

Blue Valley Times

VOL. 29 NO. 48

SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.
DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND FACEBOOK

NOVEMBER 30, 2021



Monroe County Woman Spared Amputation Thanks to St. Luke's Surgeon's 3D-Printed Bone

By Sam Kennedy

MONROE COUNTY - Rebecca Chopek faced the prospect of losing her lower leg to amputation after a car accident during which a bone somehow popped out of a gaping wound in her foot. The talus bone connecting the bottom of her tibia and fibula was never found – a bizarre medical mystery that presented doctors with peculiar medical challenge: What to do about the injured foot with the missing bone?

Chopek, 43, of Kresgeville, Monroe County, was flown from the accident scene to an area hospital where the doctor there recommended amputating her leg below the knee.

That's when she requested a second opinion – from St. Luke's University Health Network. The doctor she spoke to, St. Luke's orthopedic foot and ankle surgeon James Lachman, MD, told her that her foot could be saved by implanting an artificial talus bone created through innovative 3D printing technology.

"I'm glad I sought a second opinion and thankful I was sent to Dr. Lachman at St. Luke's for this amazing surgery," said Chopek, a former EMT now studying to be a veterinarian technician.

With precision and expertise, Dr. Lachman rebuilt her ankle, inserting a metal, 3D-printed talus into the space of the missing bone. The piece, printed from a reverse-image CT scan of Chopek's good left ankle, is held in place by her tibia, fibula and heel bone.

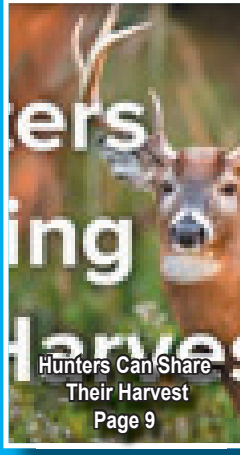
With the three bones that make up the ankle joint intact, Chopek is back on her feet. She returned to her active life just months after her 2020 accident in Salorsburg, Monroe County.

"This is a horrific injury from which the foot sometimes never fully recovers," said Dr. Lachman, who learned about and authored medical reports about 3D printing during a specialized fellowship training at Duke University. Only a few advanced hospitals nationwide offer the

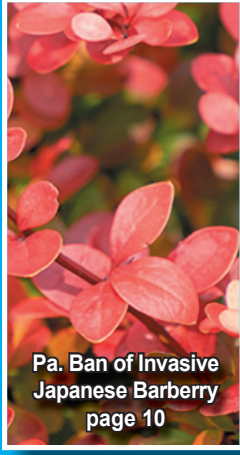
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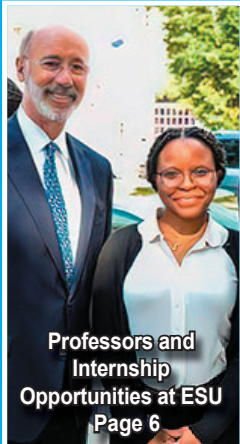
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ESU Panhellenic Council Raises Funds for "Project Turkey"

By ESU

EAST STROUDSBURG - The East Stroudsburg University Panhellenic Council held its annual Project Turkey fundraiser. The event raises money to assist families who are experiencing food insecurity during the holiday season. With the help of the Salvation Army and ESU Greek life, at total of \$2,476.62 was raised. ESU students raised \$771.62 of that money by collecting donation during home football games this year.

Approximately 40 volunteers from ESU Greek Life helped in preparing grocery bags and distributing grocery donations. Distribution Day was Monday, November 22 in a drive-through fashion at The Salvation Army's office in East Stroudsburg.



Pictured left to right: Hayley Soley (Alpha Sigma Tau), Miranda Blough (Alpha Sigma Tau), Kaylin Cuba (Alpha Sigma Tau), Maddie Comp (Alpha Omicron Pi), Peyton Falkenstein (Alpha Sigma Taulpha), Brian Kagel (Kappa Delta Rho), Joe Pokrywka (Kappa Delta Rho), and Garrett Bahr (Kappa Delta Rho).

John T. Schimmel
Public Accountant
1400 NORTHAMPTON STREET
EASTON, PA 18042-4024
(610) 253-4000 Tool FREE (800) 370-8294
Email: john_schimmel@yahoo.com
Website: www.johntschimmelpa.com

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