

Serving the Slate Belt in Pennsylvania and Warren,
Sussex and Hunterdon Counties in New Jersey

The
Free
Weekly
Take One!

PRESS LLC

www.thepressnewsonline.com | www.facebook.com/ThePRESSNewsOnline

June 3, 2026

PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATION EDITION

Vol. 53, No. 43



Russell Horn

COUNTRY CLASSIC
REAL ESTATE
570-897-9043

YOUR
HOMETOWN
REALTORS



Frank Comunale Jr.

This Banner
Could Be
Yours!
Contact
Melissa at
thepressads@
gmail.com

Bangor and Pen Argyl High Schools Celebrate the Graduating Class of 2026



Left: Pen Argyl held their Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 27th at the Alumni Stadium Pen Argyl's Valedictorian was Peyton Dewalt and this year's Salutatorian was Nicholas Haros. Bangor High School held their annual commencement ceremony on May 28th, at the Bangor Memorial Park Stadium. Bangor's Valedictorian this year was Liam Hayes and this year's Salutatorians were Jacob Smith and Priya Tam. We Wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press. *Senior Portraits by Christmas City Studios Start on page 8.*

FIND THIS PAPER ON
FACEBOOK & Online at
www.thepressnewsonline.com



Grand Re-Opening
Village Sundaes
June 5
7-9 pm

Join us in celebrating Village Sundaes' great new location and the fab enhancements brought to life by their talented young neighbors at North Warren Regional! The owners of Village Sundaes teamed up with a group of NWR's finest art, music, and wood tech students to create a welcoming and community-friendly space for their customers. Check out the results of this unique partnership at our Grand Re-Opening: Enjoy live music and play handmade lawn games on the bistro-lit outdoor terrace, view the groovy mural, paint a mandala rock to plant in the garden, or just relax on an upcycled seat and enjoy a "Signature Scoop" with family and friends. See you **Fri, June 5!**

Village Sundaes 141B Rt 94, Blairstown

Fern Pysher Celebrates Her 100th Birthday



Fern Pysher formerly from Bangor celebrated her 100th Birthday. Fern (Blake) Pysher and her late husband Kermit, owned Lens Art Photography, Bangor and took the school photos for students in both Bangor, Pen Argyl and Stroudsburg for many years. A party was held in her honor at her residence at Alexandria Manor, Nazareth. We hope you had the best birthday, Fern!

Pen Argyl High School Graduation Ceremony



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Serving the Slate Belt & Surrounding Areas in PA, and Warren, Sussex & Hunterdon Co. in NJ

The PRESS

We Welcome Your News!

Please send your news articles, photographs, announcements and other information to us!

Email: thepressmail@gmail.com

Mailing Address:
PO Box 606, Bangor, PA 18013

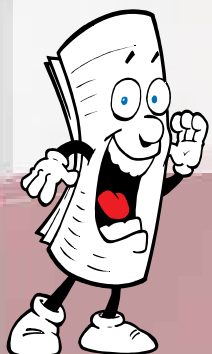
Deadline for submissions is noon on **FRIDAY** prior to publication date.

Advertising inquiries can be sent to thepressads@gmail.com

Call Us 484-988-0969
www.thepressnewsonline.com

Like us on Facebook!
The PRESS News Online

Please take the time to support the businesses who advertise in this newspaper. Shop Local!



Visit our website for a list of drop-off locations!



Dine-In • Take-Out • Delivery • Catering Available
(95¢ Delivery Fee)...Call for Delivery Range

Monday-Thursday
2 Large Plain Pizza
\$25.95*

Pick-Up or Delivery ONLY. Toppings Extra.

\$5 OFF
\$30*

*Cannot combine with any other offers. Must present coupons.

610-863-6670 | 510 E. Main St., Pen Argyl

Bangor Area High School Graduation Ceremony



Photos by Dale Young/
The Free Weekly Press



EAST BANGOR UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 6
12:00pm - 4:30pm

BLAINE REIMEL MEMORIAL PARK, EAST BANGOR

Good food, good fellowship, Jacktown Ice Cream, and, of course, **STRAWBERRIES!**



Tom Ahearn Electric
& Home Improvement

Residential/Commercial Electric
Electric Generator Installation
Light Carpentry - Painting - Home Repairs

610-588-6790
C: 484-515-1134

PA Reg. #PA058650 Fully Insured & Licensed

New to the Bangor Public Library

Adult Fiction:
The Library of Flowers by L. C. Chu; Ironwood by Michael Connelly; Our Secret Summer by R. S. Grey; The Ballad Falling Dragons by Sarah A. Parker; Fever Dream: A novel by Elsie Silver; The Day You Were My Husband: A Novel by Rosie Walsh

Adult Non Fiction:
Elizabeth II: In Private, In Public Her Story by Robert Hardman; The Blackstone Griddle Camping Cookbook: 100 Easy Flavorful Recipes to Fuel Your Outdoor Adventures by Cheri Renee

Easy Non Fiction:
Here We Go Digging for Dinosaur Bones: (Sung to the Tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush") by Susan Lendroth; Our Flag Was Still There: The True Story of Mary Pickersgill and the Star-Spangled Banner by Jessie Hartland

DVDs:
Reminders of Him

75ft BUCKET TRUCK

Free Estimates | Fully Insured

TREE WORK

TRIMMING - REMOVAL - STORM DAMAGE - FIREWOOD
STUMP GRINDING - CHIPPING - WE DO SLATE REPAIRS!

24 Hr. Emergency Storm Damage Service
Call for Discount

For Fast Service, Call:
H: 610-599-6882
C: 610-442-2996

Craig Wickett
CraigWickettTreeWork.com

Warren County Fire Marshal Retires After A Long and Fulfilling Career

Warren County Fire Marshal Joseph F. Lake, Jr. was honored by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners as he retires from a career in public safety of more than five decades.

Lake, a seventh-generation Hackettstown resident, has served as Warren County's fire marshal since January 2002, starting that job after a 30-year career with the New Jersey State Police. A State Certified Fire Inspector, Lake has been an expert witness in the field of fire investigation. He also has been active in the Hackettstown Fire Department for more than 54 years, serving in Fire Chief positions from 1992-1995 and as the town's Deputy Fire Marshal in 1996 and 1997, as well as on the Fire Prevention Bureau from 1975-1997.

"There isn't enough we can say to thank and we are going to miss you greatly," Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla said as the commissioners issued a proclamation honoring Lake and his lengthy record of exemplary service.

"As the longest serving commissioner, it's been my privilege to serve with Joe Lake and know that Warren County is always in



Fire Marshal Joseph F. Lake, Jr., third from left, receives a proclamation honoring him on his retirement after a career of more than five decades, the past 24 with Warren County, from Warren County Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski, Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla, and Commissioner James R. Kern III.

such great hands with him as fire marshal," Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski said. "It's no surprise what a distinguished life Joe has led, he honored this county with his service. Joe, his experience and work ethic will be missed," Sarnoski added.

"Joe Lake, you are an example of what public service is all about, giving back to your town, county, state, and country. You are an inspiration, and I am thankful to have served with you," Commissioner James R. Kern III told

the honoree, who received a standing ovation from the meeting room packed with family, friends, fire chiefs and other well-wishers.

Lake was visibly moved by the expression of gratitude and support. "I'm blessed to have worked with all these firefighters," he said, adding, "They're the best volunteers. It's been a pleasure working with everyone here."

A veteran of the United States Army, Lake did a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1968-69, serving in the First Calvary

Division's 11th Pathfinder Company, Team 227. He earned two Bronze Stars, one with a V for Valor under fire, the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and South Vietnamese Army Airborne Jump Wings, among other commendations, and was honored with the Warren County Distinguished Military Service medal recognizing service during wartime in 2007.

His State Police career included serving as Assistant Supervisor of its Arson Unit, receiving the NJSP Certificate of Commendation and the Meritorious Service Award, and retiring with the rank of Lieutenant. He also served in the NJ National Guard from 1983-1993.

Lake was an integral part of the committee that brought to fruition the Warren County Emergency Services and 9/11 Memorial, which is located on the access road to the Warren County Public Safety complex in Franklin Township. He served as master of ceremonies for the annual Patriot Day observances held there.

Married since 1970 to Beatrice "Janet" Lake, they are the proud parents of three children and have seven grandchildren.

Brown Holds Press Conference Marking Greg Moyer's Law Enactment



PA Senator Rosemary Brown joined the Moyer family, advocates, medical professionals, and community members at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School to announce the enactment of Greg Moyer's Law, now officially Act 17 of 2026.

This legislation requires automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to be present at all PIAA-sanctioned athletic events and practices and strengthens emergency action plans for sudden cardiac arrest situations in schools across Pennsylvania.

Greg Moyer, a Notre Dame student, tragically passed away in 2000 after suffering sudden cardiac arrest during a high school basketball game. By the time emergency responders arrived with an AED nearly 40 minutes later, it was too late to save him. Since then, Greg's family has worked tirelessly to ensure other families do not experience the same tragedy.

"For more than a decade, I had the privilege of working along-

side the Moyer family to move this legislation through the General Assembly. Their dedication, advocacy, and commitment to protecting young lives never wavered," said Brown.

Sudden cardiac arrest remains the leading cause of death among young athletes, and in those critical moments, immediate access to an AED can mean the difference between life and death. While our community will always mourn the loss of Greg, his legacy will now help save lives throughout Pennsylvania for generations to come.

"I'm incredibly grateful to Rachel and John Moyer, their daughters Abbie and Katie, the American Heart Association, healthcare professionals, educators, first responders, and the many advocates who helped make this law a reality."

This law is about ensuring schools are prepared, protecting students and families, and turning tragedy into action that will continue saving lives across our Commonwealth.

GRAY'S RECYCLING

MULCH • TOP SOIL • STONE • DYED MULCH

Pick Up Or Delivered To Your Location

Spring Hours:
Open Mon-Fri: 7am-4pm
Saturday: 7am-Noon
Closed Sundays!

Commercial & Residential Sales!

MULCH AVAILABLE
 Hardwood, Dyed, Black, Brown, Red,
 & Cedar Mulches, Topsoil,
 Clean Fill, & Wood Chips
We Now Sell Mushroom Soil!

STONE AVAILABLE
 River Stone: 3/8", 3/4", 1" to 3"
 Red Stone 3/4"
ALSO AVAILABLE:
 3/4" Gravel, 3/8" Crushed
 Gravel, QP Stone, & Stone Dust

WE ACCEPT YARD DEBRIS
Dumping for Brush, Logs, Wood Chips, & Bales of Straw!

**We Also Offer
 Heavy & Light
 Land Clearing**

908-475-3797
Gray's Recycling Mulch

CASH & ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

4th ANNUAL

**KNOWLTON UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH**

**CAR SHOW, COMMUNITY DAY
 & FLEA MARKET**

Saturday, June 20th, 9am – 2pm

509 RT. 94, COLUMBIA, NJ

CAR REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM

\$25 REGISTRATION FEE
(INCLUDES \$5 FOOD VOUCHER)

FOOD & MUSIC

FLEA MARKET: \$10 in advance to reserve a space to sell your stuff . \$15 Day of Sale or drop off donations at the church by Thursday, June 18th.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES: FOOD PANTRY, THRIFT STORE AND MEDICAL MINISTRY.

ANY DONATIONS WELCOMED!

FMI or To Register Your Car Call: 908-310-5790

FMI on Flea Market Spaces Email:
mimijoseph@outlook.com

High School Equivalency Training Program for Teens and Young Adults



High school dropouts can get a high school diploma, weekly stipend, job skills training, three college credits, and other services through the New Jersey Youth Corps at Project Self-Sufficiency.

Enrollment for the next session of the New Jersey Youth Corps program at Project Self-Sufficiency is underway. The sixteen-week program launches in July and gives those who have not completed high school the opportunity to boost their literacy skills, prepare for the high school equivalency exam, obtain on-the-job work experience, and transition into a career, college, or the military. As part of the course, three college credits can be

obtained in the Optics Technology and/or Automotive Technology program at Sussex County Community College. Graduates are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 towards tuition or equipment expenses for future education and training.

Interested participants are invited to attend an Open House hosted by Project Self-Sufficiency to learn more about the New Jersey Youth Corps and to complete an application. **Open Houses will be held on Thursdays at 4:30**

p.m., on June 4th, 11th and 18th, and on Fridays at 12:30 p.m., May 29th, June 5th and 12th.

Project Self-Sufficiency is offering a \$100 gift card to those who refer a young adult, ages 16 – 25, to the New Jersey Youth Corps training and education program. To receive the gift card, referred individuals must enroll in the program, complete the two-week orientation, and be inducted into the program.

Participants in the New Jersey Youth Corps must be Sussex, Western Morris, or Northern Warren County residents, aged 16 – 25, who have not completed high school. The program includes assessments, testing, employability skills training, life skills workshops, academic instruction, community service projects, field trips, and counseling services. Program participants will prepare for the high school equivalency examination and have the opportunity to receive a weekly stipend based

on attendance for the full week. Free transportation is provided.

The New Jersey Youth Corps, which is funded by the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development, is also in operation at sites around the state, including Camden, Elizabeth, Jersey City, New Brunswick, Newark, Paterson, Phillipsburg, Pleasantville, Trenton, and Vineland. Those who are interested in learning more about the New Jersey Youth Corps at Project Self-Sufficiency are encouraged to enroll online or by calling 973-940-3500.

VALOR Presents its 13th Annual **Michael C. Wargo Cup Golf Tournament**
June 26th 2026
 Southmoore Golf Center, Bath PA • Tee Time 8AM

\$125 Entry Fee Per Person
 \$450 Per Foursome
 Includes: Golf Cart Fees, Breakfast & Lunch
 Registration Deadline: June 26, 2026 7AM

- Standard Best of Foursome Scramble
- Lady Golfers are warmly welcomed
- 4 Person Teams

Special Contests

- Longest Drive
- Closest to Pin
- Mulligans
- 30/50 Drawing
- Basket Raffle
- Golf Ball Drop
- Pot-of-Gold

Register at www.valorclinic.org/Events or with the QR Code

Call For more Information
570-534-2812
 or Visit our Facebook Page

New to the Blue Mountain Community Library

The library is located at 216 S. Robinson Ave. in Pen Argyl. Open hours are Mon-Sat 10am-12pm and Monday and Thursday 6-8pm. Questions? Call 610-863-3029 or email info@bmcl.org.

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent community conversations about plans to install a stairlift with grant funding from Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an ALA initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities. The BMCL is very grateful for the public's input for the project. The library is proceeding with its plans to install the stairlift this summer.

Coming very soon: a pass that you can check out for free to visit America on Wheels in Allentown! Courtesy of a sponsorship from Deerfoot Auto Parts, the circulating pass will offer unlimited admission for two adults and their children from that household for an entire year.

The library is in need of regular white copy paper. If you have any to donate, we'd appreciate it.

The library will discuss "A Marriage at Sea" by Sophie Elmhirst on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30pm. Email info@bmcl.org to RSVP.

The BMCL Summer Fun with Reading Program (SFRP) 2026: Words and Wonders! starts June 1st! Win big with reading challenges for all ages! Throughout June, July, and August, ALL ages can win amazing prizes (like passes to the North Summit Climbing Gym and Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, PA Shakespeare Festival tickets, and gift cards to Sparkle Car Wash and the Gap Diner - plus MANY more) by keeping a reading log. 40+ prizes are waiting! ALL ages can enter our "Readers' Raffle" to win gift certificates for large pizzas from area restaurants just by using their library card! Children ages 3-6 can register for "Two Stories and a Craft" storytimes. Children ages 3-6 are invited to wear their coziest pajamas and come to "Books and Bedtime" storytime; no registration required. In addition, children ages 4-9 can register for a series of six special Wednesday morning educational programs at the municipal parks. Contact the library for dates and registration details.

This year's SFRP is sponsored by CJ's Heating & Cooling, Gaffney Parsons Funeral Home, Hoch Accounting, Sabatino Insurance Agency, and State Farm (Debbie Pettinari).

The Book Nook is having a half-price sale during all open shifts from June 22-27: every morning from 10am-12pm, plus Monday, June 22 and Thursday, June 25 (6-8pm). All items are half price! We have fiction and nonfiction for all ages plus large print, puzzles, and DVDs.

New to the circulating collection:

Board games: Jenga; I'm a Little Crabby; Meme (Disney edition)

Adult fiction: Life: A Love Story (Elizabeth Berg); The Things We Never Say (Elizabeth Strout); Shadow Strike (Brad Taylor); Mad Mabel (Sally Hepworth); The Calamity Club (Kathryn Stockett); Hope Rises (David Baldacci); The Patchwork Players (Jennifer Chiaverini); Lady Tremaine (Rachel Hochhauser); Catch Her If You Can (Tessa Bailey); Wreck (Catherine Newman)

Adult nonfiction: True Crime (Patricia Cornwell); The Tell (Amy Griffin)

Large print fiction: The House at Watch Hill (Karen Marie Moning); Make It Out Alive (Allison Brennan)

YA fiction: The Witches [graphic novel] (Roald Dahl); Lady Murasaki's Tale of Genji [graphic novel] (Sean Michael Wilson)

YA nonfiction: Coyote Peterson's Brave Adventures (Coyote Peterson); Forest Craft (Richard Irvine); Murder Most Puzzling (Stephanie Von Reiswitz)

Juvenile fiction: The Intrepid Canadian Adventure (Jeff Brown); The Piano (Edgar J. Hyde); Why a Dog? by a Cat (Robin Michal Koontz); Owl at Home (Arnold Lobel); Daniel Goes Out for Dinner (Maggie Testa); Harry and the Lady Next Door (Gene Zion); Harold and Hog Pretend for Real (Dan Tait); This Is Miles Morales (Alexandra West); Red Titan and the Floor of Lava (Ryan Kaji); Awesome Heroes (Rosie Peet); Pokemon Legendary Nightmare [graphic novel] (Meredith Rusu); Pokemon Underwater Mission [graphic novel] (Simcha Whitehill); Finn the Regular Everyday Dog (Barbara Gervais Giancino); I Spy Extreme Challenger (Jean Marzollo); Planes: Look and Find (Disney); You Choose in Space (Nick Sharratt and Pippa Goodhart); Ludwig the Sea Dog (Henning Lohlein); Love You Hoo (Rachel Bright); Angelina Ballerina 5-Minute Stories (Katharine Holabird); Slug in Love (Rachel Bright); Stage Fright (Edgar J. Hyde); Mystery Map (Franklin W. Dixon); Hopping Mad (Franklin W. Dixon); Mission Unpluckable [graphic novel] (Aaron Blabey); InvestiGATORS Take the Plunge [graphic novel] (John Patrick Green); InvestiGATORS Off the Hook [graphic novel] (John Patrick Green); I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916 [graphic novel] (Lauren Tarshis)

Juvenile nonfiction: The Complete Cookbook for Young Chefs (America's Test Kitchen); Let's Meet Taylor (Alexandra Koken and Claire Baker)

AMERICA 250

Celebration of Independence

WARREN250 LAWN CONCERT

NJ Symphony's Patriotic Brass Quintet

'Star Spangled Banner', 'America the Beautiful', 'Stars and Stripes', and more!

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2026

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 PM

**Location: Garret D. Wall Park
 Mansfield Street, Belvidere, NJ**

- Free concert
- Family-friendly
- Bring blankets and chairs
- Alcohol and tobacco products are not permitted

WWW.WARRENCOUNTYNJHERITAGE.COM

Visit our website for more information about parking, accessibility, and park rules

In case of inclement weather, visit our website for the new location

The concert will be paid for with funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Springtime Alert: Leave Young Wildlife Alone

The Pennsylvania Game Commission reminds those spending time in the great outdoors to leave young wildlife alone.

While some young animals might appear to be abandoned, usually they are not. It's likely their mothers are watching over them from somewhere nearby. When encountering young wild animals, whether deer, birds, raccoons or something else, the best thing you can do is leave them alone.

"Mid-to-late spring and early summer are popular times of the year for humans to encounter newborn and young wildlife on the landscapes," said Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management Director Matthew Schnupp. "Whether enjoying their backyards or recreating in the woods or water, it's common for humans to witness the new generation of wildlife in their natural habitats. The best thing people can do when encountering any wildlife is to simply let them be."

Adult animals often leave their young while they forage for food. Typically, the adults will not venture far and will return. Wildlife also often relies on a natural defensive tactic called the "hid-

er strategy," where young animals will remain motionless and "hide" in surrounding cover while adults draw the attention of potential predators or other intruders away from their young.

When deer employ this strategy, fawns are sometimes assumed to be abandoned when, in fact, their mothers are nearby.

The Game Commission urges Pennsylvanians to resist the urge to interfere with young wildlife or remove any wild animal from its natural setting.

Such contact can be harmful to both people and wildlife. Wild animals can lose their natural fear of humans, making it difficult, even impossible, for them to readjust to the wild.

For humans, anytime wildlife is handled, there is an inherent risk of contracting diseases or parasites such as fleas, ticks and lice.

Wildlife that becomes habituated to humans also can pose a public-safety risk. In a documented incident, a six-point buck attacked and severely injured two people. An investigation revealed that a neighboring family had illegally taken the deer into their home and fed it as a fawn, and continued

to feed it right up until the time of the attack.

From a legal standpoint, it is illegal to take or possess wildlife from the wild. Under state law, the penalty for such a violation is a fine of up to \$1,500 per animal.

Under no circumstances will anyone who illegally takes wildlife into captivity be allowed to keep that animal, and under a working agreement with state health officials, any "high risk" rabies vector species confiscated after human contact must be euthanized and tested; none can be returned to the wild because the risk of spreading disease is too high.

Animals infected with rabies may not exhibit obvious symptoms, but still could still transmit the disease. Though any mammal might carry rabies, the rabies vector species identified in the agreement are: skunks, raccoons, foxes, bats, coyotes and groundhogs.

Humans can contract rabies from the saliva of a rabid animal if they are bitten or scratched, or if the saliva gets into the person's eyes, mouth or a fresh wound.

Only wildlife rehabilitators, who are licensed by the Game Commis-



sion, are permitted to care for injured or orphaned wildlife for the purposes of eventual release back into the wild. For those who find wildlife that truly is in need

of assistance, a listing of licensed wildlife rehabilitators can be found on the Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators website, www.pawr.com.

If you are unable to identify a wildlife rehabilitator in your area, contact the Game Commission by phone at 1-833-PGC-WILD or 1-833-PGC-HUNT.

Parents Invited to Give Input on Needs and Services

Local parents are invited to offer input about their families' needs, challenges, and concerns, as well as suggestions for upcoming events, at a meeting of the Journey Family Success Center Parent Advisory Board at Project Self-Sufficiency, Tuesday, June 18th, 5:00 p.m.

Family Success Center staff will highlight ways the agency can address issues facing local parents and incorporate feedback into future programs. Dinner and childcare will be provided for those in attendance. The gathering will also be available on Zoom; interested participants are invited to call 973-940-

3500 to obtain log-in details. Those who attend their first meeting of the Journey Family Success Center Parent Advisory Board will be eligible to receive a gift card. Advance registration for the in-person session is required.

"Input from parents is crucial to the success of the Family Success Center and we are excited about offering residents the opportunity to meet area providers, express their concerns about gaps in services, and identify strategies for moving forward," remarked Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. "The

Family Success Center has supported Sussex County parents and children for many years, and we are looking forward to responding to the needs of area families and incorporating their suggestions into existing and new programs for the community."

Project Self-Sufficiency is located at 127 Mill Street in Newton. For information about the Parent Advisory Board, or to find out more about any of the programs sponsored by the Journey Family Success Center at Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500 or visit www.journeyfsc.org.









**TWO COMICS.
ONE STAGE.
ENDLESS LAUGHS.**

Featuring **Wayne Cotter** and **Matt Jenkins**, bringing their sharp wit, hilarious stories, and perfectly timed punchlines for a comedy night you won't stop talking about.

GROUPS OF 8+ RECEIVE
\$5 OFF
PER PERSON!

DOORS OPEN
6:00 PM

SHOWTIME
7:00 PM

21+
EVENT • 8+

BRING YOUR FAVORITE TAKEOUT OR SNACKS!

A GREAT FATHER'S DAY GIFT!



\$25 PER PERSON PLUS NJ SALES TAX

- RESERVED SEATING FOR GROUPS OF 8 OR MORE
- ALL ADULT TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED TOGETHER IN ONE TRANSACTION
- ALL OTHER SEATING IS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! | 908-496-8200 | WWW.BROOKHOLLOWWINERY.COM

Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary?



Mary E. Stone
Stone Associates
Landscape Design
& Consulting,
Blairstown, NJ

Hello, fellow readers,

It's funny how often we think we know what gardens and nature are teaching us, only to discover later that they had something else in mind all along.

For more than a decade, I've been working on a book inspired by the wisdom my brother Bill shared before he passed away. You may know the story. It was during a particularly difficult season of my life. Out of the blue, Bill called. Never had he phoned in the middle of a workday, but he sensed my sadness.

I felt comforted by my soulful twin's quiet listening and the familiar sound of his breath. Bill asked if I had water nearby.

"Watch a leaf move through the water," he said. "None of us has control over the current—a parallel to the ebbs and flows in our lives. Our goal is to trust and live calmly and serenely rather than resist the flow, like a leaf in the water."

After our call, I walked along the Paulinskill River and watched a leaf dance through the current, lingering briefly near rocks before continuing downstream. As I followed its journey, peace came over me.

It was time to let go. Bill's wisdom became what I call The Lesson of the Leaf. It helped me through a divorce and later through losing Bill himself, followed by the long goodbye of our mother with dementia.

For years, I believed the book was about healing from loneliness and loss. Certainly, those themes weave throughout its pages. Like many people, I've experienced seasons of feeling alone, even while surrounded by family, friends, clients, and faithful four paws.

But while revisiting years of columns and podcast episodes recently, something surprising emerged. The focus shifted. Or perhaps it finally revealed itself.

Observing nature and tending gardens can help heal and grow our lives. That is true. But perhaps the deeper lesson is how they do so—by reminding us that we are part of something larger. Part of a whole. Part of one Garden of Life.

A forest may appear to be a collection of individual trees. Yet beneath the soil, roots and fungal networks share resources and information. A tree standing alone is not



truly alone at all.

Leaves seem to separate when they drift from branches in Autumn. Yet as they decompose, they return nutrients to the soil that sustains the very tree from which they came. And so, they remain one with the tree. The cycle continues year after year.

Plants we admire in our gardens depend on relationships, too. Pollinators, soil microbes, neighboring plants, sunlight, water, and seasons all play a role.

Nothing grows by itself. Neither do we.

As I reflect on fourteen years of writing

this column and sharing discoveries through the podcast, I realize the same lesson keeps appearing.

The lesson was never only about healing.

The lesson was about remembering that we belong.

Belonging doesn't mean life unfolds as we wish. Gardens experience drought, storms, pests, and unexpected losses. Relationships change. Seasons end.

Yet nature continually reminds us that we are part of something larger than ourselves.

That is why time spent in amongst the trees restores our hearts. The woods don't ask us to prove our worth. A rescue dog grows to trust us and love us. They don't care about our degrees or accomplishments. Neither does a garden. They merely welcome us into a relationship.

During the final days

of his life, after years of studying philosophy, spirituality, Tai Chi, and the natural world, Bill shared what he believed was the most important thing he had learned.

"I figured it out," he said. "It's all about love."

It occurs to me that this is another way of saying we belong.

Our living world has been whispering the

same message for centuries.

We are connected.

We matter.

We were never alone.

Thank you, kind readers and our delightful local paper, for sharing the Garden of Life all these years. It matters.

Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com or tune in on your favorite podcast app.



—Providing Insurance & Financial Services—



Debbie Pettinari

Agent

106 S. Broadway
Wind Gap, PA 18091

Bus: 610-881-4433
Fax: 610-881-4432
Cell: 484-695-8070

Barry Lobb
Free Estimates


LOBB'S ROOFING & SIDING

LOW COST ROOFING SYSTEM

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
 SLATE • METAL • SHINGLES
 GOODYEAR RUBBER ROOFS
 5" & 6" ALUMINUM
 SEAMLESS GUTTERS

P: 610-588-7452 C: 610-533-9454 F: 610-588-9192

TODD'S AUTO BODY



610-588-4633

1025 Mt. Bethel Hwy.
Rt. 512, Mt. Bethel, PA

toddsauto@carcarepa.com

We work with all insurance companies!

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

Henry Yeska & Son Inc.

821 Georgetown Road, Nazareth, PA
610-759-3290 • www.yeskasepticservice.com

In Business for Over 100 Years!

Industrial, Commercial, & Residential
Cleaning • Pumping • Repairs • Installations

- Septic Tanks
- Grease Traps
- Cesspools
- Fish Ponds

- Swimming Pools
- Sand Mounds
- Sewer Pumps
- Sewer Alarms

- Aerators
- Drain Field Restoration
- Septic Tank Repair
- Tank Replacement



RECEIVE
\$10 OFF
Your Next
Septic Pumping

Bangor Area High School Class of 2026



Rihanna Acevedo



Hansel Alberto Tejada



Gage Altemose



Ella Altieri



Mckayla Angus



Dylan Azanedo



Connor Balaskas



Ernest Batha



Zachary Bird



Owen Bly



Delainey Bona



Kaydence Bostedo



Olivia Braddock



Grace Bradham



Christian Brewer



Joshua Brewer



Aiden Bright



Keira Brock



Cristofer Buehl



Connor Bujcs



Hailey Burd



Olivia Burton



Gianna Buscemi



Blake Caiazza



Matthew Caiazza



Kiara Calloway



Tyler Campbell



Darla Cantuna Lugmana



Maria Carpinello



Samantha Cheevers



Nikki Chen



Emerson Cifuentes Alvarez



Isaiah Clark



Abigail Coleman



Brianna Colon



Lauren Conerly



Abigail Communale



Eddie Correa



Arron Crown



Brayden Creazzo



Kamal Crockett



Ashley Cruz Dominguez



Julianna Culbertson



Nicholas Cuzzolino



Jeffery Cyphers



Johnathon D'Alessandro



Kylie DallaPalu



Victoria Dalton



Ashleigh Danubio



Madison Dayton



Daniel DeFranco



Savannah DeLillo



Genna DePuy



Paiton DeRea



Nathan Deeney



Kevin Deveaux

SENIOR PHOTOS TAKEN BY CHRISTMAS CITY STUDIOS

Bangor Area High School Class of 2026



Josie Devine



Michael Diaz



Nolan Diehl



Jayden Dimmig



Brooklyn Docherty



Mylee Done



Noah Dorsek



Brayden Dorshimer



Madeleine Erdie



Taylee Everitt



Evan Familia



Gage Fasce



Ayden Fassl



Christian Fekete



Moises Figueroa Acosta



Kaylynn Figurski



Fiona Flatt



Allie Flyte



Hannah Flyte



Takoda Freeby



Loren Gaines



Kyrie Gorczycki



Aoife Gorman



Tadhg Gorman



Josie Gotwalt



Greta Hahn



Grace Hartzell



Hannah Hartzell



Jared Hartzell



Liam Hayes



Robert Heckman



Shyanne Heckman



Lacey Heinsohn



Jacob Hillis



Alexander Hobson-Garcia



Cameron Howarth



Angelina Howell



Hailey Howell



Caliana Huratiak



Samantha Hutchings



Lilly Iannia



Nicholas Janneck



Kieran Jerolaman



Summer Jolly



Sarah Jones



Lailah Jorge



Brianna Kale



Katherine Kearney



Juliette Kio



Jacob Kizer



Deleah Klinge



Corbin Koehler



Deegan Konopaski



Elizabeth Koza



Zakkary Kulp



Gabriel Laclair

SENIOR PHOTOS TAKEN BY CHRISTMAS CITY STUDIOS

Bangor Area High School Class of 2026



Jacklyn Law



Olivia Lemak



Aiden Lilly



Elijah Luckadoo



Ethan Lynch



Mohammad Malik



Jason
Marcantonis



Ariana Martinez



Dayanna Mateo



Caitlin Melazzo



Owen Mera



Gino Merlo



Cheyanne Messer



Justin Meza
Obregon



Chloe Miller



Jackelin Miller



Quincy Miller



Crystal
Mora-Arzola



Nathaniel Morales



Brianna Morris



Lance Mulitsch



Aeden Nestor



Julie Norris



Aaron Nowinski



Abigail Orlemann



Bella Ostrander



Steven Paolillo



Dlaton Pascoe



Anthony
Pelucacci



Payton Perry



Cora Peters



Ethan Prunest



Gavin Pysher



Matthew Pysher



LucyAnn Raub



Austin Richards



Johnathan
Richards



Justin Rivera



Cash Roberts



Ellah Roberts



Micheal Rocco



Sydney Rowe



John Rubas



Justine Rutt



Yasmin Safieva



Tyler Scholato



Austin Seas



Zackary Seas



Kaela Shade



Lea Sidlosky



Gabrianna
Simmon



Cloe Siple



Kaity Siple



Mason Siple



Carter Smith



Colton Smith

SENIOR PHOTOS TAKEN BY CHRISTMAS CITY STUDIOS

Bangor Area High School Class of 2026



Emyrson Smith



Ethan Smith



Jacob Smith



Julieanne Smith



Kelli Snow



Mason Snyder



Jocelyn Sotomayor



Brynn Stackhouse



Mason Stankiewicz



Elizabeth Steinmetz



Brian Stetz



Ava Strohe



Chayse Strohe



Priya Tam



Nurgul (Rose) Tas



Robert Thompson



Raegan Toomey



Jailynn Trump Boyer Wimberly



Jack Van Varick



Michelle Vasquez-Moreno



Tyler Vaughan



Mark Anthony Vidal



Matthew Vidal



Evan Volk



Olivia Wackley



Madison Wagner



Daniel Waidner



Riley Waldron



Thomas Waldron



Samantha Wanisko



Kody Ward



Jocelyn Werner



Anthony Wheelock



Olivia Wolfe



Hunter Zeman

SENIOR PHOTOS TAKEN BY CHRISTMAS CITY STUDIOS

GARY EAGLE 
TREE SERVICE, Inc.

- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bucket Truck Service
- Portable Saw Mill
- Saw Sharpening

Mowing, Overgrown Brush, Saplings, & Weeds!

garyeagle.com

FULLY INSURED
610-588-1034

PROUDLY SERVING ALL OF WARREN, SUSSEX, MONROE, AND NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES.

CUSTOM DESIGNED FUNERALS AND CREMATIONS



908-362-6341

PREMIER AND PERSONALIZED SERVICES AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

ERIK J. SCHNEIDER, OWNER/MANAGER, NJ LIC 4928

200 RT. 94 BLAIRSTOWN

Pen Argyl High School Class of 2026



Ricki Adam



Isaiah Adams



Andrea Ahner



Luca Albanese



Carlena Alfred



Elijah Ayala



Olivia Bentley



Jack Binder



Madeleine Blasi



Tvisha Choski



Alexandria Cleffi



Brynlee Compton



Julian Cruz



Mckenna
Cunningham



Atanas Dachev



Christian Darrohn



Blaise Davenport



Ella Davis



Nicolas DeCesare



Rocco DeCesare



Veronica Deremer



Payton Dewalt



Danorra Donard



Kyra Espinal



Terrell Estes



Caiden Faust



Damien Fishon



Amber Gallagher



Julia Gallagher



Shawn Gallagher



Collin Geary



Kevin Geary



Kelton Giamoni



Jeaneishka
Gomez



Kayley Gregalis



Nicholas Haros



Caleb Herfurth



Emely Hernandez



Malinda Hill



Jakob Hockman



Jasmine Holland



Ava Howey



Jaden Hunter



Jessica Jiorle



Evan Johnson



Aubrey Jones



Connor Kemmerer



Morgan Kemmerer



Julien Kroboth



Lincoln Kuster



Blayke Lacey



Kara Leeper



Cole Lobb



Mackenzie
Lockard



Elliot
Lorrh-Pfeifer



Megan MacLeod

SENIOR PHOTOS TAKEN BY CHRISTMAS CITY STUDIOS

Pen Argyl High School Class of 2026



Ella Mamana



Addison Manning



Fletcher Marsh



Savannah Martin



Ashton
McCammon



Zachary Metzgar



Vivian Miller



Allison Morris



Natasha Morrison



Madilynn Moyer



Rachel Moyer



Ashlyn Oessenick



Taylor Parks



Steven Parnes



Jakob
Pietraszkiewicz



Xavier Ragusa



Collin Ramsay



Zachelys Riviera
Carambot



Jasmeet Sandhu



Ryan Sealey



Steven Siegfried



Gracie Smith



Mason Soos



No Image
Available

Altorce
Spearman Frazier



Deshawn
Spearman Frazier



Jacob Stopfer



Arseniy Topa



Kylee Uhler



Scarlette Urban



Kyla Vazquez



Cayden Vishnesky



Aaron Walters



Hannah Watch



Tristyn Welsch



Katie Wilgus



Julianna Williams



Jason Woolf

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!
Best Wishes on Your Graduation!
From Craig Wickett, Tree Work

CRAIG WICKETT, TREE WORK
BANGOR, PA 610-599-6882 • 610-442-2996

SENIOR PHOTOS TAKEN BY CHRISTMAS CITY STUDIOS

MT BETHEL BEVERAGE
570-897-BEER

GRAB A CASE & GET READY TO CELEBRATE!

Hours:
Mon-Thur: 9am-8pm
Fri: 9am-9pm;
Sat: 9am-8pm
Sun: 10am-5pm

Mt. Bethel Plaza | Rt 512 & 611 | Right over the Portland Bridge
www.mt-bethel-beverage.com | Cigarettes at PA State Min.

HUNTER'S LODGE RESTAURANT & MOTEL
64 Rt. 46, Columbia, NJ • 908-475-0060 • We Are Open 11am-11pm • 7 Days a Week

Like Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HuntersLodgeNJ

Steamed Clams
Serving Breakfast at 11am
Martini Monday! \$5 Wells
Taco Tuesday! \$7.99

Includes: A/C & Heat, WiFi, Dish Network, Trash, Parking, Small Fridge & Microwave.

Motel Rooms:
\$110/Night
\$600/Week
\$1,200/Mo.
Call 610-888-6613 For Motel Rooms!

Car Show
June 6th, Starting around 4pm
No Registration Needed
Just Come By!

Faith Christian School Class of 2026



Gabriel Attilano



Nathaniel Calder



Katy Erwin



Kayce Foist



Daniella Fortuna



Ethan Fox



Jakob Gillow



Jeffrey Hazelton



Christopher John



Seth Magnin



Savanna Morrison



Moelani Roometua



Athena Santiago



Falon Schaefer



Sydnie Todd

Faith Christian School Photos Courtesy Christmas City Studios 

WERNER TRANSMISSION

"Full Service Shop - Transmissions and more"

Racing and Domestic
PA State Inspections / Emissions
Brakes - Oil Changes - Exhaust - Much More



Open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
610-599-1605

259 E. Central Ave.,
East Bangor, PA



Miracle-Ear®
You and ME
If your husband won't listen, bring him to me!

Miracle Ear
1343 Blue Valley Drive,
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
610-588-3383

Miracle Ear Center
Stroud Commons (Rear of Building)
1619 N. Ninth Street,
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-476-9949

Local Business Directory

Promote your business in our local Business Directory for **ONLY \$228 for 12 Weeks! That's Only \$19/Week**

CARPET CLEANING

N.E.P.A. CARPET CARE



\$30 PER ROOM! Est. 2021 Insured!

Includes Shampoo, Deodorizer, Sanitizer & Oxi!

570.591.6414
Serving Northeast PA

HANDY MAN

TIM VICARIO'S Handy Man Service

GENERAL HOME REPAIRS
Painting · Carpentry
Minor Plumbing · Decks
Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling

INSURED FREE ESTIMATES



Call Tim Vicario
610-588-1620

LANDSCAPE MAKEOVERS

Gardens Need TLC?



Ask Mary!

Stone Associates
Landscape Design & Consulting

908-362-6617

SEPTIC SERVICE

YESKA SEPTIC SERVICE

484-764-6351

Call Henry Today!

Septic Tank Pumping & Repairs

YOUR AD HERE!

Easy Advertising without the hassle!
ONLY \$19/week

TREE WORK

Jim's Tree Service

NJ License: NJTC 784049

Professional Tree Care
Stump Grinding
Articulating Tractor
Removes Grindings
Both Fit Through a 36in Gate

40 Years In Business!
610-588-5761
908-763-5709
1-800-793-0465

Jim Goucher, Jr. & Karen Goucher
GOUCHERTREESERVICE.COM

Call Us at 484-988-0969 or Email us at: thepressads@gmail.com for more details Today!

Classifieds

Rentals

Office & Lot for Rent - Rt. 512, Pen Argyl. \$1,600/mo includes utilities. Text 484-542-8579 with Name, Address & Business Use. Will Respond to Text

Help Wanted

Siding, Roofer, and Window Installer. Experienced only. Must have drivers li Work available immediately. Call Comunale Construction at 610-588-6715 TS

Position for oil burner service tech! Must have experience in oil burner cleanings, service, and air conditioning. Blairstown & Belvidere areas. Call: 908-362-8910

CDL DRIVERS & LABORERS WANTED

Henry Yeska & Son Septic Service Is Now Hiring CDL Drivers Class A & B and Laborers. Full Time & Part Time positions available. Experience preferred but not required. Will train on the job. **Please call the office at 610-759-3290.**

Part Time Tree Helper Wanted! Must Have Valid DL. Call 610-588-1034

Help Wanted Must Have Taken CDL Endorsment Class A or B Benefits Offered & Vacation Time Apply by Calling 610-759-3290

NOW HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS
CDL Class B
P & S Endorsments
Will Train.
Call 973-383-2786
stockerbus@gmail.com

Yard Sale

MOUNT BETHEL: Community Yard & Bake Sale! Sat., June 13th, 8am to 2pm. Rain Date: June 14 Evergreen Village, Evergreen Road.

For Sale

For Sale
Kitchen or Dinette Set. 60' x 84' Glass Table with six (6) chairs. In Very Good Condition! Please Call: 908-750-4077

Roofing, Siding & Windows

PA & NJ Roofing, Siding, & Pella Windows. Free Estimates, Licsensed & Insured. PA: 610-716-0533, PA199715. NJ: 908-531-2486, NJ13VHO0857300

Experienced Waitress Wanted!

Weekends Mandatory
Apply in Person at **Mt. Bethel Diner**

2600 N Delaware Dr,
Mt. Bethel, PA
570-897-6409



CLASS OF 2026
Congratulations!
Bangor • Pen Argyl • Faith Christian School

From: The Free Weekly Press PO Box 606 Bangor 484-988-0969 thepressads@gmail.com

Classified Ad Order Form

Non-commercial classified ads (Misc., Vehicles, Recreation, Wanted, Pets, Yard Sales) are \$5 per week, per inch (1.8" W x 1" H). There is no charge for Free items. Services, Rentals, Real Estate, Homes For Sale and Help Wanted ads are \$15 per week, per inch. Please specify the category in which your ad should appear, the size your ad should be (boxes on right), and how many weeks your ad will run. Please PRINT ad information.

Ads with Photos!
\$18

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CATEGORY: _____

WEEKS RUNNING: _____ AMOUNT PAID: _____

Please PRINT Your Ad Information Below

One inch
(actual size shown here)

Two inches
(actual size shown here)

CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOON ON FRIDAY IN ORDER TO BE PRINTED IN THE UPCOMING EDITION.

All classified ads must be paid in full, in advance. Credit cards are NOT accepted for charges less than \$25 Classifieds may be submitted by mail: The PRESS Classifieds 106 Kline, St. Bangor PA 18013; email: thepressads@gmail.com or fax: 610-599-1185. Classifieds are NOT accepted by phone Help Wanted ads are free for current advertisers.

Make Checks Payable to: The Free Weekly Press, LLC

The Fountain House Pub & Dining



973-317-8802

610-888-6613

439 RT 94, Fredon, NJ

Dust Off Your Boots
For Line Dancing
EVERY THURSDAY
7-10pm
\$10 at the Door



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
INDOOR
CORNHOLE

SHAKY MOON BAND
One Night, One Moon, Classic Rock
Saturday, June 6, 2026
8pm

Hours:

Tues: 2-10pm
Wed: 4-11pm
Thurs: 4-11pm
Fri: 4pm-2am
Sat: 12pm-2am
Sun: 1pm-11pm
CLOSED MON

Like us on Facebook



**SUSTAINABLY GREEN
MUSIC & ARTS
FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 13TH
2026**

10AM - 5PM

GREEN VENDORS

**LIVE ART
LIVE MUSIC**

SHOP LOCAL

FARMER'S MARKET KICKOFF

**LITTLE WASHINGTON
44 E WASHINGTON
AVE
WASHINGTON, NJ
07882**

PNC
NEW FRONTIER
WASHINGTONBID.ORG

Swift Print Solutions
908-475-1374
www.swiftprint.com

**SUSTAINABLE
JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH
- CERTIFIED -**

**THE MEAT
SHOPPE**
By Dale Cook

**VISIONS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

Hunterdon Health

GRAND RENTAL STATION

AMERICAN WATER

**SECURE PRIVATE
LOCATION**

**"FAMILY OWNED
& OPERATED"**

STORAGE DISCOVERIES

**FINDER'S COLLECTION &
STORAGE DISCOVERIES**

WE ARE CURRENTLY BUYING:

- GOLD & SILVER BULLION • COINS
- CURRENCY • ESTATES • ANTIQUES
- COLLECTIBLES • SPORTS CARDS
- ONE ITEM OR ENTIRE ESTATES

**HONEST & TRANSPARENT
PRICING YOU CAN TRUST!**

NOW AT OUR NEW LOCATION!
128 RT. 94, BLAIRSTOWN, NJ
NEXT TO THE TRACTOR SUPPLY!

EXPERTS@FINDERSCOLLECTION.COM
908-535-4064

PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

We Do House Clean Outs!

BREWING COMPANY

ALLEGHENY CREEK

**FAMILY-OWNED
BREWERY & RESTAURANT**

570-897-5900 Mount Bethel PA

AlleghenyCreekBC.com

THURSDAY-SATURDAY 12-9

SUNDAY BRUNCH 11-5

NEW CREATE-YOUR-OWN SMASHBURGERS

✱ 5 CHEESES ✱ 12 TOPPINGS ✱ 8 SAUCES ✱

