

Upper Mt. Bethel and Portland 3rd Annual 4th of July Parade



BHS 65th Class
Reunion
page 7



"Child Care Works"
page 10



PA Health Insurance
Exchange
page 11



Wildlands
Conservancy
New Hires
page 2



Happy 4th of July



By Michael Ortoski

PORTLAND – In only its third year the Portland & Upper Mount Bethel 4th of July parade has attracted more participants and viewers to its only parade in the area on this holiday, the 90 degree heat didn't seem to bother any one.

Portland's vintage fire truck led the parade on Thursday to a well attended event with most wearing their patriotic clothes even some pets. They were followed by the award-winning Bangor H.S. Marching Band who played patriotic songs during their walk, what's a parade without a band?

The most picturesque moments came as each entry in the parade past underneath the huge American Flag that was about 15' X 30' held up by Portland and Bangor ladder fire trucks 50' in the air.

Elected official attending the event was Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure who rode in a red convertible. McClure and his staff have been the driving force of economic development in the Slate Belt since he got in office, he set that pledge during his campaign and he has lived up to it in many ways.

Continued on page 8 & 9



Everyone Had A Ball at Summer Sounds



By Michael Ortoski

PEN ARGYL - On Sunday night the weather was perfect for WEONA parks Summer Sounds FREE concert featuring 'Philadelphia Funk Authority' who was a hit to all the event goers. It was the largest crowd I've seen at the series in WEONA

Continued on page 4



Right - Nancy Kessler with her grand daughter Natalie line dance thru the crowd with other dancers

**INSTANT REPLAY
SPORTING GOODS**

31 W. 1st Street, Wind Gap
610-863-4600
instrep31@gmail.com

FUSIA DANCE CENTER
Lead. Create. Inspire

2123 W. Main St,
Stroudsburg, PA
570-421-7895
info@fusiadance.org
www.fusiadance.org

PAINTING DANCE

THEATRE TAP

MUSIC DRAWING

TOTTSGAP ARTS

www.TOTTSGAP.org (610)588-5817



Wildlands Conservancy Announces New Hires and Promotions

By Megan Sciarrino

EMMAUS - Wildlands Conservancy announces two new hires as well as two promotions within the organization. Jim Hess has been hired as the organization's Director of Development and Maegan Stump as the Outdoor Recreation Program Coordinator. Internally, employee Michael Hock has been promoted to the position of Preserve Manager and Renee Guzenski has been promoted to Director of Human Resources and Accounting.

In his new position, Jim Hess will be instrumental in the planning, implementation and oversight of the organization's fundraising efforts as well as the management of the organization's grants, stewardship, and volunteer programs. His background is primarily in higher education and most recently, he worked with wife, Kirsten, at Let's Play Books in Emmaus.

Maegan Stump holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from Allegheny College and will oversee the Wildlands' community education and outreach activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, fishing, snorkeling and more. She is a newcomer to the Lehigh Valley, by way of Pittsburgh, Pa. and then Jackson, Wy.

Renee Guzenski has been with Wildlands since 2003 and has been promoted from Human Resources and Accounting at the manager level to the director level, where she will take on additional leadership responsibilities.

Michael Hock, who held the GIS Specialist position with Wildlands since 2017, has taken on the new role of Preserve Manager.

"Wildlands' preserves in the Lehigh and the Poconos already provide excellent options for walking, hiking, biking, birding, and other popular outdoors activities," says Hock. "In my new role, I'm really excited to help improve these opportunities and enhance public access, while ensuring the continued care of their natural character and resources."



Jim Hess



Maegan Stump



Banquet Facility Rentals

We have a selection of various facilities that are seasonal and available year round. Most have a capacity of at least 200 guests with ample parking.

The Banquet Hall is 3600 sq. ft. air conditioned, with high ceilings, elevated stage with sound system, catering kitchen, bingo machine and walk up wet bar, all fully handicap accessible.

The Outdoor 'Grove' has 3100 sq. ft. that has a covered pavilion, full kitchen, bar, band/DJ stage, dance floor and newly installed ceiling fans for those hot days. For outdoor fun they also have horse shoe pits, gazebo, volleyball, large yard area for lots of fun & games.

202 Veterans Road Bangor, Pa.

Our Bar is Now 'SMOKE FREE' 610-588-5555

Hosts 30th Annual Delaware River Clean-up

By Kathleen Sandt

BUSHKILL- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will host Day 2 of the 30th annual On and Under the Delaware River Clean-up event on July 16, 2019. Milford, PA-based Kittatinny Canoes (KC) sponsors the event that routinely brings together more than 100 dedicated volunteers over the course of two days to help keep the Delaware River clean. Day 1 takes place on July 15 in Barryville, New York, on the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. "The National Park Service is thrilled to be able to host this long-standing volunteer event each year for the past three decades. It shows not only how many people it takes to protect the Delaware River and keep it among the cleanest rivers in the country, but also how many people care so much about it that they are willing to give their own time to help keep it that way," said Sula Jacobs, Superintendent of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. "This event really captures the spirit of our mission to preserve and protect some of America's greatest treasures and we are very fortunate to have such great volunteers, community members, and local businesses all partnering together to achieve our shared goals." Volunteers will paddle 8- to 10-mile sections of the river picking up trash from the shorelines, islands, and the river bottom along the way. Kittatinny Canoes provides breakfast, dinner, canoes, life jackets, trash bags, and transportation. Volunteers should bring lunch, snacks, plenty of drinking water, sunscreen, work gloves, and a hat and wear sturdy shoes that can get wet. Check-in begins at 8 am on July 16 at the Dingmans Ferry Access. To register for either day, contact Kittatinny Canoes at 1-800-356-2852. (Rain date: Wednesday, July 17).

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.

All submissions become property of Blue Valley Times