "The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz." He played with many of the greats of his time.

Surviving him are his daughters, Laura and Allyson, his siblings, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

# Actress Jessica Walter remembered fondly by Bucks Playhouse directors

*Jodi Spiegel Arthur*

Magnolias" at the Playhouse and she returned more recently for a reading of "Showboat," which features lyrics and book by Oscar Hammerstein II.

"Funny, irascible and a real pro, the audience fell in love with her," said Playhouse Producing Director Alexander Fraser.

"I'd send her many scripts over the years and she'd read them within like four hours and call me up and say, 'not for me.' We did get her back to play Parthy in 'Showboat,' and she was absolutely fantastic.

Fraser and his partners – Robyn



*Actress Jessica Walter, shown performing in "Steel Magnolias" at the Bucks County Playhouse, died last week at age 80.*

Emmy-winning actress Jessica Walter, 80, who died March 24, began her professional career in 1958 at the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, as an acting apprentice.

Walter performed several times at the Playhouse; returning first in 1960 to play a nurse in "Come Blow Your Horn," the first Neil Simon play ever staged. Her part, which she called tiny, was written out for Broadway.

In 2016, Walter starred in Marsha Mason's production of "Steel

Goodman and Josh Fielder – offered their deepest sympathy to Walter's family and said she will be terribly missed.

"Rest in peace Jessica; you were a true original," said Fraser.

Walter starred on Broadway, in films and on television. Her earliest notable film role was in the movie "Play Misty for Me" in 1971. Her Broadway credits included a pro-

duction of Neil Simon's "Rumors."

Walter received several Emmy nominations, including one for her role in "Arrested Development." She won an Emmy for her starring role in "Amy Prentiss," an "Ironside" spinoff.

In an interview in 2016, Walter said coming back to the Playhouse 58 years after her stint as an acting apprentice was very emotional. She called the theater "hallowed ground."

"This place, New Hope, and the Playhouse really means an awful lot to me," Walter said. "My creative life really started here."

# Saracini Aviation Safety Act introduced in Senate and House

U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) introduced the Saracini Enhanced Aviation Safety Act (S.911) to strengthen legislation that would

make airplanes less susceptible to hijacking.

The legislation is named after a Bucks County resident, Capt. Victor Saracini, who piloted United

Flight 175 when it was hijacked by terrorists and flown into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Provisions of the Saracini Avia-

tion Act enacted in 2018 required the installation of a secondary barrier between the passenger cabin and cockpit door on each new aircraft purchased in the United States. This enhanced bill would mandate that secondary barriers be applied to all passenger airplanes, not only newly manufactured planes.

U.S. Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05), André Carson (D-IN-07) and Chris Smith (R-NJ-04) introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

Saracini was piloting United Flight 175 when a group of terrorists hijacked the flight and flew it into the World Trade Center. "With the help of Captain Saracini's wife, Ellen, we enacted legislation requiring secondary barriers to be installed on all new commercial

passenger aircraft. But the barriers can't help protect all commercial travelers if they are not required for commercial aircraft already operating," Sen. Toomey said. "That is why this legislation requires secondary barriers to be installed on all commercial passenger aircraft – whether new or currently operating. I am grateful for Ellen Saracini's tireless work to advance this legislation, and am proud to work with Sen. Casey in honoring Capt. Saracini and protecting the traveling public."

"Congress previously made progress in ensuring that all future commercial aircraft are equipped with secondary barriers, so we must build on that momentum in this 117th Congress and include the same requirement for all existing commercial passenger aircraft," said Rep. Fitzpatrick.

# Bucks Coroner files suit against county commissioners over budget

*Jodi Spiegel Arthur*

Bucks County Coroner Meredith J. Buck has filed a lawsuit against the Bucks County Commissioners, alleging they cut the Coroner's Office budget for 2021 by \$1,033,300, more than two-thirds of the office's budget for the prior year.

In a statement issued late March 25, Buck said the budget cut "in the midst of a global pandemic and a local opioid epidemic" was "intentionally and outrageously ir-

responsible" and appeared to be "a heavy-handed attempt to punish" the Coroner's Office.

Buck originally filed the complaint March 18, but withdrew it that day at the Commissioners' request, she said, and a meeting to discuss the matter was scheduled for March 25. After that meeting was canceled, Buck again filed the lawsuit.

The coroner said she filed the lawsuit in an attempt to "forestall the potential shutdown" of her office on April 30 due to a

lack of funding.

Buck said the Commissioners' actions undermine her authority and interfere with her ability to run her office under standards required by law.

Asked to comment on the complaint March 26, the Commissioners said, "No comment," adding they do not comment on active litigation involving the county.

In a statement issued the previous week, after the suit was withdrawn, the Commissioners also refused to comment, but at that time the county released the following statement from its Chief Financial Officer, David Boscola.

"The coroner's budget has not been cut; it will be allocated in thirds for 2021. The coroner is currently under budget. The Commissioners have a fiduciary responsibility to oversee the county budget, which includes the row offices. They manage that process publicly and to the letter of the law."

[jarthur@buckscountyherald.com](mailto:jarthur@buckscountyherald.com)

passenger aircraft. But the barriers can't help protect all commercial travelers if they are not required for commercial aircraft already operating," Sen. Toomey said. "That is why this legislation requires secondary barriers to be installed on all commercial passenger aircraft – whether new or currently operating. I am grateful for Ellen Saracini's tireless work to advance this legislation, and am proud to work with Sen. Casey in honoring Capt. Saracini and protecting the traveling public."

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# Hirschfeld Foundation features "Our Town" artwork

The Al Hirschfeld Foundation presents its latest online exhibition, "It Goes So Fast: Our Town by Hirschfeld."

The exhibition features Hirschfeld's reflections of the Thornton Wilder drama, "Our Town," featuring artists including Frances Conroy, Henry Fonda, Spalding Gray, Helen Hayes, Penelope Ann Miller, Paul Newman, Eva Marie Saint, Frank Sinatra, Eric Stoltz and more.

The exhibition is guest-curated by Howard Sherman, in conjunction with the publication of his book, "Another Day's Begun: Thornton Wilder's Our Town in the 21st Century" (Methuen Drama). This is the first exhibition from the foundation concentrated on a single play.

Through Hirschfeld's pen, viewers see how Wilder's landmark drama so resonated with audiences and performers over eight decades. Hirschfeld drew "Our Town" productions on stage, on television, and even a musical version. Sherman

brings many to life in his commentary throughout the exhibition.

Listen to "The Hirschfeld Century Podcast" episode featuring Sherman starting April 5, from [AlHirschfeldFoundation.org/podcasts](http://AlHirschfeldFoundation.org/podcasts), iTunes and other popular podcast sites.

Visit [AlHirschfeldFoundation.org](http://AlHirschfeldFoundation.org) for information.

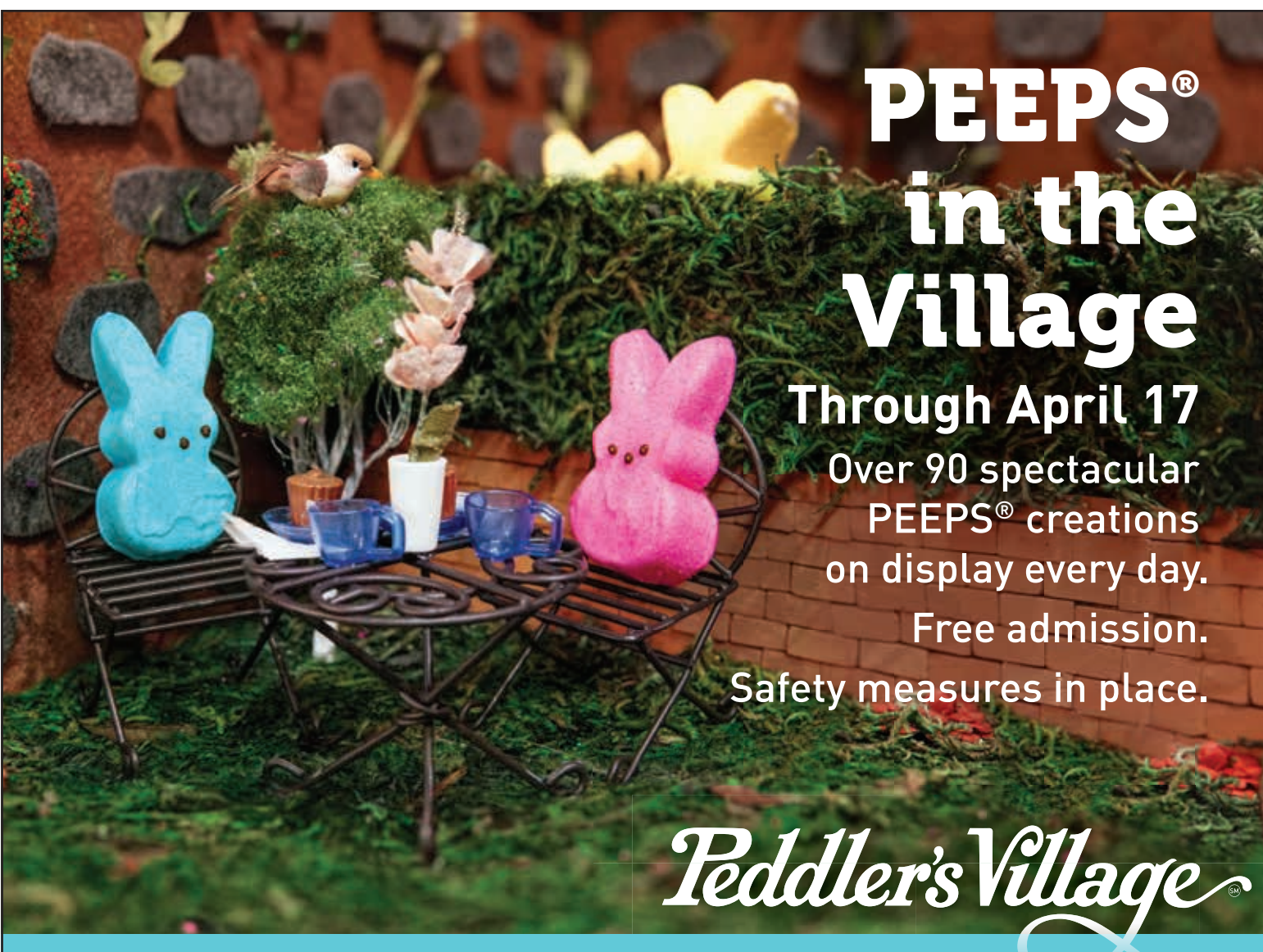


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# OPINION & Editorial

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## LETTERS TO THE HERALD

### Defacing political signs, banners is unacceptable

I am appalled and concerned by the spray painting of signs and banners that advocate for Donald Trump. I am a registered Democrat, whose grandparents had a photo of FDR over their couch. That should tell you all you need to know about me.

But defacing any candidates' advertisements is unacceptable. We all have strong opinions about the candidates, especially after the contentious election year. And so it is even more important that the discourse, the debate, the discussion remain civil.

So let's express our strong convictions and beliefs in more productive and civilized ways.

Steve O'Neill, Doylestown

### State law prohibits ban on plastics in local municipalities

Plastic pollution is pervasive. The waste and litter from bags, straws, and microplastics is becoming more and more enmeshed in our environment. The threat is made especially real in the case of plastic bags.

During a trip to the beach a few

years ago, I discovered a seagull whose legs were caught in a plastic bag. It was causing the bird to be dragged out to sea as it filled with water. I freed the bird, ultimately saving its life.

Like that bird, we are all drowning in plastic. American shoppers use approximately 14 billion single-use bags annually and 500 billion worldwide, creating a phenomenal amount of waste and litter. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, ten states including New York and New Jersey, as well as several big cities including Boston and Chicago, have approved a ban on plastic bags. Hawaii went further, banning plastic clips on coffee bags, screw caps on milk cartons, and plastic straws.

Philadelphia, West Chester, Narberth, and Lower Merion Township intend to ban plastic bags. However, buried in a budget bill, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a law that prevents municipalities from enacting a ban on single use plastics; plastic that we often see littering public spaces and endangering wildlife. These communities are suing Pennsylvania for what they see as an abuse of legislative power, requesting the Commonwealth Court to declare the state's ban unconstitutional.

Contact your representatives. Tell them to oppose the state's law restricting the municipalities' right to prevent the overuse of plastics.

Dave Porigow, Perkasie

### Congressional debate on gun control continues

Two mass shootings in two weeks. In a congressional debate on gun control, one Republican argued that, since drunk drivers kill people, Democrats might demand outlawing automobiles. That's a ridiculous equivalency. An intoxicated driver does not set out to kill. An angry person armed with a lethal weapon does intend to kill, often multiple Americans.

Michael Frank, Doylestown

### Family member's mention ungentlemanly

John Cole made the ungentlemanly comment that my 14-year-old daughter who attended the township meeting was my "purported daughter."

Really, slandering families is now part of PennDOT's Build-the-2-lane-Bridge strategy? While Dad may be a goblin, my daughter's looks come from her pretty mother and her grandmother's dimple. Family history matters, just like our shared American history.

The almond-eye pillars holding up that dimple of a bridge on my property was built there by our American ancestors. Losing one's sense of history leads to degrading history as "purported history" and our "purported children." Who can support such insensitivity?

Steve Gidumal, Tinicum Township

### Selective memory seen in U.S. Senate

Sen. Toomey has just used his latest online newsletter to piously raise his objections to the "Democrats' \$1.9 Trillion Monstrosity" as a "colossal waste of taxpayer money full of radical provisions." I would wager that our "independent" Congressman Fitzpatrick was driven by similar concerns when the bill was before the House.

I don't recall having heard similar distress and agitation over the Republican \$1.9 trillion tax cut for the rich they approved during the Trump administration.

Sen. Toomey also touts his opposition to the nomination of Marcia Fudge to serve as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development because of her "lack of experience in and knowledge of housing policies...."

Perhaps I have forgotten the extraordinary qualifications of former Secretary Ben Carson.

Somebody has a selective memory.

Charles Huchet, New Hope

### Send letters to the Herald

Send letters to P.O. Box 685, Lahaska 18931, or [bridget@buckscountyherald.com](mailto: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.

## Memories of tornado linger

I want to share with everyone this beautiful story that I am proud to be part of. Where I was not a witness to the event, I am humbled and honored to play a role in this story. Here's to hoping we can help that one child ... or adult.

Back in August, a bad storm caused a tornado over our son's day care, worst over, the tornado had hit the classroom that he was in.

Our son and some of his classmates are still scared of bad weather to this day.

Our son's great-grandmother (wife's grandma) when hearing that he was still scared, took pen to paper, and wrote him a story so we can read it to him at night and help to calm him during those times of rough weather.

Because of the quick thinking and actions of the staff of that day-care, there were no major injuries

that day! But for some children, and adults too, the memory still causes anxiety.

Well, as a surprise to great-grandma and a way to give back to the people who saved many lives that day, including my son's, my wife and I polished up that story, had it illustrated, and now, it can be found on Amazon.com in the Kindle store - \$1 from the sale of every book will go to the rebuilding of the school; to help rebuild our local community and most important, to help the children and adults, still affected by that day, move on.

I am hoping you can share this story too. The scars of that can still be seen on the building while driving down 611 ... but it's the scars we don't see, we are hoping to heal with this book.

[amazon.com/dp/B08YDDV1QX](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08YDDV1QX)

Stephen Ferrgauti, Doylestown



The tornado that swept through Doylestown a year ago inspired a book to help children through the trauma.

## New Jersey budget cuts hurt Hunterdon County children

Gov. Phil Murphy's proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget cuts \$2.6 million from Hunterdon County schools, all while simultaneously larding the coffers of over 400 other districts to the tune of \$578 million.

While the governor boasts of increasing school aid by \$1.5 billion over the last four years, his budgets have actually slashed Hunterdon County school districts' net share of state aid by \$8.4 million over the same period - aid derived disproportionately from income taxes Hunterdon County residents and businesses pay. These cuts thrust local school boards into the unenviable position of cutting programs, laying off teachers, hiking property taxes or some combination thereof.

The majority of Hunterdon County school districts are not alone. The governor's budget cuts aid to 193 school districts around the state. As a consequence, the governor has selected 400 school district winners and 193 school district losers. With a \$4.4 billion state budget increase, there should be no losers.

In the past, state legislators have sought to evade accountability for cuts to Hunterdon's schools, citing the state's school funding formula (which, in and of itself short changes this county) as the reason for their punishing legislative inertia. That is no excuse. The simple remedy is to insert what is known as "hold harmless" language in the

budget document, preventing any school district from receiving less funding than the previous year, which overrides the existing statutory formula.

Thus, failure to include this "hold harmless" language in the 2022 over the backdrop of across-the-board spending increases elsewhere is inexcusable.

Also puzzling is a talking point peddled by supporters of the governor's policy, who at our most recent commissioners' meeting, contended that Hunterdon County taxpayers should surrender to the proposed school aid cuts and their likely consequences on account of this county's purported wealth.

This ongoing policy of cutting educational aid to Hunterdon County is driving up regressive property taxes for senior citizens and working class families in places like Frenchtown, Glen Gardner, Hampton, Kingwood, and Milford to name a few of the 20 school districts that are slated for cuts in the proposed budget.

The Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners has taken the lead in rallying the county boards in the thirteen other counties facing school aid cuts from the governor's proposed budget, to lobby their state legislators to eliminate those cuts when the state budget is adopted in June.

John E. Lanza  
Hunterdon County  
Board of Commissioners

## Athletes deserve pay for their work

Luke Brautigam

As the world watched the top college basketball teams in the country enter the Sweet 16 in the most popular sports drama of the year, viewers were brought to the edge of their seats and enthralled by the abilities of the student athletes.

As a kid, I dreamed of participating in March Madness. I continue to be captivated by the impressive abilities of the top dogs as well as the spectacular performances of the underdogs. Having participated in two NCAA Division 3 men's soccer tournaments so far, I can relate to the physical and emotional energy that college athletics requires. However, the immense amount of money poured into and created by Division 1 athletics creates a whole different game.

While many of us enjoy the entertainment of March Madness, we are often oblivious to the financial instability of the athletes we are watching.

According to the NCAA website, "The total athletics revenue reported among all NCAA athletics departments in 2019 was \$18.9 billion." Besides what is reported, athletics generates a host of other streams of revenue.

According to USA Today, football coaches from over 82 universities have a salary greater than \$1 million. Additionally, much of the money is poured into state-of-the-art facilities that are constantly renovated to attract top tier athletes from around the globe.

Along with the high-end facilities, many of the athletes receive

large scholarships. Given America's current student debt crisis, along with rising tuition costs for higher education, these scholarships are of great benefit to the athletes, but are they enough?

Ben Golliver, of the Washington Post, described the NCAA's treatment of athletes as "exploitative." In any other industry where the main worker does not receive a portion of the revenue, there are outcries of corruption.

If compensation is the answer, there are a few important questions we must ask. First, who gets paid and how much? Second, how could both equal and equitable payments be ensured? And third, how would the payment of athletes affect the greater community, including the future generations of athletes?

In 2019, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, signed the Fair Pay to Play Act. The bill "will permit college athletes in his state to receive financial compensation through endorsement deals and sponsorships, among other opportunities" (Golliver). This act has been opposed by the NCAA. However, I believe it is reasonable and just to allow students to benefit from the audience they attract.

Hard work pays off ... right? Unfortunately for the top college athletes, current NCAA restrictions prohibit them from receiving the returns they deserve for their hard work and contributions to such a booming industry.

Luke Brautigam, alumnus of Plumstead Christian School, is a junior on the men's soccer team at Messiah University, Mechanicsburg.

## HISTORY LIVES

### Jean Rollo, Doylestown Historical Society



**IGA Foodliner.** The Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA) was founded in 1926 to bring family owned, local grocery stores together under one brand, independently owned and operated.

In March 1966, an IGA Foodliner opened at the corner of W. State and N. Clinton streets. This in-town grocery store was part of "Operation '64," the 1964 effort by borough business leaders to revitalize Doylestown's downtown area. The IGA occupied the former American Store/Acme grocery building (which had relocated to the new Doylestown Shopping Center when it opened in 1959).

The Intelligencer reported, "The building was completely remodeled inside and out to provide for self-service meats, delicatessen items, and a host of appropriate departments ... complete and modern in every detail, including free parking." However, after 13 years of service, and perhaps due to limited space and competition by larger outlying grocery stores, the IGA closed its

doors on June 30, 1979.

The property at 131 W. State Street was purchased by Doylestown Dental Center with the intent of constructing a three-story professional office building. It was offered to Bucks County as site for the county library, but the library board declined, saying the property was too small - less than 1 acre - and did not have enough parking space. In the 1980s architect Lynn Taylor designed its conversion into one of Doylestown's first office condominiums. In 2010 Phillips & Donovan Architects expanded the capacity by 65% adding a second floor.

In 2017 the redesigned building was featured on the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Design Seminar & Tour as an "adaptive reuse of buildings in Doylestown." Today 131 W. State St. is occupied by Antheil Maslow & MacMinn LLC, Attorneys and Counselors; John R Rokita, DDS periodontist; and Terry Rakowsky, DMD.

Doylestownhistorical.org



# OPINION & Editorial



## Jerome Becker: Tongue in Cheek Best buds

Recently President Biden thought about forming an informal social circle consisting of ex-presidents Carter, Bush, Clinton and Obama, all whose company he enjoys. He believed this would be a wonderful way to pick their brains while all were relaxed, especially if they met in a familiar comfortable setting.

As a result, President Biden proposed he meet with the ex-presidents in the Green Room parlor located on the first floor of the White House, where there are no stairs to trip over. (Both the Blue and Red Room parlors were eliminated from consideration because of their partisan colors). To start things off, the president thought he'd host a book club in the parlor.

The concept was floated around with each of the ex-presidents, all of whom responded favorably. However, a glitch developed when they were asked the name of the book they intended to select from their respective presidential libraries for group discussion. It became quite evident there was a significant difference in their reading levels, which could hamper the dialogue between the men.

Therefore, President Biden felt it best to put the book club format on temporary hold. Here's why

he hesitated. George Bush fancied "Calvin and Hobbes." Bill Clinton chose "Men Are From Mars, Women From Venus." Jimmy Carter picked "The Bible." Barak Obama suggested, "The Ego and the Id."

Another of President Biden's ideas was to have movie nights held in the White House family theater, where the ex-presidents' favorite films would be shown. That suggestion was ultimately rejected because after President Biden saw the titles of their initial selections, which foretold of the future, he was worried one or more of the ex-presidents would find the film chosen was not to their liking and politely leave, causing unintended hurt feelings.

See for yourselves. Bush liked "Dr. Strangelove." Clinton suggested "The War of the Roses." Carter's choice was "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" While Obama selected "The Godfather."

Vice President Harris chimed in by proposing a bowling night at the White House's one-lane basement alley. That was made short shrift of, primarily because Carter couldn't lift the ball. Besides, all felt somewhat uncomfortable bowling on an alley figuratively built by

ex-President Richard Nixon.

Hunter Biden suggested to his Dad that the group play Monopoly. President Biden quickly gave that a thumbs down. He felt that any game involving politicians that had a "GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL" card in the deck, would put a damper on things from the outset.

In the meantime, word had leaked out about the potential presidential socials which had gotten the attention of the media. Two networks expressed an interest, with predictably more to follow. For instance, the Hallmark Channel would like to produce it as a bromance, while Comedy Central was thinking of a prime time cartoon show, exclusively starring the quadruple ex-presidents called, "Four Play."

Regardless of the media's interest, Bush, Clinton, Carter and Obama made no comments. Instead they choose to await President Biden's plans. At this point, all eyes are focused on the president, as he takes on the formidable task of finding a social activity that is compatible with the members of the most prestigious unemployed old boys club in the nation.

*Jerome Becker lives in Tinicum Township.*



*The Devil's Tea Table, seen from the New Jersey hills.*

## Bridget Wingert: Happy to Be Here A geologic wonder is in danger

Stephen Freeman lives at Bridge Four in Tinicum Township, one of the areas across the Delaware Canal accessed by a wooden bridge from River Road (Route 32).

The view from his island is New Jersey, an area called the Delaware River Scenic Highway (Route 29). From his house he can clearly see the Devil's Tea Table a high rock outcropping that appears flat like a table, a place of Lenni Lenape lore. It is a Natural Heritage Site.

Recently, local residents got wind of a New Jersey Department of Transportation plan to make improvements to Route 29 between Stockton and Frenchtown and federal funding is available. Devil's Tea Table is part of a 3-mile stretch of the highway under consideration for rockfall mitigation. The stretch of Route 29 is one of 10 proposed rockfall mitigation sites.

The plan includes blasting rock formations, removing vegetation along the highway, part is for proposed application of draping material to hold rocks in place.

The issue has been slow to surface but now, residents of Kingwood Township, N.J., local governments and environmental organizations are asking for details. Kingwood Township is adjacent to the north of Stockton, N.J.

Last week, Freeman made a presentation to the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council, showing NJDOT's proposed plans – as much as he could find – and illustrating why rock fall mitigation is not needed.

Freeman is a volunteer with the recently formed Devil's Tea Table Alliance, comprised of New Jersey and Pennsylvania residents. They organized in response to concerns about the anticipated rockfall mitigation near the historic rock formation.

He showed photos of rocks that had fallen from the sidewall – most small and hitting the road in the gutters. He showed why people wonder if the highway really needs rock mitigation. And Route 29 between Stockton and Frenchtown has no truck traffic because it is designated as a Scenic Byway.

NJDOT has told local residents that public hearings on the project are not required and the cost at this point is \$33 million, according to the latest NJTPA (TIP) report.

A major part of the problem is that the plans were made with no input from the public.

Richard Dodds, the deputy mayor of Kingwood, said he first heard from the DOT about its then-\$12.15 million rockfall plan four years ago. "They came in, they said, 'This is what we're proposing to do. We want your input on, not any of the work, but what would be the detour

roads of the town,'" Dodds said in an interview with NJ.com. "The back-and-forth, that's been mainly us asking them for information and them providing us with as little as they can legally get away with."

Dodds and members of the community saw possible issues with the plan. They formed the Devil's Tea Table Alliance as an advocacy group to give input to the planning.

This spring the group is pursuing ways to get attention, enlisting the help of the Lower Delaware River Wild and Scenic Council, which was to support the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System created by Congress in 1968. The council sent a letter this week to the Hunterdon County Board of Freeholders,

"While the dollars assigned to the project and the necessity for the initiative can be debated, we will stay focused on our concerns about the irreversible environmental impacts the project can have on the river as well as to the homeowners in Kingwood Township, N.J., and Tinicum Township, Pa. Kingwood residents are very concerned about long-term effect rockblasting will have on their wells and septic systems. Tinicum residents are concerned their viewscape will be erased," the letter said. Dodds, chair of the alliance, signed the letter.

The alliance is hoping that Hunterdon County will adopt a resolution opposing the rock mitigation project, at its April 6 meeting, as Warren County has already done. Delaware Water Gap, a stunning ancient geologic formation, is located in Warren County. Kingwood Township is expected to create a similar resolution related to the Devil's Tea Table at a meeting April 1.

Questions members of the alliance have asked NJDOT include:

- Have threatened and endangered species been considered?
- How many people have been harmed by rockfall?
- What visual impacts would this have on Route 29?
- Would cement being applied to the Devil's Tea Table rock formation, be visible from the road?
- Is it necessary to stabilize a structure that has been there for tens of millions of years?

The most recent meeting with NJDOT was in August in Frenchtown.

*The mission of the Devil's Tea Table Alliance is to inform communities about the project; encourage towns, townships and counties negatively impacted by the NJDOT plans to pass resolutions opposing the project, and request federal and local elected officials, community groups, Native American Tribal groups and the National Park Service to require a true environmental impact study and public hearings.*

## Take another look at Neshaminy Greenway Trail

As discussions on the Neshaminy Greenway Trail concept proceed, we should step back and consider whether this project is appropriate for Bucks County.

At first glance, the 1955 idea of a linear park along the Neshaminy Creek sounds appealing. However, 66 years later this is not the case, as many things have changed.

In addition to an increase in population, from just under 150,000 in 1955 to approximately 628,000 in 2021, Bucks County has lost countless acres of farmland, forested area and wetlands.

What is left of our natural areas has become highly fragmented and, in many cases, overrun with invasive trees, shrubs and vines. Our natives have not co-evolved with these introduced plants and they are often unable to process the defense chemicals they produce.

These biological challenges, combined with ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, already affect the health and diversity of our local ecosystems. We need to make decisions quickly about what is important to us as citizens.

At the same time that population and developed areas have increased in the county, there has been a move toward highly manicured, closely mown, non-native, grass lawns in residential communities, commercial centers and public spaces. The majority of these areas are virtually treeless and require applications of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides to maintain the unnatural, desired appearance.

Throughout the Neshaminy Creek watershed, deep gullies have formed and creek banks have severely eroded. Mature trees that once had their footing in firm soil hang precariously over the edges of banks with roots exposed. Clearing trees and creating wide swaths through our forests to accommodate a paved trail and shoulder will only exacerbate this problem, adding to expenses for municipal infrastructure and private property repair from flood damage.

At the Jan. 10, meeting of the Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Committee, Jim Walter gave a presentation that clearly outlined the erosion challenges already facing the Neshaminy Creek and its tributaries. Walter – a Penn State Extension master watershed steward in Bucks County since 2015 – began an erosion study several years ago using the "bank pin" method to measure soil loss along the Creek. The results obtained by Jim and his volunteers are striking.

Putting in a 31-mile trail along the Neshaminy Creek corridor and disrupting woodlands runs counter to all the efforts being put forth by organizations and the state to reforest and revegetate our buffer zones. The Neshaminy Greenway Trail, as proposed, will require significant excavation, soil disturbance, and tree clearing to accommodate the heavy equipment needed for trail paving, parking lots and bridge construction.

As our forests are young, due to several hundred years of clear cutting, high-grading and agriculture, they contain an abnormally high percentage of ash trees: an early successional species. The falling ash trees pose no threat as there is no public trail currently running through them. Instead, they can be left to fall naturally, adding to soil organic matter, preventing runoff and erosion, providing wildlife habitat and offering protected areas where tree seeds are able to germinate.

There are also some concerns many of us have with the 2014 Upper Neshaminy Creek Trail Feasibility Study, prepared by the Bucks County Planning Commission for the Bucks County Commissioners. First, it does not appear as though even one ecologist or environmental biologist was included in the process of surveying for the study. Second, the study lists some so-called environmental benefits of the trail. Two examples are that the trail will "encourage the removal of invasive plants." and that it will "inspire local residents to volunteer.

The trail will not decrease, but will increase the spread of invasive plants.

With regard to the expectation that volunteers will participate in ongoing maintenance of the trail, this was not written by someone who has experience with this type of field-work or with coordinating volunteers to do it. From my experience as the Director of the Neshaminy Creek Watershed Association, few people can tolerate this type of work.

If the county wants the Trail to be maintained regularly and properly, it will need to have an invasive plant management plan and a full-time, year-round, paid staff member with an educational and experiential background in native plants, restorations and invasive plants.

If one of the goals of the Neshaminy Greenway Trail is to connect people with nature, is it wise to risk further damaging those areas in the process?

The DCNR directive is clear:

- Do not cut down trees that don't have to come down
- Plant more trees
- Protect and plant trees in riparian zones
- Adopt an invasive species management plan
- Protect what we have

I urge the Bucks County Planning Commission to study further and apply the advice of environmental professionals to decisions made about natural areas in Bucks County.

We need to stop capriciously fragmenting and disturbing our remaining woodlands and wetlands. There are many highly damaged areas in Bucks County where money could be spent on native restorations, reforestation, remediation and preservation. Many of these spaces are in the public domain. The county, townships and municipalities can easily give the "green light" to such projects if they choose to.

*Joyce Ely, Director Neshaminy Creek Watershed Association*

## Marion Kyde: Poems from the Pandemic One Year In, March 2021

It's been a whole year – a long 52 weeks –  
Three hundred and sixty-five days.  
Our lives have been sadly and cruelly changed  
In sundry and various ways.  
At our dinner tables in many a home  
Sits a lonely unoccupied chair,  
(half a million) where once a beloved one sat,  
As if waiting for one who's not there.

We're missing our friends, though we've learned to make do  
With TikTok and Facebook and Zoom,  
But electronic meet-ups are just not the same  
As actual chats in a room.  
We're eschewing large gatherings, concerts, and church,  
For the bubble that CDC asks.  
We've modeled our wardrobes on jammies and sweats.  
Chic fashion's now centered on masks.

We never go shopping, at least not in person.  
We've not seen the inside of a store.  
Our computers have taken the place of a storefront,  
A downtown, a warehouse and more

Remember when we used to go out to dine?  
(Not as often perhaps as we could).  
I wonder if we will go out just as much  
Now we know that home cooking's so good.

For we've gotten better by choice or by need.  
We've learned to make cupcakes and pies,  
And great sheet pan dinners that go in to roast  
And emerge as a gourmet surprise.  
Those dinners gourmet needed wine and dessert,  
Perhaps candles to add to the scene,  
And those extra pounds so unthinkingly gained?  
They're known as the COVID 19!

Will we ever shake hands again?  
Ever give hugs?  
Will we still maintain six feet of distance?  
Will we now and forevermore worry and fret  
That we may not have ample resistance?  
We can't really know what the future will hold,  
What the proper new normal will be.  
Humankind is resilient. We'll hope for the best,  
And aspire once again to live free.

I was having coffee with a friend once, and she said, "I'm not a birder. Why should I care about birds?" I replied, "You love coffee, so you must love birds!"

The brilliant scarlet tanager spends winter in Central and South America. Like lots of colorful songbirds, she spends her winter vacation in the dense shade of coffee plantations eating bugs. In the summer, she wings her way back to the quiet Sourland forest canopy in Hunterdon and Mercer counties to lay eggs and raise babies just as her parents did before her.

This year when she comes back to New Jersey, our tanager may not recognize her home. Over one million trees are dying here due to an invasive insect, the emerald ash borer. That's one of every five trees. If Ms. Tanager makes her nest in the fragmented forest, her babies may not be safe. Predators will easily be able to find them, because the forest cover will be sparse. If she does begin to raise a family, they may not reach maturity.

The United States has lost 3 billion birds since the 1970s, causing the National Audubon Society to declare a "bird emergency" to protect the ones that are left.

If you think of a migratory path as a link in a chain, it's easy to see that every link is equally important. We know that the Sourland Mountain is a strong link. In fact, the

entire Sourland Mountain Region is a designated Continental IBA (Important Bird Area). Our region contains approximately 25,000 acres of mature, contiguous forest and 7,500 acres of wetlands. Resident and migratory birds eat bugs and caterpillars that feed on trees and farmers' crops here – natural insect control.

Now, we would like to point a finger at bulldozers in the Amazon as the cause for plummeting bird numbers, but our link is weakening right now due to ash decline, deer overpopulation, and other threats. We all can help make it stronger.

The NJ DEP, NJ Forest Service, NJ Fish & Wildlife, National Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Watershed Institute, D&R Greenway Land Trust, One Tree Planted, Washington Crossing Audubon Society, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, Montgomery Friends of Open Space, Hunterdon Land Trust, Mercer County, Somerset County, Hunterdon County, Hopewell Township, West Amwell, East Amwell, Hillsborough Township, Montgomery Township, Hopewell Borough, Princeton Township, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and many, many others have joined the Sourland Conservancy in recognizing the importance of the Sourland forest and the threat of ash decline. We are all taking active steps to protect and

preserve the clean water, fresh air, carbon sequestration and critical habitat that the forest provides for all of us.

This spring and fall, Sourland Conservancy staff and volunteers will be joining our partners to plant thousands of trees. Please participate in a public planting event and plant native plants at home – in your yard or in a window box. Every native plant helps provide critical food and shelter for pollinators, birds, and other animals. Protect our clean water by reducing your use of pesticides and herbicides. The birds and butterflies will thank you.

Right now, the NJ DOT is deciding whether or not to increase helicopter traffic in the Sourlands. The applicant is a private golf club. This, to me, is a clear opportunity to act in our own self-interest and preserve this precious ecosystem – or stand by and do nothing.

It's time for us to stop building unnecessary helistops and pipelines. It's time to look around, see what we have, and take responsibility. We must tell our elected officials that we care – and we expect them to care, too.

An election is coming up. Please sign our petition on change.org and call Gov. Phil Murphy, your state senator, and your assembly members today to urge them to Save the Sourlands.

*Laurie Cleveland Executive Director Sourland Conservancy*



# Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve opens native plant nursery

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve (BHWP) will open its Native Plant Nursery for the 2021 season the second weekend in April.

Sixty different native plant species, ranging from wildflowers to ferns, grasses, shrubs and trees, will be available. These are just a fraction of the 150 perennial species and the 70 species of trees and shrubs that the nursery — located at 1635 River Road south of New Hope — will offer throughout the year.

The opening weekend includes:

- A members-only plant sale from noon to 3 p.m. Friday, April 10;
- A virtual presentation by landscape architect Allan Summers on how to incorporate native plants into your home landscapes at 7 p.m. Friday, April 9 (open to the public; register at bhwp.org); and
- The public opening of the Native Plant Nursery for all customers from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

The Native Plant Nursery will then be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through June, and Tuesday through Sunday from July through October.

Compared to non-native plants, including most annual flowers, once native plants are established, they require less water and maintenance because they are so well adapted to this region. They also don't require replanting year after year and, in fact, continue to multiply.

Unsure which native plants are right for your property? The Preserve's nursery staff and volunteers are always on hand to help customers select appropriate plants for their particular home growing conditions.

In addition, native plants provide food and/or shelter for all sorts of wildlife. Notes Peter Couchman, the Preserve's executive director, "Far beyond just the



Virginia bluebells bloom in the greenhouse at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. One of the most popular early spring flowers, bluebells will be available for sale at the nursery and can be seen in the wild along the trails of the Preserve.

natural beauty of native plants, the rich relationships that have evolved over millions of years between native plants and other organisms, ranging from microscopic life to pollinating insects like butterflies, birds, bats and other mammals, are crucial for our ecosystems."

Adds Donna Dahringer, the Preserve's nursery manager, "Every time we plant a native plant that has evolved here and is uniquely suited to our region, we are taking big steps, yard by yard, to reduce habitat fragmentation."

The result: home landscapes that are much more alive in so many different ways.

To take advantage of the members-only plant sale, become a member by going to bhwp.org. Besides free year-round admission to the 134-acre Preserve and its 4.5 miles of trails, members also enjoy discounts on all native plants, items available in the Preserve's Twinleaf Book & Gift Shop and educational programs.

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve inspires the appreciation and use of native plants by serving as a sanctuary and an educational resource for conservation and

stewardship. Since its inception in 1934, the Preserve has emerged as a vital, one-of-a-kind, regional resource through the curation of



One of the many volunteers at the Preserve works on potting up some of the thousands of plants that will be for sale at the native plant nursery at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. The nursery opens for the season the second week of April.

its native plant collection, which includes nearly 800 naturally growing plants specifically native to the Piedmont region of south-

eastern Pennsylvania. It is the country's only native plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

## Durham Township responds to Herald's Right-to-Know request

Kathryn Finegan Clark

Durham Township, on the advice of its solicitor, has provided information it earlier declined to give to the Bucks County Herald.

When the township supervisors appointed Danielle Cox as township administrator/secretary to that post in February, they provided no details about the new hire, merely announcing her office hours and her salary for the part-time position.

When the newspaper sought information for an article to introduce her to the residents, Supervisor Chairman Kathleen Gentner declined, claiming it was exempt as a personnel matter and could not be made public.

Although Cox, at work in the township office at the time, freely admitted she is related to Peter Cox, the township's roadmaster, Gentner

stopped her from offering any further information.

The Bucks County Herald disagreed with Gentner's opinion. The newspaper believes the public has a right to be informed of the professional qualifications of a person hired by a municipality, an employee whose salary is paid by the taxpayers. And so does the legal staff at the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association in Harrisburg.

Accordingly, the newspaper filed a Right-to-Know Law request with the township under the state Office of Open Records, asking for a resume and accompanying paperwork outlining Cox's professional qualifications.

The township's solicitor, Grim Biehn & Thatcher of Perkasié, requested a 30-day extension for an answer to that request in order to complete a legal review, and appar-

ently now has advised the township to provide the requested material, with the exception of some redacted personal identification.

The solicitor's opinion indicated the law exempts records of "an individual's medical psychiatric or psychological history or disability status" as well as "personal identification, including all or part of a person's Social Security number, driver's license number, personal financial information" or contact information such as telephone number or email addresses. The Herald did not mention any of that information in its request and only one line was redacted in Cox's resume.

The supervisors voted unanimously to employ Cox, a Durham resident at their February meeting.

She replaces Danette McClanahan, who parted company with the township at the end of December, after three years. McClanahan started in the position as a full-time employee but the township reduced her hours to 20 a week in her last year. She was paid approximately \$29 an hour.

The position is now a part-time one with no benefits and Cox will be paid \$16 per hour. She will work 20 hours per week, from 8 a.m. until noon at the township office.

Several residents have privately questioned the circumstances surrounding the hiring process, including whether the vacancy was widely posted, in addition to a notice on Gentner's facebook page. Advertisements for the job did appear in The Intelligencer on Christmas Day and Dec. 27, according to a proof of publication provided by that newspaper.

Cox reportedly was one of three applicants for the job, sources said. The other two had municipal experience. A graduate of Palisades High School, she is the wife of Peter Cox and the mother of three children.

Until her new assignment she worked as a senior staff member at Bedminster Canine Kamp for four years. She said she supervised day-care and kennel staff. Before that she was employed as an outpatient registration clerk at St. Luke's Hospital in Quakertown.

On her resume she cited her organizational and managerial experience as a mother and also listed the following skills: database entry transcribing correspondence, scheduling and calendar management, scanning and copying, Word and Excel proficiency, customer service, friendly and positive attitude and the ability to work collaboratively and to handle conflict resolution.

In many respects the administrator/secretary hired by a township holds the most important job in that municipality. She or he is the face of the township, the person who runs the day-to-day operations of the office, the person most residents come in contact with as they do business with the township.



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# Mark Your Calendar



## 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. Call 609-397-7026 or email jbkline-son@yahoo.com for details.

**Machines of Interest:** The Selected Works of Stephen Mallon, a photography exhibit from the National Museum of Industrial History, through Aug. 29. Information: nmih.org.

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

**Celebrate National Poetry Month** with Southampton Free Library, beginning April 1 get an Erasure Poetry Take & Make kit, includes source-text pages, a bag of "found" lines, marker, pencil and instructions. Intended for all ages, 100 kits available at the SFL Service Desk.

**"In Search of Luminance,"** an exhibit by Shirley Mersky and Denise Callanan-Kline at the Stover Mill Gallery. Works in oil, gouache and graphite that capture the beauty of light in the local area, open 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekends through April. Information: 610-294-9420 or stovermill-gallery.org

## Dance

**Rennie Harris Puremovement** and the Annenberg Center present a live performance at 7 p.m. April 1. Evening of works includes two that directly reflect on current tragedies; performance will be streamed online and includes an interactive Q&A with the performers. Visit annenbergcenter.org for details.

## Games

**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 x171 for details.

## Holidays

**Free annual egg hunt** with Solebury Township Parks and Recreation, 10 a.m. on April 3 at Pat Livezey Park. Event is rain or shine, open to ages 10 and under, face mask required. Visit soleburytp.org for details.

**Adult Easter Egg Hunt** at Alba Vineyard, April 3 and 4, advance registration required for one of three indoor seatings, walk-ins welcome for outdoor seating between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Must purchase wine flight to participate, egg hunt has wine-related prizes, visit albavineyard.com/calendar for details.

**PEEPS in the Village**, a family-friendly display at Peddler's Village in Lahaska, in a spacious indoor area in the Village Courtyard, on view

through April 17. Information: 215-794-4000 or peddlersvillage.com. **Elmo's Eggstravaganza Celebration** at Sesame Place in Langhorne, on select dates through April 18. Information: SesamePlace.com/Philadelphia.

## Lectures/Seminars

**Virtual Storytime** with the Southampton Free Library, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays through April. Read, dance and sing during storytime, visit southamptonfreelibrary.org for Zoom Meeting ID and password.

**Music and Motion** with Southampton Free Library, 10:30 a.m. every Monday in April. Ages birth and up are invited to sing, dance and move with Ms. Nancy, a professional music teacher. Visit southamptonfreelibrary.org for details.

**Virtual genealogy workshop** with Susan Koelble, a retired professional genealogist, and Southampton Free Library. Workshop on genealogical research is at 11 a.m. on April 7, visit southamptonfreelibrary.org to register.

**Celebrate Princess Grace's 65th wedding anniversary** with Morven Museum and Garden, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on April 15. Create a pressed flower crown and reminisce about her gown on the anniversary of the famous wedding. Event is virtual, for tickets and registration visit morven.org.

## 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 for discussion. Family event film for Earth Day: "Wings of Life" from DisneyNature, 10 a.m. on April 3. Visit acmescreeningroom.org for details.

## 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 the Mercer Museum, 1 to 2 p.m. April 16. Join a Colonial shoemaker and the owner of a general store and learn how people in early America bartered for the household objects they needed

to survive. Visit mercermuseum.org/virtualprograms for info.

## Music and More

**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.

**Craig Thatcher and Cliff Starkey**, blues/rock legends, will play in Bucks County Playhouse's Spring Concert Series, 8 p.m. on April 2 and 3. For tickets visit buckscountyplyhouse.org or call 215-862-2121.

**Virtual concert at Perkasio Patchwork Coffeehouse**, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on April 17. Toby Walker, roots music finger style guitar virtuoso, and The Brush Brothers, country/folk/bluegrass. Details at perkmenno.net/calendar-of-events.

**Get Happy!**, a virtual cabaret saluting Judy Garland from Bucks County Community College's Zlock Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m. on April 8. Jenna Pastuszek stars with music direction by Broadway's Joshua Zecher-Ross, register at bucks.edu/tickets.

**Big Laughs Comedy Series** benefiting Bucks County Community College, 7:30 p.m. on April 15. Comedy is virtual but the laughs are in real-time with nationally-touring comedians. Event is free, details at bucks.edu/tickets.

**Songs of social justice** from David Brahinsky & Friends, 12:30 p.m. on April 15. Songs from Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, Joan Baez and many more, event is free but registration is required. Details at bucks.edu/tickets.



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## 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@bucks-county.org or visit silverlakenature-center.org for details.

**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: japanphilly.org.

**Easter Flower Sale** with Trumbauersville Volunteer Fire Company, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 1 and 2; 8 a.m. until sold out April 3. Decorate your home for spring with bulbs, bedding plants, baskets; pre-order and curbside service available. More info: contact Kim at 215-536-1998 or visit bucks-58fire.com.

**Morven in May plant sale** from Morven Museum and Garden, shop new, unusual and distinct varieties that thrive in N.J. Limited quantities on many plants and products, online sale ends April 12, pickups and on-site plant sale April 30, May 1 and 2. Visit morven.org/plantsale or call 609-924-8144 (ext. 103) for details.

## Schools

**The Bucks County Parent's Guide to Schools** Open House Calendar is accepting submissions from advertisers. Advertisers in the Bucks County

Parent's Guide to Schools receive a free listing in the calendar. Forms must be submitted to a Herald advertising representative by Aug. 6.

## 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.

## Theater

**George Street Playhouse** in New Brunswick, N.J., presents "Fully Committed," the hit comedy written by Becky Mode and directed by David Saint, starring Maulik Pancholy, known for his roles on "30 Rock" and "Weeds." The virtual production is available to stream through April 11. Tickets: GeorgeStreetPlayhouse.org.

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

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**Quakertown seniors pick colleges**  
B3

# SCHOOLS SPORTS HEALTH & FITNESS

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**SECTION B**

April 1, 2021

## Play ball!

### CR North beats CB West as baseball, spring sports return

Canceled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the spring high school sports season officially got underway last week, and in its home opener on Tuesday, the Council Rock North baseball team scored 12 runs in its second consecutive game to top Central Bucks West 12-6.

Led by Leor Kedar (two hits, 3 RBIs), the Indians overcame a 4-0 first-inning deficit to improve to 2-0; pitcher Alex Chase earned the "W" for the Indians. Robb Watson had two hits and drove in three runs for the Bucks, who dropped to 0-2.

CB West played Abington Wednesday (results unavailable at press time) while CR North's next game is April 7 at Harry S Truman.



CB West catcher Max Grill drops to his knees to keep the ball in front.



CR North first baseman Shane Anhalt battles a swirling wind to catch a foul ball.



CR North pitcher Alex Estrada and Shane Anhalt attempt to pick off CB West's Jeremy Tuz, who dives back safely.



CR North's Leor Kedar makes a leaping attempt at CB West's Robb Watson double.

Photographs by Michael A. Apice



CR North's Alex Estrada closed the game and shut down CB West for the last three innings.



CB West's Andrew Kohl at bat.



CR North's Shane Anhalt collides with CB West's Cole Fehrman as Anhalt tries to catch a pop-up directly in the base path. The runner was ruled safe.



CB West starting pitcher Aiden Kim.

## Birkhead, Mount earn Big Dance berth

Don Leyoldt

A San Antonio rose made a good Dance corsage for senior Bridget Birkhead and her Mount St. Mary's teammates.

CB East's Birkhead and the No. 15 Mountaineers (17-7) earned a Big Dance berth and played No. 2 Maryland in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The NEC champion Mountaineers, who were making their first NCAA appearance since 1995, danced in San Antonio's Alamodome.

"They had to take a lot of precautions," Birkhead described. "We were all on pretty strict rules and a time schedule. Everyone had an assigned meeting room in the Convention Center where they would eat and watch film. It was surreal seeing all of the players and coaches that you watch on TV right next to you, in person. Everyone is the same, in a way."

Even though the Terps ended the Mount's season with their convincing March 22 first-round win, Birkhead and her mates forever have that "one shining moment" of playing on college basketball's biggest stage, broadcasted on ESPN. She co-lead

the Mountaineers with eight points.

"It was so cool to be playing in the Alamodome, in this humungous arena," Birkhead relayed. "Meeting those girls from Maryland: They could be in the WNBA. Playing against them in a game was awesome and I'm glad we all got to experience it together. I'm never going to forget that experience in my entire life."

The Mount was a formidable, 20-win squad in 2020 who earned the No. 2 seed in the NEC Tournament and advanced to the conference semifinal. Birkhead averaged nearly 12 points per game in the Mount's final five contests.

"I think what was different about our team last year versus previous years is that we worked so hard. We knew we had the talent and the skills that could take us to the championship," Birkhead assessed. "We put in that work and we did win."

Last March 12, as No. 3 Fairleigh Dickinson completed their shoot around on the Mount's court in a highly anticipated NEC semifinal, Birkhead and her teammates received the dreaded word that the tournament was canceled.

"We never had home court ad-

vantage in that type of tournament," Birkhead pointed out. "We had just lost to FDU in the prior week and we had beaten them earlier in the season, so it was really exciting to have that matchup on such a quick turnaround."

"That day was super weird. I remember it so vividly," she continued. "It was my mom's birthday, so my parents were excited to watch the game. We got the text and had to go meet with our team. When we all walked downstairs to the locker room to get our stuff, FDU was walking out and there were just tears. (Head) Coach Maria (Marchesano) is pretty tough. I've only seen her cry about three times and that was one of them. We were all emotional together. It was really hard."

Birkhead played in every game of her Mount St. Mary's career. She ranked in the team's top five in minutes in each of the last three seasons. Her 173 triples rank in the school's all-time top five and her career 3-point shooting percentage makes the Mount's all-time top 10. Birkhead's career 83% from the foul line would be second in school history if she had enough shot attempts to qualify.



CB East alumna Bridget Birkhead is one of the most prolific 3-point shooters in Mount St. Mary's history.

The Mount got to play their NEC tournament this March, overcoming a sluggish first quarter to ultimately pound No. 2 Wagner 70-38 in a Dance clinching final.

"A week prior to the championship game, we had gotten beat by Wagner twice. That was a reality check," Birkhead admitted. "We knew that we're a good team but not everything is going to be easy for us. Not many of us had been in a championship game in that setting."

Birkhead scored in double figures in nine of the Mount's 24 games. Her most complete game was her 12-point, four-assist, two-steal performance in the Mountaineers' 79-65 conference win over Merrimack.

The Mount was not immune to COVID-based uncertainties. Their Dec. 2 home opener with Coppin State was canceled when Coppin was just 20 minutes away from campus.

Continued on page B3





# SPORTS



## New Hope trounces Neshaminy

Karen Sangillo

They're just happy to be playing. But winning sure is nice, too. The New Hope-Solebury girls lacrosse team played its first home game in a year on Tuesday, besting non-league rival Neshaminy, 21-2.

### Girls lacrosse

"It's really awesome just to be able to play," said New Hope's Lilly Smith, a senior captain who had two assists for the day. "We really missed being on the field every day. "I feel like we lost a lot from not getting to play last year. The sophomores this year never actually played a season with us last year. But I do think we're doing a good job of recovering and we're responding really well. "I'm really grateful to be out here and able to play. During field hockey season, there was always the worry that we'd get shut down. That could happen for lacrosse, so that makes every day out here really special."

The win is the first of the season for the Lions, who suffered an 8-5 loss on the road to Council Rock South on opening day. "We had a tough one against Council Rock South," New Hope coach Betsy Dougherty said. "They were sharp and we were not sharp

so it's good to have a game where we're a little more confident and can move the ball around." New Hope senior captain Kate Dougherty led all scorers with five goals and two assists.

"This season I'm looking forward to our team developing and us being better and honestly just playing," she said. "Two years without lacrosse would have been too much for me."

Dougherty, who also played field hockey and basketball for New Hope, will continue her lacrosse career at Penn State.

Margaret Tresler had four goals and one assist, Emma Ives had a four-goal day, Maddie Thistlewaite and Rachel Saxton each had two goals and one assist, Rylie Hepp chipped in two goals, Ella Brennan put in one goal and one assist, Nicole Michael added one goal to the tally and Jess Kinker and Juliana Covino each notched one assist to round out the scoring for the Lions.

New Hope goaltender Sydney Luff, a senior who also played tennis for the Lions, made four saves.

New Hope reached the quarterfinals of the 2019 District One Class 2A tournament, but a lot has changed for the team since then. Aside from missing an entire season of play, the Lions have moved from the Bicentennial Athletic League to the Suburban One League American Conference.

This represents a big jump up for New Hope from a small league with just three other teams to one that features 11 opponents, many of them Class 3A.

"The SOL is definitely pretty big so we're obviously playing more schools, bigger schools, schools with more experienced players," Kate Dougherty said. "That makes it a little more challenging for us, but I think it's a good challenge. It's good for us to play against teams like that."

"Two years ago, we were in a smaller league and it was hard for us to get that kind of challenge. Now we have a lot more good teams on our regular schedule. In field hockey and basketball, it was great because we got more competitive games. That helps us develop better and with lacrosse I think it should be the same."

The Lions will resume their season on Wednesday, April 7, when they play host to Upper Dublin in their SOL American Conference debut.

"We have a lot of seniors but we also have some really strong underclassmen so it's going to be an exciting year," Betsy Dougherty said. "The Suburban One League is very competitive so we're not going to have easier games. It's a very tough schedule. It's a big step up for us, but I think we're ready for it. We're up to the challenge."

## Panthers roar; Rams rally highlight opening week

Don Leypoldt

The softball season is early, but Pennridge affirmatively answered one question.

"Can the Rams rally?" Absolutely. Pennridge (1-0) posted a six-spot in the top of the seventh to turn a 4-3 opening day deficit

### Softball

against Plymouth Whitemarsh into a 9-5 Friday win. After Anna Hensler scored on a wild pitch to tie the game 4-all, Madison Silber and Reagan Bauman slammed RBI doubles that extended the Ram lead to 7-4. Ram Catelyn Thrush hit an inside the park homer in the fifth. Anja Puketza earned the win by yielding one run in the last two innings.

Quakertown (1-1) also made a huge splash in its Monday opener, defeating CB West 14-0. Syd Andrews threw five shutout, three-hit innings, striking out 12. She also doubled and scored the game's opening run. Freshman Ava Beal sparked in her varsity debut by thumping a bases loaded double in the first. She also singled and was one of five Panthers to record a multi-hit game.

Andrews' ace pitching carried into Tuesday. She shut out host North Penn for seven regulation innings but unfortunately for Panther bats, the Maidens' Coastal Carolina-bound pitcher, Mady Volpe, returned goose egg for goose egg. North Penn ultimately won 1-0 in extra innings. Andrews struck out seven and walked none.

Soleil Dooner allowed a first inning run to Villa Maria Academy in Monday's opener but followed it with six straight shutout innings as her CB East Patriots (2-0) topped the Hurricanes 5-1. Dooner, who fanned five and walked none, also had three hits in the batter's box. Senior Bailey Schellhorn

reached base three times and drove in a run. Catcher Amelia Funston also knocked in a Patriot score.

Patriot bats stayed hot the next day when they blistered host Wissahickon 15-0 on Tuesday, thanks to an 11-run third inning. Ava Catron homered while Elise Washington and Funston both had three hits. Alex Frenca fired a two-hit, five-inning shutout from the ring.

Unlike East and Quakertown, CR South (1-0) did not win its opener behind a pitching gem. They won an exciting slugfest, topping neighboring Villa Joseph Marie 11-10 on Tuesday. Freshman Grace Stepp thumped a three-run homer to key a five-run third inning.

CR North (1-0) also won its Tuesday opener, beating Archbishop Wood 6-5. North fell behind 4-3 but answered with a three-spot in the fifth. Bella Pelitta's RBI double gave the Indians a 5-4 lead; Sophia Levy's sacrifice fly to extend the lead to 6-4 provided needed insurance.

CB West fell to 0-2 after the Quakertown game. The Bucks had the winning runs on base in the seventh, but ultimately fell to Abington 6-5 in their Friday opener.

CB South (0-1) lost to Plymouth Whitemarsh 9-3 in its opener on Tuesday. Nicole Pilla, a member of South's 2018 district title winning team, had three hits for the Titans.

In District 11, Palisades (0-2) opened its season with an 11-4 loss to Notre Dame Green Pond last Friday. Senior catcher Kyleigh Davis, the 2019 team MVP, went 3-for-4 for the Pirates. Davis had seven doubles and 16 RBIs as a sophomore. Offense was plentiful for all parties on Tuesday as the Pirates fell to Wilson Area 26-21.

## Pennridge off to fast start

Jeff Moeller

Pennridge head volleyball coach Dave Childs was optimistic history would repeat itself with his program. So far, he can place some stock in the theory.

The Rams have been one of the elite teams in the Suburban One League American Conference as well as in District One, where they have made it to the final four the past 11 seasons.

In 2020, they appeared to be on the right track again with five seniors leading the way until the season was canceled due to the pandemic.

This season, Childs and his squad were faced with a challenge. "This will be hard to tell," said Childs, who began his 16th season at the helm. "No one had a ton of experience, and we didn't have much of an offseason. Last season, we would have been one of the stronger

teams in the conference. "We have a lot to work on, and it may take half a season before we can get a good read."

The process appears to be on a fast track.

Pennridge recently began its season with a hard-fought 3-1 victory over Quakertown (33-31, 25-21, 23-25, 25-12) and a 3-0 shutout over Central Bucks South (25-18, 25-16, 25-19).

Junior setter Riley Kodidek had 40 assists in the opener and followed with a 22-assist effort against CB South. Senior outside hitter Ryan Benscoter picked up 10 kills apiece in both victories.

Benscoter recognized the potential of last year's squad, but he is confident this year's unit has the potential to duplicate their anticipated finish of a state tournament team.

"I really liked the team we had last year, and I believe it could have been the best one I would have been on," he stressed. "Losing last year hurt everyone badly.

"But I believe we are capable of doing really well this season. We have a strong team chemistry, and we can play to our potential."

"We have gotten off to a good start, and that's a huge confidence boost for us. Our younger players are coming around."

Along with Benscoter, the Rams will be led by senior outside hitter Bryce Muller, senior libero Dan Detweiler, and senior outside hitter Skyler Ammon.

"Ryan is one of the better players in the state," stated Childs. "Bryce led us in kills last year, and Dan and Skyler are stepping into big roles this year and doing well."

"Riley has been doing a great job for us."

Juniors Tyler Johnson, Nick Smith, and Alex Derk will be in the mix along with impressive sophomore Thomas McKinney.

"For not playing that much in the offseason, we are looking good at the start," added Childs. "We hope to get back to the final four in districts and make a state run."

### Ice hockey notes

Pennridge held off a third period rally by Neshaminy to beat the Tigers 4-2 in the quarterfinals of the Suburban High School Hockey League playoffs Monday night.

Down by two, the Tigers' Matt Duke brought Neshaminy to within a goal early in the third period before Jack Lowery iced the game for the Rams with less than six minutes remaining in regulation.

Andrew Savona, Jeff Manto and Aeryk Lehrhaupt also put the puck in the back of the net for the Rams, who advanced to play Pennsbury in Wednesday night's semifinal game (results unavailable at press time).

Council Rock South scored seven goals and Golden Hawks goalie Jimmy Sweeney stopped 34 shots to shut out Pennsbury 7-0 in the SHSHL's other quarterfinal playoff game Monday night.

Blaize Pepe scored a hat trick and Jeremy Purcell, Julian Wagenmann, Brennen Wright and Julian Same contributed a goal apiece to send CR South to Wednesday's semifinal contest against Central Bucks South (results unavailable at press time).

The winners of Wednesday's games will play each other for the SHSHL National/Continental championship Thursday night.

Regardless of the results, Pennridge, CR South and CB South, along with CB East, have earned a spot in the Flyers Cup 2A tournament, slated to begin on Monday.

No. 5 CR South opens the tournament against No. 12 Avon Grove, No. 6 CB South will face No. 11 Owen J. Roberts and No. 7 CB East will battle No. 10 Pennridge; all games are scheduled to take place at Hatfield Ice.

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# SPORTS



## Quakertown seniors feted at commitment ceremony

Mary Jane Souder



COURTESY OF QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Quakertown seniors who were recently recognized for committing to play collegiate sports are, from left, Natalie Reilly, Gianna Monastira, Cori Pursel, Jack Qualter, Justin Butler, Domenic DeFalco, Trevor Hurst, Anthony Rostick Jr., Tyler Merwarth, Kayla Hillaert and Tessa O'Donnell.

The saying "you don't know what you've got until it's gone" took on new meaning to more than a few student-athletes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Natalie Reilly is one of them.

"I just love the game (of soccer) and always have," the Quakertown senior said. "The coronavirus threatened the entire season, and I realized that I wanted to continue to play at the collegiate level because I was not satisfied with not continuing to play the sport I loved and dedicated almost my entire life to."

Reilly will be continuing her soccer career at Moravian College next fall.

"I chose Moravian because I loved the campus and the community behind it," said Reilly, who will major in sociology. "As far as soccer, the coach was very welcoming and really pushes his players to get better and stronger."

Reilly was one of three soccer players and 11 total Quakertown seniors recognized on March 3 for committing to play collegiate sports.

Reilly will be joined at Moravian by teammate Cori Pursel, who will major in business.

"I chose Moravian for the campus environment and setting and the competitive soccer program," Pursel said. "I always wanted to play in college and really started the process sophomore year by playing on a travel college showcase team."

Gianna Monastira will continue her soccer career at Ave Maria University where she will major in elementary education.

"I chose Ave Maria for its strong Catholic identity and for the vibrancy of its student body, plus it's only a half hour from the beach – how could I not choose it," said Monastira of the Florida school. "Deciding to play at the collegiate level was a logical next step for me since I love the game of soccer so much, and I desire to play it competitively for as long as possible."

Tyler Merwarth – a first team All-SOL Continental Conference defensive back – will continue his football career at the University of Albany where he will major in communications.

"I liked the interactions I had with the coaches, they have a great program and the school fits me academically," Merwarth said. "I never really started thinking about playing college football until after my junior year, and that's when I started hearing from coaches and realized I had a shot to play in college."

Domenic DeFalco was a captain of the Liberty Division champion Panthers' wrestling team. He will continue his career at Campbell University where he will major in criminal justice administration.

"The coaches really care for me and are excited to help me reach my goals," DeFalco said. "I had dreams about being a college athlete, and once I got into high school, I realized that I have the talent and work ethic to succeed at the collegiate level."

"I started receiving letters as well as coaches reaching out to me via social media at the beginning of my junior year."

Kayla Hillaert and Tessa O'Donnell have both committed to play

collegiate lacrosse.

Hillaert, who will major in political science and criminal justice, chose to continue her career at Shippensburg University.

"I chose Shippensburg for the atmosphere of the team and the family-like mentality," said Hillaert. "I knew I wanted to play in college when I started playing club lacrosse."

O'Donnell will attend Arcadia University where she will major in forensics.

"I chose Arcadia because they have a very good program for my major, and the lacrosse coach reached out to me and offered me a spot on the team," O'Donnell said. "I have played lacrosse since sixth grade and realized I wanted to play for Arcadia when the coach reached out to me after I applied."

Justin Butler, Trevor Hurst, Jack Qualter and Anthony Rostick Jr. were recognized for committing to play college baseball.

Butler has committed to play baseball at Lehigh University

where he will major in accounting.

"I chose Lehigh University because it offers a great educational opportunity and a great baseball program," said Butler. "I talked to the coaching staff, and they made me feel that Lehigh University could be my home for the next four years."

"I've known I wanted to play collegiate baseball ever since I started playing travel ball at 13. The recruiting process began when I was a freshman, making phone calls to different schools and learning about different programs."

Hurst will be playing baseball at Chestnut Hill College.

"I chose Chestnut Hill because of the baseball program, it's close to home and a nice campus," said Hurst, who will major in business administration and management. "I always wanted to play baseball in college, and it became a reality after I started college showcasing."

Qualter will major in sports

management at the University of Valley Forge.

"The University of Valley Forge is small, close to home and has great academics," said Qualter. "I started thinking about college baseball when I was only a little kid. During my junior year, I started reaching out to a lot of coaches and sending them film."

Rostick will major in accounting and play baseball at Cabrini University, choosing the Radnor school for its campus and also the relationship he developed with head coach Nick Weisheipl.

"I started thinking about playing a college sport freshman year," Rostick said. "The recruiting process started at showcases over my junior year summer."

"I visited a couple of schools, but then Coach Nick at Cabrini saw a video of mine and really liked it. After talking to my coaches, he ultimately decided to bring me in for a visit. I liked the campus and enjoyed my time during the visit and ended up committing there."

### Rugby notes

The Doylestown high school boys team hosted Gregory the Great Academy of Scranton in a preseason match on Sunday, March 28.

The match consisted of three periods of 25 minutes each, rather than the usual two 35-minute halves, giving the teams a chance to make substitutions and evaluate personnel before the season begins.

In the first period, Doylestown led 14-5 with tries by Matt Cleland and Davis Nagg. Chris Cleland added two conversions. Gregory the Great had one unconverted try.

In the second period, Doylestown still led 21-12, with a try by Nagg and a conversion by Chris Cleland. Gregory the Great had one converted try. In the third period, Chris Cleland made a penalty kick, bringing the score to 24, but Gregory the Great scored two converted tries to edge Doylestown 26-24. The Man of the Match was Nagg.

The Dragons will open their spring season with a home match against St. Joe's on Sunday, April 11, which will be played on the home pitch, Maennerchor Field, 3650 Cold Spring Creamery Road, Doylestown.

The Doylestown Rugby junior boys team fell to visiting Gregory the Great Academy in a preseason match on March 28. The final score was 17-5.

Andrew Gilroy scored the lone try for the Dragons. Gregory the Great had one converted try and two unconverted tries. The Man of the Match was Gavin Koch.

The Dragons will open their spring season with a home match against St. Joe's on Sunday, April 11, which will be played on the home pitch, Maennerchor Field.

For information about Doylestown Rugby Football Club, visit doylestownrugby.com.

## Palisades sweeps Bangor, Northwestern

Jeff Moeller

Every spring, Palisades emerges as a Colonial League track and field power as well as in District 11 with a wealth of talent spread throughout its team.

This season, the Pirates again are expected to be in the hunt, but there is a sense of apprehension in the air. A canceled campaign last year and a rash of senior losses were causes for concern.

"We're hoping for a good year," said veteran head coach Scott Antoni before their opening meet Tuesday. "We had shown a lot of promise in the preseason last year until our season was canceled."

"It will be interesting at the start to see how we perform, but I think we'll be in good shape."

After Tuesday afternoon's performance, Antoni's proclamation could be an understatement.

The Pirates' boys and girls swept both Bangor and host Northwestern in a season-opening tri-meet for all three teams.

Senior Jake Benner was a tri-winner in the jumps, as he swept the long (19-7), triple (39-

7) and high jump (5-10).

Sophomore Thomas Smigo – a two-time Colonial League champion and top five state finisher in cross country – made his successful track debut with victories in the 800 (2:13.70) and 1,600 (4:55).

"I felt great today," said Smigo. "I felt confident in my events, but I was really nervous for the 4x400. In the 4x400, I was the first leg and I knew I needed a lead to make the rest of the team's job easier."

"Overall, I was happy with our team's effort since we went 2-0." Senior Sydney Odle recorded a pair of firsts in the 100 (12.50) and 200 (28.40). Fellow senior Alayna Stiansen swept both the 1,600 (5:46) and the 3,200 (13:05.40).

Senior Delaney Hilferty dominated the throws with top finishes in the shot put (30-11) and discus (94-04).

The Pirates' girls relay teams took all three events, sweeping the 4x100 (53.30), 4x400 (4:27.90) and 4x800 (10:55).

Senior Trinity Williams also

was a double winner as she took the triple jump with a leap of 33-7 and the long jump with a mark of 15-9. Junior Sara Reguera claimed the top spot in the 800 with a time of 2:38:40.

Also on the boys side, senior Nathaniel Hendricks led the field in the 200 (24.20). Junior Griffin Campbell topped the 110 hurdles (19:24) and sophomore Bryce Guthier paced the 300 hurdles (46.90). The Pirates also dominated the relays, capturing the 4x100 (46.90) and 4x400 (3:43.80).

Palisades also had numerous performers among the top five in several categories.

Needless to say, Antoni was relieved and pleased.

"We had great performances across the board from newcomers and veterans," he said. "It was nice to be back on the track competing against great competition."

"I think a lot of athletes surprised themselves with their performances."

### Track and field

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# EDUCATION

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## Our Lady of Mount Carmel grows, donates herb plants

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School donated over 50 all organic herbs and plants grown in its own ecological classroom.

Under the direction of Dr. Angela Kaiser the school was able to harvest basil, parsley, sage, thyme and nasturtium. The herb plants were given to clients at Face to Face's Fresh Market.



Diane Caucci, Face to Face volunteer, picks up and delivers the herb plants.



Dr. Angela Kaiser works in the greenhouse.



Altenor Vaval, head chef for Face to Face, receives an herb plant.



Eighth grade students Genevieve and Michael hold up plants.

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## Edgewood Odyssey of Mind team wins first place, advances to state contest

Edgewood Elementary's Odyssey of the Mind team – better known as the Pixel Tigers – competed in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Tournament on March 6, and was awarded first place in their problem and division.

The team, made up of fifth graders Jack McGoldrick, Ollie Kauffman, and Ben Helsel, fourth graders Jolie

Gamache and Maggie McGoldrick, and third graders Julianna Elonis and Joey Kelly, worked with coach Julie McGoldrick since October, putting in upwards of three hours per week perfecting their spontaneous competition skills, building set pieces and costumes, creating specific works of art to meet identified criteria, and writing and performing in an

eight-minute play that served as the solution to their long-term problem.

With the difficulties surrounding the COVID-19 safety restrictions, team Pixel Tigers struggled to find a location to practice safely. Saint John the Evangelist Church was kind enough to open its doors, offering both space and encouragement to the students.

"Competing in OM is a long and arduous process on a good year, but in a pandemic? Let me just say that working with a team made up of tenacious, creative, thoughtful kids has made it an amazing experience for us all," Julie McGoldrick said.

Team Pixel Tigers is heading to the State Odyssey of the Mind competition on April 10.

## DelVal honored as one of most transfer friendly schools in nation

Delaware Valley University was named to the 2021 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Roll.

The list recognizes excellence in supporting successful pathways for community college transfer students. Phi Theta Kappa selected 151 colleges and universities for the honor. Schools selected for the list are considered by Phi Theta Kappa to be among the most transfer friendly schools in the nation.

Phi Theta Kappa is an honor society that recognizes the academic achievements of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders.

The Transfer Honor Roll, made possible by a \$100,000 grant from The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, recognizes four-year colleges and universities that have developed transfer pathways that lead to success among community college transfer students. PTK considers admission practices, cost of attendance, campus life and recruitment practices when determining transfer-friendly ratings.

"At DelVal, we're proud to provide a variety of options for transfer students to earn their bachelor's degrees," said Kathy Payne, vice president for enrollment management. "We focus on providing options that fit each student's unique needs. DelVal is pleased to be recognized among schools that provide the best transfer experiences in the nation."



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# health fitness & Wellness

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Bucks County Orthopedic Specialists' (BCOS) new office – its third – is located on the main campus of Doylestown Hospital.

## Bucks County Orthopedic Specialists adds office

Bucks County Orthopedic Specialists (BCOS) has opened a new office on the main campus of Doylestown Hospital.

Located on the second floor of the new Ambulatory Center at 593 W. State St., this new state-of-the-art facility becomes the practice's third office in the area.

"This new office provides many benefits," said Randall Gross, CEO of BCOS. "First and foremost, it allows us to better serve our patients with expanded availability for appointments and X-rays with a third well-designed, modern space where we can provide the highest level of care while ensuring distancing and safety during these challenging times. We are also proud to be on the hospital's campus, at the heart of health care in Doylestown. While we remain independent health care providers, we have a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with one of the best hospitals in the nation."

In fact, having a presence in the new Ambulatory Center further enhances the existing partnership between Doylestown Hospital and BCOS, as Dr. Kieran Cody serves as the president of the medical staff for the hospital and Dr. Charles Burrows is director of the orthopedic service line.

With 6,000 square feet of space, on-site diagnostics, and 12 exam rooms, the new office also boasts a spacious waiting area designed with a streamlined, contemporary aesthetic that encourages efficient patient flow and adheres to all current safety protocols.

The Ambulatory Center suite also adds to BCOS' growing portfolio of offices, which includes a location at 800 W. State St. in Doylestown and another in the new Comprehensive Orthopedic Center at 2800 Kelly Drive in Warrington.

For information, contact 215-348-7000.

## Doylestown Hospital named among best in commonwealth

Doylestown Hospital is ranked eighth in Pennsylvania and 142nd in the U.S. as part of Newsweek's annual list of World's Best Hospitals for 2021.

The award is presented by Newsweek and Statista Inc., an international statistics portal and industry ranking provider. The awards list can currently be viewed on Newsweek's website.

Newsweek and Statista developed a complex methodology to ensure the quality and validity of the ranking. Three data sources were used for the evaluation:

- Hospital recommendations from peers: an international online survey that included more than 74,000 doctors, hospital managers & health care professionals.

- Patient experience: surveys measuring patient satisfaction with hospitals.

- Medical KPIs: patient safety, hygiene measures, and quality of treatment.

Doylestown Hospital improved its ranking from last year, when it was ranked 10th in Pennsylvania and 173rd in the U.S. for 2020.

## Cairn Athletics sponsors 5K at Core Creek Park

Cairn Athletics and the RUN 12:1 running club are sponsoring the Spring 5K at Core Creek Park on April 10. The Spring 5K continues Cairn's 2021 Running Series. This timed trail race will present awards to the top three male and female finishers. In addition to individual race awards, there will also be overall series awards for those participating in multiple races.

Community runners and local cross country teams are invited to participate. Registration is \$25 for individuals and \$15 for students. For high school and college cross country teams, special team pricing may apply. Contact Athletic Director Jay Butler at jbutler@cairn.edu for more information.

Health and safety guidelines for COVID-19 will be implemented, including mask-wearing before and after the race (optional on the course), social distancing of six feet at the starting line, and use of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other cleaning products. Registration is limited to 200 participants to maintain social distancing.

## Bariatric surgery support group to meet online

St. Mary Surgical Associates Langhorne will host its next bariatric weight-loss surgery support group to help patients who have had the surgery meet their program goals, regardless of where their surgery was performed.

The support group will meet virtually from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7. This month's support group will be led by Dr. Joseph Wieliczko who will review strategies for mindful eating.

The bariatric support group meeting is free of charge and open to pre-operative and postoperative patients, as well as other medical clinicians.

To register for the support group or to learn more about the bariatric program at St. Mary Surgical Associates Langhorne, call 215-710-6613.

## Pathway Programs return to YMCA of Bucks County

YMCA of Bucks County's spring Pathway Programs, which aim to help members of the community with their health and well-being in a supportive environment, begin on April 5.

Registration is now open. Programs are provided free through the support of donors. The Y offers a variety of programs, including the following:

Seventh Grade Membership provides all seventh graders in Bucks County a teen membership, fostering youth development and healthy living. This school year, the program is extended to include eighth graders because of the mandatory closures during the 2020-2021 school year. Youth must join by May 31 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Back to You is a 12-week health and wellness membership experience, designed for those who are active in recovery from substance abuse disorders. Participation in the program includes a 12-week family membership.

New programs begin April 5 and Sept 13.

Empower U is a 12-week wellness program for teen girls in grades 7-10, designed to strengthen self-esteem, positive relationships and overall health and includes a three month teen membership. Participation in the program includes a 12-week, youth/teen membership to the Y.

New programs begin April 6 and Sept 28.

Safety Around Water provides life-saving water safety lessons for children ages 3 to 5 years. Participation in the program includes an eight



Among the YMCA of Bucks County's Pathway Programs is Veterans Wellness, a 12-week program designed to reset healthy lifestyle habits with the support of Y staff and camaraderie of fellow veterans.

week, youth membership to practice skills.

New programs begin April 5 and via summer camp.

THRIVE Cancer Wellness is a 12-week group personal training program designed for people who have become deconditioned or chronically fatigued from battling cancer. Participation in the program includes a 120-week membership.

New programs begin April 5 and Sept 13.

Veterans Wellness is a 12-week program designed to reset healthy lifestyle habits with the support of Y staff and camaraderie of fellow veterans. Participation in the program includes a 12-week family membership with an additional six-month, adult membership after successful completion of the program.

New programs begin April 5 and Sept 13.

Healthy Lifestyles is a 16-week

program, open to all adults focused on behavior change, movement, weight loss and lifestyle modification. Participation in the program includes a 16-week, family membership.

New programs begin April 5 and Aug. 20.

Blood Pressure Screening is a 16-week program in which a healthy heart ambassador educates participants in how to achieve and manage a reduction in blood pressure. Participation in the program includes a 16-week membership.

Programs begin April 5 and Aug. 20.

Pathway Programs are free and open to all members of the community who qualify based on pathway parameters. To find out more or register for a program, individuals are asked to fill out an interest form found on the Y's website at ymcabucks.org/pathways.

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# Philadelphia joins National Lights Out program

Up to one billion birds die each year across the United States when they collide with buildings and windows, attracted by their bright artificial lights at night.

Now, Bird Safe Philly, a coalition of nonprofits, has joined forces with the City of Philadelphia and the building industry to help mitigate the problem in Philadelphia — situated in a migration corridor for birds along the Atlantic Flyway.

Philadelphia is joining the national Lights Out initiative. This voluntary program involves turning off or blocking as many external and internal building lights as possible at night during migration seasons when birds are passing through the city by the millions.

The first season of Lights Out Philly launches April 1, at the start of peak spring migration and runs through May 31, when most

winged migrants will have passed through Philadelphia. In the fall, Lights Out Philly and peak migration will occur between Aug. 15 and Nov. 15 as birds travel south.

During the spring and fall migration periods, property managers and their tenants will be asked to voluntarily switch off unnecessary lights between midnight and 6 a.m., especially in a building's upper levels, lobby and atrium, and turn off

or dim external lighting. Find more information and sign up for Lights Out Philly at no cost at [www.birdsafephilly.org](http://www.birdsafephilly.org).

Lights Out Philly is the result of a collaborative effort led by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, and two local Audubon Society chapters—Valley Forge and Wyncote. In addition to the City

of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability, the Bird Safe Philly initiative is endorsed by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Philadelphia and the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia.

Comcast, which owns the two tallest buildings in the city, and Brandywine Realty Trust, the city's largest landlord, and a dozen other building operators/owners also have pledged their support of this effort.



# ELECTION 2021



## Bucks Democrats introduce endorsed candidates

Bucks County Democratic Committee Chairman John Cordisco issued the following statement on the party's endorsements for local positions.

"Earlier this month, the Bucks County Democratic Committee certified the results for its 2021 Endorsement Meeting. From those results, I am happy to re-

port each of our endorsed candidates received an overwhelming majority of the votes from the entire committee."

The party endorsed the row officers who won elections in 2017, Prothonotary Judi Reiss, Controller Neale Dougherty, and Recorder of Deeds Robin Robinson.

The candidates, Cordisco said, have transformed their departments to be more transparent, responsible, and equitable for the people of Bucks County.

"We are honored to introduce our two new BCDC endorsed row officer candidates joining the ticket this cycle," Cordisco said. "Mark Lomax, our candidate for

sheriff, retired from the Pennsylvania State Police after 27 years with the rank of major and currently serving on the Warrington Township Board of Supervisors. Antonetta Stancu, our candidate for District Attorney, an award winning criminal justice attorney who has been fighting for justice for over 17 years."

For Bucks County Court Common Pleas judge, the party endorsed Tiffany Thomas-Smith. "Tiffany has over 20 years of experience as a family law attorney, serves on the board of directors for the Bucks County Bar Association, and is the chair of its diversity and inclusion committee," Cordisco said.

## Longtime resident running for Council Rock School Board

Paula Barson, a speech-language pathologist and longtime parent, volunteer, committee member and advocate in the Council Rock School District, has announced her candidacy for Council Rock school director.

Barson seeks to represent Council Rock Region 3, which includes Northampton voting districts 1, 11, and 15. Both Republicans and Democrats can

vote for her in the primary election on May 18, in person or by mail.

Barson has lived in the Council Rock School District since 1990 and Northampton Township since 1999. She resides in Richboro with her husband and three children, who were all educated for grades 1-12 in Council Rock and graduated from Council Rock High School South.



PAULA BARSON

She has spent the last 15 years directing and producing musicals at schools across the district. Barson has been actively involved in the school district, as a member of Home and School Associations and the CR Capital Planning Committee, and as president of the Council Rock High School South Choir Parents Association.

Barson has worked for 20 years at the Children's Hospi-

tal of Philadelphia. She works with families from Philadelphia and the surrounding regions and specializes in treating pediatric patients with a wide variety of medical and developmental needs. Barson earned her B.S. in Communication Disorders from Penn State University in 1985 and an M.A. in Speech/Language Pathology from Temple University in 1989.

## School administration leader throws hat in ring for Council Rock

Roy Rakszawski has announced his candidacy for election to the Council Rock Board of School Directors, Region 6, which includes voting districts 4, 8, 13, and 18. Both Republicans and Democrats can vote for him in the primary election on May 18.

"With over 28 years of experience in public education, including eight as a superintendent, I want to give back to my community and serve the Council Rock School District," Rakszawski said. "My professional background has provided me with knowledge and expertise in all areas of teaching and learning, including personnel, finance, and facilities. I am committed to working with the board and



ROY RAKSZAWSKI

school community to provide the best possible educational experience for all students, while managing the district's resources responsibly."

Rakszawski changed to school leadership after teaching music in

the Runnemede School District, N.J., for 13 years. A native of Churchville, he resided in New Jersey for 20 years before moving back to his hometown with his wife and three young children in 2009. Rakszawski stated, "It was the school district that brought me back. From my student teaching experience at Council Rock High School in 1987, I knew this was a special place with a positive culture."

Dr. Rakszawski has been president of the Burlington County Association of School Administrators. For his work during the COVID-19 crisis, the association named Rakszawski as the 2021 Burlington County Superintendent of the Year.

### Tinicum group supports Thomas-Smith for judge

In the May 18 primary election, Democratic voters will have the opportunity to choose a candidate to run on the November ballot for judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

It is the court that hears family, juvenile, and Orphan's Court cases, as well as criminal and major civil cases. Judges who serve on this court must show fairness, civility and impartiality. They are independent and should have no political agenda. During a judge's tenure, all who appear before the court must be treated fairly and equally under the law.

Tiffany Thomas-Smith will be the independent, compassionate and impartial voice that we

need on the court. A graduate of Howard University school of Law, she is the Bucks County Democratic Committee solicitor and serves on the board of directors for the Bucks County Bar Association, where she is the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She also serves on the board of directors of the United Way in Bucks County.

Tiffany Thomas-Smith will serve with compassionate justice and be a judge "Four Community."

*Tinicum Together  
Mary Pucci, Karen Budd  
Ros Cahill  
Mindy Engel-Friedman  
Triste Longcore*

## Block announces reelection campaign for Council Rock School Board

Andy Block, two-term incumbent of the Council Rock School Board, announced his reelection campaign and candidacy to represent Region 8 (Upper Makefield Districts 1-4) on the board.

Block was elected in 2013 and reelected in 2017. He will appear on both the Republican and Democratic ballots for the primary election on May 18. He is endorsed by the Upper Make-

Andy Block seeks reelection to the Council Rock School Board.

field Republican Committee.

Block is serving the last year of his second term, having been elected to leadership for six years (with four as board president). Previously, Block led the Master Capital Planning Committee, served as Finance co-chair and



represented Council Rock on the executive council of the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.

"Serving the Council Rock community over the last seven and a half years has been a tremendous honor. I couldn't be prouder to announce my candidacy to continue representing Upper Makefield Township on the school board," said Block.

He says his decision to run for

a third term is due to the impact of COVID-19 on the district.

"Unfortunately, the pandemic has created an incredibly difficult environment for our community, students, and staff, with strained budgets, resources and outcomes. Given the myriad challenges facing the district, I felt an obligation to continue my service to help our community."

## Perkasie councilman, Scott Bomboy, to run as independent

Perkasie Borough Ward 3 Councilman Scott Bomboy will run for reelection this year as an independent, nonaffiliated candidate.

"In 2018, I dropped my party affiliation for several reasons," Bomboy said. "I am the editor of a

nonpartisan center that deals with constitutional issues. I felt there could be a perceived conflict as an elected official belonging to a political party while working in a nonpartisan editorial capacity."

Bomboy was appointed to Perkasie's borough council in Sep-

tember 2016 to fill an unexpired term, and he won election to his Ward 3 position in November 2017. Since then, Bomboy has chaired two newly created borough committees on public safety and historical issues.

"The public safety committee

was faced with the loss of our police chief, Steve Hillias, and also the COVID-19 crisis. I'm proud of how our residents dealt with both situations with the character that represents Perkasie."

As Perkasie's first historical committee chair, Bomboy worked with the Perkasie Historical Society and the state Historical Preservation Office to raise \$210,000 to restore Perkasie's beloved covered bridge.

As an independent, Bomboy noted he is barred from taking part as a

nominated candidate in the May 18 primary election.

Ward 3 voters can still vote for him as a primary write-in candidate, and he will file nomination papers with Bucks County to run as a fall candidate.

"I fully expect to file with the Board of Elections by May, and I will be on the November ballot as an independent," he said. It is not the traditional way to run for reelection, but the best things in life require hard work."

## CPA enters race for District Judge in Newtown

Mark Zinman CPA has announced his candidacy for judge of the Magisterial District Court 07-2-07, which covers the Borough of Newtown as well as the townships of Newtown, Upper Makefield and Wrightstown.

Zinman stated "I have always aspired to serve my community as a district judge. My work in the private and voluntary sectors has provided me with the experience and skills prerequisite to holding the position. I can thoroughly, accurately, and effectively analyze information and situations, and apply rules fairly and objectively. My goal is to positively impact all members of our community."

Zinman is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and is the founding and managing partner of Zinman and Co., a public accounting firm and business

advisory consultancy. Zinman holds the designations of CPA and CITP. He has held leadership positions in several professional organizations.

Zinman's community and volunteer involvement includes being the volunteer treasurer of both Congregation Kol Emet and SPIN, a nonprofit organization serving individuals with autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities. He also spent 19 years coaching youth ice hockey (including four years as coach of the JV and middle school teams for Council Rock South), and nearly 20 years as a youth ice hockey referee. Zinman donated all his earnings to AIDS research.

He and his wife of 35 years, Beth, are residents of Newtown. They are the parents of Rachael, Adam and Ali.

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# Upper Makefield police contract extended

Chris Ruvo

The Upper Makefield Board of Supervisors has approved a four-year extension of the collective bargaining agreement with the township police department.

The extension comes not long after the department achieved the status of being a state-accredited police agency through the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission.

"As our police recently achieved accreditation status, which signifies their high level of professionalism, this contract extension solidifies the joint working relationship the department has with our board and community," said Upper Makefield Township Manager Dave Nyman.

The department consists of 15 sworn officers who provide 24-hour protection to the community seven days a week. Under the collective bargaining agreement, a part-time officer was to go full-time effective April 6. A second part-time officer is in line to become full-time in the second quarter of 2022, according to the contract.

The collective bargaining agree-

ment now runs through 2026. It calls for annual salary increases of 3.5%, 3.5%, 3% and 3%. In 2025 and 2026, officers will have an additional 0.5% tacked on to the annual increase if the department maintains its accreditation status.

The department first achieved accreditation in October of 2020. It was the culmination of a lengthy process that began in 2017.

Accreditation is a means to evaluate and improve performance by creating – and meeting – standards for best practices, policies and procedures for police departments.

In October, Upper Makefield Police were evaluated by three Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission members over a two-day period to ensure that the department met the high criteria necessary to achieve accreditation.

"This accomplishment helps ensure that UMTPD provides up-to-date and professional practices that reduce liability and exposure to lawsuits while providing quality service to help keep Upper Makefield one of the safest communities in Bucks County," the township said in an announcement.

# Doylestown doctor faces 14 felony charges

Freda R. Savana

A long-practicing Doylestown physician is charged with prescribing oxycodone and other highly addictive opioids to at least 14 patients, said Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Bucks County District Attorney Matt Weintraub, in a statement.

"Dr. Richard Kondan used his position of trust and authority to recklessly prescribe addictive medications that are fueling the opioid crisis in Pennsylvania. He showed too little regard for the health and safety of his patients," said Shapiro.

Between November 2017 and September 2019, Kondan, 58, allegedly prescribed oxycodone and other opioid medications outside his "legal and ethical practice of medicine," authorities said.

Kondan failed to prescribe controlled substance in accordance with accepted treatment principles, accord-

ing to a joint investigation by the attorney general's office and the Bucks County Detectives Drug Strike Task Force. Additionally, he allegedly failed to keep accurate medical records and increased dosages of oxycodone without noting appropriate medical justification.

Authorities said, Kondan frequently authorized refills without physical exams or office visits and "regularly prescribed many patients dangerous combinations of oxycodone and other prescriptions." Some patients received the "reckless prescribing practices for as long as 16 years," the AG's office said.

"We trust our physicians with our health and, in many cases, with our very lives. A doctor's oath is to "do no harm." Instead, Dr. Kondan's alleged conduct endangered the very people he was sworn to make well," Weintraub said.

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# BUCKS COUNTY HERALD LIVING ENTERTAINMENT - ART

## Pearl Mintzer's retro images open River House at Odette's series

To honor the spirit of Odette Myrtil, as well as New Hope's acclaimed female artists in celebration of National Women's Month, River House at Odette's art series kicked off with a showcase by artist Pearl Mintzer, who was on hand March 16 to share inspiration and method behind her retro digital images.

A portion of the proceeds from works of art purchased during the event benefited New Hope Arts.

Photographs by Gordon Nieburg



Artist Pearl Mintzer with Odette Myrtil's portrait.



Julie Yeager with "Vintage MG."



Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio and Lamberto Bentivoglio with "Betty on Board."



Elizabeth Wheeler and Nancy Hensing with "Shoe Sale."



New Hope Mayor Larry Keller stands next to Pearl Mintzer's portrait of Luciano Pavarotti.



Ed Duffy with "Wine Tasting."



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# Dining

Susan S. Yeske: Recipe of the Week

## Countries around the world are baking festive breads

This week in time for Easter, countries around the world are baking a variety of festive breads that have been part of their holiday traditions for generations.

Many of today's recipes for sweetened breads are believed to come from ancient heritages that trace their origin back to the Greek city of Byzantium, now called Constantinople. Meanwhile, today's Italian panettone is similar to the sweetened breads favored by ancient Romans.

Whatever their heritage, these breads can be colorful and festive additions to any Easter dinner or brunch. Many are made with yeast and take time to rise, while others are simpler, made using baking powder or shortcuts such as frozen loaves of bread from the supermarket. Colored Easter eggs, tucked

into the dough hard-boiled or raw, add color to the breads. (Note: the eggs are edible but must be eaten immediately or refrigerated. Raw eggs baked into breads will have the consistency of soft-boiled eggs.)

For those who like to follow their heritage, here is a partial list: Germans make osterbrot, Greeks make tsoureki, the Polish make babka, the British make hot cross buns and Italians make Easter doves, panettone, and sweet and savory versions of Pizza di Pasqua. Paska is baked in Ukraine, Georgia, Slovakia and Belarus. Russians make kulich.

For those who want something cute and simple, here is a fanciful recipe for a bunny-shaped bread that is made using thawed loaves of frozen bread. Serve with your favorite dip or/or a sweetened butter such as honey butter or strawberry butter.



TASTEOFHOME.COM

Loaves of frozen bread dough are easily transformed into this cute bunny for the holiday.

### Easter Bunny Bread

2 loaves (1 pound each) frozen bread dough, thawed  
2 raisins

2 sliced almonds  
1 large egg, lightly beaten  
Dip or sweet butter of your choice

1. Cut a fourth off of one loaf of dough; shape into a pear to form head. For body, flatten remaining portion into a 7x6-inch oval; place on a greased baking sheet. Place head above body. Make narrow cuts, about 3/4 -inch deep, on each side of head for whiskers.

2. Cut second loaf into four equal portions. For ears, shape two portions into 16-inch ropes; fold ropes in half. Arrange ears with open ends touching head. Cut a third portion of dough in half; shape each into a 3 1/2-inch oval for back paws. Cut two 1-inch slits on top edge for toes. Position on each side of body.

3. Divide the fourth portion of

dough into three pieces. Shape two pieces into 2 1/2-inch balls for front paws; shape the remaining piece into two 1-inch balls for cheeks and one 1/2 -inch ball for nose. Place paws on each side of body; cut two 1-inch slits for toes. Place cheeks and nose on face. Add raisins for eyes and almonds for teeth.

4. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 30 to 45 minutes. Brush dough with egg. Bake at 350°F for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown. Remove to a wire rack to cool.

5. Place bread on a serving tray. Cut a 3 1/2-inch circle in center of body. Hollow out bread, leaving a 1/2 -inch shell (discard removed bread or save for another use). Place a 1-cup shallow bowl in the hole and fill with dip.

## Create a special spring holiday dish

As families prepare for another Easter or Passover meal that is socially distanced, some may be looking for ways to make their holiday a bit more special this year.

Old York Cellars Chef Jose Diaz has prepared this easy, recipe for cod for two that offers the perfect touch for an Easter or Passover meal to be remembered.

Chef Diaz is hoping readers prepare a truly special holiday meal

this season.

### Chef Jose's Cod with Vegetable Sauce

1 leek - sliced  
1 celery stalk - chopped  
1 onion - chopped  
1 carrot -chopped  
2 garlic cloves  
1 tomato - chopped  
1 red bell peper - chopped  
1 russet potato - chopped



Chef Jose suggests Cod with Vegetable Sauce as a special Easter or Passover dinner.

1/2 cup Old York Cellars dry white wine  
3 tablespoons olive oil divided  
Salt  
Fresh ground pepper  
1 tablespoon fresh parsley  
1 tablespoon paprika  
1/2 cup Old York Cellars Malbec Marinara sauce  
6 ounce skin-on cod filet

### Sauce

Set 6-quart pot on stove. Set flame to medium high heat. Add one tablespoon of olive oil. Add celery, carrots, leeks, onion, tomato, garlic, red pepper and potato. Add additional tablespoon olive oil over vegetables. Season with salt, pepper, and pa-

prika. Stir until spices and oil are combined.

Cook for 5 minutes stirring occasionally.

Add wine and tomato sauce.

Lower flame to low and place lid on pot for 25 minutes (stirring occasionally). Once vegetables are cooked through take immersion blender or food processor and blend vegetables until smooth.

Place pureed sauce through fine mesh strainer with a rubber spatula (optional). Return pureed vegetables to pot and simmer

### Cod

Place frying pan on stove and set flame to high. Add 2 tablespoons olive oil. Season top of cod with sea salt. Once oil begins to shimmer add cod skin side down. Cook for 5 minutes over high heat until cod begins to firm up and turns slightly white. Remove cod from pan and place skin side up into simmer sauce.

Cook for additional 10 minutes.

Spoon two tablespoons of sauce onto plate and swirl around the plate with the back of spoon. Add cooked potatoes to the plate. Place cod skin side down on potatoes and add more sauce to plate. Garnish with fresh parsley and drizzle with olive oil.

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April 1, 2021

C3

## Flemington pet shop owner grows business with second location

Barkley's Marketplace, located at 79 Main St., Flemington, N.J., is a family-owned pet food and supplies store with a reputation for friendly service, expertise, and an extensive selection of healthy pet food.

The store opened 10 years ago, in March 2011, and for the first nine years store owner Andy Cohen was focused on his customers, his community, and growing his business. When the pandemic hit, everything changed.

"Besides the health and safety fears in those early days, I was afraid of losing customers to large online retailers," Cohen explained.

"At Barkley's, we pride ourselves on excellent customer service and expertise. Suddenly, no one was coming into the store, and we had to quickly transition our business model. We focused on providing the same level of service through delivery and curbside pickup, even providing my personal cell number to clients for emergencies."

A former business executive, Cohen knew that providing delivery was key to continued growth, and he had invested in two delivery vehicles a few years back. "Delivery had been



Andy Cohen, with two of his dogs, Marcus and Addie, is in front of the new Barkley's Marketplace store in Branchburg, N.J. The original location remains in Flemington, N.J. Both offer high-quality food, treats, chews, toys, and other supplies for dogs and cats.

growing a little bit each month, then, all of sudden it was 30% of my business almost overnight.

"I am so grateful to my customers because they stayed with us all the

way through this crazy year and recommended us to their friends," Cohen explained.

"Andy and (store manager) Michele are wonderful consultants mak-

ing Barkley's so much more than a pet store. When my dog Percy needed a change in his diet I called Andy. His knowledge and expertise are amazing, and he patiently answers every question," explained long-time customer Stephanie Simmons. "This year, with the pandemic, the free delivery service is truly appreciated," she added.

While changes were already in the works for Barkley's, the pandemic accelerated everything. The sudden closing of all PetValu stores last year gave Barkley's an opportunity to expand, an idea Cohen had been mulling over for a few years.

"After 10 years, I know there is a market for a brick and mortar pet shop with an emphasis on creating a community for pet owners, stocking healthy nutritious food, and providing friendly service and expertise," he said.

Cohen recently signed a lease for a second store in Branchburg, N.J., the site of a former PetValu location, which offers a self-serve dog wash. The store's "soft open" was March 20, with an official "grand opening" in early May.

"I am thrilled to bring Barkley's to

Somerset County pet owners," Cohen explained. The manager of PetValu, Dustin McCullough, as well as several staff members have been hired to run Barkley's Branchburg location. "They are dedicated, experienced folks who love pets, and I am excited they are on the Barkley's team," Cohen added.

Another big change was the launch of Barkley's new online store, barkleysmarketplace.com. "Customers want to be able to shop online and support local businesses - our new website will help us to meet the needs of more customers," Cohen explained. Customers can order from the site for curbside pickup or local delivery. Delivery is free within a 10 mile radius of both stores with a \$50 purchase.

Barkley's Marketplace in Flemington is located at 79 Main St., next to the historic Flemington Courthouse. It is currently open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. The Branchburg store is located at 3150 U.S. Route 22, near ShopRite. The Branchburg store hours are: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

## Jeffrey Vitt: Financial Journeys

### Rate changes don't have to derail your retirement plans

A pandemic-stricken economy and an aging population with 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day are not a harmonious mix. For those nearing or living in retirement, and those careful savers with their ducks in a row, the Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates lower for longer may trigger a hunt for yield.

In this environment of ultra-low interest rates, investments like Treasury bonds aren't yielding much, with CDs and money market accounts following suit. However, there are still opportunities available for those eyeing a shift into less risky assets. Patience, calm and perspective can help you navigate the terrain.

**Brush off generic advice**  
If you don't yet have a financial strategy for retirement, you're not alone. Nearly 46% of retirees surveyed amid the pandemic said they don't have a plan, according to the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies.

A modest 12% of retirees said they had a strategy in writing. Others may plan to rely on catch-all advice such as "own your age in bonds," swapping the growth potential and risk of stocks for relatively stable bonds as you get closer to leaving the workforce. But this tip is much less useful today - and perhaps never was.

Instead, professionals recommend a goals-based strategy that allows you to align your time horizon and your investment mix, helping you calibrate the

amount of risk you're willing to take. Such fine-tuning becomes more essential in an era of low rates and market volatility.

#### See the silver lining in bonds

For years, conservative investors have been challenged by low short-term interest rates. Should they begin to rise, fixed income investors will be reminded of the inverse relationship of bond values and interest rates. As interest rates start inching up, bond prices generally decline. This has some investors sitting on the sidelines waiting for that to happen.

What these investors are forgetting is that high-quality bonds, such as investment-grade bonds, still provide predictable income no matter which direction interest rates go. The "fixed" nature of individual bonds gives investors a choice to simply hold their bonds to the maturity date and receive par value should interest rates rise, Raymond James analysts state.

"As the equity markets hit record highs on a regular basis, it is important to remind yourself why you allocate a percentage of your assets to fixed income," Doug Drabik, managing director of Raymond James fixed income research, wrote in January. "Most important is preserving the wealth you just accumulated." The thinking goes like this: When the funds you've earmarked for short-term needs are invested in low-risk, low-volatility investments, you may feel

more comfortable taking on risk in the rest of your portfolio.

#### Combine multiple income streams

During our working years, we become accustomed to relying on a single paycheck. But in retirement, creating diverse sources of money becomes key. There's Social Security, of course, but think bigger. Rental income, part-time work and investment income from annuities, bonds and dividend stocks can play a part in funding your preferred retirement lifestyle. Hope and possibility remain.

In the Transamerica survey, retirees pointed to income sources that included savings and investments, real estate, 401(k)s and IRAs, Social Security, company-funded pensions, home equity and paid work. With multiple streams of money coming in, you can better safeguard against sequence of returns risk: the possibility that you'll have to withdraw funds at the same time your portfolio is losing value. Adjusting your withdrawal rate during market declines can help keep your investments intact so you don't miss out when the market rebounds.

#### Like a stone in a pond

"At all times, in all markets, in all parts of the world, the tiniest change in [interest] rates changes the value of every financial asset." Though famed investor Warren Buffett spoke these words decades ago, they have extra resonance in the current investing

landscape. With a thoughtful, documented retirement strategy and smart diversification, you can be prepared for the ripple effect of rates.

Jeffrey R. Vitt is president of Tower Financial Partners and

Branch Manager of Raymond James Financial Services in Newtown Square. Tower Financial is independent of Raymond James. Vitt can be reached at 610-897-2697 and jeff.vitt@raymondjames.com.

## Noteworthy

Comcast recently made an announcement about its Internet Essentials digital equity initiative, to celebrate the program's 10th anniversary.

Comcast announced:

- Plans to invest \$1 billion over the next 10 years to help further close the digital divide, provide digital skills training, grants, and free service and laptops.

- Since 2011, the company has now connected a cumulative total of more than 10 million people in America to broadband Internet at home, most for the very first time.

- A new goal to reach 50 million students and individuals through Internet Essentials, free WiFi through its community Lift Zones initiative, and digital literacy training program grants over the next 10 years.

- The release of its 10-year Internet Essentials Progress Report with additional data and information about everything it has learned.

Locally, more than 840,000 residents across Comcast's Greater Philadelphia footprint have been connected to the Internet through Internet Essentials. This includes 20,400 individuals in Bucks County.

Grim, Biehn & Thatcher of Perkasie, announced that attorney Frank N. D'Amore III has joined the firm as a full-time associate.

A resident of Kutztown, D'Amore received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Monmouth University, in West Long Branch, N.J., and a law degree from Pennsylvania State University.

D'Amore's areas of practice are municipal and civil litigation. He previously worked at the law firm of Roland Stock in Reading.



FRANK N. D'AMORE III



GEORGE BOYAN

Banking industry veteran George Boyan has joined Unity Bank as chief financial officer (CFO), bringing more than 20 years of financial services industry leadership experience to the community bank.

Boyan is responsible for financial and accounting operations for Unity Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: UNTY), the parent company of Unity Bank, which manages approximately \$2 billion in assets and \$1.6 billion in deposits.

Boyan, a Harding resident, had served as first senior vice president, treasurer & controller with Bank Leumi USA since January 2014. He also served as President of Leumi Investment Services, since October 2018.

Prior to Leumi, Boyan worked with Goldman Sachs and MetLife. He also worked with the late New Jersey Rep. Marge Roukema, supporting the congresswoman's work with the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee. He earned a Master's in Accounting from Rutgers University Business School, Juris Doctor from Rutgers School of Law and B.S. in Finance & Political Science from Rutgers.

Private organizations, colleges and universities, private sector firms, nonprofit organizations and state, local or tribal governmental agencies across states including Pennsylvania are eligible to apply for funding from the U.S. Small Business Administration to provide training and counseling to aspiring and existing veteran small business owners as a Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC).

The grant awardees will provide training to service members and military spouses through the Boots to Business entrepreneurship training program, which is part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program.

Additionally, applicants will provide counseling, technical and financial skill development, comprehensive business assessments, and mentoring services to veterans, transitioning and active-duty service members, Reserve, National Guard, and military spouses interested in starting or growing a small business.

Each award is made for a base project period of 12 months, with four 12-month option periods, starting May 1. For information, visit grants.gov and search "SB-OVVB-21-001" or GrantSolutions.

Applications submitted via other media, including SBA's website, will be rejected and will not be evaluated. Applications must be submitted via grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT Sunday, April 4.

## Hemp is being nurtured at a Furlong farm

When Fred Hagen, CEO of Hagen Construction, Bensalem wakes up every day, he starts thinking about the status of nearly 60 multi-million dollar commercial developments, hospitals and government projects.

And yet on his daily "to do" list the Sugarbottom Hemp Company based at his Furlong farm and horse stables, occupies an outsized measure of his mind share.

Sugar Bottom Hemp farming, processing and product development Operating Partner Stephenie Harris, who grew up on a farm just

over the hill, where her parents still live, brings over 20 years' experience as an entrepreneur in wines and spirits to the business.

Hagen and Harris have a strategy that puts their finished products in the top tier of therapeutic CBD and CBG products in the United States. They are planning a new CBD infused carbonated drink and a line of edible gummies they hope will swamp the over-the-counter sleep aids market.

And Harris is convinced that her line of CBD/CBG products are a

major weapon in her spouse's fight against the ravages of early onset dementia.

"The CBD/CBG products we see in virtually every commercial retail setting are completely unregulated and come from blending the oils of potentially thousands of undifferentiated plant processing sources from across the country," Hagen says.

All Sugar Bottom Hemp products are the result of the industry's best practices in terms of planting, nurturing, growing and processing, he adds.

## Merck Sharp & Dohme Federal Credit Union names new CEO

The board of directors of Chalfont-based Merck Sharp & Dohme Federal Credit Union (MSDFCU) announced the selection of Dana DeFilippis as the credit union's new chief executive officer, effective March 1.

DeFilippis, who serves as senior vice president, is succeeding current CEO David Whitehead, who plans to retire on April 2, after 24 years of service at MSDFCU and a 45-year banking career.

"Dana has a keen understanding of our organization and is truly aligned with the credit union mantra of 'people helping people,'" said Thomas

Eisenberger, board chairman.

"During her tenure at MSDFCU, Dana has championed many new products and services. She remains committed to the superior level of service our members have come to expect and will continue to make MSDFCU an exceptional financial resource for our membership."



DANA DEFILIPPIS

Eisenberger thanked Whitehead for his leadership and commitment to credit union member.

DeFilippis has over 25 years of banking experience, including 23 years at the executive level with MSDFCU.

She earned her Master of Science in Taxation at Temple University and Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from Villanova University. She is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Credit Union Executive. She serves as treasurer for the Delaware Valley Credit Union Executive Society and secretary of the Montgomery County Chapter of Credit Unions.



# OBITUARIES

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

**Walter Lee Rubel**  
Aug. 20, 1930 – March 26, 2021



Walter Lee Rubel of Perkasio (Hilltown), Pa., at the age of 90, passed away quietly with family by his side on March 26, 2021.

Walter was predeceased by his loving wife; Louise C. Justin Sabol Rubel MD, FACS and siblings; sister, Julie O'Brien and brother, Donald Rubel. He is survived by his son, Scott (Gina) Rubel of Doylestown, Pa., three daughters, Gretchen (Read Vanderbilt) Rubel of San Francisco, Dr. Jennifer (Brad Blumberg) Sabol of Voorhees, NJ, Dr. Carolyn (Scott) Repke of Paoli, Pa., and his former wife, Gayle Barnes Biggs of Huntsville, Ala. His grandchildren include Gianna and Ford Rubel, Cal and Ava Blumberg, and Rachel, Lauren, John and Matthew Repke.

The son of Donald C. and Julia Lee Rubel, Walter was born in Philadelphia, Pa. He graduated from Germantown Friends School in 1948 and went on to attend Brown University. He then graduated with a degree in philosophy and religion from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana in 1952. Walter joined the U.S. Army and served from 1953-1955 in the U.S. Medical Corps. He received a National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal before his honorable discharge in 1955. Walter was proud of his family's long history with the U.S. military having been the fourth great-grandson of Commanding Gen. Winfield Scott, also an 1852 U.S. presidential candidate.

Walter led a successful career as a distinguished investment advisor. He began his career at Parrish Securities in 1964. During his financial services career, he was involved in six mergers. Among other roles, he served as vice president for investments at Prudential-Bache, Prudential Securities, Wachovia Securities, and finally Wells Fargo from which he retired.

In 1980, an acquaintance unknowingly reintroduced Walter to a student he had met when his father was the president of Women's Medical College. On Sept. 11, 1983, Walter and Dr. Louise C. Justin Sabol were married in Eagles Mere, Pa. Separated by careers in different cities, they settled on raising their combined family during weekends and holidays at their home on Eagles Mere Lake. Walter and Louise were active golfers, travelers and lovers of nature. Walter and Louise enjoyed many adventures from safaris in Africa, snorkeling on St. John, climbing glaciers in Alaska, birding in the jungles of Costa Rica and snorkeling in the Galapagos Islands. Many of their adventures revolved around their passion for golf. They played courses all over the world, including St. Andrew's in Scotland, and other golf courses in Portugal, Ireland and Pebble Beach. Walter also was an avid bird lover and longtime supporter of the National Audubon Society.

An active member of every community within which he lived and worked, Walter split his time in three Pennsylvania areas; Philadelphia, Bucks County and Eagles Mere. In Philadelphia where he worked, Walter served as Philadelphia Committee of 70 chairman, as a division committeeman, as secretary of East Mount Airy Neighbors, and was a life member of The Union League of Philadelphia. In Bucks County where he resided from the 1960s, Walter served on the board of directors of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Bucks and Pennridge School District, where he served as board president. He also served as Perkasio Rotary president, Pearl S. Buck Foundation Board president and Delaware Valley Mental Health Foundation Board president. He was an elder at Deep Run Presbyterian Church.

In Eagles Mere, Walter served as an active member of the Eagles Mere Conservancy and as president of the Eagles Mere County Club which held a special place in his heart. He was an elder at Eagles Mere Presbyterian Church. Known as Walter, Walt, Dad, Wa-wa and Pop-Pop, his wisdom, leadership, guidance, love and songs of grace will be greatly missed by all, especially his loving and devoted son, C. Scott Rubel, who cared for his father during the last years of his life.

In Walter's own words: "Your Elders Direct That You: Pursue lives of meaning and purpose. Share in the joys of family life. Find understanding in solving differences. Use

God-given talents for the benefit of all. Be humble if you meet misfortune. Not forget those in need. Cultivate thoughts in a green mind. Cherish the best in each other. Remember your roots. Accept that you venture forth with care and love" (March 27, 2009).

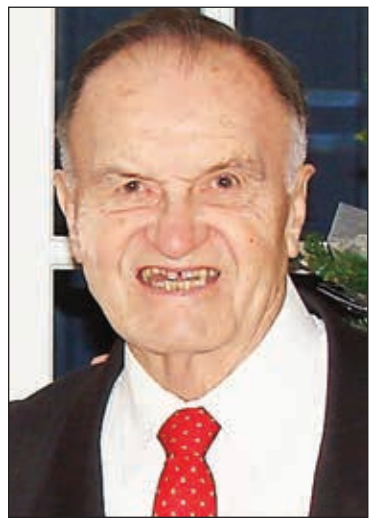
As an expression of sympathy, please consider a donation to the Grand View Health Foundation, 700 Lawn Ave., Sellersville, PA 18960, (215) 513-3935, <https://www.gvh.org/grand-view-health-foundation-main>. In the memo, please put "In Memory of Walter L. Rubel."

A celebration of life will be held at a later date due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Homer Funeral Home, 206 Water St., Dushore, PA 18614.

To send condolences or sign the e-guestbook, please go to [homerfuneralhome.com](http://homerfuneralhome.com).

**Andrew B. Barkocy**



Andrew B. Barkocy of Washington Crossing died peacefully on March 23, 2021 at his home. He was 89.

Andrew, known to family and friends as Andy, was the loving and devoted husband of Frances R. Zarembo Barkocy and together they shared 65 years of marriage.

Born in McAdoo, Pa., he was a son of the late John and Margaret Kuchera Barkocy.

Andy entered the United States Navy at age 17 and served proudly during the Korean War. After being honorably discharged he and Frances (Fran) married and moved to Lower Makefield where they lived for many years and were actively engaged in the community. At this same time Andy began his career as a bookkeeper while attending Rider University at night. He worked this vigorous schedule for 7 years until he attained his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Andrew rose to various roles during his career as an accountant, eventually serving as controller for S&P Global. Following his stint in corporate America Andy was bit by the entrepreneurial spirit and purchased a Snelling & Snelling franchise. The culmination of years of hard work came when he founded Princeton Executive Search, a pioneering company in the Executive Recruitment industry, where he remained until retirement. Throughout his career Andy prepared taxes for family and friends and continued to do so even through retirement.

Andy and Fran moved to Upper Makefield later in life where they delighted in the view of the Delaware Canal which remained a source of joy for Andy until the end. He enjoyed catching up with his Navy buddies and was actively involved in the development and eventual opening of the Washington Cross-

ing National Cemetery. He volunteered countless hours of his time to the National Cemetery and the Guardians of the National Cemetery, affectionately becoming known to many as "The Mayor" of Washington Crossing. Additionally, he was a faithful communicant of St. Ignatius and St. Bede Parishes and was a third-degree Knight of Columbus. He was an avid fan of all Philadelphia sports and spent time enjoying games with his sons and friends.

Of the many hats Andrew wore throughout his life, perhaps most important was that of a devoted family man who beamed with pride as his family grew, generation by generation. His simple kindness will be missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his wife, Andrew leaves behind his children, Andrea DiGregorio and her husband, Albert M. Jr. of Yardley, Pa., Allen B. Barkocy and his former wife, Josie Parent, of Austin, Texas, Dr. Gary A. Barkocy (late Janise) of Nacogdoches, Texas; his siblings, Robert Barkocy and his wife, Joan, of Palatine, Ill., Bernadine Pavel of Reading, Pa., Agnes "Dolly" Kondash of Somerville, N.J.; his grandchildren, Dr. Alexander M. DiGregorio, Capt. USAF, and his wife, Tara, Dr. Nicholas A. DiGregorio, Danae Barkocy, and Isabelle Barkocy, and his great-grandson, Dominic DiGregorio. Andy was eagerly anticipating the arrival of his great-granddaughter, due in August.

Andy was predeceased by his brother John Barkocy and sister Cecilia Miskiewicz.

Services will be private, and Andy will be laid to rest in the place he loved, Washington Crossing National Cemetery, with military honors rendered by the United States Navy and his beloved Guardians.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to The Guardians of Washington Crossing National Cemetery, P.O. Box 233, Newtown, PA 18940 or to St. Bede the Venerable Parish, 1071 Holland Rd., Holland, PA 18966. [www.fluehr.com](http://www.fluehr.com)

**Maude A. Kline**

Maude A. Kline, 95, formerly of Durham Township, Pa., passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at Valley Manor Nursing Home, Coopersburg, Pa., where she was a beloved resident for the last six years.

She was born Sept. 15, 1925 and raised in the little village of Wasergass, just outside of Hellertown, Pa., a daughter of the late Floyd and Myrtle Moore Fluck.

Maude met Harry, the love of her life, at a dance. She asked the handsome young man to dance on a dare from a friend and that led to a lifelong commitment to each other for 70 years, only broken by Harry's death in 2011.

Maude was a loving, caring woman who was devoted to her children. She loved to read to them and encouraged them to read and learn all they could. She was proud that they all graduated from high school and that she was able to see her grandchildren and great-grandchildren graduate from college.

Maude loved to garden and for years had a beautiful array of flowers surrounding her and Harry's home. When she wasn't in her garden, she was taking care of her six children or cooking in the kitchen, where she made the best vegetable soup and an endless supply of cookies and cakes.

Maude was born into a world where things were simple. Her father was a butcher and her mother took care of her children on the farm. Maude could remember neighbors plowing with horses, real ice for the

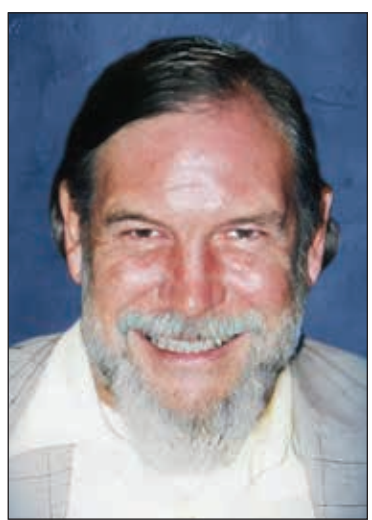
icebox and doctors who made house calls. She saw incredible changes during her lifetime. She lived a beautiful, compassionate, caring life and will be greatly missed but welcomed into heaven. "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Maude is survived by her children, Harriet Miller (Robert), Bruce (Deanna), Rosemary Cooper (Paul), Kevin and Clark (Lori); seven grandchildren, Martin, Lewis, Leanne, Paul, Sara, Rachel, and Zachary and seven great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, Harry, she was preceded in death by a son, Edward.

Calling hours were held March 27 at the Robert W. Snyder Funeral Home, 327 Easton Road, Riegelsville, Pa., followed by a graveside service in the Durham Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arbor Day Foundation, 211 North 12th St., Lincoln, NE 68508.

**Thomas J. Megin**



On Monday, March 22, 2021, Thomas J. Megin passed away peacefully at Doylestown Hospital, Doylestown, Pa. He was 67.

Tom was born on March 31, 1953 in Doylestown, Pa., to the late W. Stanley and Anne (Nice) Megin. He was a graduate of New Hope-Solebury School. He worked on the family farm, and in later years completed excavation work.

He was the dear brother of Kathy Reichstine and husband Tom; loving uncle of Henry Reichstine and wife Alicia, Sheila Belisle and husband Joe; cherished grand uncle of Sara and Matt Belisle, Henry, Jr., Milan, Mackay and Maceio Reichstine.

Tom had a passion for outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing and hunting, as well as playing baseball in earlier years. As a hobby, he collected old bottles that he found along his many hikes on the Upper Black Eddy trails near his home.

He was a gentle kind person and will be missed by all, including his cat, Pachoo.

Memorial gifts can be sent to: Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Mail: P.O. Box 98018 Washington D.C., 20090 Phone: 1-888-557-7177 Web address: [donate.lls.org](http://donate.lls.org) Send condolences to [www.varcoethomasfuneralhome.com](http://www.varcoethomasfuneralhome.com)

**Diane Leslie Altman**



On Sunday, March 21, 2021, Diane Leslie Altman, loving mother, grandmother, and devoted friend, passed away.

Diane was born on June 12, 1943 in Providence, R.I., to Evelyn and Arthur Pettet. With her brother, John Pettet, she grew up loving the outdoors and animals. These passions followed her throughout her life as she could often be found hiking the canal trail with her beloved dogs or tending to her flower gardens. Diane received an undergraduate degree from Skidmore College in 1966 and went on to receive a master's in social work from Rutgers University in 1986. She spent many years developing and running the Women's Program at Princeton House where her compassion for others was paramount. Diane cherished her friendships and welcomed a visit from anyone at any time. Her door was never locked. She held the tight-knit community of Lambertville close to her heart.

Diane is survived by her two children Lucas P. Altman and Morgan P. Altman, granddaughter Adeline Altman, daughter-in-law Ana Altman and son-in-law Nenad Radojicic.

A celebration of Diane's life will be held in June 2021.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Van Horn-McDonough Funeral Home, Lambertville, NJ ([vhmfh.com](http://vhmfh.com)).

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**BUCKS COUNTY HERALD**



# Family Service Association slates homeless shelter benefit

Family Service Association's kick-off of its ninth annual benefit for its Emergency Homeless Shelter is at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 8.

Due to social distancing concerns, this event will be held virtually this year as it was in 2020. In 2020, Family Service's Emergency Homeless Shelter provided a temporary home to 352 Bucks County residents who were struggling with homelessness. Of those, 111 were children under age 18. During this time, Family Service saw a 30% increase to its shelter waitlist and a 35% increase in costs due to necessary COVID-19 precautions.

Family Service's shelter differs from many others in the area because of the breadth of programs that it offers for the residents.

Family Service staff work with each resident to address many of the issues that may have contributed to their current situation or may be barriers to their finding stable housing. Shelter residents are connected with health evaluations and referrals, counseling, case management, job search resources, transportation to appointments and interviews and more.

The goal for each person entering the Family Service Shelter is for them to leave with the keys to their own home at the end of their stay. And due to the support that this shelter offers, more are able to do just that.

To support these efforts, Family Service is inviting the community to join in for the Virtual Benefit kick-off, which will be si-



Family Service Association's benefit for its Emergency Homeless Shelter will be held virtually.

multaneously streamed on Zoom and Facebook Live at 6 p.m. April 8. The event will showcase the work done at the shelter and stories of recent challenges and success. Following the kick-off, the benefit will continue for the

next two weeks with local individuals, businesses and organizations coming together to fund-

raise for this important cause. For information, or to RSVP, check out [fsabc.org/benefit](https://fsabc.org/benefit).

## Salem church blanket fundraiser aids victims of natural disasters

Salem Church of Doylestown is raising funds to help provide blankets to victims of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and pandemics.

CWS (Church World Service) distributes thousands of blankets around the world to shelters and to community organizations that help those in need. Salem Church asks the public to help "Blanket the World with Love" and contribute to this worthy cause. Blankets cost \$10 each.

"We have this unique opportu-

nity to provide warmth and shelter to those affected by poverty during this pandemic," said event organizer, Beth Mann. "Here is one more very important way that we can each contribute out of our vast capacity to help those less fortunate during these COVID times."

To buy a blanket, you can donate at [salemstrong.org](https://salemstrong.org) or write a check and mail it to 186 E. Court St., Doylestown, PA 18901. Mark clearly in the memo "Blanket Sunday."

## On the Spiritual Side

[jarthur@buckscountyherald.com](mailto:jarthur@buckscountyherald.com)

# Against all odds Washington Crossing UMC expands to serve the community

**The Rev. Pierre Eade, pastor of Outreach**

A historic Washington Crossing congregation with over 150 years of service to the community and the world did not let a pandemic stand in the way of completing construction of a 400-plus-seat worship and broadcast center that will enable it to expand its ability to do good works.

Washington Crossing UMC "The Crossing" began fundraising for the project in early 2019 and broke ground last June, despite an unprecedented time in the nation and against all odds.

"After serious prayerful consideration, we really felt compelled by the Lord to move forward with the vision," said the Rev. Dr. Scott McDermott, senior pastor, who has led the congregation since 1993. "It's a testimony of what God can do even in the darkest times."

The key driver for the initiative was the church's focus on serving the community. The Crossing has a long history of community outreach and standing up for justice since its inception in 1855. Samuel Taylor, a skilled Quaker carpenter, found Jesus at a Methodist camp meeting and resolved to build a Methodist church in Taylorsville, today's Washington Crossing. The project engaged community from the start.

Because Taylor stepped into his destiny, the church touched thousands of lives — far beyond its own congregation over its 166-year history. The young church was engaged with Anti-Slavery Society meetings, hosted Women's Christian Temperance meetings, and supported anguished families in the Civil War and the Depression.

Over a century and a half later, the passion that drives The Crossing burns as bright as ever. The Crossing actively serves the local community through relevant and practical ministries.

The church organized six years of job fairs during the height of the recession and offered free community classes. Its "Mega" Egg Hunt has brought young

families together and its emotional and physical healing ministries have served and blessed thousands of people.

Additionally, the church has been on the front line in the battle against modern day issues such as sex trafficking, the opioid crisis and serving alongside local pregnancy centers to help distressed mothers.

This same love and devotion to community is at the heart of the church's new building program. The church's vision for its facility goes beyond worship services into community service.

After outgrowing the initial chapel on the hill, The Crossing started holding services in the church gymnasium in 1999. For the past 22 years, the church used the gym as a dual-purpose space both for services and for youth activities. With the new worship center, plans are in place to upgrade the gym for community outreach and service. By the fall, The Crossing plans to begin youth sports programs for the community.

While the church has a local focus, its ministries expand nationally and internationally. The COVID-19 pandemic broadened the church's listening audience, with services offered every week through social media. People around the globe now engage with the ministry. Located in one of the most historically rich locations in our country, this church in Washington Crossing has a vision that embraces the world.

Nearly 80 years before its inception, and just steps away from where the sanctuary would stand, George Washington and his 2,400 men dared to cross the Delaware River on the bitter-cold Christmas night of 1776 and triumphed at the Battle of Trenton.

Artist Emanuel Leutze memorialized this turning point of the American Revolution in his famous painting of Washington Crossing the Delaware (1851). The iconic image is now a highlight of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, but from 1952 to 1959, was displayed at the little Taylorsville church.

Over those eight years, the

small congregation hosted an estimated 250,000 visitors who came through the church doors to see the historic painting of Washington the other patriots Leutze portrayed.

The Crossing later moved to its current location on a nearby hillside in Washington Crossing to accommodate a still-growing congregation.

This year, the Crossing welcomes all to a worship space redesigned for the 21st century and better equipped to serve a diverse congregation and community. Like the original church, this new center is built on a solid and enduring foundation of faith and community service as it strives to be a home where everyone is welcome and lifelong relationships are born.

As timing would have it, the church was able to adjust its original construction plans to incorporate the latest in health and safety technology. The church is following all CDC recommended social distancing protocols and encourages preregistration for all services.

Worship Services at the Crossing take place on Saturday night and Sunday morning, as well as online. Additional information on service times and church programs can be found on the church's website: [crossingumc.org](https://crossingumc.org).



The interior of The Crossing's new worship and broadcast center.



The exterior of The Crossing's new worship and broadcast center.

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# Doylestown mayor weighs in on Tile Works decision

Continued from page A1  
plan being proposed may compromise the integrity of the site, its collection, and the product for which it is renowned.”

Katia McGuirk, executive director of the new nonprofit, Tileworks of Bucks County, said, she and the organization are maintaining and furthering Moravian Pottery & Tile Works as a working history museum.

The county will continue to own the entire facility and all its historical artifacts, said McGuirk, in a statement. McGuirk is a highly regarded tile maker herself with a long history in Bucks County. She worked at Moravian and has extensive experience

in tile making in the historical arts and crafts tradition, her attorney, Christopher P. Coval, noted in a phone interview.

“What seems to be missed by some is that this is a working history museum, which continues to manufacture historical tile, and therefore it is very important to have people with specific experience operating the facility in keeping with the brand, reputation, legacy, ethos and style of the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works,” said Coval. “(That) is exactly what this license agreement will ensure.”

Coval said, the county and the nonprofit have carefully considered and planned the

transition for some time. “This has not been rushed in any way,” he added.

“The county will exercise robust oversight at all times and it will appoint one of the trustees of the nonprofit organization,” McGuirk said.

“We are especially excited to have the opportunity to begin the extensive work of building, for the first time, an entire online index of the museum’s molds, ephemera and historic objects,” said McGuirk. Tileworks of Bucks County hopes to build relationships with other museums to increase the museum’s public visibility and accessibility.

# Gift shop faces criticism, then it gains support

Continued from page A1

here anymore,” she said. “I didn’t respond to any comments, but when I looked to see who some these people were, they were from all over the country.”

Gouldy stressed that she, “believes in freedom of speech and respects different opinions, but, it was disheartening to me to see the personal attacks – some even compared me to being a Nazi.”

However, the negativity prompted an outpouring of support, Gouldy said, with the positive comments outnumbering the critical ones, 30 to 1. “My business started to ramp up and I’m getting orders from all over the country. People are stopping in to shop and ask if I’m okay. The community rallied behind me.”

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PECO is filing a request with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to increase your electric rates as of May 29, 2021. This notice describes the Company's electric rate request, the PUC's role, and what actions you can take. PECO has requested an overall electric rate increase of approximately \$246 million per year. If the Company's entire request is approved, the total monthly bill for a residential customer using 700 kWh would increase by \$9.68 from \$100.29 to \$109.97 or by 9.65%.

The total monthly bill for a commercial customer using 10,000 kWh would increase from \$814.40 to \$859.08 or by 5.49%. The total monthly bill for an industrial customer using 200,000 kWh would increase from \$14,368.90 to \$15,041.87 or by 4.68%.

To find out your customer class or how the requested increase may affect your electric bill, contact PECO at 1-800-494-4000. The rates requested by the Company may be found in Electric Service Tariff No. 7. You may examine the material filed with the PUC, which explains the requested increase and the reasons for it. A copy of this material is kept at PECO's office. Upon request, the Company will send you the Statement of Specific Reasons for Proposed Increase in Electric Rates, explaining why the electric rate increase has been requested. A copy can also be reviewed by visiting <https://www.peco.com/MyAccount/MyBillUsage/Pages/Filings.aspx>. The state agency which approves electric rates for public utilities is the PUC. The PUC will examine the requested electric rate increase and can prevent existing electric rates from changing until it investigates and/or holds hearings on the request. The Company must prove that the requested electric rates are reasonable. After examining the evidence, the PUC may grant all, some, or none of the request or may reduce existing electric rates. The PUC may change the amount of the electric rate increase or decrease requested by the utility for each customer class. As a result, the electric rate charged to you may be different than the electric rate requested by the Company and shown above.

There are three ways to challenge a Company's request to change its electric rates:

1. You can file a formal complaint. If you want to file a formal complaint, you must file a formal complaint. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a hearing likely will be held virtually. By filing a formal complaint, you ensure yourself the opportunity to take part in hearings about the electric rate increase request. All complaints should be filed with the PUC before June 29, 2021.
2. If no formal complaints are filed, the Commission may grant all, some or none of the request without holding a hearing before a judge.
3. You can send the PUC a letter telling why you object to the requested electric rate increase. Sometimes there is information in these letters that makes the PUC aware of problems with the Company's service or management. This information can be helpful when the PUC investigates the electric rate request. Send your letter or request for a formal complaint form to the: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Post Office Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Complaint forms can also be accessed at the PUC website: [https://www.puc.pa.gov/general/onlineforms/pdf/official\\_complaint\\_form\\_final.pdf](https://www.puc.pa.gov/general/onlineforms/pdf/official_complaint_form_final.pdf).

3. You can be a witness at a public input hearing. Public input hearings are held if the Commission opens an investigation of the Company's electric rate increase request and if there is a large number of customers interested in the case. At these hearings you have the opportunity to present your views to the PUC judge hearing the case and the Company representatives. All testimony given "under oath" becomes part of the official electric rate case record. These hearings are normally held in the service area of the Company, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic they likely will be held virtually. For more information, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. You may leave your name and address so you can be notified of any public input hearings that may be scheduled in this case.

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# Lambertville votes to buy Closson property

*Continued from page A1*  
 “This is an incredible amount of money for our community, but this is worth it for the culture of the town. If we don’t do something to save it, it will turn into housing, and we can never get it back.”  
 The council also passed a resolution that it must have an agreed-upon action plan for the property before conducting any changes to the property. Only \$2.73 million to acquire the property will be used, less a \$71,000 initial deposit. The city will hold the remaining amount for that property only.

The City Council Chair Julia Taylor, and the mayor stressed that the project’s action plan would include public input, that if the city does not need the remaining amount of money in the bond, it can cancel significant portions or amend the bond within the next three years.  
 Councilwoman Benedetta Lam-

bert, however, was not convinced that this purchase would work out in the long run of the town’s finances. She said she was “concerned” with how Lambertville will handle the debt.

“For the last couple of years, the city’s heard that we are in a dire financial situation and that we are unable to maintain our existing buildings,” she said, “and now we’re looking to bond over \$3.7 million dollars to double our facilities inventory without any plan?”

Lambert also said that the city is already \$2 million in debt. She said that purchasing the property may increase spending in the future, raise taxes, and cap the city’s ability to bond for the next 25 years to about \$450,000.

“I’m thinking of the future. I’m thinking forward to the people who have reached out to me – who are terrified that they cannot afford to live in this community because of the cavalier approach to ‘we can’t afford not

to buy this.”

Lambert then brought up a controversial survey that the city conducted in the past six months, which only recorded around 400 responses from the town’s over 22,000 voting population. She argued that there should have been a referendum to cover the entire population. Mayor Fahl responded that the family would have sold the property before they could do so.

Fahl argued that “If we do not do the work to preserve this site, then I think we have failed as a community that claims to want historic preservation.”

As the meeting turned to public comments, they skewed heavily in favor of the bond.

Louis Toboz, a resident of 41 years and the city historian, gave full support to the ordinance to secure the Closson property.

“This property, this house, is not

just the most important piece in the county, but one of the most important pieces of property in the county.” He said. “George Washington had been there during the battles of Trenton and Monmouth. This family protected this house for eight generations – it was granted to them in 1704. If nothing is done, this property will be gone, and gone forever.”

However, not all residents were supportive of the bond. A few were opposed to the money the city would have to put into the property.

Matt Hanson, who grew up in Hunterdon County and moved to Lambertville seven years ago, said that he is highly concerned about the residents being able to continue living in town.

“What concerns me, as we take out more debt, is who will be able to afford living here,” he said. “Will the artists be able to continue living here? Will the LGBT individuals who

frame this town be able to continue living here? I don’t think it’s possible if we do this.”

When a call to vote on the first reading of the bond opened, Councilwoman Lambert recounted how much she loved the Closson property and the town’s cultural ties to it.

“I recognize the value of this property, and this has been very difficult for me, but I am keenly aware of the issues of this city. I know that this puts me in the minority, but I really feel that I need to vote no.”

Council President Julia Taylor, and Councilmen Steve Stegman, Wardell Sanders, and Mayor Fahl all voted yes against Lambert’s single no on the first reading of the ordinance.

Lambertville City Council also announced that due to the weather, the city would reconduct street sweeping on April 19 and will be doing pothole repair during the first two weeks of April.

# Borough seeks architects’ qualifications for parking garage project

*Continued from page A1*  
 alone thrive,” said Connie Gering, council president. “The size of the garage – and thus its total cost – will depend on the demand for parking space expressed by the operators of the new large businesses.”

The businesses’ expressed need and willingness to take out long-term leases to pay for parking spaces will shape the garage and its financ-

ing,” Gering said. “In order to better serve the community as a whole and small businesses throughout the borough, public parking will also be provided in the garage. Under no conditions, however, will borough council borrow any funds that cannot be paid for through long-term lease arrangements that cover the costs of repaying without burdening the taxpayers of the borough.”

Council’s ad hoc garage committee has met with some of the new and expanding businesses to determine their potential needs for parking space and willingness to enter into long-term leases. The ongoing consultations have involved the number of parking spaces, usage plans, means of limiting access to reserved slots and other matters. Once the committee has a firm han-

dle on needs and demand, the next step will be to engage consultants specializing in garage design and construction.

Public parking spaces are expected to generate additional revenue for the borough. “That will be a source of funds that we will hope will enable council to continue its now seven-year practice of not raising taxes for years to come,” Gering

said.

Before final decisions on the garage siting and size, public meetings will be held to present plans and options and obtain citizen input.

The first of these will be on responses to the RFQ and the decisions about which firms will be invited to respond to a Request for Proposals for the design services.

# Nockamixon greenlights Durham Road Dollar Store

*Continued from page A1*  
 stormwater and other topics through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements; on-lot sewer through the state Department of Environmental Protection, and PennDOT requirements, such as an okay for a driveway on an arterial road, which is the only

frontage the building has.

New traffic, the primary concern of the resident, who lives three homes over, and who has two children using a school bus stop across the street “on a road that already has lots of traffic,” was estimated at a peak of 60 trips (30 cars) from 4 to 6 p.m. A tractor trailer is to deliver once a week, with

other deliveries by beverage, box, and smaller trucks.

Two employees are to be in attendance, with a third added for deliveries. Parking provisions were deemed adequate, with lot lights to

be shut down after hours, and security lighting staying on. Separate approvals are to be sought for signage. The road was noted as already wide enough, including a left-turn lane, and maintaining the already estab-

lished Route 611 to Route 563 corridor.

Also at the March 18 meeting, supervisors approved the appointment of John Courtney to the township’s zoning hearing board.

# Distance Picnic outdoor concerts return to Doylestown

Jodi Spiegel Arthur

During the height of the pandemic last summer, Joe Montone, the Rev. Daniel Moore and his wife, Kristin, found a way to bring people together.

Montone, a musician and events producer, met the rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Doylestown and his wife at a party Montone had produced at the Michener Art Museum’s Putman Pavilion just a week prior to the statewide shutdown aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

“In June, they invited me over to see their parking lot space,” Montone said. “In July we had our first concert.”

Two more family-friendly Distance Picnic concerts, also held outdoors in the church parking lot on Pine Street, with space for socially distant seating, followed in September and October.

Not only did the concerts, with a red barn serving as a backdrop, provide a badly needed outlet during a time of isolation, they uplifted artists and brought back a sense of community.

This year, Montone and the Moores plan to build on those successes with more Distance Picnic concerts, beginning in May. Sponsors are wanted, and vendors are invited to apply for space, both at [distancepicnic.com](http://distancepicnic.com).

Sponsorships will allow for giving more to artists from the “door” and sponsors could even adopt a band. Local makers can apply for one of four vendor booths.

The concerts, which are geared toward a family atmosphere, are for “anyone wanting to discover live, original artists that are from their own backyard,” Montone said.

An announcement about the May artist(s) is coming soon; the June concert will be a country show, with the remainder of the concert artists from the tri-state region to be announced as they are confirmed.

“We like to feature up-and-coming, live original music,” Montone said. “Giving original artists a stage in their own backyard is super important.”

Tickets will be offered for sale in advance online. Some may also be available at the “door.”

Montone, who performs under the moniker “Heat Thunder,” and who recently launched his own production company, Remedy Electrical Society, will be among the performers in the June concert.

“This was created in a time when so many people felt so isolated,” Kristin Moore said. Bringing the community together in the midst of the pandemic, she said, offered “a little tiny taste of normalcy,” done in a safe way.

To continue to provide a safe environment, Montone said, masks are mandatory again this year – even after vaccinations.

However, attendees can bring their own picnic from home or take-out from local restaurants – which is encouraged to support them – and take

their masks off to eat and drink while seated on their own blankets and chairs. Some people, he said, even bring tables.

“We leave it up to people to sit where they’re comfortable,” Montone said, adding it results in social distancing.

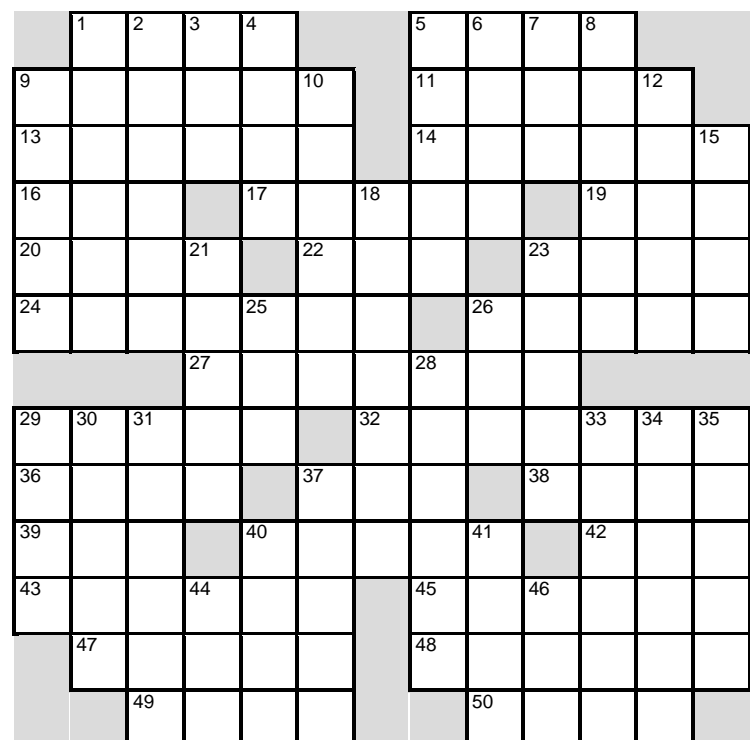
“We’re going to put restaurants on the website,” he said. “We emphasize getting takeout from local restaurants.” Montone said the borough has allowed for the closure of Pine Street between Oakland and Taylor avenues during the concerts. Parking is off-site. Port-a-potties will be available on-site, and volunteers will sanitize them between uses.

Kristin Moore said the Distance Picnics add to the community by providing a safe place for people to gather, by celebrating and supporting local artists, and by supporting local businesses and restaurants by bringing people out of their homes and into town to patronize them.

“It took a pandemic for us to see the amazingness of this location,” Montone said.

For information, including sponsorship and vendor applications, visit [distancepicnic.com](http://distancepicnic.com). Sponsorships will help offset the cost of overhead such as port-a-potty and sanitation rentals, event insurance, sound technicians and staffing, and help to support local bands.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- Across**
1. Foxhound’s four
  5. Bon mot
  9. Sight
  11. One with a leading role?
  13. Turn to bone
  14. Where to find Venezia
  16. Critics, at heart
  17. San Gimignano gal pal
  19. Old hi-fi spinners
  20. \_ Nostra
  22. Benz finish?
  23. Pump inserts
  24. Draws out
  26. High, tufted clouds
  27. Hearth ashes, e.g.
  29. Camp for presidents
  32. Cardin and Curie
  36. Got on in years
  37. Petunia, for one
  38. Shepherd’s cry
  39. Scratch or scuff
  40. Spring feast
  42. Noted former Justice’s monogram
  43. Diminutive digit
  45. Da Vinci’s “The Last \_”
  47. Org. co-created by Du Bois, Wells, et. al.
  48. Jeans go-with, frequently
  49. Miss
  50. One from Germany

- Down**
1. Small firearm
  2. St. Clare’s town
  3. Xbox alternative
  4. Remote hiding place?
  5. Type of bar
  6. First-year Spanish verb
  7. The Shirelles’ “\_-La-La”
  8. One taking a lot of notes
  9. Alto’s “instrument”
  10. ‘86 World Series champs, in brief
  12. Not as green
  15. Bubbly source
  18. Wishy-washy
  21. Pungent
  23. Passionate
  25. War zone hazard, for short
  26. Breaking necessity
  28. Absorb; assimilate
  29. Like morning grass, maybe
  30. Taylor Swift’s “Begin \_”
  31. One of the equinoxes
  33. Take another turn, in some board games
  34. Berry-bearing trees
  35. Wear with pride
  37. Easter basket sweet treats
  40. Canine attack commands
  41. Bit of Irish foolery
  44. Kipling’s “wary old python”
  46. Chi preceder

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Puzzle by Linda Dunn of Furlong.

# Peddler’s Village family-friendly PEEPS display now open

Peddler’s Village in Lahaska opened the doors to its second “PEEPS show” — a family-friendly display called PEEPS in the Village — on Monday, March 22.

Housed in a spacious indoor area in the Village Courtyard, the colorful display will be on view through Saturday, April 17. It includes 90 creations of wall art, dioramas, and sculpture, all prominently featuring the popular Pennsylvania-made bunnies, chicks, and other candies. Admission to the display is free.

The display will be open every day, including on Easter Sunday. Hours are: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Safety measures are in place, including mandatory mask-wearing for all attendees, social distancing requirements, capacity limits (10 guests indoors at one time), time limits (visits are 10 minutes), and touch restrictions.

Using the Peddler’s Village mobile app that is available from Google Play and Apple Store, attendees are invited to vote on their favorite creations in three categories: diorama, sculpture, and 2D wall art. Cash prizes will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners in each category.

Most of the submissions are from contestants in the Philadelphia region, but the competition also includes entries from outside Pennsylvania and New Jersey. One entry came from Albany, N.Y., which is located 200 miles from Peddler’s Village.

PEEPS in the Village is among several events planned for spring. Other initiatives include an Easter Celebration on April 3 and 4 that features an old-fashioned egg hunt and a safely served Easter brunch at the Cock ‘n Bull; an outdoor Comedy Night on May 28; Strawberry Month during



JESS HETZEL

This creation is one of 90 pieces of art made from PEEPS, which are on view at Peddler’s Village.

May with special festivities on May 15 and 16; an Outdoor Wedding Show on May 21; and Summer Block Party weekends throughout the month of June.

For information, visit Peddler’s Village online or call 215-794-4000.



# ARTS & Galleries

jarthur@buckscountyherald.com

## Arts and Cultural Council pairs virtual art and poetry

The Arts & Cultural Council of Bucks County kicks off a month-long celebration of National Poetry Month called "30 Days of Inspiration," which premieres Thursday, April 1 on its Facebook (@bucksarts) and Instagram (@bucksarts) platforms.

A new poem paired with a new artwork will be featured daily during the month of April, curated by the Arts & Cultural Council of Bucks County "30 Days" project committee.

The ACCBC received over 250 works created by regional poets and visual artists — all of which explore what inspires, strengthens, connects, calms, or revives — from the smallest, most ordinary moments to dramatic occasions and vistas, whether narrative, lyrical, abstract, or concrete.

Project organizers, all volunteer board members of the ACCBC, note that, "So many inspiring pieces were submitted, and our final choices were based on a number of criteria including the suitability of artwork to be paired with submitted poetry. If only April had many more days, we would have been pleased to feature all."

Nancy Scott

### HE CHIRPS BEFORE FIVE

He chirps before five,  
rain or shine. He knows how  
singing shapes the world.



"He Chirps Before Five" is a poem by Nancy Scott.

ACCBC member Helene Mazur's oil on panel winter landscape "Sunshine" was accepted into the project. "I have continued to enjoy the pleasure of escaping locally to breathe fresh air and clear my head," she said. "While nature and art have always been my 'go to' activities, I have never painted more in my life than in the past 12 months. I could not be more grateful for the beauty in the world around me."

Member Helena van Emmerik-Finn's oil on linen board "New Hope Reflection" was paired



"Dahlias" is a monoprint by Barbara Zeitchick.

with former Bucks County Poet Laureate Corie Feiner's "Ode to a Towpath Mule." The painting is inspired by the artist's love of her native Bucks County countryside; the poem is an homage to the stubborn resilience of the mules who worked the historic towpath that spans 60 miles along the Delaware River.

Member Barbara Zeitchick's monoprint "Dahlias" is the per-

fect match for Doris Ferleger's "Joy's Thunder," a poem written while the poet was "sitting cozily in my kitchen listening to rain turn to hail, and my feelings turn from aversion of hail to joy in hail. Quite wonderful what a turn in consciousness can do."

Contrasting moods and mediums of Lynn Miller's "Passions" and Dore Vorum's "Disillusioned Angel" speak to the diversity of regional work and the complexity of the "30 Days of Inspiration" event. Poets David Mook and Nancy Scott share their love

of birds, music, and memory in their poems "Great Blue" and "He Chirps Before Five."

"The submissions and final pairings are reflective of the varied ways we all see the world and react to the arts, to language, to the sensory world, to all of the experiences in our lives," said ACCBC Board President and committee member Ruth Anderson.

The ACCBC also sees this project as an inspiring venue to unify impactful voices of artists and poets during what remains a difficult time.

"Through the partnering of poetry and visual art, we have created evocative ways for participants to reflect on visual and literary arts and make meaningful connections of their own," said poet and "30 Days" committee member Robbin Farr. "We are also excited to feature the talents of both beloved and emerging regional poets and artists."

Collectors and publishers interested in specific works may reach out to individual artists and poets through contact information provided in posts. Poets and artists will hold a reading and art share Thursday, April 15 through the ACCBC "Artist Chats" program. Details about those presenters will be available at bucksarts.org in the coming week.

## AOY Art Center hosts second Members Spotlight Show

AOY Art Center opens the "Members Spotlight Show - Session 2," featuring seven new artists.

The exhibition showcases the work of seven of the most award-winning and well-known Bucks County artists — but only for the next three weeks.

The artists are: Nancy Allen, sculpted pottery; Sandy Askey-Adams, pastels; Connie Dierks, oils; Jeanne Chesterton, oils; Pat Powell, mixed media; Ilene Rubin, oils; and Marc Schimsky, oils and cold wax.

You can see their art and meet the artists in the AOY Gallery from noon to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays April 2 to 18, or anytime online at aoy-artcenter.org.

Jeanne Chesterton will be doing her oil painting at the gallery Saturday, April 3. Sandy Askey-Adams will demonstrate her pastel painting on Sunday, April 11 and Saturday, April 17, both from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Art purchases can be made online and AOY will make appointments for you to pick up the art at the center, curbside if desired. All art purchases need to be picked up by April 23.



"My Boots Are Made for Walking" is an acrylic on paper by Marc Schimsky.

AOY Art Center is located at 949 Mirror Lake Road just off the routes 295 and 332 interchange in Lower Makefield/Yardley on the Patterson Farm.

All art is for sale and proceeds benefit the local artists and the AOY Art Center, a nonprofit local art organization. Visit online for information.

## 'Touch the Future' art show honors area high school students

Top works of art from Bucks and Montgomery county high school students are being featured during the 34th annual "Touch the Future" art show, presented virtually this year in collaboration with Montgomery County Community College.

"Touch the Future" is a professionally-juried art exhibit created in honor of Christa McAuliffe, the NASA teacher and astronaut who died in the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. McAuliffe's motto was "I touch the future...I teach."

Touch the Future is sponsored by the Mideastern Region of the Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Council for the Advancement of Public Schools. MCCC Galleries Director Patrick Rodgers created the virtual venue for the show, which can be viewed on Artsteps Virtual Gallery at artsteps.com.

"Despite the challenges over the past year, our teachers have been working diligently to help our students create — whether they are learning virtually or in-person," said Bill Senavaitis, president of PSEA's Mideastern Region. "It is so inspiring to see the creativity of our Bucks and Montgomery county public school artists."



"Nature's Kitchen" by Sabrina Eisenburg, a student at Central Bucks High School East, was the winner in the Color Drawing category.

Two hundred students from 21 local high schools, supported by 74 teachers, participated in the show. Winners were selected by Liz Long, admissions counselor at Temple University's Tyler School of Art. The show awarded 19 prizes totaling \$3,450 to students from 13 high schools.

## Plein air watercolor workshop offered

New Hope Historical Society hosts a two-day Watercolor Plein Air Workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 11 and 12.

The workshop will be taught by Gail Bracegirdle. A graduate of Moore College of Art, she began her art career in textile design, and worked in that field for over 20 years. In 1992, she made

the decision to focus her time and creative energy on working in watercolors.

Bracegirdle has been teaching watercolor classes and workshops since 1993. She rents a studio at Canal Works in Bristol. She is a member of the Artists' Gallery in Lambertville N.J., and a signature member of the Philadelphia Watercolor Society.

Her paintings are exhibited in juried, group and solo shows throughout the region, have won awards and are held in many private collections in the U.S., Europe and Australia.

For information, and to enroll in the workshop, call 215-258-8590.

## Phillips' Mill kicks off online members photo show

The Phillips' Mill Photo Committee's first-ever member show will go live on April 3.

"The talented photographic artists who volunteer their time every year to produce the prestigious annual 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 Phillips' Mill Photo Committee.

For this year's show, the 28th annual photo show, but first members show, each of three dozen Phillips' Mill Photo Committee members have submitted up to eight fine art photographs to display in the show. It is a special opportunity for all to see the body of work these talented phot-

tographers create.

As a virtual show, its organizers say there is "no excuse not to see it" and encourage you to sit back with and binge-watch some "stunning, evocative photography."

"Each artist has been given the freedom to present a body of work that represents their vision, which gives us all an unusual opportunity to appreciate the breadth of their creative works," Saunders notes.

All photographs are for sale. The show goes live Saturday, April 3, at phillipsmillphoto.com.

The Phillips' Mill Photographic Exhibition will return in 2022. For information, call Saunders at 267-229-2846.

## Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve

1635 RIVER ROAD | NEW HOPE | PA 18938

## Native Plant Nursery Opening!

- Friday, April 9, 12 - 3pm (Members Only)  
7pm Virtual Presentation with Allan Summers (Public)
- Saturday, April 10, 10am - 4pm (Public Opening)

Nursery Open Daily 10am - 4pm

bhwp.org for information





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# ENTERTAINMENT

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## Musical celebration of 60s is most joyous at Music Mountain Theatre

John Dwyer



The female members of the cast of "Broadway a Go-Go," running through April 4, perform on the Music Mountain Theatre stage. Tickets are available for in-person and virtual viewing.

to skew higher in our area, a show highlighting the decade of the 1960s is a no-brainer.

The first act starts with three songs that I love due to my roots. As a Michigander, who favors Motown, it begins with "Dancing in the Streets," calling out to my towns of "Philadelphia, PA now" and "don't forget The Motor City." Then there is a seamless segue into "The Bristol Stomp," which as Wikipedia notes:

"The song was written about teenagers in 1961 who were dancing a new step called "The Stomp" at Good Will Hose Company dances in Bristol. It refers to Bristol, Pa. The third song brings the audience back to Motown with "The Locomotion." Musically and energy-wise, it can not get better than this.

The challenge then becomes "Can the show sustain such an exuberant opening?" With this talented cast

of six, the answer is a resounding "Yeah, man."

It is an ensemble show, with solos for each and a lot of group singing with delicious harmonizing. There are 19 incredible songs from the era. The cast, in alphabetical order includes Lauren Brader, Jen Fischer, John Fischer, Jill Gibilisco, Patrick Lavery and Jenna Parrilla Alvino.

The second act veers away from act one's pop music to the Broadway shows from that time or those that celebrated that time.

Here are some of the highlights. Jenna Parillo Alvino has the voice of an angel throughout, from "Dancing in the Streets" to her solo "On a Clear Day."

Patrick Lavery has excellent musicianship and a spot-on English accent for "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." His acting chops are on display, as well, when he sings and acts in a solo spot, "Grow for Me" from "Little Shop of Horrors."

Jill Gibilisco mesmerizes as Fanny Brice in "Don't Rain on My Parade." John Fischer totally made me want MMT to produce "She Loves Me" with his beautifully sung and sincere rendition of the title song. Jen Fischer scores with "I Only Want to Be with You" and Break-

ing Up is Hard to Do," the flip sides of in and out of love.

Lauren Brader is disarming when she sings the hauntingly beautiful song from "Nine" done originally by Karen Akers, "My Husband Makes Movies." (Karen Akers often performed at Odette's in New Hope). Brader, in one of the most beautiful gowns (costumes by Jordan Brennan), nails it.

Act 2 ends with one of my favorite shows of all time, "Hair." "Let the Sunshine" brings the best vibe to the audience as flower power is projected on the side walls while there are interconnected peace circles behind the actors. Sunlike rays are falling down drenching the actors.

Directors Louis Palena and Jordan Brennan made the music flow effortlessly in their arrangements. Costumes in the song "Calendar Girl" were delightfully witty. Lighting was amazing, as usual by Chris Cichon.

For "Broadway a Go-Go," you need to go-go. Go get a ticket at musicmountaintheatre.org/. I attended the live production but you can also watch virtually. All COVID protocols are being followed. For information about visit online. The show runs through April 4.

## David Broza solo concert benefits health care workers, COVID relief

Singer-songwriter David Broza will perform his first in-person solo concert of 2021 at the Sellersville Theater in Sellersville, at 8 p.m. April 17, following a 14-month hiatus due to coronavirus social distancing requirements.

As a tribute to the health care workers and the community of Sellersville, Broza will contribute his share of the concert's proceeds to Grand View Hospital's COVID relief efforts.

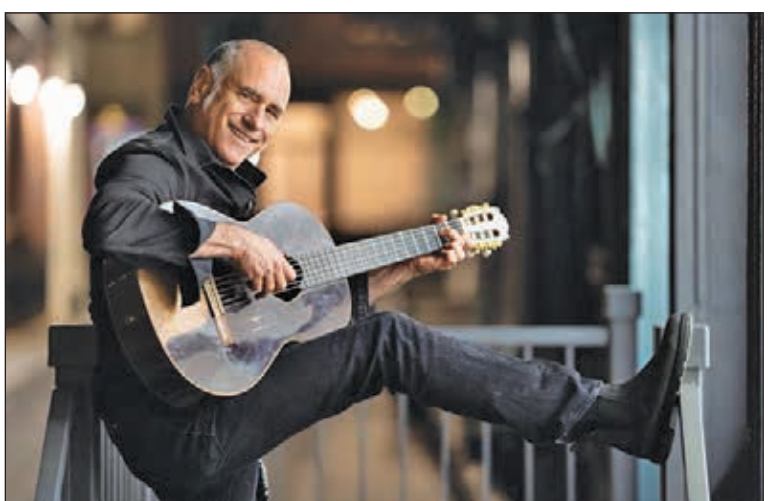
Grandview Hospital in Sellersville offers advanced medicine in multiple specialties, with four specialized outpatient centers augmenting its 200-plus bed main campus.

For nearly 14 months, Broza's living room became his stage. "I

have been performing almost daily with communities around the world, making the best of the situation, but still yearning to connect with audiences and friends," said Broza. The concert at the Sellersville Theater will be his first in front of a live audience since late February 2020.

Although the theater normally seats 325, capacity for the show will be limited to just over 100 people. For those who would prefer to watch the concert online, Sellersville Theater is providing a virtual link.

Broza is encouraging fans to send their requests, along with their personal quarantine stories to his Facebook page. He will play requests and share stories through-



Singer-songwriter David Broza plans concert to aid Grand View Hospital's COVID relief efforts.

out the performance. The concert follows the release of Broza's critically-acclaimed instrumental album "En Casa Limon" (S-Curve/BMG).

From his whirlwind finger-picking to flamenco percussion and rhythms to a signature rock and roll sound, Broza's performances have delighted audiences throughout the world. Raised in Israel, Spain and England, he has performed worldwide. Broza is known for his commitment and dedication to several humanitarian projects, especially a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through dialogue, culture, music and tolerance.

Concert tickets are available at rb.gy/r30fzr.

## New Hope Celebrates History presents local author Stefani Moore

Spend an evening with local author Stefani Moore, on YouTube, at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 15, as she discusses "Last Dance in Paradise," her fictional novel based on New Hope in the 1990s.

The event is the fourth lecture in New Hope Celebrates History's "Artists & Authors Speaker Series."

Moore and interviewer John M. Burton Dwyer will talk about the New Hope legends her novel's characters are based upon, such as Mother Cavellucci, Dane Russo, Tinsel Garland, Monique Trudeau, and more. They also



New Hope Celebrates History logo.

will discuss how the AIDS crisis impacted New Hope and what it is like to come out as a trans-person in the community.

Moore is a lifelong resident

of Bucks County where she has worked as a journalist, ghost writer, copywriter, web designer and novelist. She also did a brief stint as an English teacher

at William Tennent Senior High School in Warminster.

For information on Moore, go to facebook.com/stefani.moore1. "Last Dance in Paradise" can be purchased on Amazon.com.

The event is free to attend, but donations are encouraged and much appreciated to continue New Hope Celebrates History's mission of preserving history for the LGBTQ+ community and providing programming like this.

For every \$100 donated, you

will receive a copy of "An Enlightened Community: 20th. Century LGBT Stories of New Hope."

Produced by the Friends of the Free Library of New Hope & Solebury and New Hope Celebrates, it's chock full of tales and photos from local residents celebrating all that New Hope is." It would also make a great gift. Additional copies can be purchased for \$20. Consider making a donation during or after the program.

Visit newhopecelebrateshistory.org for information.

## Frenchtown historian plans walking tour, lunch at The National Hotel

Rick Epstein, Frenchtown, N.J.'s, official historian, is holding a special event Saturday, April 3: "History & Hamburgers."

He will lead a walking tour around Frenchtown and inform the participants about the Great Fire of 1878, how The National Hotel honored Ben Coombs' last request, why Annie Oakley slept at The National Hotel (she really did stay there), Fred Seip's silent movie theater, Frenchtown's secret societies, Senator Martin's alligators, how French-

town got its name, and much more.

The tour is barrier-free, covers about 0.7 miles, and takes a little less than two hours. Masks must be worn, and a limited number of guests will be allowed.

The tour cost of \$40 plus tax (excluding gratuity) includes a special lunch at The National Hotel. The tour starts at 10 a.m. April 3, and on further select dates.

Lunch includes a mimosa or non-alcoholic beverage/coffee/tea

of the guest's choice; a choice of The National Burger with maple bacon and cheese of the guest's choice; or turkey and brie panini; or Egyptian Falafel sandwich (vegetarian); and cheesecake with seasonal fruit.

The program's launch is Epstein's vision for amplifying the historic relevance of Frenchtown in the area.

For reservations, call 908-996-3200.

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# Chalfont man must participate in sensitivity training

**Freda R. Savana**

A 19-year-old Chalfont man was recently ordered to continue racial sensitivity training after a video he posted last July on social media targeted a teen and another person with racist and threatening messages, according to court officials.

Andrew James Smith also said he had a firearm, but no weapon was

found at the time of the investigation. He was sentenced to a year of probation and mental health assessments and ordered to remain off social media and have no contact with the victims or their families.

Smith pleaded guilty to harassment last summer and Bucks County Common Pleas Judge Diane Gibbons imposed the year-long sentence at the time. He has been undergoing the ra-

cial sensitivity training at Langhorne's Peace Center and at Good Shepard Mediation in Philadelphia, the Bucks County District Attorney's office said.

In a victim impact statement, the teenage girl said the threatening messages made her fear for her life and afraid to leave her house. The family, however, supported a treatment plan for Smith, rather than a jail sentence. Gibbons said Smith's training will

continue and praised the victim and her family for their compassion. "This has to be a healing moment for our country," the judge said.

Part of Smith's rehabilitation includes writing an essay on slavery and racial prejudice in the U.S. and another on ethnic and racial cleansing around the world.

Bucks District Attorney Matt Weintraub, echoed Gibbons support

of the victim and her family's measured handling of the incident.

"People have a right to freedom of speech and to their own beliefs, no matter how vulgar, distasteful, or racist," said Weintraub, in a statement. "But, when one targets another with threats because of the color of their skin, it's criminal. We will prosecute people who weaponize social media to threaten and harass others."

## Police News

### Buckingham

**Burglary:** reported March 25, after construction equipment was discovered missing from a commercial construction site. The address of the site was not disclosed by police.

Someone entered two unoccupied structures on site by cutting locks between 3 and 9:40 p.m. March 24, and removed hundreds of tools, including but not limited to drills, batteries, and saws. Also taken was a white 2015 ATC 12-foot trailer bearing PA registration XJH-6493; VIN 5JX-1E122XFE198209.

Using what is believed to be their own key, the burglar(s) made use of a Takeuchi excavator that was on scene to move steel beams out of the way from the front of the trailer. The trailer was reportedly packed with various construction and plumbing tools with an approximate value of over \$100,000.

Anyone with information on this crime is asked to call the Buckingham Township Detective Bureau at 215-794-8813.

### Hunterdon County Prosecutor

**Charged:** Michael F. Roach, 32, of Raritan Township, N.J., with endangering the welfare of a child, following a joint investigation by the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office's Special Victim Unit, High Bridge Police Department, and New Jersey State Division of Parole. The crimes took place in High Bridge Borough.

The investigation revealed that Roach, whose mailing address is Flemington, N.J., was having an inappropriate relationship with an underage female, police said. Specifically, they said, Roach exchanged explicit text messages and photographs with an underage female victim.

He was subsequently charged with third degree endangering the welfare of a child for engaging in sexual conduct with a child and third degree endangering the welfare of a child for possessing items depicting the sexual exploitation or abuse of a child.

Further investigation revealed evidence of witness tampering by Roach as he tried to conceal contact between himself and the victim, police said. He was charged March 29, with third degree witness tampering, and is being held at the Warren County Correctional Facility.

### Man charged in Northampton crash that left four teens with serious injuries

A Philadelphia man crossed into opposing traffic to pass a vehicle Saturday night in Northampton Township, leading to a head-on crash that left several people seriously injured, including four teenage girls, the Bucks County DA's office said.

Shane Brolly, 24, was arraigned at his hospital bed Sunday on five counts each of aggravated assault and aggravated assault by vehicle, all felonies, and eight misdemeanor counts of recklessly endangering another person. District Judge Daniel Finello set his bail at \$10 million, 10 percent.

Police received several calls about a crash involving three vehicles at 10:12 p.m. Saturday in the 300 block of Bridgetown Pike in Northampton Township. The three vehicles involved were as follows: A 2013 GMC Sierra, driven by Brolly. Brolly and his passenger were both taken to the hospital with serious injuries. A 2015 Nissan Murano occupied by three people. The three occupants were treated at the scene and released. A 2019 Mazda CX5, occupied by four teens. All four suffered serious injuries.

Based on evidence and witness statements, police determined Brolly was driving north on the 300 block of Bridgetown Pike and attempted to pass the Nissan Murano by crossing the double yellow lines into the southbound lane. The area is a no-passing zone. While in the southbound lane, Brolly collided with the Mazda CX5, pushing it back 50 feet. The crash sent Brolly's truck back into the northbound lane where it was struck by the Nissan Murano.

Brolly is a non-U.S. citizen and was positively identified by his U.K. driver's license. Police located opened and unopened alcoholic beverages in Brolly's truck and detected an odor of alcohol on him, they said. Blood tests results are pending. The crash was investigated by the Northampton Township Police Department and the Bucks County Crash Investigation Team.



SHANE BROLLY

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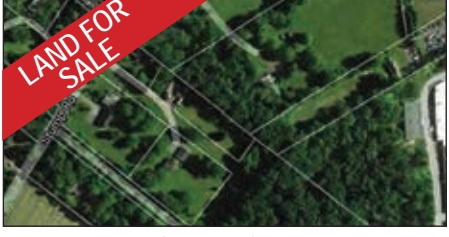
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Bright yellow daffodils, colorful tulips and fragrant hyacinths are brightening spring gardens. Giving bulbs the care they need helps extend their spring display and keep them coming back for years.

Hybrid tulips and hyacinths are short-lived stars of the spring garden. They bloom profusely the first spring, but the number of flowers decline each year. Treating them like annuals is therefore a practical approach. Carefully remove them from the garden to avoid damaging any remaining plants, then toss them in the compost pile and start planning for their replacements. This is a great opportunity to try something new and freshen the look of a spring garden. If looking for a permanent replacement, consider using species tulips that are less floriferous but return each year.

Add a few years to the life of hybrid tulips and daffodils and get the most from long-lived flowering bulbs with proper care. Water spring gardens thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and just slightly moist. Spring rains often take care of this task, but when they don't it's easy to forget to provide the water they need.

Bulbs often receive sufficient nutrients

at the time of planting or when the other plants in the garden are fertilized. Apply fertilizer to established bulb plantings (as needed) as the leaves begin to emerge

from the soil. Use a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer to encourage slow, steady growth. Follow label directions to apply the recommended amount.

Remove spent flowers on tulips and hyacinths so the energy is directed back into the bulbs instead of setting seeds. Do the same to improve the appearance of daffodils. Leave allium seed heads in place to extend their beautiful contribution to the garden. Remove these before they drop their seeds to limit the number of seedlings sprouting in next year's garden. The same is true for grape hyacinths and squills. The only reason to remove their faded flowers is to slow down the spread.

Leave the leaves on bulbs until they naturally yellow and dry. The leaves produce energy needed for beautiful blooms next spring. The longer the leaves are left intact, the more energy and better bloom for next season.

One way to hide the declining bulb leaves is to plant annuals between the bulbs. Another, more permanent solution is to add perennial flowers (which return each year). As bulbs decline, the perennials will grow and mask the yellowed foliage. Try mixing spring flowering perennials for double the impact or combine with summer and fall bloomers to extend the floral show.

Take pictures of spring bulb displays and make notes of the areas that need color or shape. Order for next year early for the best selection and to ensure the garden is ready for bulb planting season next fall.

# How to design a pet-friendly kitchen

The perfect kitchen should be ideal for all members of the family, including pets. The experts at Connecticut-based kitchen designers Wren Kitchens have offered tips on creating a pet-friendly kitchen to keep everyone happy.

Their first tip is to incorporate a boot room. Muddy paws (and muddy boots) are a homeowner's nightmare, especially during winter months. A bespoke boot room is a designated area to keep mud and grime away from the kitchen. Create the room near a door with ample space to store coats and boots as well as hang collars and leads.

The main elements of a boot room are seating, boot bins, hanging racks and hooks as well as integrated storage units to hide all those extra outdoor items. If you have space, it's worth considering a sink in the boot room to help clean any dirty paws.

The next tip is to add a pet nook. It's important that a pet feels safe in its environment, so Wren Kitchens recommends tucking the pet away in a quiet spot in the kitchen. These nooks can also create sleek storage for bowls, leads and food. Nooks should be located away from cooking areas, as smoke and



fumes can make pets ill.

Another tip is to choose construction materials that are easily cleaned. The

durability of the kitchen is an important consideration, as the room must endure drool, dirt splatters and scratches. Wren

Kitchens advises opting for finish that easily wipes clean with a damp cloth and soapy water. High gloss units tend to show nose smudges, so it's recommended to skip these at the hardware store.

Always pick a floor material that is easy to clean. Laminate and tiles are both durable and can be swept or mopped to remove fur and paw marks. If choosing tiles, pick a dark grout such as charcoal or black to avoid stains. If adding a rug for a bit of warmth, choose one that's washable so it can be cleaned.

Wren Kitchens advises homeowners to stick to dark tones when designing a kitchen. Dark colors such as charcoal, navy, raven black and forest green are useful colors to disguise pet scuffs and blemishes.

The final tip for a pet-friendly kitchen is to add storage. Owning a pet means more stuff to store, such as food, toys, leads and towels. Choosing a dedicated area in the kitchen helps keep pet essentials in one space.

If constructing a boot room, a space should be devoted to pets there to separate them from human foods and toxic items.

# Alpha Genesis honored with 2020 design award

Alpha Genesis Design Build, LLC is the recipient of the 2020 Design Award of Excellence issued by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Bucks County Chapter for the design of "The Lodge". This award is reserved for the most distinctive project.

The Lodge is a custom home perched on a ledge overlooking the Paunacussing Creek in Solebury, PA. The Lodge was crafted to take full advantage of the site's spectacular topography, wooded privacy and natural views. With a blend of old and new worlds, The Lodge was designed to integrate traditional exterior features with uncompromisingly modern interiors. Given its location in a historic area of Bucks County, the owners expressed a desire to respect the surrounding vernacular architecture. Considering this, the design team set off to create a modern, dynamic, and functional space within a traditional framework. The exterior form borrows elements of a traditional Quaker meeting house, including its simple gable form, wood lap siding, regular window spacing arrangement, and cedar shake roofing. In contrast to this, the team juxtaposed a modern plan arrangement in which circulation through the enfilade of rooms is located along the perimeters, resulting in uncluttered exterior walls and more focused, intimate spaces within the centers of each room.

Alpha Genesis is a full-service architectural design-build firm based in Bucks County, PA. Their work extends from their passion for unique designs and includes a strong emphasis on custom residential architecture. They offer design-build services for residential and commercial construction projects including new construction, large-scale renovations and historic restorations.

*Submitted by Alpha Genesis Design Build, LLC*



# Little's John Deere carries the new Z Track series of Zero Turn mowers

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*Submitted by Robert E. Little Inc.*



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# Spring

## HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST



### SPRING IS HERE!

It's time to shed the heavy winter clothes, open some windows, and let the fresh air in. It's also time to prep your home for the warmer weather.

Here are a few simple tips to get you started:

#### 1 GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

Clean out gutters and downspouts. If left neglected, clogged gutters can cause foundation, flooding and erosion issues.



#### 2 STYROFOAM BLOCKS

Remove Styrofoam blocks from foundation vents (once overnight temperatures are generally above freezing)



#### 3 SMOKE DETECTORS



Test all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors-replace batteries if necessary. Hint: Change your batteries when you set your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.

#### 4 WINDOWS AND DOORS

Clean windows, window tracks and sliding glass door track for smooth operation. Clean window screens if you have them.



#### 5 FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Check fire extinguishers - recharge if necessary.



#### 6 FURNACE FILTERS

Replace your furnace filters. Consider having system inspected by a professional.



#### 7 KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Clean appliances – dishwasher, microwave, fridge, stove and exhaust hood. Clean up grease splatters from walls, exhaust hood, and cabinets by washing with undiluted white vinegar and rinsing with water. Soak metal exhaust filters, rinse and replace.



#### 8 CAULKING

Check and replace caulking behind sinks and throughout kitchen and bathrooms.



#### 9 FERTILIZE LAWN

Remove any debris that has accumulated on the lawn and fertilize to jump start it from its winter slumber. Repair damaged areas if needed. Core aeration is a great thing to do in the spring as well.



#### 10 PREP LAWNMOWER

Get lawn mower ready for mowing season. Change the oil and spark plugs, sharpen blade, and adjust blade height so mower is in tiptop shape for the mowing season.





# Bucks County Furniture Restoration

## New life for your furniture



Furniture, especially well-built furniture, is meant to stand the test of time. Not only is it beautiful, often offering expertly-interlocking, hand-carved wood, custom stitching, and artistic accents, but it serves a purpose in your home. Furniture provides rest when you need it, conversation with friends and a space to create what you love.

Why would you give that all up because its exterior looks a little worn?

At Bucks County Furniture Restoration, we provide a better alternative. Our local, family-owned company serves all the repair, restoration and furniture revitalization needs for our customers in Bucks, Montgomery and Hunterdon counties. Our professionals work with all types of furniture pieces to give them a new look, new life and the former place

that they held in your home.

Bucks County Furniture Restoration uses a mix of time-honored refinishing methods and the most modern technology to provide you with services our competitors can't match. We have experience and expertise in: stripping, reupholstery, glass bending, marble and metal polishing, furniture repair and finishing, refinishing, lamp and seat repair, conversions and knife sharpening.

We invite you to visit our showroom and take advantage of more than 30 years of professional experience and see our difference for yourself. Using our outstanding attention to detail, we can work with both new and antique items to give them a country feel that you will love.

*Submitted by  
Bucks County Furniture Restoration*

## River Valley Realty Agent Spotlight: Ryan Segura

### 1. What was your very first job?

I worked as a dishwasher at a local dive restaurant. I miss the access to the deep fryer. So many chicken fingers and mozzarella sticks were consumed at that job.

### 2. What do you do when you are not working?

Read. Buy books. Read some more. Roll multi-sided dice for whatever epic tabletop board game I'm playing. Sip the latest craft brew or explore my new-found taste for bourbon. Watch The Great British Baking Show or some substitute baking show with my husband. Hopefully when life has returned to some kind of new normal, get on a plane and continue exploring the world.

### 3. What is your proudest life moment?

Getting married. Coming out was difficult, so when I finally got to experience my amazing wedding, surrounded by family and friends, it was a massive sigh of relief that life wouldn't be as difficult as it could've been.

### 4. What made you become a Realtor?

I used to work a desk job for a number of years and it was fine, but I am not someone who can sit still. More so, I need to interact and be around people. I thorough-



River Valley Agent Ryan Segura, right, and his husband Scott Deaney.

ly enjoy the opportunity of meeting the wide spectrum of people that real estate presents. In many cases, clients end up becoming friends, which is such an amazing

perk to a career.

### 5. What professional associations and/or local organizations are you involved with?

I am a board member and the secretary for New Hope Celebrates, a local non-profit LGBTQ+ organization.

### 6. What separates you from your competition?

I don't look at this career as a way to help people just buy and sell houses. I am helping people find a new way of life. Lambertville and New Hope are wonderfully vibrant communities, and my job is to find the best way to settle people into this cozy area.

### 7. What is the most challenging/gratifying aspect of what you do?

Buying or selling a home is probably one of the most; stressful, traumatic, and terrifying stages of someone's life. It's probably the biggest purchase someone will make in their lifetime, and there needs to be some type of stability during this process. I enjoy being that voice of reason. I have a background in education. I've always loved the notion that I can function as an answer and resource man and be the light, that lifts the fog when things seem to be too upsetting or disorienting.

*Submitted by  
River Valley Realty, LLC*

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The success of Eiseman Construction is a reflection of Phil's integrity and his respect for customers, family, and community, which remain cornerstones of the company to this day. Currently owned and operated by Melissa Eiseman, wife of the late Phil Eiseman, Eiseman Construction continues to strive ahead as one of the tri-state's leading full-service roofing contractors specializing in asphalt,

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From residential housing, multi-family townhouses, and condominium projects, to historic and commercial repairs and renovations, Eiseman Construction focuses their full attention on each project, large or small, with the same level of professionalism and care. With certifications as a GAF Master Elite Contractor, a CertainTeed Master Shingle Applicator, and an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau, the Eiseman Construction team comes fully prepared and educated to tackle any roofing project.

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*Submitted by  
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