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St. Luke's Treats 500th COVID Patient with Monoclonal Antibodies



By Sam Kennedy

BETHLEHEM - Monoclonal antibody therapy at St. Luke's has helped all Lehigh Valley hospitals avoid being overwhelmed during the current surge, allowing certain high-risk patients to recover quickly in the comfort of their own homes.

Granted emergency authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, monoclonal antibodies block the virus' attachment and entry into human cells. Infusion has been found to be particularly effective in preventing the need for hospitalization in select, higher-risk patients including those who are 65 years of age or older and whose infection, identified early, does not yet require supplemental oxygen.

Joe Kitchell, a part-time paramedic in New Jersey happily says he's proof-positive that the BAM monoclonal antibody works.

"I feel great," he said recently, "and lucky to have gotten the treatment."

Kitchell, 52, came down with COVID symptoms on Christmas Day. His fever, cough, headache and body aches alerted the veteran first responder that he was COVID-sick, and a test confirmed that two days later.

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Slate Belt Rising Receives Donation From Nestle Waters

By CACLV

SLATE BELT - Nestlé Waters announced a \$2,500 donation to Slate Belt Rising, a program of Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley (CACLV), to support its work of fostering comprehensive community and economic development in the Slate Belt Boroughs of Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland, and Wind Gap. Slate Belt Rising brought together the four boroughs to collaborate and amplify their collective voices to help strengthen their ability to compete with other communities for investment.

"As a member of the Slate Belt community, Nestlé Waters was pleased to support the work of Slate Belt



Rising," said Eric Andreus, Natural Resource Manager at Nestlé Waters North America Inc. "The Slate Belt community has a rich history, and the work being done by Slate Belt Rising is strengthening the community through several important initiatives. We are proud to be a part of making a positive impact in the region."

Since 2016, Slate Belt Rising has secured, leveraged and invested over \$1 million in projects throughout the Slate Belt, across a number of project focus areas including façade improvements, community events, youth programming, streetscape improvements, and municipal planning.

Most recently, Slate Belt Rising launched a Commercial

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Drive-by 90th Birthday Celebration

By Sal Mariano

ROSETO - A surprise drive-by birthday celebration given by family and friends was held on Saturday January 16, 2021 in honor of Marie Vrontis's 90th birthday. Marie, the fifth of five children, was born on January 16, 1931 in Pen Argyl, PA to Greek immigrants, the late Costos and Nikki Vrontis. She moved to Roseto in 1933 and continues to reside there. She played an active role in the operating of the Roseto Candy Kitchen and floral shop during her growing up years. In 1951 she was hired by Merry Maid Novelties (now Special Events Party Rentals) as an executive secretary and continues to work there to this day. Marie is a faithful member of Christ Presbyterian Church of the Slate Belt in Bangor.

This was the featured article on Blue Valley Times Facebook Page on January 20th 2021 it has reached over 1500 readers in 6 days!



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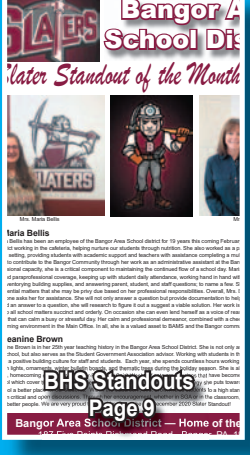
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