

FREE

SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.
VOL. 29 NO. 12 WEEKLY IN PRINT AND DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND FACEBOOK

MARCH 24, 2020



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the **YMCA**

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PORTLAND / UPPER MT. BETHEL
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Mission of Love Food Bank & Pantry New Drive Up Service

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Until further notice we will be open every Tuesday as normal but our hours have changed to 9 am till noon located at 555 N. Main St., Bangor Pa.

We have set up a 'Drive Thru' in our newly paved parking lot so please follow the direction of our staff.

We will deliver food thru your car window in prepared containers. 'Please do not get out of your vehicle' for the safety of yourself and the volunteers.

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(first row) Josh Lopez, Sophia Villano, Kristen Stopfer, Andrea Morokutti. (second row) Evan Finkbeiner, CJ Fassl, Brookel Sabella, Noelle Schwartz, Michael Spagnola, Missing Cathianne McKenna

Bangor Area Chorus Members Selected

By Mary Lou Cole

BANGOR - Ten Bangor Area Chorus members were selected to participate in PMEA All-State Chorus on April 25 at Kalahari Resort in Mt Pocono. Bangor has the unique honor of potentially having more members selected for All-State Chorus than any other of the more than 500 schools in the state. The students are CJ Fassl, Evan Finkbeiner, Josh Lopez, Cathianne McKenna, Andrea Morokutti, Brookel Sabella, Noelle Schwartz, Michael Spagnola, Kristen Stopfer and Sophia Villano. Andrea Morokutti was also selected as pianist for the All-State Band.

Unfortunately, the event has been cancelled due to the Corona Virus pandemic. It remains an outstanding honor for the students and the Bangor School District.

Another Building Refreshed in Bangor

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Last week Laura McLain from Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce along with her husband Todd McLain, Faith Sarisky owner of Realty Solutions along with her son Michael, and daughter Rachel refreshed three store fronts in downtown Bangor.



Together they power washed the buildings, painted one of them and dressed the windows.

Artist Shannon Almanzar painted three beautiful window displays.

This week Almanzar got permission from another vacant builder owner to let her paint a mural on the boarded up front of the building on Broadway.

It looks awesome!



Smile and be Strong

By Michael Ortoski

STROUDSBURG - Left Addison and her sister Rylie Brown made a chalk

art mural in their driveway for anyone to see when they drive or walk by.

"We hope it will make people smile" said the girls.




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Food Banks Drive Thru

Continued from page 1

If you are a walker there will be a separate line for you, again please follow the direction of our staff. No one but workers will be allowed to go inside. There will be no access to restrooms.

"Your cooperation during this difficult time is greatly appreciated" said Pastor Frank Pons. The Portland Upper Mt. Bethel Pantry has also started a new drive up service located at 111 State St. Portland Pa. and until further notice the PUMP will be open every Monday as normal, AM AND PM: 10 to 11:30 am & 6:00 to 7:30 pm but will deliver food to your car as your number is called in the parking lot. No one but workers will be allowed to go inside. There will be no access to restrooms. Your cooperation during this difficult time is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, PUMP Staff



Workers Affected by COVID-19 May be Eligible for Unemployment and Workers' Compensation Benefits

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - Due to the widespread impact on employment from the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Pennsylvania has made temporary changes to unemployment benefits. The Department of Labor and Industry has made unemployment and worker's compensation benefits more widely available for those affected by the virus. You may be eligible if:

Your employer temporarily closes or goes out of business because of COVID-19

Your employer reduces your hours because of COVID-19

You have been told not to work because your employer feels you might get or spread COVID-19

You have been told to quarantine or self-isolate, or live/work in a county under government-recommended mitigation efforts

Other changes include the "waiting week" to receive benefits has been waived, as has requirements that the beneficiary be searching for jobs. These benefits will not go for longer than 26 weeks at this time. You can apply for benefits on the Department's website here: <https://www.uc.pa.gov/Pages/covid19.aspx>. You can also call the Department at 888-313-7284.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Deadline Extended to December 31st

By Senator Scavello

PEN ARGYL - As Pennsylvania continues to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the state Department of Revenue has extended the application deadline for the Property Tax and Rent Rebate program until the end of the year.

The Property Tax and Rent Rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. As specified by law, rebate distribution will begin on July 1. After June 30, rebates will be distributed as claims are received and processed.

Applicants may obtain Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and related information online at www.revenue.pa.gov/ or at my district offices. My staff is available to help anyone who needs assistance filing the application. No appointment is necessary but at this time we do advise that you call before you come in.

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Blue Valley Times

900 N. Main Street., Bangor, PA 18013

Published Weekly/Every Tuesday

Available on the web 24/7 at www.bluevalleytimes.com and Facebook

Phone: 610-452-9234
Email: bvtimes@rcn.com

News / Advertising Deadline
12 noon Fridays

Owner - Michael Ortoski / Michele Hanna
Publisher - Michael Ortoski
Sales - Michael Ortoski
Asst. Editor - Anne Brown
Graphic Design / Photography - MM4 Corp
Feature Writers - Peg R. Berger
Interns from Pen Argyl, Bangor and Stroudsburg H.S.

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