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May 6, 2026

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Vol. 53, No. 39

## A Toast To Mom This Mother's Day

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### Capitol Ace Hardware Celebrates Their 20th Anniversary



Congratulations to Erik Borgh and the entire team at Capitol Ace Hardware on their 20th Anniversary. They held a 20th Anniversary Celebration on May 2nd and 3rd to celebrate with the wonderful community who has helped make this dream a reality! We wish you many more successful years in business. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

### Slate Belt Heritage Center Proudly Announces 2026 Annual Preservation Awards Winners

The Slate Belt Heritage Center proudly announces the winners for this year's 2026 Annual Preservation Awards.

The Initiative Award goes to an individual who has shown exemplary actions in promoting and preserving the heritage of the Slate Belt through In-Kind Actions. The award is to acknowledge individuals who have performed acts that promote and preserve the culture and



heritage of the Slate Belt. This year's recipients are

actually being grouped together due to Bangor's 150th celebration and the Time Capsule work they did together, Mr. & Mrs. Randy and Lisa Sandt and Owens Monumental Company were instrumental in ensuring Bangor's collected history from residents and friends of the Slate Belt region will be cherished again for future generations when it is unearthed in 2075. Both Mr. & Mrs. AWARDS cont'd on pg 2

### Pen Argyl Wins Over Notre Dame Green Pond In Boys Baseball Senior Night Game



Pen Argyl and Notre Dame Green Pond went head to head for Pen Argyl's Senior Night game on May 2nd. Pen Argyl won, 4 to 1. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

### The Paul Goerz Memorial Mustache Ride Cruises To Hunter's Lodge



Hunter's Lodge Restaurant and Motel graciously acted as the "finish" and campout spot for the Paul Goerz Memorial Mustache Ride and Kampout event on May 2nd, where dozens of Vintage Volkswagens gathered after a 35+ mile ride. What a unique sight to see.

### North Warren Wins Over High Point in Boys Lacrosse



North Warren took on High Point in boys lacrosse on April 28th. North Warren won, 17 to 4. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

## AWARDS

Continued from page 1

Sandt and Owens Monumental were enthusiastic in preserving Bangor's history and were wonderful candidates for this award.

The Special Focus Award goes to an individual who is saving or conserving tradition or a body of knowledge and may be contributing to educational information via exhibits, documentation, internet, archival, etc. This year's Special Focus Award goes to Mr. Scott Dietz for his non-traditional photo journal entitled 'Beyond Main Street'. In this book, Mr. Dietz captured the most beautiful parts of Bangor, but not of the main streets, rather he photographed side streets and forgotten alleys. He wanted the viewer to explore the hidden, the quiet, and the overlooked. He also left out the descriptions from the photos as the journal was about more than just the images. It was

about inviting visitors and residents to discover the many historic and visual facets of Bangor. As for the Architectural Award, SBHC did not receive any nominations that we felt were creditable enough to document as conserving a historic building, place or artifact where restoration is authentic to preservation. This award is to acknowledge individuals who have performed acts that promote and preserve the heritage of the Slate Belt, if you know of any houses, properties, or businesses in the Slate Belt that you feel may be worthy of this category, please let us know. A public ceremony for the Initiative and Special Focus Preservation Awards will be held on Thursday, June 18th at 7:00 PM at the Heritage Center. The Center is located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA.

For additional information please contact either Jason Huggan at 484-574-2480 or Karen Brewer at 484-894-5661.

## Summer Workplace Training Program Offered to Limited Number of Area Teens

A select number of teens can receive paid employment and learn valuable workplace skills at the Summer Youth Employment Program at Project Self-Sufficiency, Monday – Thursday, July 6th – August 6th. Rising Sussex County high school sophomores and juniors are invited to apply; eligibility guidelines include family income, transportation status, current enrollment in high school, and other factors. Candidates will be assessed and interviewed prior to admittance to the program. Free transportation to and from Project Self-Sufficiency will be provided to participants; use of the transportation program and references from high school staff members are required. Those who have previously participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program are ineligible. Space is extreme-



High school students can receive paid employment and job training through the Summer Youth Employment Program at Project Self-Sufficiency.

ly limited; applications must be received by June 12th.

The Summer Youth Employment Program offers teens a wide variety of work experiences, handling everything from clerical tasks to assisting with landscaping projects on the Project Self-Sufficiency campus and at select sites throughout the area. Teens are also given daily classroom instruction about workplace etiquette, resume development, interview skills, and other topics at Project Self-Sufficiency's state-of-the-art Career Center.

The program has a measurable impact on the adolescents it serves. "For many of these young people, the Summer Youth Employment Program is their

first workplace experience," comments Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. "This program allows teens to explore their interests and aptitudes, introduces them to basic job skills, and gives them guidance about workplace expectations. The experience gives teens a foothold in the working world and often serves as a springboard into a future career."

Interested applicants should visit [www.projectsselfsufficiency.org/summer-youth-employment-program](http://www.projectsselfsufficiency.org/summer-youth-employment-program) to download an application. Completed applications must be submitted by June 12th; eligible applicants will be contacted to set up an interview. Call Project Self-Sufficiency at 973-940-3500 for more information.

ciency at 973-940-3500 for more information.

Project Self-Sufficiency has assisted low-income individuals and families in northwestern New Jersey since 1986. Services offered at Project Self-Sufficiency include high school equivalency education, computer courses, employment skills training, job placement services, support groups, parenting classes, childcare and preschool, legal assistance and education, counseling and advocacy, referrals, and help with emergency basic needs, like food and clothing. For more information about the programs and services offered by Project Self-Sufficiency, visit [www.projectsselfsufficiency.org](http://www.projectsselfsufficiency.org) or call 973-940-3500.

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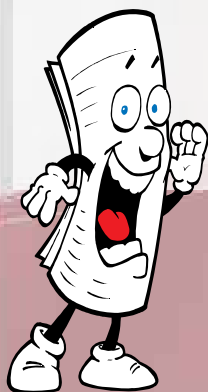
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## Brown's Legislation Supporting Mothers Heads to Governor's Desk

I'm excited to share that Senate Bill 507, also known as Midwifery Modernization, is on its way to the Governor's desk. Senate Bill 507 received significant bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

This legislation updates the Medical Practice Act of 1985 by modernizing licensure requirements for certified midwives, improving collaboration between midwives and physicians and updating prescription authority – particularly for the treatment of substance use disorders.

Just as importantly, the bill helps address real gaps in care, especially in rural and underserved areas by increasing the number of trained professionals who can support women during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum



recovery. It also allows midwives, under proper agreements, to prescribe certain medications, including those used to treat opioid use disorder, helping improve outcomes for both mothers and babies.

By expanding access to safe, high-quality mater-

nal care and strengthening our healthcare workforce, this legislation is a meaningful step forward for families across the Commonwealth.

I'm proud to have supported this bill and look forward to its positive impact on families across the Commonwealth.

## New to the Blue Mountain Community Library

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

### New to the circulating collection:

#### Adult fiction:

-The Astral Library (Kate Quinn); Cold Zero (Brad Thor); The Crossroads (C.J. Box); More than Enough (Anna Quindlen); The Viper (Brad Meltzer); Cleopatra (Saara El-Arifi); The Castaways (Lucy Clarke); The Devil's Bible (Steve Berry); A Mother's Love (Danielle Steel); The Girls We Sent Away (Meagan Church); How to Read a Book (Monica Wood); The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus (Emma Knight); When I Kill You (B.A. Paris); If Two Are Dead (Rick Mofina); A Dead Draw (Robert Dugoni); The Right to Remain (James Grippando)

#### Adult nonfiction:

The Let Them Theory (Mel Robbins); Black Dahlia (William J. Mann); The Other Family Doctor (Karen Fine)

#### Large print fiction:

Nightcaps at the Beach House Hotel (Judith Keim); New Beginnings in Lavender Bay (Michele Brouder)

#### Young Adult fiction:

Beth Is Dead (Katie Bernet); A Tribute of Fire (Sariah Wilson); A Vow of Embers (Sariah Wilson); A Curse of Ashes (Sariah Wilson);

#### Juvenile fiction:

The New Class (Swapna Reddy); Sparkling Steps (Sue Bentley)

Pete at the Beach (James Dean); A Bear, a Man, and a Donut Van (Daniel Bernstrom); Fox and the Mystery Letter (Alex G. Griffiths)

#### Juvenile nonfiction:

Who Was Nellie Bly? (Margaret Gurevich); What Was the Hindenburg? (Janet B. Pascal); Minecraft Construction Handbook (Matthew Needler); Minecraft Combat Handbook (Stephanie Milton); Who Was Ruth Bader Ginsburg? (Patricia Brennan Demuth); Who Is Malala Yousafzai? (Dinah Brown); The Wonder of Easter (Matt Mitter)

## New to the Bangor Public Library

### Adult Fiction:

Japanese Gothic by Kylie Lee Baker; The Patchwork Players by Jennifer Chiaverini; The Paris Match by Kate Clayborn; Murder Mindfully by Karsten Dusse; Python's Kiss: Stories by Louise Erdrich; Summer at Firefly Beach by Jenny Hale; The Shock of the Light by Lori Inglis Hall; Mad Mabel by Sally Hepworth; The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife: A Novel by Anna Johnston; The Final Storm by Fern Michaels; Meet Me in Italy by Brenda Novak; The Mother-Daughter Book Club by Susan Patterson; Paradox by Douglas J. Preston; Twisted Pawn by L. J. Shen; Lidie: The Further Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton by Jane Smiley; Shadow Strike by Brad Taylor

### Adult Non Fiction:

Basic Spanish; Baby Signing Essentials: Easy Sign Language for Every Age and Stage by Nancy Cadjan; How Flowers Made our World: The Story of Nature's Revolutionaries by David George Haskell; The Jesus Discoveries: 10 Historic Finds That Bring us Face-To-Face with Jesus by Jeremiah Johnston; Spanish by Cecie Kraynak; For the Love of Houseplants: Caring for & Keeping Plants With Confidence by Tanner Mitchell; 18 Days in Heaven: 1 Left my Body, I met Jesus. What He Told Me Will Alter Your Eternity by Gabe Poirot; You Better Believe I'm Gonna Talk About It by Lisa Rinna; The Rolling Stones: The Biography by Bob Spitz

### Large Print Adult Fiction:

The Heir of Whitestone: A Novel by Catherine Coulter

### Easy Fiction:

Hello Baby Animals: A High-Contrast Book; Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Other Bedtime Rhymes; Dr. Seuss's Summer Things; The Home Builders by Varsha Bajaj; Pookie's Thanksgiving by Sandra Boynton; Oh My Oh My Oh Dinosaurs! By Sandra Boynton; Spooky Pookie by Sandra Boynton; Gingerbread Christmas by Jan Brett; The Easter Egg by Jan Brett; The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle; Dinosaur Rescue! By Hollis James; The Thank You Book by Mary Lyn Ray

### Easy Non Fiction:

William Shakespeare by Ma Isabel Sanchez Vegara; Neural Networks for Babies by Chris Ferrie; ABC of Space by Chris Ferrie; Astrophysics for Babies by Chris Ferrie; Quantum Entanglement for Babies by Chris Ferrie; Quantum Computing for Babies by Chris Ferrie; Quantum Information for Babies by Chris Ferrie; All About Light by Angela Royston; Dinoblock by Christopher Franceschelli; Space by Emmy Kastner; Chopsticks Are Chloe Ito Ward; Landmarks by Katie Wilson; Puppy Dog Pals

### Easy Reader Fiction:

Pete the Kitty and the Unicorn's Missing Colors by Kim Dean; Pet the Cat: Super Pete by Kim Dean

### Junior Fiction:

Disney Cinderella: Cinestory Comic; Twins by Varian Johnson; The Baby-Sitters Club 19: Dawn on the Coast by Arley Nopra; Minecraft: The Tournament by DaVaun Sanders; Just Pretend by Tori Sharp

### Junior Non Fiction:

Life by the River by Holy Duhig; Usborne 100 Science Experiments by Georgina Andrews; The Story of Astronomy and Space by Louie Stowell

### Young Adult Fiction:

The Summer King by JenniferL. Armentrout; Morgana and Oz 4 by Miyuli

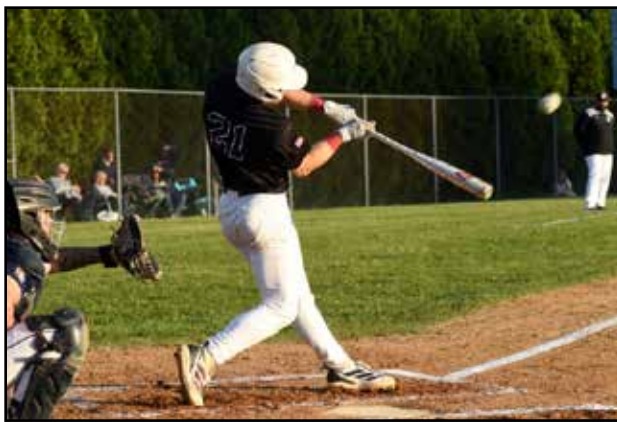
### Young Adult Non Fiction:

The Action Bible God's Redemptive Story; Exploring Service Trades Careers by Kelley Barth; Exploring Gaming Industry Careers by Sherry Bolte, Mart, Howard; The Fight Over Choice: The History and Future of Reproductive Rights by Lauren Kukla; To Arm or Disarm?: Addressing Gun Violence by Denise Clay-Murray; Exploring Health-Care Careers by Kelley Barth; Exploring Engineering Careers by Andrew Morkes; The Business Book; Exploring Building Trade Careers by Greg Robinson; At Last She Stood: How Joey Guerrero Spied, Survived, and Fought for Freedom by Erin Entrada Kelly

### DVDs:

Christy; Die My Love; Killers of the Flower Moon; Send Help

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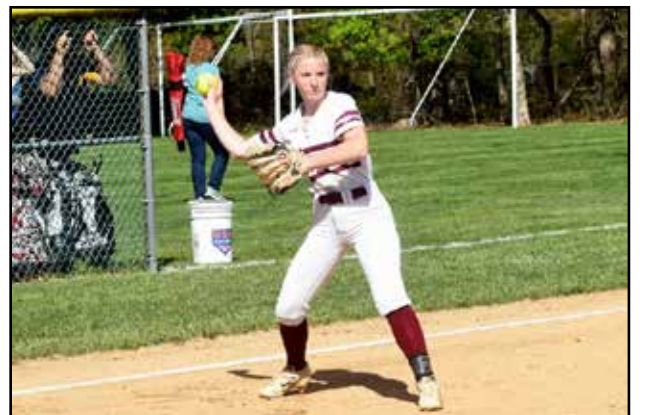
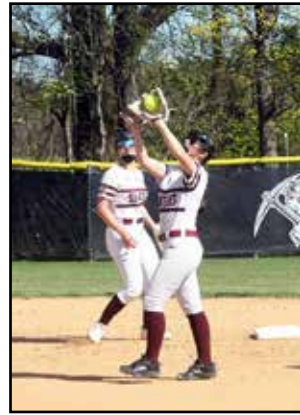
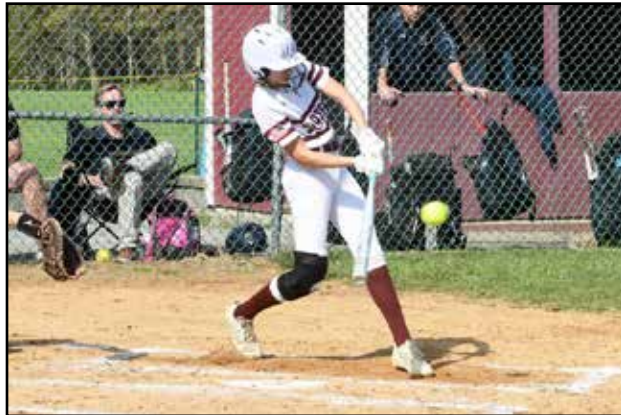
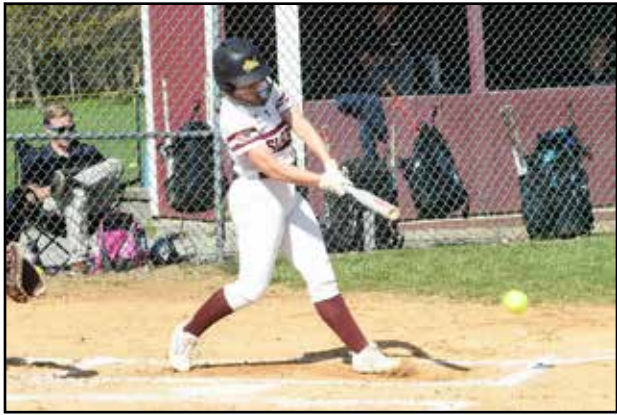
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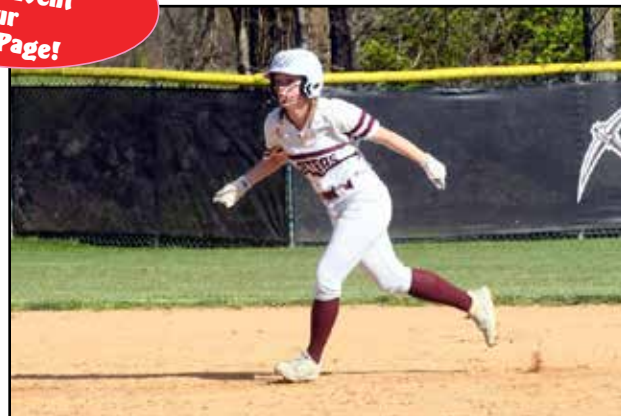
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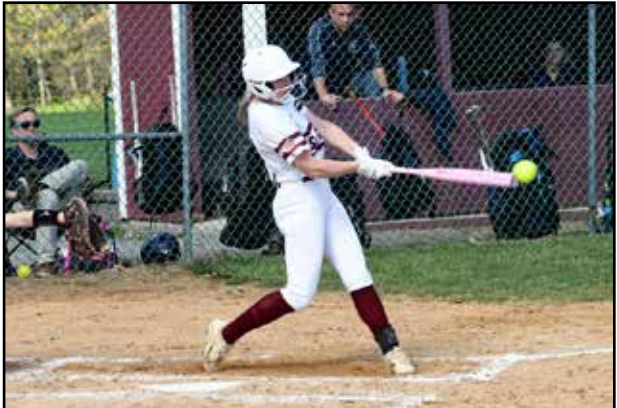


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### Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary?



**Mary E. Stone**  
Stone Associates  
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Blairstown, NJ

Hello fellow readers,  
On Sunday, I hosted brunch for friends who will be taking care of Jolee when I attend a Comfort Zone Camp weekend coming up. It's the annual loss-by-suicide camp in cooperation with The Little Hope Foundation. What an honor to serve as the Big Buddy for a special young lady for the third time. Last year, the transformation from the year prior was heartwarming. Watching a young person move from withdrawn, per-

haps in guarded grief, to opening and sharing her story with others her own age is something that stays with you—like a sunflower opening its petals one by one, as if God winks. It's awe-inspiring—and a gift to be able to support her again.

I've been a volunteer at the bereavement camp for kids and young adults for 11 years, but this is the first time I'm attending without a life partner at home to back me up with my canine kid's care. Leaving Jolee in the care of others brings a touch of anxiety. But how fortunate I am to have Don and Susan to help. She will be in loving hands.

Susan is an avid gardener, and our brunch chat led to a plant chat. She mentioned that her rhubarb is ready for harvest and that she plans to make a rhubarb custard pie. Her plant sits just beyond her front walk, making a statement with its large, husky leaves and red and green stems. I mentioned my orna-



mental rhubarb, recalling a story about the difference between ornamental and edible rhubarb that stemmed from an audience question at a Springfest Garden Show talk on deer-resistant plants.

Marty Carson and I touted the beauty of ornamental rhubarb. Artie stumped us when he asked for the botanical name. Good question!

Rheum palmatum is commonly known as Chinese rhubarb (and perhaps ornamental rhubarb) and is not edible. Rheum rhabarbarum is considered the edible kind (also known as R.

rhaponticum), commonly called wild rhubarb in the United States and garden rhubarb elsewhere—proof of how confusing common names can be.

Edible rhubarb leaf stalks are edible, but the leaf blades contain oxalic acid, toxic to both deer and humans, triggering, in "Mary's words," an overdose of the Ex-Lax effect. It's attractive in a garden, but it's the ornamental kind that makes a dramatic, almost prehistoric-looking focal point. One of the most colorful is Rheum palmatum var. tanguticum, growing nearly 6 feet high and



3 feet wide, with leaves that unfurl bronzy-red, then turn green on top and burgundy underneath. It blooms with spikes of reddish-pink flowers in summer, with foliage turning red again in fall.

Rheum 'Ace of Hearts' is a popular, smaller variety, growing to about 3 feet tall and wide. Like the edible kind, ornamental rhubarb is perennial, returning each year.

Rhubarb is generally purchased as crowns or divisions and planted in early Spring. It thrives in humus-rich, moist soil in partial shade to full sun, with roots kept cool under mulch.

Ornamental rhubarb is harmful if eaten—and that goes for you, too, deer. Though some seem to ignore the warning—perhaps they are browsing for medicinal purposes? Ha!

There are so many edible plants that are beautiful in the garden, including eggplants,

which Susan agrees can be hard to coax into fruit. I adore tomatoes intermingled among perennials such as echinacea, with parsley as an edging plant and nasturtiums tumbling with cheerful blooms that are both edible and ornamental.

Susan and Don grow pole beans on strings to climb from their front foundation garden to the roof of their front porch, offering shade and green beans. How clever—and attractive.

As I prepare to head off to camp, trusting Jolee in the care of kind friends, I'm reminded that we don't have to do everything alone. Just as in the garden, where a mix of plants supports and complements one another, our lives are sustained by those willing to show up, lend a hand, and nurture what matters.

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

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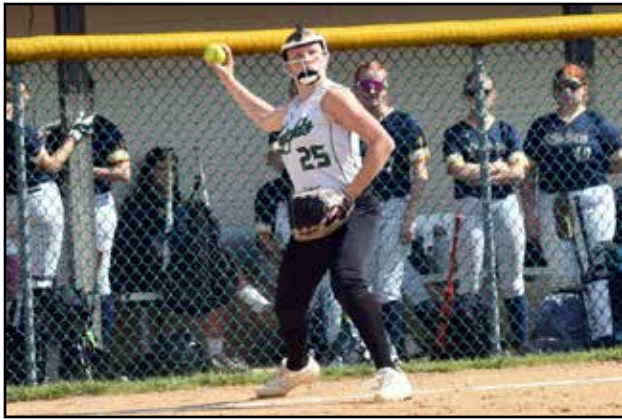
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# PEN ARGYL (3) VS NOTRE DAME GREEN POND (5) SOFTBALL



Photos by Dale Young/  
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# Project Self-Sufficiency Programs Educate Public, Support Trauma Survivors, Promote Prevention

Project Self-Sufficiency will offer three workshops regarding adverse childhood experiences with the goal of educating the public, supporting trauma survivors, and offering tips for prevention and healing within the community. The workshop and discussion series, "Connections Matter", which facilitates the conversation about issues surrounding childhood trauma, will be offered virtually in English, Tuesday, May 19th, 2:00 p.m., and in Spanish, Thursday, May 21st, 2:00 p.m. Tips for protection, prevention, and promoting resilience within the community will also be discussed. A virtual "Understanding ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities" presentation on Wednesday, June 17th, 3:00 p.m., will address the neurological and biological effects of adversity on development and its corresponding impact on the health of the overall population. All workshops are free, hosted on Zoom, and open to the public; in-

terested participants are invited to call 973-940-3500 to receive log-in details. The Connections Matter curriculum invites providers, parents, and community members to build caring connections to improve resiliency. Discussion during the workshops will focus on understanding adverse childhood experiences and demonstrating how caring connections can serve as a primary buffer in the negative effects of trauma. The training is appropriate for parents and providers raising and teaching school aged children. All three workshops are funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and led by Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey. During the Understanding ACEs workshop, parents, caregivers, and other community providers will learn how childhood trauma impacts physical and neurological development and discuss methods for improving health and well-being across the

lifespan. Speakers will address the impact of adverse childhood experiences on social, emotional, and cognitive development, and offer tips and strategies for building resilience. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are widely recognized as falling into three distinct categories, abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. Examples of negative behavior said to result from ACEs include smoking, alcoholism, drug use, absenteeism, and lack of physical activity. These behaviors can cause a cascade of physical and mental health problems, from diabetes to cancer to suicidal thoughts. It is estimated that approximately 67% of the population has experienced at least one adverse childhood experience. Project Self-Sufficiency is bringing together professionals, providers, and parents who are committed to increasing awareness of the impact of childhood trauma on juvenile development, future violence victimization and perpetra-



**Gloria Aulet, Project Self-Sufficiency, will host a workshop regarding adverse childhood experiences in Spanish.**

education and training on adverse childhood experiences and assuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments," explains Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon. "Protection, prevention, and resilience promotion can profoundly improve health according to recent discoveries in neuroscience, epigenetics, and epidemiology. The tools identified in these workshops can positively impact public health, safety, and productivity, and reduce public and private costs now and for future generations."

tion, and lifelong health and opportunity. "Our goal is to help make our community a place in which every child can thrive by providing ed-

*Barry Lobb*  
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# St. Luke's Joins Elite Global Clinical Care Network for Birthmark Syndrome

St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) is proud to announce its formal induction into the Sturge-Weber Foundation (SWF) Clinical Care Network. St. Luke's becomes the 27th institution globally to receive this prestigious designation and stands as the first and only health-care provider in the Le-

high Valley – and only the second in Pennsylvania – to be recognized for this level of specialized clinical excellence. The addition of St. Luke's to the Clinical Care Network further strengthens the Sturge-Weber Foundation's global mission to improve the quality of life and care for people with Sturge-Weber

syndrome and associated port wine capillary malformations through ongoing collaboration with clinical partners and pioneers, education, advocacy, research, and patient/family support.

Port wine capillary malformations are a specific type of birthmark – now known to be caused by genetic mutations within the skin itself – that are present at birth, can be located anywhere on the body, and that will thicken in texture and darken in color over time. Rarely, a port wine birthmark on the face may be associated with glaucoma – abnormally high pressures in the eye – and seizures, constituting what is known as Sturge-Weber syndrome. Due to its multi-system nature, patients with Sturge-Weber syndrome often require a highly coordinated “medical home” to manage complex cutaneous, ocular, and neurological symptoms. Until recently, these highly specialized services were largely unavailable in the Lehigh Valley.

“As a parent of a child with Sturge-Weber syndrome, having a Clinical Care Network in my hometown is truly incredible,” says Julia Terrell, Director of Community Relations for the Sturge-Weber Foundation. “For years, families in the Lehigh Valley have had to travel long distances for specialized care—trips that are costly, time-consuming,



and hard on patients. The expertise may have always existed, but families didn't always know where to go or who to trust. Now, having a dedicated team close to home means families have clear direction, trusted care, and no longer feel alone in their journey. That truly warms my heart.”

Laser-Focused on Patient Care

The invitation to join the Sturge-Weber Foundation's Clinical Care Network was driven by the internationally recognized expertise of Andrew C. Krakowski, MD, who is the Founding Network Chair of St. Luke's Department of Dermatology and who serves as the lead point of clinical contact for the Birthmark Center at St. Luke's. The Center originated with a generous donation from The Jeanne and Richard Kaskey Foundation, whose mission is to invest in transformative education and pioneering medical advancements—fueling innovation, accelerating discovery, and expanding access to care worldwide. Dr. Krakowski is a recognized leader

in the use of advanced laser surgery to treat port wine birthmarks and associated vascular malformations in both children and adults. His clinical experience is supported by a robust academic portfolio, including his role as senior editor of the definitive textbook, *Pediatric Procedural Dermatology* and several recent high-impact, peer-reviewed publications focused on optimizing laser parameters and multidisciplinary protocols for managing port wine birthmarks. “Dr. K,” as he is better known to his patients and families, is the only board-certified pediatric dermatologist in the Lehigh Valley, representing one of more than 40 pediatric specialties available through St. Luke's Children's Hospital. Being inducted into SWF Clinical Care Network is an example of what sets St. Luke's apart. This past fall, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ranked St. Luke's #1 – ahead of Houston Methodist and Mayo Clinic, two of the nation's most prestigious institutions – as the nation's top health system for quality, safety, and patient experience. This objective recognition, based on public data reported to the government, reaffirms St. Luke's preeminent position among the leading health systems in the country. Comprehensive, Multi-

disciplinary Care While laser surgery is a cornerstone of port wine birthmark treatment, St. Luke's provides a comprehensive “continuum of care” for pediatric and adult patients alike. Supporting the efforts of the Birthmark Center is a fully integrated team of pediatric and adult specialists across multiple specialties including: Ophthalmology: Monitoring and treating SWS-related glaucoma; Neurology: Managing seizure activity and neurodevelopmental milestones; Radiology: Advanced neuroimaging for monitoring vascular changes; Plastic Surgery/ENT: Providing reconstructive support for structural complications arising from vascular malformations. “With support from The Jeanne and Richard Kaskey Foundation, St. Luke's has evolved to become a national leader for these types of complex pediatric and adult laser surgeries, and we are delighted to partner with the Sturge-Weber Foundation on its global mission to be a resource for patients with port wine birthmarks,” says Andrew C. Krakowski, MD. “Being named a Clinical Care Network site is a testament to the tireless effort and clinical excellence that the multidisciplinary St. Luke's team offers our local Lehigh Valley community and, regionally, across eastern Pennsylvania.”

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### Clean Team Workforce Celebrated Their April Employee of the Month

The Clean Team Workforce congratulates its Employee of the Month for April, Troy D.

Troy lived in the Upper Perkiomen Valley area his entire life before coming to the Allentown Rescue Mission. He graduated from Upper Perkiomen High School and enjoyed what he described as a "normal life" with his parents and three older siblings.

Troy worked various jobs over his lifetime, but in 2009, he left full-time employment to care for his ailing parents. For fifteen years, he cared for his parents while working part-time jobs. His mother passed away

during the pandemic, and his father a year later.

Unfortunately, Troy's parents didn't prepare a will. In the end, Troy defaulted on the mortgage of his parents' home. He had little money and nowhere to go after the house was lost. Troy's niece told him about the Allentown Rescue Mission, and he decided it could be a good place for him.

While in the Emergency Shelter, Troy discovered that the Mission's Transformation Program not only taught life skills, workforce development, and Bible classes, but also offered men a job on the Clean Team Work-



force after graduating from the program. Joining the Transformation Program seemed like the "perfect solution" to jumpstart his new life and career.

Troy devoted himself to

the Transformation Program. He learned more about himself by learning more about God. He was a model student, always inquisitive, kind, and helpful to others.

After graduation, Troy joined the Clean Team Workforce. From the start, he proved to be flexible and a hard worker. "I don't favor one job over another as each can be a positive and rewarding challenge," he stated.

Troy's number one goal is to save money so he can return to a stable life. With his positive attitude and trust in the Lord, the Allentown Rescue Mission knows Troy can have a bright future.



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