



New Welding Program Lab page 7



Scouts In Our Community page 10



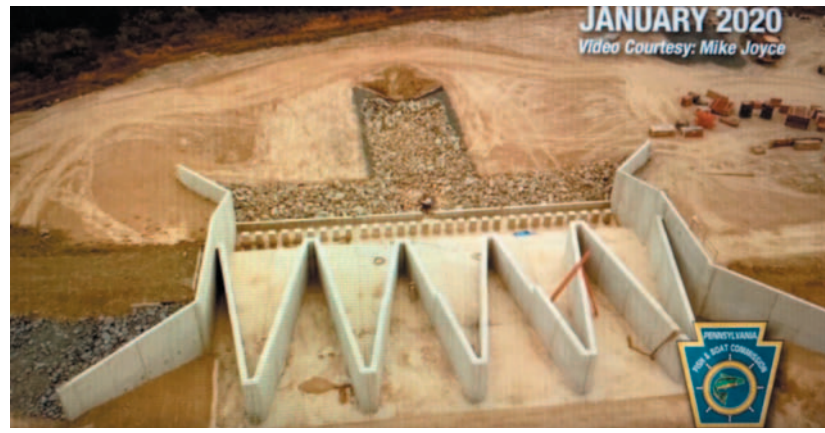
she invented she NMH's International Women's Weekend page 6



Special Olympics Polar Plunge page 11

Minsi Lake Dam Construction Project is Complete

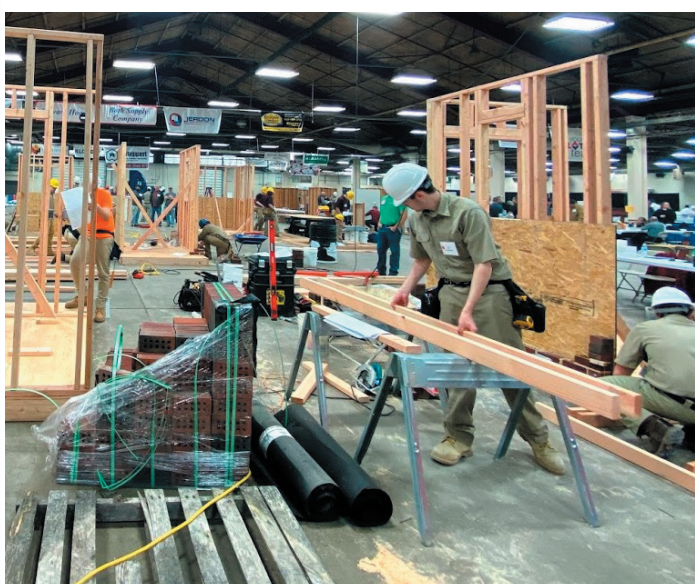
By Michael Ortoski / Vice Chair Friends of Minsi Lake
 UPPER MT. BETHEL - I am very pleased to report that the construction project that began two years ago with the draining of Minsi Lake has officially been completed. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission reported yesterday that the refilling process is now underway" said State Rep. Joe Emrick.
 Both Emrick and Senator Mario Scavella were instrumental in getting the funds for the project and are members of the 'Friends of Minsi Lake' who are the new caretakers of the lake.
 The Commission estimates that Minsi Lake will be completely refilled in approximately six weeks.
 Emrick recently sat down with Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director, Tim Schaeffer, to discuss the project while at



JANUARY 2020 Video Courtesy: Mike Joyce

the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg. Go to this link to watch the short video <http://links.pahousenews.com/q/ESfzzuvLHTTrUvbkYGI1r2hj6LaTtllITfdllyZM6KcKR0P6RYrDN-WSHaLdQ>.

Continued on page 4



DiFebo Family Receives The Pa. Leopold Conservation Award

By Karen Brewer
 BANGOR - The Slate Belt Heritage Center will hold their monthly historic presentation on Sunday, March 8th 2:00 PM. Featured speaker will be Richard DiFebo who will present a program on his family's reception of the "Pennsylvania Leopold Conservation Award".
 The DiFebo Family was presented with a \$10,000 award along with a crystal statue for this achievement. When Mr. DiFebo began farming on his in-law's former dairy farm, in the mid 90's, the land needed some work to remain profitable. He realized that he needed to bring the land back to good health. He started a grass-fed beef herd and began converting cropland that had been prone to erosion. Putting cattle back on the land would improve soil quality and by having a healthy pasture the need for fertilizer and herbicides has been eliminated. The DiFebo family also rents 65 acres from the Bangor School District where this practice is conducted. The site serves not only as grazing pasture, but also

Continued on page 2

SkillsUSA Competition

By Colin McEvoy on February 7, 2020
 ALLENTOWN- More than 300 students participated in the District 11 SkillsUSA Championships at the Agricultural Hall in Allentown on Jan. 29.
 Career and technical schools in Lehigh Valley and the surrounding areas participated in the recent District 11 SkillsUSA Championships, demonstrating their abilities in 32 skilled trade competitions.
 The SkillsUSA Council is committed to creating a world-class workforce through professional development of local career and technical education students and partnerships with the local business community, to support local

Continued on page 5



Rich and Dohl DiFebo

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Publishers Note

By Michael Ortoski

An article in the Feb. 11 issue of the Blue Valley Times about the rock fence proposed for the Route 80 S-Curve area was incorrectly attributed. The story was a combination of both an editorial and a story by The New Jersey Herald of Newton, NJ. The full story can be read at <https://bit.ly/2HK9lic> and the editorial can be read at <https://bit.ly/2Hi0opR>.

This is a very important issue concerning our communities in the Slate Belt, Stroudsburg and Northern NJ. Blue Valley Times will be joining forces with media outlets in these areas to keep you informed of the progress of the 'Rock Wall' in NJ and the I-80 expansion in Stroudsburg and how it will directly affect you.

Kutztown Folk Festival 10 Best Readers' Choice Travel Awards

By Moreen Cycphers

KUTZTOWN - Kutztown Folk Festival has been named a finalist in USA TODAY's 2020 10Best Readers' Choice travel awards in the Best Cultural Festival category. The folklife festival was selected by an expert panel and is featured among the likes of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Fiesta San Antonio and Aloha Festivals in Hawaii.

The 20 nominees for Best Cultural Festival are each travel-worthy, offering visitors the chance to broaden their horizons, try new things, and connect with others from around the world.

USA TODAY's 10Best.com provides users with original, unbiased and experiential travel coverage of top attractions, things to see and do, and restaurants for top destinations in the U.S. and around the world.

Vote for the Kutztown Folk Festival once a day until voting ends on Monday, March 2nd at noon ET. The 10 winning festivals will be announced by 10Best on Friday, March 13th.

The 71st Annual Kutztown Folk Festival runs June 27th thru July 5th 2020.

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Conservation Award

Continued from page 1

an outdoor classroom and public use trail with educational displays about the conservation practices.

The Leopold Conservation Award Program is a competitive award that recognizes landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. Sand County Foundation presents the award. The Sand County Foundation inspires and enable a growing number of private landowners to ethically manage natural resource in their care so future generation have clean and abundant water, healthy soil to support agriculture and forestry, plentiful habitat for wildlife and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The event is free and open to the public. The Heritage Center is located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA. For additional information please contact: Karen Brewer @ 484-894-5661

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