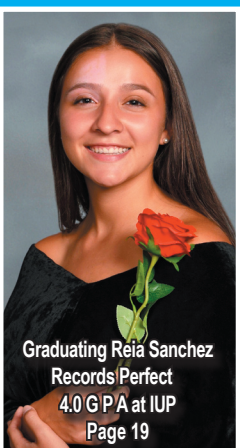




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Graduating Reia Sanchez
Records Perfect
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Celebrating 20 Years of Capitol Ace Hardware With Slate Belt Chamber

By Rep Ann Flood

BANGOR - I was pleased to join community members at Capitol Plaza for the 20th anniversary celebration of Capitol Ace Hardware, a family-owned business established by Erik Borgh. It was an honor to present a citation recognizing this milestone and to take part in celebrating 20 years of service, growth and commitment to the community.

In a fitting touch for a hardware store, the celebration included a memorable moment as participants used a saw to cut through a piece of wood signed by those in attendance, marking the occasion in a way that reflected the business and its roots.

Erik Borgh, named the 2024 Business Owner of the Year by the Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce, has built Capitol Ace Hardware into a business known for strong community involvement, supporting organizations such as Habitat for Humanity ReStore, the Girl Scouts of the USA, local fire companies, and AWARENESS 365, while also fostering a workplace culture where employees are valued and supported, including several long-term team members who have been with the business since its earliest years.

Congratulations to Erik Borgh and the entire Capitol Ace Hardware team on 20 years of success and continued service to the community!



Barn Brew Coffee Celebrates Grand Opening

By Rep. Ann Flood

UPPER MT. BETHEL - Congratulations to Barn Brew Coffee & Espresso Bar on its grand opening at All Aspects at the Barn in Mount Bethel.

Owned by Becky Higgins, Barn Brew is a welcome addition to the Slate Belt community, offering handcrafted specialty coffee and espresso drinks, along with locally made baked goods in a warm and inviting atmosphere. It provides a space for visitors to relax and enjoy a drink while shopping, attending workshops, bringing children to the petting farm or hosting events in the pavilion.

My legislative aide, Alex Webber, attended the event on my behalf and presented a Certificate of Recognition in honor of the grand opening. The certificate recognizes Barn Brew's investment in the community and its commitment to providing high-quality offerings and a welcoming gathering place for residents and visitors throughout the Slate Belt and the Lehigh Valley. I extend my best wishes for continued success in the years ahead!

The Slate Belt Heritage Center Annual Preservation Awards Winners For 2026



Special Focus Award goes to Mr. Scott Dietz



The Initiative Award goes to Randy and Lisa Sandt and Brian Jones and Frank Foreman owners of Owens Monumental Co. Pictured is Nick Rosato, SBHC board member talking with Brian Jones and Frank Foreman



By Karen Brewer

BANBOR - The Initiative Award goes to an individual who has shown exemplary actions in promoting and preserving the heritage of the Slate Belt through In-Kind Actions. The award is to acknowledge individuals who have performed acts that promote and preserve the culture and heritage of the Slate Belt. This year's recipients are actually being grouped together due to Bangor's 150th celebration and the Time Capsule work they did together, Mr. & Mrs. Randy and Lisa Sandt and Owens Monumental Company were instrumental in ensuring Bangor's collected history from residents

Continued on page 3

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