



# The Journal

of the **POCONO PLATEAU & PENN-KIDDER**

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## Journals going digital

by Ruth Isenberg

With this issue, the *Journal of the Pocono Plateau/Journal of Penn-Kidder* has come to a crossroads. Printing paper editions has become more and more expensive over the past couple of years. Paper costs have risen; as a result, the price of printing has gone up. Postage rates continue to rise.

At the same time, life has changed for Seth and me. Health issues have limited how much time and work Seth can put in. Doctors' visits and medical treatments consume much of our time.

We've made adjustments to keep the papers going – cutting the number of pages, lessening frequency, eliminating mailing. Unfortunately, it's not enough.

We love the newspaper business. We love our part of the western Pocono Mountains. And we believe this product makes the Plateau a better, stronger place. So we're not ready to give up, but we do have to make some changes.

Going forward, this community newspaper will be an on-line, digital publication. It will continue to be available free to anyone who has access to a computer, in several different formats. It will be

downloadable, and for those who don't have access to a computer, it will be available as a printed copy, mailed directly, but at a price.

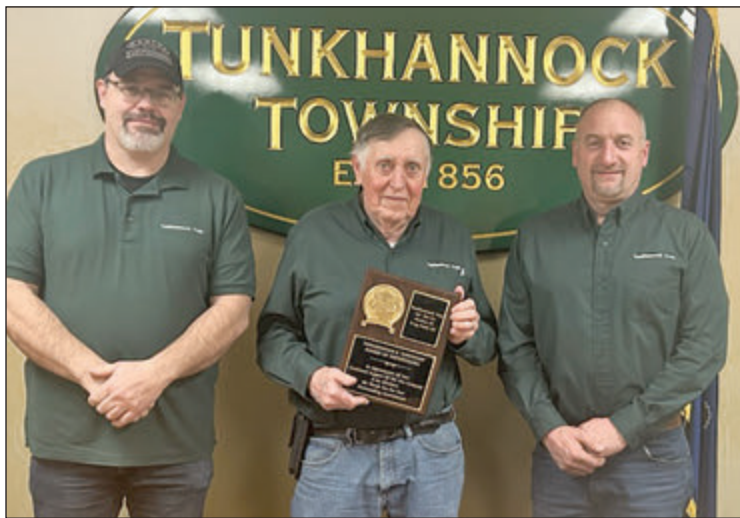
We are excited about this venture, and hope you will be too. With digital publication we can:

- Print more often
- Include more stories and pictures
- Provide links to websites of organizations and

businesses who advertise, and resources for more information in stories.

We'd love to hear what you think about it all. What would you like us to cover? How can we fulfill our mission of providing information to build a better community?

Let's talk. Send your thoughts to [journalruth@gmail.com](mailto:journalruth@gmail.com) and be part of this grand adventure.



The Tunkhannock Township Board of Supervisors was presented with an appreciation plaque at the Tunkhannock Township Volunteer Fire Company's annual Christmas Dinner on December 6, for their continued financial support of the Fire Company and its members. The Tunkhannock Township Board of Supervisors was able to present the Fire Company with their annual donation in the amount of \$18,100. From left are supervisors Byron Witt, George Ewald and Kevin Weiland.

## Penn Forest concerned about run-off from storage units project

by Jim Dino

A developer of storage units will have another month to iron out differences with a neighbor over drainage.

At the February 3 meeting, the Penn Forest Township supervisors heard from the developer of what would be 258 storage units built and 32 oversized parking

places to accommodate large vehicles such as trailers on a five-acre property along the east side of Route 903.



Todd Meckes, of Keystone Consulting Engineers, representing the developer, told the supervisors he has obtained all of the necessary agency approvals – including a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation highway

See PENN FOREST, page 2



**WELCOME TO ROTARY:** Blakeslee Rotary recently inducted its newest member, Vicky Lewis, who joined as a corporate member for Chat 'n' Chew Cafe. Shown to her left is Blakeslee Rotary president April Guilherme; to her right is District Governor Bill Skinner. Blakeslee Rotary supports local organizations and offers scholarships. To learn more, visit [www.blakesleerotary.org](http://www.blakesleerotary.org)

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**Ruth Isenberg, Editor-in-Chief,  
 Seth Isenberg, General Manager,**

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Dedicated to Jay Holder 1926-1997 printed on part-recycled newspaper

**The Journal —providing information  
 and communication to build a better community.**

## Delano to lead Mt Pocono Council

by Pat Albano

At its first meeting of the New Year on January 7, Mt. Pocono Borough Council elected new officers. Mayor Randy Altemose swore in newly elected president Norman Delano after accepting former president Don Struckle's resignation. Council elected Erin Melbert as president pro-temp, and Ann Harris was sworn in as the new tax collector after resigning from the Planning Commission.

Bryan Smith gave a presentation on the borough's

Master Parks Plan. Smith stated, "A number of surveys on open spaces were recently submitted to the community on efforts to promote the borough and its history. A large percentage of the community responded favorably. Many residents frequently visit Oak Street Park and Borough Hall Park." Parks have trails, picnic tables and benches; residents would like to see larger playgrounds, basketball courts and even an amphitheater. Mayor Altemose suggested flooding the borough basketball court in winter, turning it into an

## Penn Forest

Continued from page 1

occupancy permit and a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit for drainage – for the project.

But an adjacent landowner, Joe Laschinski, said he doesn't understand how the runoff from the new construction won't impact his property.

Neither does Supervisor Patrick Holland.

"How could 3.8 acres covered in concrete not increase runoff?" Holland

ice-skating rink.

Council approved the hiring of Lucas Pino as road crew member. Pino is already working and has plow, truck, and delivery experience.

Solicitor James Fareri gave updates on Commonwealth Charter Academy Special Exception Application at 4 Forks Street.

Bills of \$77, 414.97 were approved.

Borough Manager Marissa Duffy gave updates on violation notices on short-term rentals.

President Delano closed out the meeting suggesting, "Let's keep everything the way Don Struckle did things and the residents will be happy."

asked,

Meckes said the runoff will be channeled into an oversized basin that would be built to collect the drainage. But Meckes admitted there is no pipe to channel the runoff to the basin.

Despite the approvals and the basin, the township planning commission rejected the proposal.

Laschinski admitted his property used to be a swamp, but 25 of the 30 acres are now dry.

The runoff would be channeled to enter his property around the five acres that are still wetlands – and impact the entire property.

"I asked for a self-contained basin on the property, and they said it would cost too much," Laschinski said.

Attorney Tom Nanovic, the township solicitor, said he thought the parties could work out their differences. So the supervisors gave the proposal an extension to March 10 – after the next supervisors' meeting – to work out their differences. A decision will be made at the next supervisors' meeting March 3.

### Liquor license transfer Okd

After a public hearing that preceded the supervisors' meeting, the board approved the transfer of a liquor license from Kidder

Township to Sunny's Sunoco, Route 534 in Albrightsville. Jessica Pleskach, the attorney representing Sunny's, said 6- and 12-packs of beer would be sold there. There would be booths where patrons could sit and open one beer from their purchase.

The owner, Varon Bangia, said the establishment would be open until 9 p.m. during winter months, and 10 p.m. during summer months.

### Recreation events planned

The supervisors approved three recreation events for 2025.

The first is a Touch a Truck event planned for Saturday, June 7 from 10-2.

"There will be equipment from the fire companies," said Supervisor Chairman Roger Meckes. "We will try to get the state police there, and one of the medical helicopters. A number of contractors said they would like to come, with their equipment."

The second event is a Fall Fest planned for Saturday, September 13 from 9-2. The raindate would be the following day, Sunday, September 14.

Finally, a Trunk or Treat event for Halloween will take place on Sunday, October 26 from 1-3 p.m.

### Other business

The supervisors scheduled two electronic recycling events, on Saturday, July 19 and Saturday, November 22, from 9-1.

The supervisors are also advertising for a part-time snowplow driver, Supervisor Meckes said the township has three now, but wants to hire a fourth. A Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) – normal for truck drivers – is not needed, Meckes said.



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# Monroe County Meals on Wheels Pet Care Program receives Robert H. Spitz Foundation grant



Shown from left are Frank Caputo, Scranton Area Community Foundation, Grants and Scholarships Manager; Stacey Koeck, Monroe County Meals on Wheels, Pet Program Coordinator; Cathy Fitzpatrick, Scranton Area Community Foundation, Director of Grants & Scholarships.

Monroe County Meals on Wheels is the recent recipient of a 2024 Robert H. Spitz Foundation Grant. The \$2,500 grant was awarded to the Pet Care Program. Funding from this grant will help to provide Monroe County Meals on Wheels meal delivery clients with assistance with the cost of basic veterinary care for their pets, enabling them to keep their 24/7 companions happy and healthy.

Monroe County Meals started its Pet Program in 2009 when staff realized that clients were sharing their meals with their pets. Through this donation-based program, participating clients receive a two-week supply of pet food delivered once a month. In 2017, the Pet Care Program was added to further the mission of keeping clients' pets healthy and in their homes. This program provides clients with financial assistance towards the cost of a well-

care exam, immunizations, nail trimming, microchipping, and flea/tick medications.

## About Monroe County Meals on Wheels:

Monroe County Meals on Wheels is in its 53rd year of providing nutritious meals to seniors and adults with disabilities in Monroe County. These meals are delivered by dedicated volunteers who provide a friendly smile and important human connection. Clients are eligible for a variety of other supportive services including a Pet Program and Client Needs Pantry. For

more information, please call 570-424-8794 or visit [www.monroemeals.org](http://www.monroemeals.org).

## About the Robert H. Spitz Foundation

Administered by the Scranton Area Community Foundation, the Robert H. Spitz Foundation funds initiatives and programs serving the residents of Lackawanna County and Northeastern Pennsylvania. To date, the Spitz Foundation has provided nearly \$6.25 million in funding to the community. Learn more about the Robert H. Spitz Foundation at [www.safdn.org](http://www.safdn.org).

## Cinicola Named to Middle Atlantic Conference Academic Honor Roll

Gabrielle Cinicola of Jim Thorpe was one of more than 150 Lebanon Valley College student-athletes to be named to the Middle Atlantic Conference's (MAC) Fall Academic Honor Roll.

Cinicola, a graduate of Jim Thorpe Senior High School, is a member of the Lebanon Valley College women's soccer team, and is pursuing a bachelor of science in exercise science. Cinicola

achieved a 4.0 GPA for the semester.

A record total of 158 Lebanon Valley student-athletes made the list with 32 earning a perfect 4.0 grade-point average (GPA) during the fall semester. The Dutchmen had the highest number of honorees in the conference and the second-most 4.0 GPAs.

The academic honor roll is comprised of student-

athletes who compete in a varsity-level sport and register a term/semester GPA of 3.20 (on a 4.00 scale) or higher. The MAC honored student-athletes across all of the conference's institutions who competed in men's and women's cross country, field hockey, football, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball.

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# LWVMC awarded two national grants to empower voters

The members of the League of Women Voters of Monroe County (LWVMC) are proud to announce the receipt of two significant grants aimed at advancing voter registration and civic engagement within our community. These grants will fund initiatives to register newly eligible 18-year-old voters and

support formerly and currently incarcerated individuals who are eligible to vote.

The first grant focuses on reaching young voters as they turn 18, equipping them with the knowledge and resources they need to participate in elections. “Engaging our youngest voters is crucial to fostering a lifelong commitment to civic engagement,” said Susan Van Pelt, president of LWVMC. “We are thrilled to have the support to connect with these young community members and empower them to make their voices heard.”

The LWVMC will work with the six high schools and vocational schools in the county, as well as with East

Stroudsburg University and Northampton Community College Pocono Campus, to distribute voting instructions and election guidelines. Future voters will also receive information about candidate data available through the website VOTE411.

The second award is for a Voter Registration Project for Formerly and Currently Incarcerated Persons who are eligible to vote under state law. This initiative aims to address barriers to voting often faced by these individuals and to ensure they have access to accurate information about their voting rights, as well as the corresponding need for educational outreach to

affected voters.

“This grant allows us to focus on a population that is often overlooked, providing them with the tools they need to participate fully in our democracy,” says Barbara J. Hill, LWVMC treasurer.

Competition for these grants was on a national basis. The League remains committed to its mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. These grants represent a significant step forward in ensuring that all eligible voters in Monroe County have the opportunity to make their voices heard in upcoming elections. The grants are good through the end of 2025.

## About the League of Women Voters of Monroe County:

The League of Women Voters of Monroe County is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging informed and active participation in government, increasing understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For more information please visit [www.lwvmonroecountypa.com](http://www.lwvmonroecountypa.com) and follow the League’s activities on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/lwvmonroecopa](https://www.facebook.com/lwvmonroecopa).

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# Houseplant care on the menu at Pocono Garden Club luncheon



The Pocono Garden Club recently installed officers for the 2025-2026 term. From left are vice-president Gail Colbeth, vice-president Kathy Calligari, president Daisy Medeiros, treasurer Sonny Riley, and secretary Nell Cadue. Visit the club on Facebook for information about meetings, events and membership.

Houseplant care will be dished up when the Pocono Garden Club holds its annual Potluck Luncheon and Welcome Back meeting at noon Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at the Monroe County Conservation District, 8050 Running Valley Road, Bartonsville.

Jillian Phillips, owner of Guttation Farms, LLC, a Stroudsburg-based mobile plant shop, will present “House Plant Care.” Jillian also will bring some plants to sell. (Fun Fact: guttation is the secretion of droplets of water from the pores of plants.)

The meeting’s design entry is called “Winter Festival” and should be a triangle design of choice. Include a winter accessory.

The horticulture entry should be a collection of broadleaf and needled evergreens (not to exceed 16”) in a vase of choice with water.

The houseplant entry

should be a cut leaf in a clear glass container.

Members are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Please bring your own table setting and beverage.

Meanwhile, mark your calendars for Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. That’s when the club will hold its popular and

successful annual flower show and plant sale at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 158 Fish Hill Road, Tannersville. This year’s theme is “Books and Blooms.”

For more information, contact club President Daisy Medeiros at [poconogardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:poconogardenclub@gmail.com). Visit the Pocono Garden Club on Facebook.

## CCEECenter plans February programs

Carbon County Environmental Education Center is preparing for several February activities.

### Bird Box Sale

Throughout the month, the center is holding its annual Bird Box Sale, with assembled boxes or kits available for purchase. The boxes are designed to attract bluebirds, wrens, chickadees and other small cavity nesting birds.

“These are smart additions to any backyard,” said CCEEC Chief Naturalist Susan Gallagher. “You can attract any of a number of species no matter what kind of habitat you have nearby. And all these birds prey on insects. In summer a single bluebird can eat about 2,000 insects.”

Call or stop in for pricing or to pick up a box.

### Yarn Tuesdays

Weekly throughout February and March, CCEEC also offers “Yarn Tuesdays”, with those at every interest level invited to learn new knitting and crocheting skills in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.

Participants may use the supplied materials, or bring their own projects to work on during the evening. Classes are held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. with light refreshments. A \$15 donation covers all sessions.

A full slate of spring and summer programs, including several other February events, is available on the center’s website at [www.carboneec.org](http://www.carboneec.org).

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Editor,**

I am writing to express my frustration and concern regarding the ongoing violations of homeowners association (HOA) rules that have persisted for more than 20 years. A particular resident, who owns four lots, has been circumventing the established guidelines by paying dues for only one lot. This arrangement, which was allegedly decided upon by her husband and another member of the board, directly contradicts the provisions of the Planned Community Act.

Despite the clear regulations, this individual

and her cohorts have evaded accountability for over two decades. The situation has resulted in a significant shortfall for our HOA, estimated at around \$60,000, just for 1 owner. To compound matters, this resident has threatened the local board with legal action should they enforce the rules and require her to pay the appropriate dues.

Beyond this flagrant disregard for HOA regulations, there are additional concerns regarding the operation of commercial businesses from a residential property. This not only disrupts the community but also

undermines the property values and rights of full-time residents. It is disheartening to witness someone spreading misinformation to discourage others from asserting their property rights, all to protect their own interests.

What has happened to integrity and accountability in our community? Why is it that some individuals feel they are above the rules meant to ensure fairness and harmony? I urge our community to come together and uphold the principles that protect us all.

**Sincerely,  
Kara Sincavage**

## Nominations Now Open for MCT's 2025 Community Hero Volunteer Awards

Mauch Chunk Trust Company's Community Heroes awards program honors four individuals each year from Carbon County or the Tamaqua area who have displayed outstanding service to their community, as selected by a volunteer committee. Do you know someone who devotes an extraordinary amount of volunteer time to a non-profit or a charitable organization? Please share the story of their generosity with the rest of the community by nominating them before the deadline of March 31, 2025. Nomination criteria, program details, past heroes, and the link to the

online nomination form are located at [www.mct.bank/heroes](http://www.mct.bank/heroes).

The selected heroes will be announced at MCT's Community Appreciation Day on Friday, May 23, at main office in Jim Thorpe. A formal award celebration will take place later in June for the newly selected Community Heroes, their families, friends and past Heroes. The selected heroes will receive an award from MCT, citations from both their State Representative and State Senators and a \$200 donation to the organization/charity of their choice.



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Tomas Urena, cancer survivor  
Dale and Frances Hughes Cancer Center

[LVHN.org/PoconoCancer](http://LVHN.org/PoconoCancer)

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Hospital-Pocono**

# Monroe County announces *Bells Across PA* contest

The Monroe County Commissioners announce a call for artists to submit designs for the *Bells Across PA* art series being conducted by the America250PA Commission in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. “We have so many talented artists in Monroe County. The commissioners are thrilled to support the production of this artwork to showcase

our local talent in celebration of our nation’s semi-quincentennial,” stated Monroe County Board of Commissioners Chairman John Christy.

A call to artists and groups from the acclaimed to the amateur. Painters, sculptors, craftsmen, multi-media artists, and other wildly creative people are all encouraged to apply. The contest will be overseen by Monroe County’s America250PA Commission,

in cooperation with the Commonwealth’s America250PA Commission. A resident from Monroe County will have the opportunity to design and adorn a three-foot-tall fiberglass replica sculpture of the Liberty Bell that will be placed on display in the county. The bell, sponsored by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau (PMVB), will remain on display throughout America’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2026. “The Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau is very pleased to join the commissioners by sponsoring the Monroe County bell. Creating this showpiece is an excellent way to not only mark the 250th anniversary of our country’s independence, but also highlight the significant attributes of Monroe County,” added PMVB President/CEO Chris Barrett.

The chosen artist or group will be commissioned to paint or otherwise decorate the bell and will receive a \$1,250 honorarium. The selected artist will be permitted to do the work at home and bells will need to be in place by December 2025. “We are looking for designs that will express our shared American ideals while exhibiting the

significant places, structures and people, unique to Monroe County,” said Arts and Culture Committee co-chair, Jody Singer. “We have such a diverse county. From the scenic Delaware Water Gap to the Pocono Plateau, and the bustling Stroudsburgs to the quiet farms of the West End, there are multiple stories of the American experience that can be told.”

America250PA is the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Commission responsible for coordinating the celebration of the United States 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary across the state. “Bells Across PA” has a goal to feature at least one bell in each of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania. “America250PA’s ‘Bells Across PA’ project is a way for local artists to tell the story of their diverse and

unique communities through their creative designs,” said Cassandra Coleman, Executive Director of America250PA. “We look forward to telling the many stories of Pennsylvania on these replica Liberty Bells and partnering with Visit PA to have a ‘Bells Across PA’ trail in 2026 to encourage Pennsylvanians and out of state tourists alike to travel and see every corner of the Commonwealth.”

Applicants can find details and documents at the America250PA website. Submit applications to Monroe County America250PA Commission, One Quaker Plaza, Rm 201, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 by April 1. For questions, contact MC250PA Commission Chairman David Parker at 570-656-9232.

## AARP TaxAide volunteers ready to help with your 2024 income tax returns

Certified AARP TaxAide volunteers are available again this year to provide free tax form assistance to middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to those ages 60 and older.

To receive help filing your 2024 federal, state and local tax returns, taxpayers must bring copies of their 2023 tax returns and backup papers, plus all income forms and any deduction information pertaining to 2024.

Taxpayers must also bring photo ID and social security cards for everyone including dependents.

All sites offer E-filing. For much faster refunds, we encourage you to bring your bank check to ensure we have the correct account numbers. If you owe money, we can select the date you want it debited from your account.

Tax help will be available from February through April.

Carbon County Area Agency On Aging—Appointments can be made by phone only. Call 610-824-

- 7830 X4511
- Leighton Rec Center, 243 S 8th St, 18235, 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays starting Feb. 4
  - Kidder Township Muni Bldg., Corner of Rte. 1003 & Rte. 903, Lake Harmony 18624, 9 a.m. to Noon, Wednesdays, starting Feb. 5.
- For information on a Tax-Aide site near you, you can also call 1-888-AARPNOW (1-888-227-7669) after January 20.

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# Historical Association plans 103<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting and award luncheon

The Monroe County Historical Association will host its 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Award Luncheon on Sunday, February 23, at Terraview at Stroudsmoor, Stroudsburg. The doors will open at Noon for a social hour before lunch

is served at 1 p.m. Following the luncheon and a brief business meeting, Dr. Amy Sopcak-Joseph, assistant professor of



history at Wilkes University, will give her presentation, “Votes for Women, Roles for the Republic: Revisiting the 19th Amendment at Its 105th Anniversary.” In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton penned the “Declaration of Sentiments”



Mrs. Althea Staples of Stroudsburg attended the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association Conference in Harrisburg in 1915 as a Monroe County delegate.

and presented it to a relatively small assemblage of like-minded people at a meeting in Seneca Falls, New York. Modeled on the Declaration of Independence, Stanton’s document not only called for women’s suffrage rights but also outlined the limitations to women’s opportunities and what she saw as the circumscribed role allowed for them in society.

Over the next seven decades, women and men debated not only whether women should be able to go to the polls but also why. Were women to be equal participants in politics, the public sphere, and their families? Or was their participation in the American republic best defined by different standards from men?

To mark the 105th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, this program will consider the historical perspectives that shaped the path to women’s suffrage rights in the 19th century and modern echoes of those debates in the 21st century.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The cost for the luncheon meeting is \$45 for MCHA members and \$55 for non-members. Reservations, with payment, should be made at the Monroe County Historical Association before Friday, February 14. For more information or to make your reservation, please visit <https://www.monroehistorical.org/annualmtg.html> or call the office at (570) 421-7703.

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# Yes in my community: Embracing housing solutions for a stronger Pocono region

by Michael Tukeva,  
President/CEO of Pocono  
Mountains United Way

When we talk about housing, we're really talking about the future of our community. We're talking about the families who live here now — our neighbors, coworkers, and friends — and about ensuring they have a safe, affordable place to call home. Yet, too often, conversations about new housing developments are met with resistance rooted in fear and misconceptions. It's time to shift that narrative and embrace a mindset of Yes in My Community.

## The Reality Behind the Myths

One of the most common concerns I hear is that affordable housing will lead to increased crime or lower property values. However, the data tells a different story. Well-planned, thoughtfully designed housing developments do not diminish community safety. In fact, stable housing fosters safer, more connected neighborhoods. Research consistently shows that affordable housing either maintains or increases property values in surrounding areas, particularly when designed with care and integrated into the community.

Another myth is that our infrastructure — roads, schools, and utilities — can't handle growth. Yet, smart housing solutions are developed with these needs in mind, often bringing in

funding and improvements that benefit everyone. When done right, affordable housing becomes a catalyst for better infrastructure, not a burden.

## Housing for Our Neighbors

Perhaps the most damaging misconception is the idea that affordable housing is for "outsiders." The truth is, this issue is deeply personal to our local community. It's about the nurse who cares for us at the hospital but can't afford to live nearby. It's about the teacher shaping the minds of our children who struggles to find housing within their means. It's about the young family, born and raised in the Poconos, now priced out of the very community they love.

By investing in attainable housing, we are supporting our own community of ambulance drivers, hospitality workers, and small business owners.

We are giving local families the opportunity to thrive, stay rooted, and contribute to the community we all cherish.

## Building Homes, Building Businesses

Housing and business development go hand in hand. When people have access to stable, affordable housing, they can better participate in the local economy — spending money at local businesses, contributing to job creation, and strengthening our tax base. Moreover, businesses are more likely to invest in areas where their employees can afford to live. This means new jobs, more services, and greater economic growth.

A stronger business community helps reduce the tax burden on individual homeowners. As businesses flourish and contribute to local revenues, the financial load is more evenly distributed, easing pressure on residents. Housing

development, therefore, isn't just about shelter; it's about economic vitality and opportunity.

## A Community-Wide Effort

To achieve these outcomes, we need a collective effort. Policymakers, local leaders, businesses, and residents must come together to champion thoughtful housing solutions. By collaborating, we can implement policies that encourage smart growth, streamline zoning processes, and attract the investment needed to make affordable housing a reality.

Saying "yes" to housing in our community means saying yes to a brighter fu-

ture for everyone. It means acknowledging that our strength lies in our ability to adapt, grow, and care for one another. It means believing that every family — our families — deserve a place to call home.

Let's replace fear with facts, misconceptions with understanding, and resistance with resolve. Let's say yes to housing. Let's say yes to opportunity. Let's say yes in our community.

Pocono Mountains United Way and Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau hosted More Front Doors: The Pocono Housing Summit. To read Michael's immediate reaction to the summit, visit his LinkedIn page.


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## St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish schedules Friday Lenten Buffets in Pocono Pines

The annual Friday Lenten Buffets at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines are scheduled to resume on Friday, March 7, from 4 - 6 p.m. The buffet will include a variety of meatless dishes for your dining pleasure.

Our first dinner will offer a garden salad, choice of two soups, a serving of fish, and several meatless entrées and side dishes, including (but not limited to) stuffed shells, macaroni and cheese, halushki, baked ziti, Mexican casserole, shrimp casserole, pierogi casserole, and a gluten-free pasta dish. The meal also provides rolls, hot and cold beverages, and a visit to St. Max's famous dessert table. All menu items are subject to change

and will be available while supplies last.

Enjoy a delicious array of food at a low price – \$14. (65+ Senior Discount Price is just \$12.) You do not need a reservation to attend, and take-outs are available for those unable to dine in.

For many years, the Social Concerns Committee has held three dinners during the Lenten season; proceeds have helped to fund our many outreach endeavors. The committee is actively involved in programs benefiting both the parish and the surrounding community and has also responded to national and global needs. We have served the community at large by supporting the following

agencies with our time, talent and treasure: Family Promise of the Poconos, Shepherd's Maternity House, Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos, Nurse-Family Partnership, Safe Monroe (formerly Women's Resources), Meals on Wheels, and the Top of the Mountain Ecumenical Council Food Pantry. We have provided holiday gifts for parish families in need, to Meals on Wheels clients, and to several charitable organizations that we serve. In addition, we have hosted three free Community Dinners each year; these dinners warmly welcome all to share a meal and enjoy a time of fellowship.

All meals will be held

downstairs in Our Lady of the Lake Hall, which is handicap accessible. More Buffets are also planned for Friday, March 21, and Friday, April 4. In the event of snow or hazardous road conditions, a dinner will be postponed and rescheduled to Friday, April 11.

St. Maximilian Kolbe is located at 5112 Pocono Crest Rd., Pocono Pines, near the intersection of Routes 940 and 423. For additional information, please call 570-646-6424 or visit the parish website [www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org](http://www.stmaxkolbepoconos.org).

## Clothes For Souls will reopen in May

The Full Gospel Holiness Church Of God In Christ Clothes For Souls Ministry was established in 2020 to provide the residents of surrounding communities with free, clean, gently used clothes to anyone in need of clothing, no questions asked. Thanks to the generosity of our local cleaners, clean and pressed clothes from various cleaners over the past five (5) years we have given away approximately hundreds of items of clothing.

We are closed during the winter months of January, February, March, and April

2025. We will be reopening from the winter break on Thursday, May 8, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and each Thursday thereafter. During our period of closure, you can call for an appointment to receive items. In case of an emergency please call the office at the above number, Monday – Wednesday between 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. There is never a charge for the items selected, monetary contributions are accepted but not required. No questions asked, feel free to come and browse. We look forward to serving you.

## Garden of Giving needs you this winter

While the garden rests through the Winter, the office keeps humming along. Emails, phone calls and Mail need someone to deal with them. Someone with experience using QuickBooks would be perfect. Are YOU the person who will offer your help for 3-4 hours a week? Is your retirement getting boring? You would

be eagerly welcomed as a volunteer. Applying for grants is important to keeping the Garden funded. Give it a try! Contact the Garden by phone at: 570-402-1282 or email : [gardenofgiving1@gmail.com](mailto:gardenofgiving1@gmail.com) The Garden is located at 2556 Rising Hill Rd, off Rt 715, in Saylorsburg.

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# Local Sanofi employees “adopt” area Head Start Families for holiday season, continuing a 30-year tradition of giving

Swiftwater-based Sanofi announced that more than 100 of its employees, plus contractors, collected and hand-delivered a tractor-trailer full of hand-wrapped gifts to Pocono Services for Families and Children (PSFC).

The presents donated through Sanofi’s 30th annual “Adopt-a-Family”

holiday drive benefitted 50 of the highest-need families who receive assistance from Monroe County Head Start.

“This year, we had over 100 employees step up and participate in this fun and meaningful team effort,” said Sanofi’s Candice Bohn, Principal Investigator – Vaccines. “The December drive complements our

employees’ October 30th initiative that collected and delivered 204 pairs of new boots, plus hats and gloves, to Head Start families. We just love knowing we’re making a small difference in the lives of our neighbors in need at the holidays.”

“It’s clear the people of Sanofi have a caring heart for their community, and our families,” said Kristi Hammond, executive director, Pocono Services for Families and Children. “Sanofi does so much

to help replace poverty, hunger, and despair with hope, empowerment, and productivity in our most vulnerable and needy citizens. With the Adopt-a-Family drive, Sanofi’s workforce has once again provided happier holidays for local, struggling families.”

Others interested in providing a donation to help local families and children in need can contact PSFC Family & Community Engagement Lead, Jackie Lapping at 570-421-2711.

## About Head Start

Head Start is a child development program that has served low-income children and their families since 1965. The Head Start program is administered by the Head Start Bureau; the Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Administration for Children and Families; and the Department of Health and Human Services.

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

In accordance with the Acts of Assembly No. 320 approved June 3rd, 1967 P.L. etc. and the Amendments thereto providing for a uniform method of electing certain party offices and making nominations for National, State, County, District and Township Offices.

Notice is hereby given that nominations will be made at the Municipal Primary Election to be held Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in and for Monroe County, Pennsylvania as follows:

- One person for the office of Judge of the Superior Court.
- One person for the office of Judge of the Commonwealth Court.
- Two people for the Court of Common Pleas.
- One person for the office of County Coroner.
- One person for the office of County Treasurer.
- One person for the office of Magisterial District Judge 43-2-01
- One person for the office of Magisterial District Judge 43-4-02

Each political party is entitled to nominate candidates for the following offices: Borough, Township and Ward offices if the incumbents’ term shall expire on the first Monday of January 2026.

Mayor, Councilperson, Supervisors, Auditors, Constables, School Directors in the various School Districts. All Tax Collectors, Judge of Elections and Inspector of Elections.

To see the full list of offices you can visit our website at [www.monroecountypa.gov](http://www.monroecountypa.gov)

By order of  
John Christy  
David Parker  
Sharon Laverdure  
Monroe County Election Board

Attest:  
Sara May-Silfee

## CFMC opens scholarship round

The Community Foundation of Monroe County, PA (CFMC) has announced their scholarship round is open for applicants.

Building relationships. Giving back. Partnering with nonprofits. The CFMC encourages and facilitates philanthropic collaboration and growth to improve the quality of life of Monroe County residents. The Foundation serves the community by pooling money for transformative grantmaking in Monroe County. They are investing and distributing money from restricted funds, established by individual donors, efficiently and cohesively.

Some of these funds are scholarship funds that will aid students in furthering their education or training. Many of these scholarships are in memory of loved ones who made a difference in their lives and honor the passions of the loved ones like wrestling, aviation,

community service, or the environment. The CFMC is announcing that the online portal for scholarship applications is open to the public. There are scholarships available for wrestlers, students with community service and athletics, and environmental activism.

There are also new scholarships available this year. The Scotty Raymond Memorial Award for Technology is available to a high school graduate of Monroe Career and Technical Institute who is pursuing further education or training at an established school in a technical field or is beginning fulltime work in the construction or transportation fields.

The Vern Moyer Scholarship for Aviation is available to a resident of Monroe, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northampton, Pike, or Wayne County, Pennsylvania

who demonstrates a passion and future career goals for aviation and is enrolled in or planning to enroll in an accredited aviation or aerospace-related training/education program.

CFMC was established in March 2022 and received its 501c3 status in June 2023. The Board of Directors includes Olson, Meredith Rettaliata, Tricia Fritz, Marynell Strunk, and John Burrus with Samantha Holbert as the Executive Director.

To learn more about the CFMC or these scholarships, visit us at [www.cfmcpa.org](http://www.cfmcpa.org) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more information.

Visit our website at [pocononewspapers.com](http://pocononewspapers.com) or find us on Facebook for more photos, news, and features.



# Rep. Heffley provides update on rabies-infected bear incident

Rep. Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) is informing local residents about recent information from the Pennsylvania Game Commission regarding the bear attack that occurred in Jim Thorpe. The bear involved in the incident has tested positive for rabies, which explains the animal's unusual and aggressive behavior.

Rabies in black bears is extremely rare, and such occurrences are typically isolated. Normally, black bears do not exhibit aggression toward people. The situation in Jim

Thorpe was an isolated and uncommon event. Given the circumstances, the actions of the individual who shot the bear may have prevented further harm and injuries to others.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has emphasized that rabies poses a risk to all mammals, including bears. Anyone who observes wildlife displaying abnormal behavior should report it to the Game Commission immediately at 1-833-PGC-WILD. It is crucial that residents remain vigilant and take appropriate action if they encounter wildlife

acting strangely.

"I am in close communication with the Pennsylvania Game Commission as they continue to monitor the situation," said Heffley. "While this was an unusual and unfortunate event, their guidance is vital

in ensuring our community remains safe. I encourage residents to stay informed and report any wildlife that seems out of the ordinary."

Heffley encourages the public to follow to safety guidelines when encountering bears and

other wildlife, and to ensure their pets are vaccinated against rabies. Bearwise.org/ provides excellent resources and recommendations for handling such situations safely.

## Trout stocking schedules for 2025 now available online

**By State Rep. Jack Rader (R-Monroe)**

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) announced its 2025 trout stocking schedules are now available online at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com) and on the FishBoatPA mobile app.

The schedule is searchable by county; lists the waterways in alphabetical order; and indicates stocking dates, meeting locations for volunteers and the species of trout that will be stocked at each location. Hard copies of the schedule will be available at my district offices in Effort and Blakeslee by the end of February.

The PFBC will stock approximately 3.2 million adult trout in 691 streams and 130 lakes open to public angling. These figures, which are consistent with the number of trout stocked over the past decade, include approximately 2.4 million Rainbow Trout, 693,000 Brown Trout and 125,000 Brook Trout. As with past practice, the average size of the trout produced for stocking is 11 inches in length with an average weight of 0.58 pounds.

The PFBC will also stock approximately 14,000 golden Rainbow Trout. In addition to being stocked during the preseason period, these highly prized fish featuring

vibrant golden-orange pigmentation and weighing an average of 1.5 pounds, will be stocked during in-season replenishment stockings.

In addition to trout raised at state fish hatcheries, PFBC cooperative nurseries operated by sportsmen's clubs and other groups across the state will add another 1.2 million trout to waters open to public angling throughout the year.

Stocking is set to begin the week of Feb. 17 in advance of the statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day on Saturday, March 29, and the statewide opening day of trout season on Saturday, April 5.



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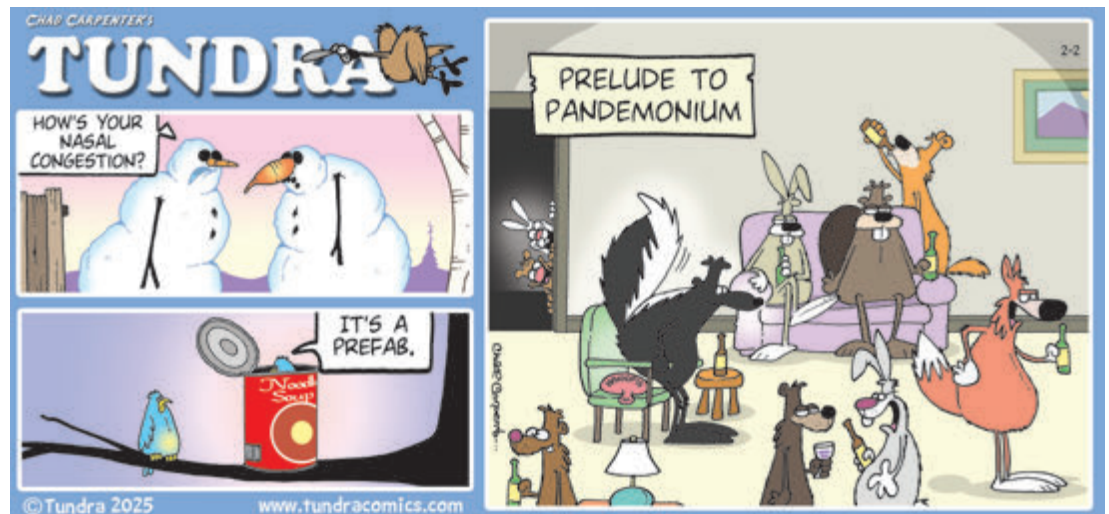


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# DEAN'S LIST ROSTER

## Alvernia

Rhiannon Brady of Jim Thorpe, majoring in Healthcare Science; Abigail McGinley of Jim Thorpe, majoring in Occupational Therapy

## Commonwealth University

### President's List

Jace Eisler, of Blakeslee-Bloomsburg, Leah Figura, of Jim Thorpe-Bloomsburg, Christy McLean, of Jim Thorpe-Lock Haven, Kristen Chong, of Effort-Bloomsburg, Bailey O'Keefe, of Effort -Bloomsburg, Allison Steckel, of Effort, -Bloomsburg

### Dean's List

Nicole Carroll, of Jim Thorpe-Lock Haven, Robert Emans, of Pocono Pines-Bloomsburg, Nicholas Goff, of Jim Thorpe-Bloomsburg, Selena Grinion, of Blakeslee-Bloomsburg,

Brooke McKeon, of Jim Thorpe-Bloomsburg, Kelli Ohl, of Jim Thorpe-Bloomsburg, Jayda Pauloski, of Jim Thorpe-Bloomsburg, Julienne Pheiffer, of Jim Thorpe-Bloomsburg, Jordan Remmel, of Jim Thorpe-Lock Haven, Megan Rosahac, of Jim Thorpe-Lock Haven, Kaitlyn Rowen, of Albrightsville-Mansfield, Jessica Sehn, of Tobyhanna-Bloomsburg, Thomas Smith, of Albrightsville-Bloomsburg, Lorenzo Thompson, of Tobyhanna-Lock Haven

## East Stroudsburg University

Anastasia Antzoulis, a Biology major from Long Pond; Mercedes Artis, a Psychology major from Tobyhanna; Jadeann Ashley-Cameron, a Digital Media Technologies major from Long Pond; Aubrey Bonner,

a Marketing major from Jim Thorpe; Jessica Brazezicke, a Digital Media Technologies major from Albrightsville; Payton Butler, a Computer Science major from Pocono Lake; Antonia Cartesio, a Business Management major from Pocono Lake; Victor Cepeda, a Exercise Science major from Blakeslee; Qadirah Collins, a Social Work major from Long Pond; Mackenzie Craven, a Sport Management major from Tobyhanna; Joseph Daly, a Mathematics major from Blakeslee; Brian De los Santos, a Psychology major from Tobyhanna; Kaitlin Diaz, a Computer Science major from Albrightsville; Emily Doorbejai, a Criminal Justice major from Tobyhanna; Emmanuelle Duvigneaud, a Psychology major from Albrightsville; Shelby Einhorn, a Digital Media Technologies major from Tobyhanna; Loxzana Eskeitz, a Special Education (PK12) Early Childhood major from Tobyhanna; Brandon Evans, a Sport Management major from Tobyhanna; Kayla Fagan, a Early Childhood Education (PreK-4) major from Tobyhanna; Cheyenne Fink, a Athletic Training major from Albrightsville; Julia Fisher, a Accounting

major from Long Pond; Amelia Flick, a Undeclared major from Albrightsville; Michelle Gajewski, a Accounting major from Blakeslee; Victoria Gonzalez, a Communication Sciences & Disorders major from Blakeslee; Antoine Goode, a Accounting major from Tobyhanna; Bryce Governali, a Economics major from Blakeslee; Richard Guerra, a Integrated Art and Design major from Albrightsville; Garrett Ingram, a Digital Media Technologies major from Pocono Summit; Mark Jackson, a Undeclared major from Tobyhanna; Matthew Jean, a Accounting major from Blakeslee; Elyza Joseph, a Early Childhood Education (PreK-4) major from Long Pond; Ana Laska, a Mathematics major from Albrightsville; Fabrizio Lazo, a Computer Science major from Mount Pocono; Mason Lazorick, a History major from Jim Thorpe; John Lemon, a Political Science major from Pocono Lake; Tyson Litton, a History major from Blakeslee; Gabriella Manuli, a Criminal Justice major from Pocono Summit; Aaron Marouchoc, a Political Science major from Albrightsville; Amber Martes, a Psychology major from Albrightsville; Elijah

Martindale, a Middle Level Education (4th-8th) major from Pocono Summit; Erin McArdle, a Middle Level Education (4th-8th) major from Jim Thorpe; Daniel Mensah, a Computer Science major from Tobyhanna; Isabella Morales, a Social Work major from Long Pond; Rebecca Moss, a Psychology major from Tobyhanna; Derek Navarro, a Undeclared major from Tobyhanna; Kuba Niewiarowski, a Business Management major from Tobyhanna; Jordan Paskel, a Exercise Science major from Blakeslee; Tajere Polen, a Athletic Training major from Tobyhanna; Shavon Reid, a Psychology major from Tobyhanna; Faith Rodriguez, a Business Management major from Tobyhanna; Atiya Rushing, a Nursing major from Tobyhanna; Harold Santos Gonzalez, a Computer Science major from Tobyhanna; Svetlana Semenova, a Nursing major from Long Pond; Gianna Silva, a Psychology major from Tobyhanna; Noah Snisky, a Physical Education Teacher Education major from Jim Thorpe; Chelsea Treible-meredith, a Psychology major from Pocono Summit; Hezekiah Watkins, a Finance major from Albrightsville; Joel Weirich, a Physical Education Teacher Education major from Pocono Pines; Trey Wesley, a Accounting major from Tobyhanna

## Hofstra University

Cynthia Jiles of Blakeslee, whose major is Filmmaking.

See DEAN'S LIST, page 15



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# Dean's List

Continued from page 14

## Kutztown University

Richie Ronald Clarke of Albrightsville, Maddie Leigh Collingborn of Pocono Lake, Kristina M Diaz of Pocono Summit, Olivia Marie Dudley of Pocono Summit, Lauren M Engel of Long Pond, Nicole Marilu Fidalgo of Long Pond, Michael Garcia of Blakeslee, Maritza Giraldo of Tobyhanna, William Grant of Albrightsville, Emily R Hendershot of Albrightsville, Leila Grace Hurley of Jim Thorpe, Fallon W Smith of Jim Thorpe, Tyanna Aaliyah Smith of Tobyhanna, Daniela Torres of Tobyhanna

## La Salle University

Sebastian Szerszen of Pocono Summit, majoring in nursing

## Lebanon Valley College

Gabrielle Cinicola of Jim Thorpe, pursuing a bachelor of science in exercise science,

a graduate of Jim Thorpe Senior High School; Victoria Fredericksen of Albrightsville, pursuing a bachelor of arts in English, a graduate of West Chester East High School; Carlie Garner, of Jim Thorpe, pursuing a bachelor of science in communication sciences and disorders, a graduate of Jim Thorpe Senior High School; Kate Malay of Jim Thorpe, pursuing a bachelor of science in communication sciences and disorders, a graduate of MMI Preparatory School; Celinez Velez of Tobyhanna, pursuing a bachelor of science in early childhood education and special education, a graduate of Essex County Donald M Payne Senior School of Technology.

## Mississippi State University

### President's List

Abigail Crocker, of Tobyhanna

## Muhlenberg College

Bryan Carter of Jim Thorpe, studying Neuroscience, Isabel Hansen

of Tobyhanna, studying Theatre, Andi Hoherchak of Jim Thorpe, studying History, Carla Miller of Effort, studying Business Administration, George Europe of Scotrun, studying Business Administration and Finance

## Ohio Wesleyan University

Brielle Decarolis of Albrightsville

## Pennsylvania Western University

Kendall Herron of Albrightsville, who studies at the Clarion Campus

## Slippery Rock University

Adanne Cuthbertson from Pocono Summit, Jonathon Hine from Blakeslee

## SNHU

### (Southern New Hampshire University) Dean's List

Christopher Vierra of Blakeslee, Autumn Dionysius of Tobyhanna, Amina Jackson of Tobyhanna, Steven Ortiz of Albrightsville

### President's List

Azahni Simmons of Tobyhanna, Tahir Williams of Tobyhanna, Ronald Hendershot of Tobyhanna, Maritza Gaytan of Pocono Pines, Wes Hurley of Jim Thorpe

## SUNY Canton

Nai J. Carr, a State University of New York Canton Automotive Technology major from Tobyhanna

## University of Hartford

Melina Haynes of Effort, Arrington Triantis of Effort

## University of Jamestown (North Dakota)

Venisha Gardner of Long Pond

## University of Maryland Global Campus

Oscar Juarez of Tobyhanna

## University of Scranton

Nicole M. Novellino of Tobyhanna, a freshman biology major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences; Mehmed S. Talipov of Tobyhanna, a freshman biology major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences; Justin C. Phekoo of Tobyhanna, a sophomore biochemistry major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences; Jack R. Olonovich of Jim Thorpe, a junior mechanical engineering major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences; Sofia L. Salazar of Pocono Pines, a senior advertising/public relations major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences; Trinity R. Treulieb of Effort, a senior criminal justice major in the University's College of Arts and Sciences; Evelyn A. Cortes of Long Pond, a freshman communication sciences and disorders major in the University's Leahy College of Health Sciences; Oleksa H. McAndrew of

Jim Thorpe, a freshman occupational therapy major in the University's Leahy College of Health Sciences; Lauren N. Bos of Jim Thorpe, a sophomore health promotion major in the University's Leahy College of Health Sciences; Samantha M. Bentley of Effort, a sophomore marketing major in the University's Kania School of Management; Leslie I. Ortiz of Pocono Summit, a sophomore marketing major in the University's Kania School of Management

## Western New England University

Charles Maloy of Pocono Summit, Mikayla Maloy of Pocono Summit

## Wilkes University

Madison Lange, Albrightsville, Salma Lampack-Heverly, Blakeslee, DaeLynn Smith, Effort, Joshua Garced, Effort, Emma Burlew, Effort, Nathan Loch, Effort, Noelle Fasolino, Jim Thorpe, Michael Strika, Jim Thorpe, Austin Fein, Long Pond, Kahlasia Carter, Long Pond, Maria-Emilia Yuzvyak, Tobyhanna, Tyler Armand, Tobyhanna

## York College of Pennsylvania

Owen Brady, a Senior Mechanical Engineering major from Jim Thorpe, Jayla Crandall, a Senior Hospitality Management major from Blakeslee, Jeremiah Maldonado, a Senior Electrical Engineering major from Pocono Summit, Matthew Scardigno, a Senior Mechanical Engineering major from Tobyhanna



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# The Blue Whale has world premiere at Shawnee Playhouse

The Shawnee Playhouse, celebrating its 45th season, presents the world premiere of *The Blue Whale*, from February 8 through 21. Written by Laura Zlatos, winner of the Shawnee Original Playwright Series 2024 Full Length Dramatic Play, and directed by Midge McClosky, this riveting show stars local talent from the Poconos, including Cadence Bohdal as Sydney Elkhorn, Esther Vough as Emily Elkhorn, Dawn Daignault as Lori Elkhorn, and Jules Gindraux as Keith Elkhorn. This captivating drama also features Kyra Lavine-Ertle as Kate, Isabelle Law as Chloe, Skipper DeBlasio as Sophie Lipton, and Abigail Weidenbaum as The Blue Whale.

A blue whale has mysteriously beached herself in Marin County, CA. Nearby, a teenage girl, Sydney, receives a DM from a man, inviting her to play an online game. Her sister, Emily, joins in, and the two are swept away on an ominous journey from which they can't escape. Their high school mirrors an aquatic ecosystem, where the cheerleaders are the sharks, the chess club is the phytoplankton, and the older sister, Sydney, and her friends are herring. Emily's only refuge is underwater, where she competes as part of the school's swim team.

As each day passes, the sisters complete a series of tasks in the deadly game, while their marine biologist parents struggle to rescue a pod of stranded whales. Inspired by real life events, *The Blue Whale* examines the relationship between violence and social media while illuminating the

climate crisis and its effects on marine life. Please be aware that this play contains graphic depictions of violence, including self-harm, which may be triggering for some audience members. Viewer discretion is advised.

Laura Zlatos is a Pittsburgh born, Brooklyn-based playwright and librettist. Her plays include *Show Trial* (2024 Jane Chambers Prize, finalist), *The Blue Whale* (2024 Shawnee Original Playwrights Festival Dramatic Play Winner; 2022 Todd Mc Nerney Playwriting Award; 2021 Marsha A. Croyle Award; 2019 Dr. R.J. Rodriguez Emerging Playwrights Contest, 2nd Place), *The Even More Lamentable Tragedy of Lavinia* (2020 Women are Funny Prize), and *Happily After Ever* (59E59 Theaters; Edinburgh Fringe Festival; Bloomington Playwrights Project; 2017 Woodward/Newman Drama Award, *The Advocate's* "Top 10 NY Theater of 2016," Honorable Mention). She has also written the musicals *A Problem with the Pattersons* (2023 CITSTS Emerging Writers Residency, Finalist; 2020 O'Neill Music Theatre Conference, Semifinalist – music/lyrics by Andre Catrini) and *Reincarnation Blues* (2024 O'Neill Music Theatre Conference, Semifinalist – music/lyrics by Coyle Girelli and Ben Thornewill). Laura was a playwriting fellow with Playhouse Creatures Theatre Company and a resident playwright with the Exquisite Corpse Company. She has developed work at the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat and the Orchard Project and

was a finalist for the Princess Grace Award and the Jerome Fellowship. Laura received an MFA in Playwriting from Columbia University and an MA in Performance Studies from NYU, where her research focused on the theatricalization of gender and violence in women's mixed martial arts.

With original music by Tylique Settles, *The Blue Whale* was inspired by a real online challenge and social media phenomenon that has claimed dozens of victims since 2016. The "game," which was created in Russia, and has since spread around the globe, primarily targets adolescent girls. Zlatos has stated that, "Although the subject matter of the play is troubling, I feel that it's important to address the growing issue of suicidal ideation in adolescents, particularly at a time when the ubiquity of social media and the internet create unique challenges for young people. In recent years, the CDC has reported an unprecedented rise in suicidal ideation among teenage girls. The study found that 30% of girls have claimed that they have seriously considered attempting suicide, which is double the rate among boys, and this number has increased by almost 60% from a decade ago. Unfortunately, most schools are ill-equipped to handle the complex mental health issues facing their students. Additionally, there are no federal laws that directly criminalize or even define cyberbullying. Ultimately, I hope *The Blue Whale* will shed light on the importance of combating cyberbullying and strengthening mental

health resources for adolescents."

Zlatos has also argued that "*The Blue Whale* isn't just about mental health, it also tackles the increasingly tragic and common phenomenon of whale strandings. As someone who works in animal rescue by day and theatre by night, I have a passion for protecting animals. Using an ecofeminist lens to juxtapose the vulnerability and violence of girlhood to that of blue whales, I aim to illustrate the man-made threat facing this endangered species and encourage environmental action."

Remaining showtimes, dates, and ticket prices are 3 p.m., Sunday, February 16, and 7 p.m., Saturday, February 15

Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$19 for seniors, and \$15 for children 17 and under. Meal and a Show tickets are \$50 per adult, \$45 for children ages 13 to 17, and \$30 for children ages 4 to 12.

For more information and to purchase tickets online, please visit The Shawnee Playhouse at [www.shawneeplayhouse.org](http://www.shawneeplayhouse.org). If you need further assistance, please call the Shawnee Playhouse Box Office at 570-421-5093.

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# 2025 Tobyhanna Millpond #1 Ice Harvest Wrap-up

The 2025 Tobyhanna Ice Harvest will be remembered as one of the best we have had in the 32 years of holding our “modern-day” ice harvests. It was an ice harvest like no other. We had 13 inches of clear, grade-A ice. The weather was a bit cool, but there was no wind, and the warming fire was a popular attraction. All in all, it was a perfect day for an ice harvest. One of our friends created a great drone video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5PPKv6JO2w>

Plenty of willing volunteers helped to cut the 200-pound ice cakes from the pond, move them to the icehouse, and stack the 42 tons of ice. The equipment, including the first use of our 1922 Gifford Wood ice saw, worked flawlessly.

A record crowd attended, including local folks with ancestors in the ice business, kin from across the nation, and even some international visitors. We had visitors from

ages 1 to almost 90 years, and everyone enjoyed it. They all came to experience the living history of the once-important natural ice industry.

A group of energetic Boy Scouts from Troop 71 in Doylestown returned, worked the entire day, and enjoyed every minute of it.

Our friends, the Strack family from the Antique Ice Tool Museum in West Chester, PA, were also there. Check out their fascinating museum for an outstanding display of ice harvesting equipment and artifacts dedicated to preserving the natural ice trade. <https://www.anticueicetoolmuseum.org/>

The Norwegian Fjord horses, Reggie and Guerilla, willingly pulled the ice cakes up the ramp and into the icehouse, and posed for plenty of pictures. Another friend brought his beautifully restored 1929 Ford Model AA truck.

Many folks enjoyed breakfast and lunch at the VFW Post 509. There were plenty of visitors at the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association (co-sponsor of the event) Wills Mansion Museum to learn more about ice industry history and browse the displays about our local history. Feel free to post your photos on our Facebook page if you would like: <https://www.facebook.com/millpondiceharvest/>

We are eternally grateful for all who help keep this ice harvest going year after year and for all the friends we have made over the years. Thank you.

The next harvest is scheduled for January 31, 2026, God and weather permitting.

Have a good and healthy year.

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## You’ve come this far...

by Ruth Isenberg

You’ve looked through 16 pages of *The Journal* on-line. You’ve probably stopped and read some of it, skipped over other articles that weren’t as interesting to you. And you’ve hit on one of the big advantages we see in going digital.

Physical printing has a limit, and it’s a big one. Pages come in groups of 4. It doesn’t matter how many stories we want to publish, everything has to fit in multiples of 4 pages — so 16, typically, or 20, or 24. Each additional set of 4 pages adds cost, so sometimes things have to be shortened or left out.

On-line — no such requirements. This issue can end when it’s finished, and everything is included.

### Timing is everything

Because we had to limit our page count, and had reduced our publication schedule, there were some events we just could not publicize for you. One example is the Ice Harvest on this page — much as we wanted to, we couldn’t get word out about it ahead of time.

We intend to return to our twice-a-month schedule as an on-line publication. And we will be able to send out *Extras* when something really special comes up in between scheduled issues — and that includes special sales and events for our advertisers.

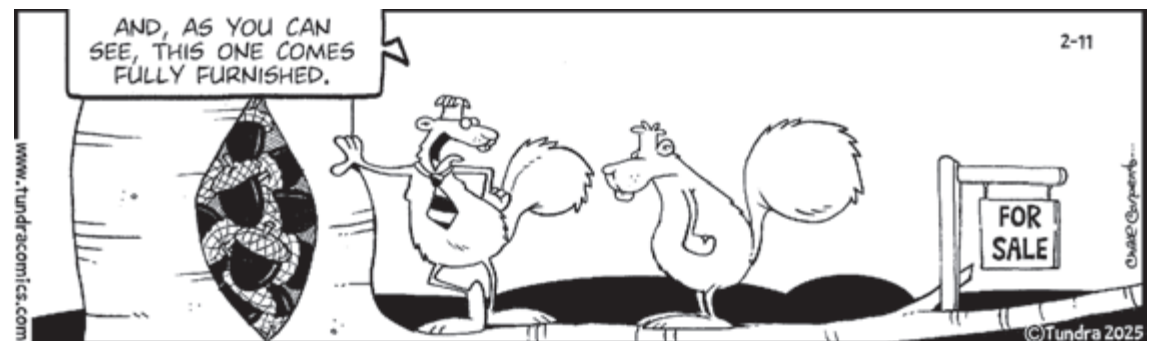
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### We need your input

Civic organizations, religious groups, libraries, any group, business or organization that wants to get the word out. Tell us what’s happening — a dinner, craft event, rummage sale, musical event, a special party. Does an individual deserve some recognition? School honor rolls, scouts, awards, let us know. And remember, there are live links to all websites and e-mails you list.

Send your information to [journalnews@pa.metrocast.net](mailto:journalnews@pa.metrocast.net) or call 570-215-0204 xt2 and leave a message for the editor.

We’re also considering starting a Journal society, a group of people who want to offer ideas and support on a regular basis. Please let me know if you’d like to learn more.



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**Real Estate Auction**

ESTATE SETTLEMENT REAL ESTATE AUCTION  
11 A.M. SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2025  
RAIN, SNOW OR SHINE  
ON THE PREMISES

108 BLACKFOOT LANE, POCONO FARMS  
TOBYHANNA, COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP,  
MONROE COUNTY, PA 18466  
AFFORDABLE HOME, TAX CODE:  
03.7G.3.13

REAL ESTATE consists of an Approx. 2,000 Sq. Ft. Home. First Floor has Large Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom, Kitchen, Laundry Room, Family Room with Fireplace. Second Floor has 3 Bedrooms and Bath. Recording Studio in Basement. Attached 2 Car Garage. Home needs some work, but an opportunity for Affordable Home.

INSPECTIONS:  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 3 - 5 P.M.  
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 10 A.M. - 12 NOON  
TERMS: \$15,000 BANK CASHIER'S CHECK (PAYABLE TO JACK MUEHLHAN AUCTIONEER ESCROW) AT SALE. BALANCE AT SETTLEMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS. Insurable Deed. No buyer's Premium. What you BID is what you PAY.

DIRECTIONS: From Borough of Mt. Pocono, PA take Route 611 North (Memorial Drive) make a Right onto Cayuga Drive then Right onto Kilmer Road and then Left onto Blackfoot Lane.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Rare opportunity to Buy a large home that needs a little work, but in a prime area near Kalahari, Mt. Airy, Industrial Park and Airport. MUST be SOLD to settle Estate. Your BID may BUY!

SALE ORDERED BY:  
Estate of Veronica McMail  
JACK MUEHLHAN  
REAL ESTATE AUCTIONEER AU000643L  
"The Name You Can Trust"  
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360  
570-421-8333

Remember: You are only going to pay one more bid than someone else was willing to pay.

**Real Estate Auction**

COURT ORDERED REAL ESTATE AUCTION  
2 P.M. SATURDAY MARCH 8, 2025 RAIN,  
SNOW OR SHINE ON THE PREMISES  
9021 IDLEWILD DRIVE  
TOBYHANNA, PA 18466

POCONO COUNTRY PLACE COOLBAUGH  
TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY, PA  
TAX CODE: 03.9B.1.148 AFFORDABLE  
HOME OPPORTUNITY

REAL ESTATE consists of a Large Home with Attached Garage. First Floor has Living Room with Brick Fireplace, Bathroom, Bedroom, Dining Room and Kitchen, Large Sun Room. Second Floor has 4 Bedrooms and 2 Baths. Storage Shed in Yard.

INSPECTIONS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 12 Noon - 2 P.M.  
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2 - 4 P.M.

Pass the main gate and go directly to the J Gate (address 9002 Idlewild Drive). You will need to be prepared to show the gate guard your driver's license and vehicle registration.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Home needs work, but MUST be SOLD by Order of Court  
DIRECTIONS: From Borough of Mt. Pocono, PA take Route 196 to J Gate (second Gate at Pocono Country Place).

TERMS: \$10,000 BANK CASHIER'S CHECK (MADE PAYABLE TO JACK MUEHLHAN AUCTIONEER ESCROW) AT SALE. BALANCE AT SETTLEMENT WITHIN 30 DAYS. Good Insurable Deed. No Buyer's Premium. What you BID is what you PAY.

SALE ORDERED BY:  
Attorney Robert Kidwell Master in Partition  
JACK MUEHLHAN  
REAL ESTATE AUCTIONEER AU000643L  
"The Name You Can Trust"  
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360  
570-421-8333

Remember: You are only going to pay one more bid than someone else was willing to pay.

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**Travel**

**Timeshares**

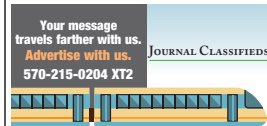
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THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

**ACROSS**

1. Past participle of spit
5. King Kong, e.g.
8. Greek portico
12. Not to be mentioned
13. Congeal
14. \_\_\_\_ cell carcinoma
15. Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.
16. Periods of time
17. D-Day beach
18. \*Holiday the day before Valentine's Day
20. Shade of beige
21. Quantities on doctors' prescriptions
22. Not amateur
23. \*Letters to Juliet destination

26. Come to final conclusion
30. \*Ultimate Valentine's vow?
31. Purchaser
34. Zelensky's capital
35. Move a plant
37. High-\_\_\_\_, as in an image
38. Tubular pasta
39. Not Visa or MC
40. \*Moving Valentine's Day date option
42. "Annie get your \_\_\_\_"
43. a.k.a. ladybird
45. Maximum
47. "Rub A Dub Dub" vessel
48. Suburb of Dallas
50. Skunk's defense
52. \*Sweet Valentine's gesture
56. Long stories
57. Rhythmic way of talking
58. Yours and mine
59. Send, as payment
60. The E of B.P.O.E.
61. A bit of water
62. Biblical paradise
63. Elf in
64. Sign of boredom

27. Texting vocabulary, e.g.
28. \*Cupid's mom
29. Black tie \_\_\_\_
32. Snob
33. Gymnast's goal
36. \*a.k.a. "love hormone"
38. Deck alternative
40. Chicago baseballer
41. Defrauds
44. Explosion
46. Pleasing notes succession

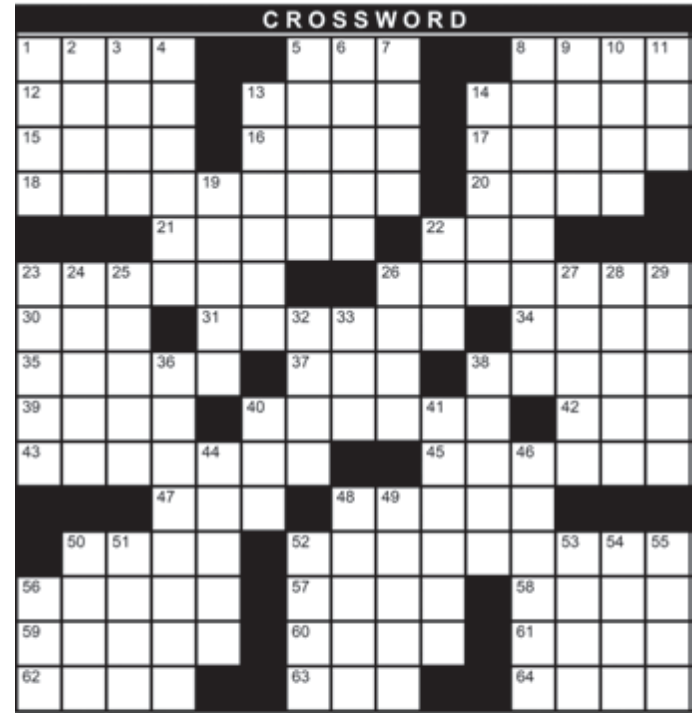
48. At the same time
49. Too much egg middle
50. Newspaper piece
51. Five and \_\_\_\_
52. Staff leader
53. Heavenly glow
54. Think, archaically speaking
55. Sport spectator's TV acronym
56. Before, old English



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**CROSSWORD**

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**DOWN**

1. Doe's mate
2. One of Three Bears
3. Cain's brother
4. Prom night garb
5. Bird of prey's nest
6. \*Make them in advance of Valentine's Day
7. "Or \_\_\_\_?"
8. \*\*Cupid" singer (2 words)
9. Russia's Terrible one, e.g.
10. Pearl Harbor island
11. Between Fla. and Miss.
13. Ship's floating wreckage
14. Afrikaners' ancestors
19. Group of nine singers
22. For each
23. All over the internet
24. Possible allergic reaction
25. Lassoed
26. \*Baby's breath's partner

# OBITUARIES

## DONALD T. SHIMKO

Donald T. Shimko, 82, formerly of Pocono Summit, passed away on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at Geisinger Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre. Don was born on April 5, 1942.

He was a proud United States Marine and Vietnam Veteran. He was also an avid hunter and fisherman and loved to garden.

Don resided in Springbrook Township for the past 32 years. He was the son of the late George T. Shimko, Sr, and Theresa Shimko, both of Pocono Summit. He was preceded in death by his sister, Joan Werkheiser, of Bartonsville, and two brothers, Joseph Shimko of Maine, and George Shimko, Jr, of Alabama.

Don is survived by his three sisters, Mary Shimko, Frances Yando,

and Kathy Stidham and husband, all of Pocono Summit; his children; three grandchildren; and many nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service took place December 30, at the Bolock Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc., 6148 Paradise Valley Road, Cresco.

## ANN M. THALMANN

Ann M. Thalmann, 57, of Effort, passed away Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono.

She was the loving wife of James "Jim" M. Thalmann. Born on July 17, 1967, in Massapequa Park, NY, she was the daughter of John F. Cronin and Margaret M. (Mulcahy) Cronin.

Ann was a sweet and caring homemaker for most of her life. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, and friend. Ann will be deeply missed by all her friends and family.

In addition to her husband and parents, she is survived by two sons, Benjamin Thalmann of Effort, and Andrew Thalmann and

Raymond P. Pickard, 92, of Greentown passed away peacefully at Allied Hospice on December 12, 2024.

The son of Raymond A. and Katharine (Smith) Pickard, he was born and raised in New Brighton, Staten Island, NY. He was a 1951 graduate of St Peter's High School and attended

his wife Yuki of Japan; a brother, John Cronin and his wife Nancy of AZ; two sisters, Deirdre Cronin of AZ, and Patricia Cronin of NJ; her sister-in-law and best friend, Kim Devito and her husband Steve; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by a son, Daniel Thalmann.

No services are scheduled at this time. Cremation will take place at H.G. Smith Crematory, Stroudsburg.

The Kresge Funeral Home, 1763 Route 209, Brodheadsville, has been entrusted with the arrangements.  
[www.kresgefuneralhome.com](http://www.kresgefuneralhome.com)

## RAYMOND P. PICKARD

Wagner College.

He was an Allstate agent for many years in New York, and after relocating to the Poconos in 1971, he owned and operated Pickard's Insurance Agency, retiring in 2021. He served with the US Army Reserves for 11 years beginning during the Korean War. He was a proud descendant of Oklahoma Land Run Homesteaders. He was a member of Wilson-Fischer Post 413 and Hemlock Grove UMC. He enjoyed Civil War history, golfing with his buddies, Tuesday lunch outings and being with his family.

Ray is survived by his wife of 39 years, Trudy. He was an amazing father to Denise Conley (Randy), Heidi Pickard, Lori Williams and Chris Williams (Diane Eck). He was Grandpa Pic to his grandchildren, Brandon Conley (Alisha) and Madison Capone (James). He is also survived by his niece, Kathleen Vignapiano; sisters-in-law, Nancy Timm

(Frank, Jr.) and Christine Krieger (Lori Johnson); nephews, Michael and Brian Vignapiano and Russell, Ben (Rachel), Frank III and Doug Timm.

Ray was predeceased by his parents and sister, Shirley, and many beloved "furbabies".

Bolock Funeral Home & Crematory in Cresco, was in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in his memory to Dessin Animal Shelter of Honesdale, PA or Five Loaf House in Pocono Pines, PA.


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# OBITUARIES

## DAVID SCOTT FIORITO, SR.

David Scott Fiorito Sr., husband, father, son, brother, grandfather, 54 years of age of Albrightsville, passed away on Saturday, January 4, 2025, having fought a courageous health battle surrounded by family.

Born Monday, February 2, 1970 in Haverford, PA, he was the son of Karen (Lord) Fiorito. Surviving are his wife Cara L. (Williams) Fiorito; father Louis J. Fiorito Sr. and wife Donna; sons Elijah M. Fiorito, David Fiorito Jr., and Nicholas Fiorito; daughters Danielle Fiorito, and Hailey Fiorito; brothers Steven Fiorito and wife Cheryl, Louis Fiorito Jr., and Mike Fiorito; sister Jenifer Doherty; and grandchildren.

A graduate of Upper Darby High School. David was a volunteer firefighter with Drexel Hill, Upper Darby and Jim Thorpe Fire Departments. David was known for his strong will, unwavering determination, and love and support for his family, friends and community. David enjoyed fishing, going on adventures and long walks. David was an avid NASCAR fan. David went to many NASCAR races and enjoyed watching NASCAR with his family and friends. David got

to drive a NASCAR in 2012 at Pocono raceway.

A service will be held in the spring of 2025.

Arrangements were entrusted to the E. Franklin Griffiths Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc. 655 East Broad Street Tamaqua Pennsylvania 18252. (570) 668-2550

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com)

## JANE S. WISSER

Jane S. Wisser, 91, of Kunkletown, formerly of North Plainfield and Lakewood, NJ, passed away Monday, January 13, 2025, at Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Home, Kunkletown.

She was the loving wife of the late Heinz E. Wisser. They celebrated 28 years of marriage together before his passing in 1982.

Born on December 17, 1933, in Elizabeth, NJ, she was the daughter of the late Charles Schott and the late Viola (Pharr) Schott.

Jane was a long-time member of Watchung Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield, NJ, where she enjoyed playing the bells. She graduated from Scotch Plains High School in 1951. Jane was a talented seamstress and worked for Brotman's Fabrics in North Plainfield, NJ, for several years. She enjoyed painting, crocheting baby blankets for hospitals, and caring for her loving grandchildren. She was also an avid Game Show Network fan. Most of all, she was a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother, great-grand-

George W. Weiss, 93, of Gilbert, passed away Sunday, January 5, 2025 at St. Luke's Hospital-Carbon Campus.

He was the loving husband of the late Helen (Reed) Weiss. They celebrated over 25 years of marriage together before her passing in 2011.

Born on October 25, 1931, he was the son of the late Stanley H. Weiss

mother, sister, and friend. Jane will be deeply missed by all her friends and family.

She is survived by her three children, Patricia Wisser, Richard Wisser, and Douglas Wisser and his wife Dawn; six grandchildren, Kaitlyn Bertsch and her husband Travis, Jessica Hamm and her husband Joshua, Kevin Wisser and his wife Lauren, Tyler Wisser and his wife Jessica, Collin Wisser and his wife Kaitlyn, Heather Wisser; and four great grandchildren, Jacob Bertsch, Logan Bertsch, Bryan Bertsch, and William Wisser. In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her four brothers, Harold, Russell, Harvey, and Melville Schott.

Funeral services were held January 17, at the Kresge Funeral Home, 1763 Route 209, Brodheadsville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Home Resident Fund, P.O. Box 327 Kunkletown, PA 18058.

[www.kresgefuneralhome.com](http://www.kresgefuneralhome.com)

## GEORGE W. WEISS

and the late Mary (Weiss) Weiss.

George worked as a custodian for the Pleasant Valley School District for over ten years. He always enjoyed reading the newspaper in his earlier years, and loved his frequent trips to ShopRite in Brodheadsville. Most of all, he was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend. George will be deeply missed by all his friends and family.

He is survived by a son, Trevor Weiss and his wife Phyllis; a daughter, Renee Kresge and her husband Jamie; seven grandchildren, Arielle, Corinna, Trevor Jr. and his wife Becky, William and his wife Patty, Christopher, Adam, Eric and his wife April; and ten great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by a son, Brooke Weiss, a brother, LeRoy Weiss, and two sisters, Elizabeth Shiffer and Emma Kregler.

A graveside service was held January 9, at Hillside Cemetery in Effort with Rev. Brian Haas officiating.

The Kresge Funeral Home, 1763 Route 209, Brodheadsville, was entrusted with the arrangements.

**Editor's Note:** Some of these obituaries are almost two months old, but timing of the issue held them up. We apologize, but feel it is important to honor these families. More on page 22.

## SHIRLEY J. SMITH

Shirley J. Smith, 91, of Kunkletown, passed away Saturday, January 18, 2025, at home.

She was the loving wife of the late James L. Smith. They celebrated 55 years of marriage together before his passing in 2010.

Born on June 12, 1933, in Palmerton, she was the daughter of the late Elwood Shupp and the late Erba (Frantz) Shupp.

Shirley was a member of St. Matthew's UCC in Kunkletown. She was also a former member of the Chestnut Ridge Senior Citizens. Most of all, she was a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, and friend. Shirley will be deeply missed by all her friends and family.

Shirley is survived by two sons, Randy Smith and his wife Janet of Kunkletown, and Dale Smith of Kunkletown; two daughters, Sandra Knappenberger and her husband Larry of Kunkletown, and Kelly Hendricks and her husband Terry of Frenchtown, NJ; two sisters, Betty Correll of Wind Gap, and Margaret Hahn and her husband Larry of Palmerton; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Matthew's Church, 102 Church Road, Kunkletown, PA 18058.

The Kresge Funeral Home, 1763 Route 209, Brodheadsville, was entrusted with the arrangements. [www.kresgefuneralhome.com](http://www.kresgefuneralhome.com)

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# OBITUARIES

## ROY J. MINNERLY

Roy J. Minnerly, 77, of Effort, passed away Friday, December 27, 2024, at St. Luke's Hospital-Monroe Campus.

He was the loving husband of the late Kelli M. (Keiper) Minnerly. They celebrated 28 wonderful years of marriage together before her passing in 2016.

Born on June 4, 1947, he was the son of the late Roy A. Minnerly and the late Veronica (Guzowski) Minnerly.

Roy graduated from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 1971 receiving his Bachelor of Science in Business degree. He then worked as supervisor for the custodial staff at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and later worked as a custodian for Colonial Auto sales in Bartonsville for 29 years.

In his younger years, Roy was an avid runner participating in 5k and 10k runs. He was also loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. Most of all, he was a loving and caring husband, brother, uncle, and friend. He will be deeply missed by all his friends and family.

He is survived by his two brothers, Kenneth G. Minnerly and his wife Deborah of Manheim, PA, Dennis Minnerly of Key West, FL; and five nephews, David, Jason, Mike, Chris, and John Minnerly.

A graveside service was held January 3, at Middle Creek Cemetery in Polk Township.

The Kresge Funeral Home, 1763 Route 209, Brodheadsville, was entrusted with the arrangements.

[www.kresgefuneralhome.com](http://www.kresgefuneralhome.com)

## LAURENCE REGGETTO

Laurence "Larry" A. Reggetto, 59, of Effort, passed away on Sunday, February 2, 2025, at home.

He was the loving boyfriend of Noreen Creager.

Born on October 9, 1965, in Somerville, NJ, he was the son of Laurence Reggetto and the late Judith (Cajkouski) Reggetto.

Larry was an IT professional for Verizon for 20 years. He later worked in custodial services for Nazareth School District. Larry enjoyed shopping and going to garage sales and flea markets with his girlfriend, Noreen. He loved spending his downtime in his garage, and had a fascination for light bulbs. He adored his German shepherd grand-puppy, Gunner, his first puppy, Coco, and also his cat, Rocky. Most of all, he was a loving and caring boyfriend, son, father, grandfather, brother, and

friend. Larry will be deeply missed by all his friends and family.

In addition to his father, Laurence, and girlfriend, Noreen, Larry is survived by his daughters, Larissa Gwozdz and her husband Mark, and Marina Sorrentino and her husband Mike; a brother, Joseph Reggetto; and three grandchildren, Sofia Sorrentino, Gianna Irizarry, and Mark Gwozdz.

A funeral service was held February 6 at the Kresge Funeral Home, 1763 Route 209, Brodheadsville, with Rev. Jason Vanderburg officiating. Burial followed in Buena Vista Cemetery, Brodheadsville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to AWSOM, P.O. Box 13, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. [www.kresgefuneralhome.com](http://www.kresgefuneralhome.com)

## SANTOS D. VEGA

Santos D. Vega, 88, of Blakeslee, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2024 at The Gardens for Memory Care at Easton.

He was the loving husband of the late Juanita Porras.

Born on May 11, 1936, in Mayagüez, PR, he was the son of the late Saturnino Vega Figueroa and the late Merida Rivera Rodriguez.

Santos was a US Navy Veteran. He was a very outgoing and high-spirited soul who loved spending time with his family and friends. He always enjoyed his cocktails, storytelling, and if a party was going on he was happy. Most of all, he was a loving and caring husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. He will be deeply missed by all his friends and family.

Santos is survived by two sons, Alex Vega and his wife Jasmine, and Raymond Vega; a daughter, Josephine Santini and her husband Alfred; his stepchildren, Annie Echeverry, Raphael Valenzuela, Jose Valenzuela, and Carmine Cintrón; two brothers, Raymond and Freddie Vega; two sisters, Nancy Vega and her husband Miguel, and Betty Vega; six grandchildren, Jacob, Julius, Ethan, Gevalia, Shayna, and Siobhan; a great-grandchild, Annalise; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by a son, Santos Vega Jr.

A funeral service was held on January 8 at the Kresge Funeral Home, 1763 Route 209, Brodheadsville, with Father Robert Simon officiating.

[www.kresgefuneralhome.com](http://www.kresgefuneralhome.com)



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for Brodhead Watershed  
Association

Seed catalogs in the mailbox. Wisps of green that will become snow drops and crocuses. That haze that lights the trees before the leaves start to unfurl.

Not spring yet! But soon.

Your gardening may consist of a little cleanup and a lot of wishful thinking. Or you may spend the winter dreaming of new plants. Either way, these quiet days when the backyard is still sleeping are a good time to take stock.

For starters, consider simplifying garden work. Swap out a few pieces of old equipment for newer, battery-powered versions — lighter, easier to maintain, cheaper to run, and often cheaper to buy.

The cost for a new battery blower or weed wacker (aka “string-trimmer”), for example, is competitive, and



there’s no on-going cost for gas. Fall is typically the time for the deepest discounts, but most stores run sales early in the season, too.

If you’re clearing woody brush, or running your tools for an hour at a time, battery-powered tools definitely come in second. But for most gardeners, battery weed wackers and blowers provide all the power you need. There’s no cloud of gas fumes. Their much lighter weight makes them easier on your back and shoulders, and battery-

operated is far quieter (gas-powered decibels can damage hearing like a rock concert).

And if you run out of juice, you just recharge the battery — instead of making a special run to the gas station.

Who knows? Once you get used to how easy and economical your battery-powered weed wacker is, you may even start daydreaming about replacing that gas-guzzling lawn mower.

Gasoline — the modern marvel that transformed transportation — has never been kind to the air we breathe or the water we drink. Small steps matter and help keep your own, personal environment clean.

Brodhead Watershed Association protects water quality and quantity throughout our area. Get involved! Become a member! [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org)



**Another great night at the Blakeslee Community Center’s open mic: Open mic is held the last Thursday of the month starting at 7 p.m. The Community Center is having another arts and crafts fair, with a number of new vendors, on Sunday, February 16, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

## Maple sugaring programs for schools, groups, Scouts

Each year the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center conducts tours of its Maple Sugaring site in Marshalls Creek in February and March for schools, scouts, homeschoolers, and other interested groups. This is a great opportunity to learn about maple sugaring which has been going on in our area for hundreds of years.

Two-hour tours include stops at stations providing information on the history of maple sugaring, which dates back to the Native Americans, the evaporating process that we use today and provides the groups with the opportunity to tap a maple tree whose sap will be used in the 2025 maple syrup production. Also shown are methods of collecting maple sap, and finally, the cooking process

that produces the sweet maple syrup.

Dates this year for organized groups (including students, scouts and any organization) have been set for Monday, February 24 through Friday, March 7. Please call 570-629-3061 to schedule. Cost is \$5/per participant and scheduling is done on a first-come, first-serve basis. Scout Programs may be scheduled during our public day programs on March 1 or March 8. Programs can be scheduled between 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and are open to any level of scouts and their families.

Cost is \$6/adult, \$4/scouts and children under 12. Registration is required for your group to reserve a spot by Wednesday, February 19.

For info, call or visit [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Full Gospel Holiness Church Of God In Christ**  
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TEL: FAX: 070-438-4170 - Elder L. Travers, Pastor, D.D.

**BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION 2025**  
**Ethnic ATTIRE Worn The Month Of February**

**The last Sunday, February 23 will be Ethnic Food Tasting Service.**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



# Carbon County property transfers through January 19

## Kidder Township

Timothy M. Hertkorn to Rebekah Nussbaum, Philadelphia, property at 8 Jack Rabbit Run, White Haven, \$265,000.

Robert V. Koble to Sapphire Luxury Rentals, LLC, Burlington, Iowa, two transactions, property on River Road and at 40 River Road, \$201,703, and property on River Road, \$22,885.

Thomas J. Heinz to John W. Orr, Shamong, New Jersey, Lot 55A, Golden Oaks Village, \$288,500.

Cynthia Coombe to Alyssa McElroy, Blakeslee, property at 72 Black Bear Pass, White Haven, \$164,300.

Mapeel Chang to Jonathan Taylor Felter, 226 River Road, White Haven, property at 226 River Road, \$210,000.

Joseph P. Governali to Silver Hospitality, LLC, West Chester, property at 9 Quail Run, Lake Harmony, \$745,000.

Craig R. McCaffrey to Joseph A. Lannutti, Springfield, property at 4 Beachwood Court, Lake Harmony, \$314,900.

James W. Brown to Phenol Armand, Bay Shore, New Yor, property at 103 Pocono Road, Albrightsville, \$184,000.

Mario Crellana to Grzegorz Kruszezowski, Woodland Par, New Jersey, property at 89 Split Rock Road, Lake Harmony, \$555,000.

Preservation Graystones, LLC, to Donna Bell, Haddonfield, New Jersey, 17.03 acres, Trexler Meadow Road, Graystone Preserve Subdivision, \$900,000.

Thomas Stanton to Lake Harmony House, LLC, Media, property at 41 Skye Drive, Lake Harmony,

\$513,311.60.

Russell C. Swisher to William J. Liaw, Allentown, property at 59 Midlake Drive, Unit I-250, Lake Harmony, \$510,000.

Kathleen M. Shameneck to Alice Mary Morris, Lutherville Timonium, Maryland, property at 33 Red Fox Court, Lake Harmony, \$344,000.

Colleen Carter to Janice Roberti, 82 Alpine, Lake Harmony, property at 82 Alpine, \$274,275.

Doris M. Kaylor to Rayleen Evans, 4413 State Rt. 534, White Haven, two parcels, Nos. 90-20-A3 and 90-20-A4.02, \$199,900.

Carol C. Altemose to Evada Group, LLC, East Stroudsburg, parcel No. 75-20-A3.01, \$275,000.

Michael Cilio Jr. to John C. Tully, P.O. Box 259, White Haven, property at 30 Wolf Way, White Haven, \$126,000.

Kevin Patrick Murphy to Nicole M. Campanella, York, property at 128 Short Hill Road, Lake Harmony, \$402,500.

Phillip Harding to Phillip Harding, Chadds Ford, Lot 152A, Chipmunk Trail, Pocono Mountain Lake, \$1.

EZ Livin Cabin, LLC, to BFM Properties, LLC, Sugarloaf, lots 39 and 40, Round Lake, Lake Mountain Development, \$517,000.

Beth A. Hurley to Petra Rickman, Maspeth, New York, property at 399 Moseywood Road, Lake Harmony, \$500,000.

Dawn M. Little to AFI Holdings, LLC, West Caldwell, New Jersey, property at 115 Pineknoll Drive, Lake Harmony, \$350,000.

Lois P. Pauley to Christopher D. Pauley, New

Hope, property at 46 Red Oak Road, Lake Harmony, \$1.

AS Twenty7, LLC, to Russell Eusele, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, property on Pocono Road, Holiday Poconos, \$345,000.

Pocono Villa, LLC, to Uprise Rentals II, LLC, Easton, property at 76 Lakeview Drive, Lake Harmony, \$1,450,000.

The Hawks Hideaway, LLC, to Thomas Rodman, Upper Holland, property at 107 S. Lake Drive, Lake Harmony, \$875,000.

Chad McNelis to Bass Face, LLC, Philadelphia, property at 7 Hartung St., Lake Harmony, \$195,000.

Chad Michael McNelis to Spruce Lodge on Hartung, LLC, Philadelphia, property at 9 Hartung St., Lake Harmony, \$525,000.

Carol A. Getz to Emil J. Diorio, Bethlehem, property at 2481 State Rt. 534, Albrightsville, \$700,000.

David A. Anderson to Michele Iavarone, Little Neck, New York, property at 384 Wolf Hollow Road, Lake Harmony, \$720,800.

Autumn Property Investments to 12 Hickory Rd, LLC, Staten Island, New York, property at 12 Hickory Road, Lake Harmony, \$450,000.

Stephen Deblasio to Richard Hardy, 38 W. Fawn Grove Drive, Lake Harmony, property at 38 W. Fawn Grove Drive, \$185,000.

Raymond A. Motto to Gerard D. Darvilla, Lauderdale by the Sea, Florida, property at 36 Linden Drive, Lake Harmony, \$690,000.

Edward J. Graham to Patricia Aponte, Arnold, Maryland, property at 49 S. Lake Drive, Lake Harmony,

\$438,500.

Brendan Thomas Oguinn to James Scott Worthington, 32 Trail Ridge Road, Albrightsville, property at 32 Trail Ridge Road, \$262,000.

Naomi Codrington to James Edward MacDonald, 164 Tanglewood Drive, Lake Harmony, property at 164 Tanglewood Drive, \$80,000.

Mark Lattanzio to Jacob Menapace, Lancaster, property at 53 Midway, Lake Harmony, \$380,000.

Susan Cuscani to James Martin Egan, 311 Golden Oaks Drive, White Haven, property at 311 Golden Oaks Drive, \$313,800.

John Henry Hersker III to Dianna Deignan, Cape May, New Jersey, property at 72 Greenwood Road, Lake Harmony, \$450,000.

Reflections at Lake Harmony, LLC, to JMR Enterprises, LLC, Allentown, 1.523 acres, parcel No. 19C-21-A1A, Lake Harmony, \$150,000.

William Matthew Snyder to JJT Farm, LLC, Paoli, property at 46 Crest Drive, Lake Harmony, \$650,000.

San Banfill to Thomas Dutzer, Commerce City, Colorado, property at 26 Laurelwoods Drive, Lake Harmony, \$407,500.

36 S Lake DR Holdings, LLC, to JMR Enterprises, LLC, Allentown, property at 36 S. Lake Drive, Lake Harmony, \$1,400,000.

M34 Holdings LLC, to JMR Enterprises, LLC, Allentown, property at 34 S. Lake Drive, Lake Harmony, \$1,400,000.

Loma Holdings, LLC, to AARV 4 Property, LLC, Lake Harmony, property at 16 Sassafra Road, Lake Harmony, \$629,000.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Jason Keller, 1133 State Route 903, Jim Thorpe, property at 114 Lake Harmony Road, Lake Harmony, 225,000.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Jason Paul Montague, 17 Vineland Road, Albrightsville, Lot 188, Section D, Holiday Poconos, \$1,595.

Stacy Rae Dean to L & B Management Partners,

See TRANSFERS, page 25

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# Transfers

**Continued from page 24**

LLC, Hatboro, property at 63 Tallwood Drive, Albrightsville, \$76,000.

Raymond A. Motto to Michael E. Meier, P.O. Box 473, Lake Harmony, Split Rock Lot 4, Section E, \$95,000.

Donna Degnan to Melinda Cheryl Biddle, Honey Brook, property at 59 Midlake Drive, No. 1021, Lake Harmony, \$375,000.

Lausanne Township Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to RCS Capital Group, Miami, Florida, property at 2385 Buck Mountain Road, \$43,100.

## Penn Forest Township

Rachel Gurule to Miguel Medina, 66 Navajo Trail, Albrightsville, property at 66 Navajo Trail, \$184,000,

Joy R.S. Whiteman to Carl W. Oswald Sr., 87 Aspen Drive, Jim Thorpe, lots 352 and 353, Section A, Hickory Run Forest, \$22,500.

Jacek Wasielek to Teresa Leone, 11 Susquehanna Drive, Jim Thorpe, property at 11 Susquehanna Drive, \$537,000.

ASJS Consulting, LLC, to Erick A. Medina Jimenez, Allentown, lots 281 and 282, Delaware Drive, \$7,450.

Shaun McStravick to Creative Venture Group Company, West Chester, Lot V5, Section V, Towamensing Trails, \$1,275,000.

Dennis Kane to Katlynn Kelly, Medford, New Jersey, Lot 2578, Section Mountain View, Mt. Pocahontas, \$1.

Louis J. Pappas to Louis J. Pappas, 77 Patten Circle, Albrightsville, property at 7

Patten Circle, \$1.

Raymond German to Michael Edwards, Queen Creek, Arizona, property at 10 Dillon Way, Albrightsville, \$639,900.

John Danchak to Stephen J. Bleiler, 7 Mushroom Lane, Albrightsville, property at 7 Mushroom Lane, \$405,700.

Full Gospel Korean Church to Ricardo Teixeira, 422 Scenic Drive, Albrightsville, property at 1863 State Rt. 534, Albrightsville, \$400,000.

Jeffrey N. Coleman to Daniel Shimonov, Jamaica, New York, property at 66 Berryman Lane, Albrightsville, \$316,000.

Therese A. O'Malley Funk to AIC Properties, LLC, Glen Riddle Lima, two transactions, property on Indian Trail, \$20,000, and property at 90 Midway Drive, \$152,816.

Franklin W. Seal III to Darren M. Arlee, Marlton, New Jersey, property at 24 Emerson Drive, Albrightsville, \$225,000.

Land Trustings, LLC, to Amelfis Manzueta, Sicklerville, New Jersey, Lot 2050, Section 4, Mt. Pocahontas, \$6,000.

Victoria Wargo Nichols to Preston Smith, 53 Pinoak Drive, Jim Thorpe, property at 53 Pinoak Drive, \$262,900.

Radian Guaranty, Inc., to L & B Management Partners, LLC, Hatboro, property at 40 Nosirrah Road, Albrightsville, \$107,900.

Robert W. Rowland to Nancy Hebenstreit, P.O. Box 1321, Albrightsville, property at 322 Kilmer Trail, Albrightsville, \$305,000.

L & B Vacation Rentals, LLC, to Maria Helena Fritz, 67 Pocahontas Lane, Albrightsville, property at 67 Pocahontas Lane, \$355,000.

Joseph Archer to Mark Hagerty, P.O. Box 476,

Albrightsville, property at 31 Kipling Lane, Albrightsville, \$325,000.

Robert C. Marmo to Marcelo E. Yanez, Shirley, New York, Mt. Pocahontas Lot 2269, Section Mountain View, \$5,000.

Alfred Dewalt to Pleasant Valley West, LLC, 1787 State Rt. 903, Jim Thorpe, Pleasant Valley West Lot 573, Section F, \$35,000.

Joseph L. Freer to William John Steen, 12 Fox Hill Road, Albrightsville, property at 32 Osage Trail, Albrightsville, \$170,000.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to CV Homes, LLC, Brooklyn, New York, Hickory Run Forest Lot 28, Section B, \$1,295.

Grigoriy Gayevskioy to 1964, Inc., 1964, Inc., Hampton, New Jersey, Indian Mountain Lakes Lot 410, Section L-III, \$1,305.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to 1964, Inc., Hampton, New Jersey, property on Wintergreen Trail, Indian Mountain Lakes, \$1,360.

PM Invest Comfort to Peter Pietka, Philadelphia, property at 29 Lazarus Circle, \$1.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to 1964, Inc., Hampton, New Jersey, property at North Shore and Vista drives, Indian Mountain Lakes, \$1,220.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Corsege Properties, LLC, Hummelstown, three transactions, property on Old Stage Road, Towamensing Trails, Albrightsville, \$1,245; property at Chippewa and Hiawatha trails, Mt. Pocahontas, \$1,150; and property at Cypress Drive and Poplar Lane, Hickory Run Forest, \$1,500.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Ygnacio Mosquea, Howard Beach,

New York, property on Oneida Trail, Mt. Pocahontas, \$1,265.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Vincent Miceli, 60 Porter Drive, Jim Thorpe, property on Patten Circle, Valley View Estates, \$23,500.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Tatasyn, LLC, P.O. Box 192, Albrightsville, property on Ginsburg Circle, Towamensing Trails, \$1,290.

Thomas W. Gaines to Joseph Krawczyk, Bensalem, Lot 608, Section N-II, Indian Mountain Lakes, \$280,000.

James B. Creighton to JBC Revocable Trust, Southampton, property at 111 Bear Creek Lane, \$1.

Brian P. Boyle to Sara Nabozna, Water Mill, New York, property at 20 Johnson Lane, Albrightsville, \$445,000.

Dennis Jerome Smarch to Brendon Rodgers, 176 Stone Ridge, Albrightsville, property at 176 Stone Ridge, \$670,000.

Albrightsville DG, LLC, tol DGB Buyer PA), LLC,

New York, New York, property at 1293 State Rt. 534, Albrightsville (Dollar General), \$1,728,941.50.

Edward C. Maddock to Salvatore Bruno, Absecon, New Jersey, Lot 138, Section 12, Penn Forest Streams, \$23,000.

Bradford S. Bennett to Pleasant Valley West, LLC, 1787 State Rt. 903, Jim Thorpe, lots 173 and 174, Section B, Pleasant Valley West, \$63,900.

Debra A. Harvan to Donna L. Jackson, Norristown, 16 acres and 70 perches, parcel No. 50-51-A7. \$1.

Peter Roesch to Kevin J. Crail, Jamison, Lot 669, Section II, Towamensing Trails, \$27,000.

Allied First Bank, S.B., to Antonio Pietro Mannino, Northampton, property at 36 Piney Woods Drive, \$165,000.

Scott Edward Hopkins to George Frederick Brown, 587 Old Stage Road, Albrightsville, property at 587 Old Stage Road, \$362,000.

See TRANSFERS, page 26

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# Transfers

**Continued from page 25**

Roy Dockworth to 7VistaDrive, LLC, Prosper, Texas, property at 7 Vista Drive, Albrightsville, \$360,000.

RK Invest Group, LLC, to Master Building Construction, LLC, Reading, Mt. Pocahontas Lot 1277, Section 6, Miami and Pautuxent trails, \$10,999.

Ashley Pohle to Scott Hopkins, 41 Penn Spring Drive, Jim Thorpe, property at 41 Penn Spring Drive, \$550,000.

Pocono Cash Home Buyers, LLC, to John Trubiano, 11 McKinley Lane, P.O. Box 1156, Albrightsville, property at 11 McKinley Lane, \$260,000.

Karl C. Geist to Thomas P. McCarrin, P.O. Box 1000, Albrightsville, Lot V408, Section V, Towamensing Trails, \$18,000.

Richard L. Janosek to Rafael G. Lopez, Valley Stream, New York, Lot 218B, Buttonwood Drive, \$10,822.50.

James P. Simmons to Sean B. Sussman, Levittown, Towamensing Trails Lot 1470, Section E-V, \$10,000.

Harold Block to James C. Cook, Doylestown, property at 66 Guest Circle, Albrightsville, \$315,000.

Michael A. Block to Janet Montrim, 53 Foothill Road, Albrightsville, property at 53 Foothill Road, \$219,000.

Arsens Construction, LLC, to Rebecca Cheryl Tudor, 14 Engler Lane, Jim Thorpe, property at 14 Engler Lane, \$389,900.

Robert Thomson to Ramakrishnan Suryanarayanan, Frisco, Texas, property at 163 Spencer Lane, Albrightsville, \$710,000.

Deborah Jean Stone

to Andezej Puk, Inwood, New York, property at 243 Mountain Road, Albrightsville, \$220,000.

Laverna B. Arndt to Laverna B. Arndt, 146 Honeysuckle Drive, Jim Thorpe, property at 146 Honeysuckle Road, \$1.

Christopher Bianco to Joanna Kolaczko, Staten Island, New York, property at 15 Piute Trail, Albrightsville, \$260,000.

Four Brothers Holding, LLC, to John Ruppelli Jr., Allentown, property at 61 Woodland Road, Albrightsville, \$320,000.

Camardi Properties, LLC, to Tammy Lee Solorio, Royersford, Lot 236, Section 1, Towamensing Trails, \$23,000.

Edgar A. Ruano to Anna Maria Lopez, 42 Beaver Drive, Albrightsville, property at 183 Eliot Lane, Albrightsville, \$302,000.

Joseph M. Jaskot to Jordan J. Fisher, 110 Yellow Run Road, Jim Thorpe, property at 110 Yellow Run Road, \$330,000.

Eleni Bouikidis to Judith Pol, Miami, Florida, Lot 2034, Section IV, Towamensing Trails, \$15,000.

Jeffrey R. Jeffries to Bryan J. Samuel, 22 Lensing Lane, Albrightsville, property at 22 Lensing Lane, \$380,000.

Pocono Home Properties, LLC, to Thomas Calhoun, Lansdale, Lot 701, Section II, Towamensing Trails, \$28,000.

Boris Bazanov to Kelvin P. McKenzie, Roselle, New Jersey, Lot 1214, North Shore Drive, Albrightsville, \$4,500.

Thad Dirk Gilmore to Gerard Patane, 9 Cold Spring Drive, Jim Thorpe, property at 9 Cold Spring Drive, \$329,900.

Paul Giura to Pieland, LLC, P.O. Box 287, Albrightsville,

Lot V245, Section V, Towamensing Trails, \$9,500.

John P. Sharp to Russell D. Lopresti, 22 Hickory Run Lane, Jim Thorpe, property at 22 Hickory Run Lane, \$235,000.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Michael Joseph Cataldo, 35 Wild Cherry Ave., Jim Thorpe, Lot 249, Section C, Penn Forest Streams, \$690.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Graber Properties, LLC, 8 Geronimo Trail, P.O. Box 1007, Albrightsville, three transactions in Penn Forest Streams, including Lot 346, Section E, \$5,000, Lot 313, Section B, \$5,155, and Lot 682, Section H, \$705.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Lori B. Ansbach, 1386 Valley Road, Tamaqua, Lot 621, Section H, Penn Forest Streams, \$1,500.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Dana Ansbach, 64 Autumn Lane, Jim Thorpe, two transactions in Penn Forest Streams, including Lot 626, Section H, \$2,000, and Lot 369, Section F, \$1,400.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Richard C. Reinert, Churchville, three transactions, Lot 1516, Section C, Towamensing Trails, \$685, Lot 23, Section A, Hickory Run Forest, \$10,000, and Lot EV413, Section E-V, Towamensing Trails, \$2,200.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Mazzella Properties, LLC, 1404 State Route 903, Jim Thorpe, six transactions as follows: Lot 700, Section J, Penn Forest Streams, \$710; Lot 716, Section I, Penn Forest Streams, \$3,100; Lot 813, Section E-V, Towamensing Trails, \$2,100; Lot 139, Section A, Hickory Run Forest, \$4,100; Lot 1763,

Section 4, Mt. Pocahontas, \$2,700; and Lot 793, Section I, Penn Forest Streams, \$3,100.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Andrew D. Benjamin, Allentown, five transactions as follows: Lot 12, Section C, John Wargo Subdivision, \$1,000; Lot 13, Section C, John Wargo Subdivision, \$1,300; Lot 11, Section C, John Wargo Subdivision, \$705; Lot 195, Section B, Hickory Run Forest, \$680; and Lot 196, Section B, Hickory Run Forest, \$680.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Unlimited Builder, LLC, 61 Cottonwood Drive, Jim Thorpe, two transactions as follows; Lot 1535, Section E-V, Towamensing Trails, \$6,200; and Lot 2157, Section D, Towamensing Trails, \$2,100.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Jason Keller, 1933 State Route 903, Jim Thorpe, Lot 2157,

Section D, Towamensing Trails, \$2,100.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Paul Kramer Jr., Narvon, Lot 250, Section A, Hickory Run Forest, \$5,600.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Michael Tecce, 18 Chestnut Lane, Jim Thorpe, property on Cypress Drive, Hickory Run Forest, \$1,400.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Sean McGarrigle, Havertown, Lot 17E, Section A, Mt. Pocahontas, \$2,200.

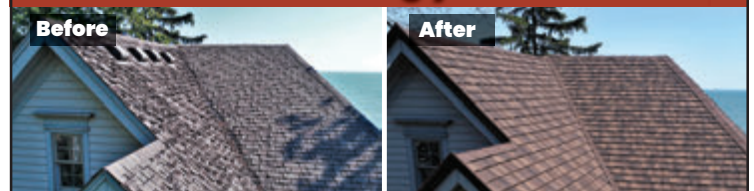
Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Mary Louise Smaczylo, Philadelphia, Lot 611, Section B, Indian Mountain Lakes, \$1,115.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Happy Neighbor, LLC, 1787 State Route 903, Jim Thorpe, property at 1795 State Route 903, \$27,375.

Tax Claim Bureau of

**See TRANSFERS, page 27**

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## Transfers

### Continued from page 26

Carbon County to Massive Action Residential Services, LLC, P.O. Box 4073, Jim Thorpe, property at 116 Sassafrass Road, Albrightsville, \$725.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Ryan Burns, Holbrook, New York, Lot 1082, Section C, Towamensing Trails, \$6,200.

Tax Claim Bureau of Carbon County to Christian Fehrenbacher, 320 Shick Lane, Saylorsburg, property at 15 Shakespeare Circle, Albrightsville, \$110,000.

Great Pocono Homes, LLC, to Bruce H. Heath Jr., Warrington, Lot 592, Section F, Saginaw Drive, Pleasant Valley West, \$15,000.

Marilyn Domena to L & B Management Partners, LLC, Hatboro, property at 109 Sassafrass Road, Albrightsville, \$160,000.

Saverio Vapore to Daniel B. Wolf, Willow Grove, property at 148 Susquehanna Drive, \$338,000.

Catharine A. Heimsoth to Catharine A. Heimsoth, Bethlehem, property at 11 Piney Woods Drive, \$1.

J. Richard Ruby to Ryan Patrick Schmincke, 121 S. Third St., Leighton, property at 85 Dryden Drive, Albrightsville, \$227,000.

Edmund J. Webb to Brookline Bancorp 1031 Exchange Services, LLC, Naperville, Illinois, property on State Route 534, Albrightsville, \$80,000.

Jessica M. Orovich to Alexander Thorn, Philadelphia, lots V1417 and V1418, Section V, Towamensing Trails, \$128,625.

Giselle M. Faust to Wanda J. Dawson, 49 Church St., Jim Thorpe, property at 49 Church St., \$250,000.

Loretta T. Leone to Whitney Perez, 177 Chapman Circle, P.O. Box 2176, Albrightsville, property at 177 Chapman Circle, \$220,000.

David M. Micio to David T. Micio, 4800 Forest St., Leighton, property at 4800 Forest St., \$1.

Carmen Santiago to Zaira Cotto, Tobyhanna, Mt. Pocahontas Lot 2343, Section Mountain View, \$1.

Charles H. Sollin Irrevocable Trust to David P. Sollin, P.O. Box 1629, Albrightsville, property at 12 Hemlock Path, \$1.

Nancy McMickle to A Frame Cabin, LLC, Whitestone, New York, two transactions in Mt. Pocahontas, including Lot 2053, Section 5, \$1,500, and Lot 2055, Section 5, \$2,500.

Mary Ann David Revocable Living Trust to Karin Davis Hayes, Danville, Kentucky, property at 79 Bear Creek Drive, \$1.

James Marco to Jeffrey W. Lucan, P.O. Box 1113, Albrightsville, property at 50 Tennyson Circle, Albrightsville, \$325,000.

## PMWHS inducts 6 standout athletes & coaching legend into newly established West Athletic Hall of Fame

After nearly 23 years in the making, the Pocono Mountain West Athletic Hall of Fame made its debut on January, 25, in the West High School auditorium when it held its first induction ceremony for some of its most notable athletic alumni.

“We’ve had so many amazing athletes, scholar athletes, coaches and supporters over the 22 plus year history of the Panther Athletic Program, that is seemed like the right time to begin formally recognizing their significant accomplishments and contributions to what makes Pocono Mountain West High School the best,” said Michael DelGrosso, West Athletic Director.

It seems fitting that the induction ceremony took place in between Panther Girls and Boys Varsity home

basketball team games. The West Panthers have established a reputation as formidable opponents in basketball since the school opened in the 2002-2003 school year.

The first class of the West Athletic Hall of Fame, the Class of 2025, includes the following star alumni student athletes and one of the winningest coaches in Panther and Pocono Mountain School District history:

**Jackie Benitez**, a 2015 graduate of West HS, lettered in basketball, volleyball and track. Benitez was a two-time All-State player. As a freshman and sophomore, she made First Team All-Conference and was named to the Junior/Senior AAAA All-State First Team. Benitez remains the all-time lead scorer with 1,979 points for both Girls

and Boys basketball, and in one season scored 702 points. She was named the 2014 MVC Most Valuable Player, the 2014 *Pocono Record* Player of the Year, and the 2015 Eastern Conference First Team All-Star. She continued to excel at basketball after graduation at Siena College, where she was named Rookie of the Week three times between 2015 and 2017 and two-time player of the week in 2017. Benitez was also named to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference All-Rookie team in 2016 and 2017, MAAC Defensive Player of the Year and 2017 First Team All-MAAC, leading MACC in free throws and freshman scoring steals and three pointers. At James Madison College, Benitez was named the 2019 Coastal Athletic Association 6th Player of the Year, all CAA Third Team, and to the Women’s Basketball Invitational Tournament All-Tourney Team, with 235 career three-pointers, 196 steals and an 82.5 percent free throw success rate. Benitez continued her basketball career playing professionally on the Puerto Rico national team and also competing on their Olympic Women’s Basketball teams in 2020 and 2024.

**Kristin (Boesenberg) Campanale**, a 2006 graduate of West HS, made her mark in basketball and softball. Campanale was a 1000-point scorer in Girls Basketball and had a perfect game in softball with a 3-run homerun. In softball, she was named the *Morning*

See HALL OF FAME, page 28

## New meeting dates for Kidder

by Ruth Isenberg

At their annual reorganization meeting on January 6, the Kidder Township supervisors set their meeting dates for the year as the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, January 28, they changed that decision, voting unanimously to hold meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month, starting at 6 p.m. Supervisor Bruce Berger had suggested the alternate

time at the reorganization, but supervisors had to check to see if solicitor Robert Yurchak had a conflict on the fourth Thursday; he does not.

In other business, supervisors voted to put the old Code Enforcement vehicle out for bids.

The ordinance creating a Volunteer Service credit/stipend was approved; the resolution that would have set forth the qualifications was tabled for fine-tuning.

Supervisors also approved an ordinance that will increase supervisors’ compensation, but only for those who are elected after this year; sitting supervisors are not affected.

Bids were received by the Carbon County Tax Claim Bureau on 10 properties, which will be returned to the tax rolls.

Final minor subdivision/lot joiner plan was approved for Todd & Jennifer Newton.

# Hall of Fame

Continued from page 27

Call All Area 1st team Utility player (2005); the Pocono All-Area 1st team utility player - 2004 (50 strike-outs and .397 batting average); and the MVC 1st team Utility player (2006). She received MVC 1st team honors in girls basketball (2006) and was a member of the 2006 MVC Girls Basketball Championship team.

**Anita James**, a 2007 graduate of West HS, earned her reputation as a Panther Athlete in Cheerleading and Track. James was Varsity Letter winner for four years in cheerleading, both in fall and winter. In Track, she put the Panther's team on the map, being named the 2007 West Female Athlete of the Year and Stroudsburg television Athlete of the Week. James established new school records in high jump, long jump, triple jump, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, and the 1600-meter relay, during her high school athletic career. She continues to be the school record holder in the long jump, 200- and 400- meter relay which were also District 11 records. James won 13 Mountain Valley Conference Championships, 15 District XI Championships, and 10 PIAA State Championship medals in track. She was instrumental in the West Girls Track team finishing 5th at the State Meet in 2007 and won or was part of a relay for every point earned.

**Jon Mangual**, a 2008 graduate of West HS, was an accomplished student athlete in Panther Football and Basketball. Mangual's football accomplishments included Mountain Valley Conference All-League selections, being named the

*Pocono Record* Male Athlete of the Year, and being named to the First Team as a quarterback and to the Second Team as a defensive back for the MVC in 2007. He passed for 1,265 yards in the 2007 football season, the first 1000-yard passer in the school's history. Mangual's Panther basketball career is even more noteworthy than his stellar high school football career. He was the only back-to-back Most Valuable Player in MVC history for basketball, was named to The Morning Call First Team All-Area in 2008, the WNEP Dream Team in 2008, the *Pocono Record* Player of the Year in 2009, and the *Pocono Record* First Team All-Area for 2007 and 2008. Mangual earned a 44 to 11 record in varsity play, was a back-to-back MVC champion, and had back-to-back undefeated seasons in MVC play. Mangual was instrumental in the 2007-08 Panther football team earning the record for most consecutive wins at 15 in school history, the 2007-08 team earning its place at the District Championship game

which was a first for West HS, and the 2007-08 team winning the first PIAA State Game in school history by beating Abington Heights.

**Brad Pensyl**, West HS's first Athletic Director and Basketball Coach. Pensyl coached Boys basketball for 28 years for Pocono Mountain School District, with 15 years coaching at West High School. Under Coach Pensyl, the Panthers Boys Basketball team earned a reputation for winning with his teams winning 20 plus games in each of 15 different seasons. He coached his teams to 524 career wins with 300 career wins at West. Pensyl's teams never missed a District 11 playoff, with the Panthers winning District 11 Class 4A basketball championships in 2012 and 2017. Always helping his players achieve their greatest potential, Coach Pensyl is most proud to have coached several 1000-point scorers and MVC/EPC all-stars.

**Franklyn Quiteh**, a 2009 graduate of West HS, was a standout athlete in Football and Track, earning

local, regional and state recognitions. Quiteh was named to the First Team for the Mountain Valley Conference as a running back and as the offensive Most Valuable Player for MVC in 2008. He earned a selection to the 1st Team All-State for Eastern Pennsylvania Football and was selected to the Pennsylvania East/West Football Classic in 2009. Quiteh was the West Panthers single season rushing leader with 2,290 yards in 2008. He was also a member of the 2007 MVC Champion Football Team in 2007 and earned his place as the District 11 4x100 champion in track in 2009. In Track, Quiteh's 400-meter relay team won the District XI Championship in 2009.

**Ian Walsh**, a 2006 graduate of West HS, distinguished himself in four sports, golf, swimming, soccer and track. In golf, he was a Third Flight Medalist in the Varsity Team. Mountain Valley Conference (2005). In soccer, he started all Varsity matches in 2004. In track, he was a District Qualifier in 4x800 Relay

(2005 & 2006). Walsh was a standout swimmer who made All-Conference and was the District 11 runner up, state medalist and all-state athlete, who held every school record upon graduation. He also was named the Athlete of the Year at his Senior Awards athletic banquet. Walsh continued his career in swimming as a swimming coach at college in Division 1, 2 and 3 levels and is currently the head coach at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.

The PM West HS's first Athletic Hall of Fame selection committee included Michael Jones, School Principal; Michael DelGrosso, Athletic Director; James McCarroll, PM West Football Coach; Rich Williams, PMSD Cyber program representative and West Boys Basketball Varsity Coach; Marcy Behr, West Cheerleading Coach and female staff representative; Gene Porcoro, West Teacher and male staff representative; Mike Stern, school board representative; and Robert Fuller, community representative.

