

FREE

VOL. 30 NO. 6

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FEBRUARY 8, 2022



Pen Argyl Student
Needs Support
page 9



America COMPETES
Act of 2022
Page 11



New Pet Company
Manufacturing Facility
Page 10



Bangor Slater Standout
of the Month
Page 7

Dear Kirkridge Friends and Community

By Jean Richardson / Executive Director of Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center
BANGOR - One winter's night during a blizzard years ago, I was trying to find my way to Kirkridge for an interview to be the new director. Snow falling, unfamiliar roads, no cell phones, I had all but given up having driven into and out of every small surrounding town trying to find my way. Finally, in despair I decided to turn around and head down the hill once again. I pulled off the road into a lighted place, only to look up and see a brown sign with white letters humbly stating, KIRKRIDGE.

Going back through my writing when I applied for this position, I realize once again, how deeply I felt called to be in this place and yearned to collaborate with a community that offered radical hospitality to all who found their way here. How impressed I was that, from the beginning, Kirkridge genuinely invited individuals to honor their inner spiritual journey while never ignoring the call to the challenges of the prophetic voice of justice. Little did I know that night, as I entered the parking lot, that in the coming weeks, I would say "yes" to becoming Kirkridge's fourth executive director.

My "yes" has lasted for seventeen years. My love, heart, and commitment for Kirkridge and who it declares it is in this world has grown only larger. I found home here, and I found home in myself here. The gifts that Kirkridge offers to each and every guest, visitor, and pilgrim were here for me and for my family.



Continued on page 4 Jean Richardson



Troop 34 – Lead By Example

By Troop 34

PEN ARGYL - Troop 34 Community Eagle Scout Project Andrew Kondisko from Troop 34 Pen Argyl, PA recently completed his Eagle Scout Project at the Plainfield Township Recreation Trail. The trail which begins in Stockertown and ends in West Pen Argyl, extends over 7 miles, and provides an amazing place for walking, running, hiking, and biking.

Through the dedicated leadership of assistant scoutmasters, Wes Shoup, Brad Scherer, and Bubba Beers, and the support of the Plainfield Township, Andrew created a mile marker improvement project for the trail.

The project included the installation of 26 mile markers and three trail head signs. The mile markers are every quarter mile and the trail head signs were installed at Stockertown, 191/Edleman's, and Knitter's Hill. Andrew fundraised and collected donations through a virtual 5k on the trail in the Fall of 2020.

Between the virtual 5k and other troop fundraisers, he fundraised more than \$1,700 to purchase materials for the project. This past November, he completed the installation with the help of his family, Wes Shoup, Bubba Beers, and scouts of Troop 34.

Community members shared positive comments with Andrew as he installed the markers. They were so grateful for his leadership and community project. One community member said, "This is a fantastic project and something this trail really needed." Plainfield Township has offered a lot to

Continued on page 11

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