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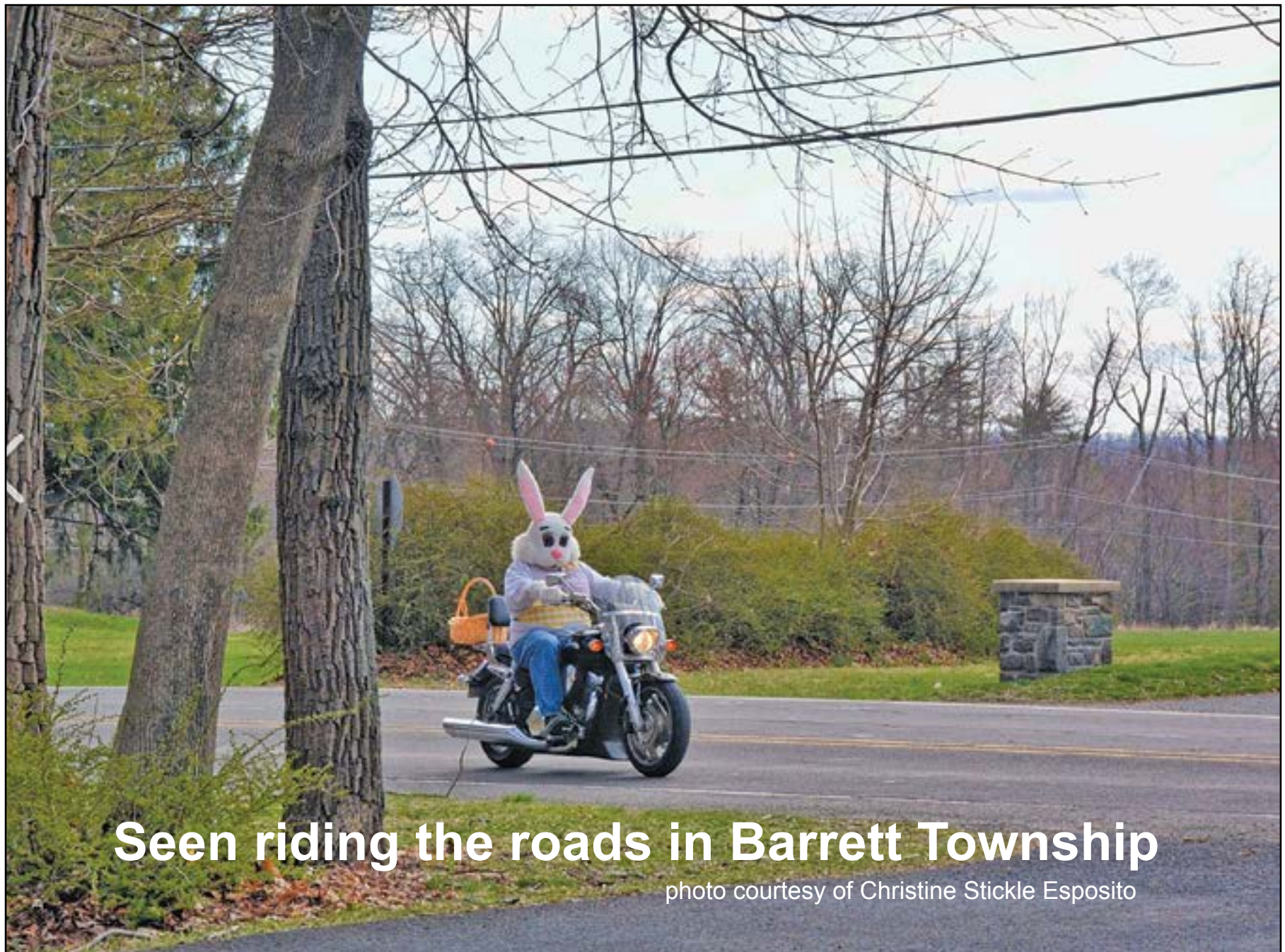
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Newspaper

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Vol 20 No. 11

April 2020



**Seen riding the roads in Barrett Township**

photo courtesy of Christine Stickle Esposito

**During this Corona Virus Pandemic**  
**YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS ARE OPEN FOR TAKE-OUT/CURB SERVICE**  
See Page 15



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## Billy Mays, we need to talk!

by Phil Dente

I am very sorry that TV Pitchman Billy Mays passed away.

I believed in him and the products that he hawked. Actually, I am truly sorry he passed away because I needed to speak with him concerning one of his products.

You see, I am a stain magnet. If anything that I am near will stain clothes, you can be guaranteed that it will end up on my shirt or pants.

Don't mean it! It just happens! Well, here is Billy pitching this product that removes any stain known to man, and here I am looking down at a fresh black coffee stain that is still spreading over my shirt.

*Hah! No problem.*

I go to the store and pick up this amazing product of his and spray it on my shirt.

That very day, the TV newscaster announces that Billy has passed away.

I am truly sad, and shocked because of his young age.

*But, back to the stain.*

I know from a past experience,

demands.

So, I reluctantly feel it.

*Huh, how about that...it was dry.*

Thusly, I put it in the wash. *Did I mention that it was my favorite shirt. It made me very comfortable when I wore it, and when I walked in front of a mirror, this great shirt took off ten pounds...and it was also my lucky shirt because when I wore it golfing, it took five strokes off my score. As I said...my very favorite.*

Several days later, I ask Patti if she ever washed my shirt, because I wanted to wear it that day. She informed me that she had and it was probably still in the dryer.

I took the shirt out of the dryer and was getting ready to iron it, but when I placed it on the ironing board something was "AKILTER." (I don't know if that's a word, but it fit this situation perfectly.)

As my shirt lay there on the board I could see the ironing board right through it.

Folks, there was a gaping hole right through the shirt, front and back.

Patti came running into the room when she heard the



namely being the object of my wife's anger because I put a wet shirt in the clothes-hamper, that this is something you never do if you want to live.

So I waited for the stain remover to dry before putting it away with the rest of the wash.

Folks, this is why I needed to talk to Billy. The product just wouldn't dry. It always looked wet.

Several days later, Patti asks me why my shirt is still hanging on the bar in the bathroom and I explain that I am waiting for it to dry. She feels the spot and says, "Phil, it is dry."

"No it's not," I exclaim, you can see that it's still wet."

"Did you feel it?" she asks.

"Uh, no, I don't have to feel it, I can see it's still wet," I counter.

"Did you feel it?" she repeats.

"Look at it, it's wet!" I argue.

*"Did you feel it?" she*

shriek.

"What happened?" she asked, concerned.

"My shirt, look at it!!"

"Wow," she inquired, "what did you do, leave the iron on it too long?"

"No," I demanded,

"What did **you** do to it?"

"Me, I didn't do anything to it," she answered.

"Well, how did this gaping hole get there?" I continued.

"Why would you think that I did someth...uh, Phil, I just had a thought. Did you read the directions when you sprayed that spot remover on your shirt?" she asked.

(Man, I hate that, anytime something goes wrong, the first words out of her mouth are about me not reading directions)

"Of course not," I say, "you should know better than to

ask. Why would I need to read directions. It's a simple thing, you spray the spot remover on the fabric, and the spot disappears."

By this time she had gotten the spray bottle from the cabinet and proceeded to read the directions. *"Spray the stained area and let stand ten minutes, then place in the washer. DO NOT LET STAND FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME."* She read. "Oh, uh, hee hee, shoulda read the directions." I sheepishly murmured.

Now, Billy is a guy like I am, and I feel that it is an unwritten code that guys stick together and don't make life any more

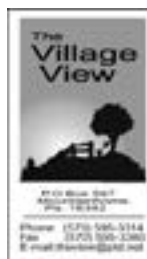
Download ebooks, audiobooks, movies and music with your HOOPLA account, free from the library!

Go to [www.barrettlibrary.org](http://www.barrettlibrary.org) Halfway down the homepage click on Adult Resources for how to sign up. Stay safe! Stay home!

difficult than it has to be for each other.

Billy, you should have never hawked this product. You know that guys don't read directions. What were you thinking?

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## The Village View

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The Village View

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### Columnists

Judy Linder  
Charlie Fullington  
John Cafarella  
Mary Ann Lewis  
Nicole Abrams

This economic shut down has been devastating. Like many of our family, friends and neighbors the fear of the unknown has been stressful. Find comfort knowing that we as a community are in this trying time together and it too will pass. Better days are ahead. The best of humanity shines during the worst of times as history has shown. Now is our time to remain steadfast in our convictions remembering to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Remember: Kindness does NOT cost a thing. Stay safe and be well,

*Melanie and Lloyd Lutz*  
One Stop Travel  
570-620-1200

BROADWAY's April 12th reopening date has now extended closure till June 7th. PLAZA SUITE May 6th Broadway Bus Trip will be rescheduled and full credit will be applied.



*Stonewall Garden Center & Country Gift Shop*

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**Mother's Day - May 10th**

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Indoor foot traffic limited. Distancing measure in effect



## May 2 webinar: Learn how to garden for clean water

April showers bring May flowers, and on May 2, Brodhead Watershed Association will host a webinar on how to keep your water clean and the garden growing all summer long. The online class, called Gardening for Clean Water, will begin at 9 a.m. with local Master Gardener Amy Romanelli-Girardi. "What we put in our garden affects more than just our garden," Romanelli-Girardi said. Learn how your choice of plants can directly and indirectly contribute to water quality, how home landscapes impact the entire area drained by Brodhead Creek, and which native plants work for yourself, wildlife, and everyone's drinking water. Amy Romanelli-Girardi, a resident of Barrett Township for 20 years, has worked for a local garden center/nursery, tending to the stock of trees, shrubs, and perennials. She particularly enjoyed helping customers make selections that matched their preferences with their site conditions.

The webinar is free, but registration is required by noon on Friday, May 1. To register, email [info@brodheadwatershed.org](mailto:info@brodheadwatershed.org) or phone 570-839-1120. Instructions for signing in for the webinar will be sent to registrants. Note that dates and times are subject to change. People who register will be notified of any changes, and changes will be posted on the BWA website at [brodheadwatershed.org/greening-mountainhome](http://brodheadwatershed.org/greening-mountainhome). Gardening for Clean Water is one in a series of Go Green at Home workshops and part of BWA's Greening Mountainhome project. Future workshops will include: July 25, rain barrels and how to install them; Sept. 12, rain gardens tour. In another facet of the Greening Mountainhome program, rain barrels will be installed at locations throughout the area. With the help of volunteer artists, Todd Schwartz and Boy Scout Troop 89, painted rain barrels will beautify their locations as well as catch roof runoff to be used in a rain garden. Rain barrels will be installed in early summer

at locations chosen by these Greening Mountainhome sponsors: Fisher & Fisher Law Offices; Joseph Dilger, DDS; ESSA Bank & Trust; NBT Bank; Blake Martin Financial; Donaghy Insurance; Steele's Hardware; Capri Pizza; Mick Motors; Woodfield Manor; Frogtown Chophouse; Buck Hill Falls Company; PourHouse; Basso; Rotary of the Pocono Mountains; Barrett Township Historical Society; Hilfiger Restoration; Callie's Candy Kitchen; Daily Bread; Barn Door Antiques; Mickey Miller; Peter Maier; and Natalie Berdoe.

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&  
HOT FOOD  
BAR**



## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



### Barrett Township Community Shed

Many in our community are living without basic things most of us take for granted every day. This program was developed to help those in need in our community.

If you are moving, downsizing, settling an estate or buying new furniture and need to get rid of your old items, please contact us to donate. If you are in need of any items, please contact us for pick-up.

Some of the items we accept:

- Furniture: Dressers, Nightstands, Tables and Chairs, etc
- Small Appliances: Toasters, Irons, Coffee Pots, Lamps
- Linens: Sheets, Blankets, Pillows and Towels
- Pots and Pans, Kitchen Utensils, Dishes etc.

Please ensure all donations are in good condition and working order. We will not accept torn or damaged furniture. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any item.

Donations & Pick-Ups: The Community Shed is located at the Municipal Building (993 Route 390, Cresco) and is available for Donations or Pick-ups between 8am to 4pm Monday-Friday, call Pam Gandy - 570-595-2602 ext 3 for an appointment. Gently-used items will be inspected and placed into inventory. The inventory list will be posted on Barrett Township's website: [www.BarrettTownship.com](http://www.BarrettTownship.com). We ask that items be in good condition; we have the right to refuse any item.

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from Callie's Candy kitchen



Out of concern for our clients and community during the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be working remotely but still open for business, if you have any questions please call or email [mdonaghy@donaghyinsurance.com](mailto:mdonaghy@donaghyinsurance.com)

570-906-4250.

As always, thank you for your business.

[www.donaghyins.com](http://www.donaghyins.com)  
[mike@donaghyinsurance.com](mailto:mike@donaghyinsurance.com)

**570-595-7451**



## Library Letters

By Mary Ann Lewis

Hello,  
everyone.  
The past  
several

weeks have really proved the point that the library is more than just a building with books in it. Libraries expand far beyond the reaches of their walls. Libraries are community. Libraries adapt and change as needed. Libraries are energized by staff, volunteers, and community members, all invested in the services we provide. It's been very strange walking into an empty library knowing that no one will be coming in to borrow books, or participate in programs, or use the computers for now. I miss the high level of activity and most of all, the people! While this all feels surreal, there is still a good side. The building with books may be quiet, but thanks to technology, the library still thrives! We offer e-books, magazines, movies, and music for free through our website. Staff are providing virtual programs for children and families on Facebook. Staff are using some of this time to learn more about the online resources that are available to assist our patrons. We've even had a virtual staff meeting to stay connected and share information with each other. In addition to the resources featured below, we have poetry posts on Facebook each day in April in honor of National Poetry Month ([www.facebook.com/BPFLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/BPFLibrary)). Visit our website and browse the online resource lists compiled by library staff for adults and children ([www.barrettlibrary.org](http://www.barrettlibrary.org)). Virtually, we are available.

com/BPFLibrary). Visit our website and browse the online resource lists compiled by library staff for adults and children ([www.barrettlibrary.org](http://www.barrettlibrary.org)). Virtually, we are available.

I realize that not everyone has access to this technology at home, one of the many reasons public libraries are such an integral part of communities. It's heart wrenching to know that we can't provide service to everyone right now and truly look forward to when we can welcome you back into the library. In the meantime, it's important for all of us to find healthy ways to spend our time. Read, exercise, do puzzles, cook, clean, do yardwork, stay in contact with family and friends, the list goes on. Take some time to write down your thoughts and stories whether just for yourself or to share with others. Sounds like the making of a future library program!

As of now (early April), the library will be closed at least through April 30. Please hold on to any materials you currently have out instead of returning them to the drop box. There is no need to call to renew materials; we'll take care of everything once we re-open. No fines will be accrued during this time. We cannot accept used book donations until further notice. Visit our website for updates and announcements: [www.barrettlibrary.org](http://www.barrettlibrary.org).

[barrettlibrary.org](http://barrettlibrary.org).

Virtual Programs for Children and Families Please visit our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/BPFLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/BPFLibrary)) to see what's happening! Storytimes, crafts, games, and even an escape room are on the agenda with more to come!

### Zumba Online!

Get ready to shimmy, shake, and dance the pounds away with Sandra Rivera! Zumba is an aerobic dance class that includes fast and slow rhythms and interval training. Sandra is offering free online Zumba classes! For more information, go to her Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/sbusymother](http://www.facebook.com/sbusymother)) or message us on FB ([www.facebook.com/BPFLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/BPFLibrary)) for her email address. Sandra will then send you a link to her classes. Stay healthy and keep moving!

Below are a few of the online resources available through the library. For more, please go to the library's web page and explore the "Reference" and "E-books" sections at the top of the page.

### Hoopla Bonus Borrows!

Hoopla is a digital media service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately, or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later. There are hundreds of thousands of titles to choose from. Hoopla is now offering more than 1000 bonus titles through April 30 that won't count toward your

monthly borrows! If you haven't made an account with Hoopla yet, here's how (you will need your library card number to create an account):

Go to [www.hoopladigital.com](http://www.hoopladigital.com).

Click on "Get Started Today," located at the upper middle of the page to set up your account.

Follow the prompts to register.

After registering, download app onto your smart device and log in with new account information (You can also set up an account through the app).

### OverDrive eBooks:

Download and enjoy e-books on your computer or portable device. The collection includes fiction and nonfiction e-books for all ages. On the library's homepage ([www.barrettlibrary.org](http://www.barrettlibrary.org)), scroll down and click on the OverDrive graphic; this will take you to the Easton Library District Overdrive page. Search for titles or browse the collections. Click "Borrow" on a title, then select Barrett Paradise Friendly Library from the drop-down menu. Then enter your library card number (P\_ \_ \_ \_) and your PIN (same PIN you use for our online catalog). Next, select Download (choose format) or Read (in your browser) and follow the prompts.

### Digital Magazines

RB Digital, the world's largest newsstand, offers full color, interactive digital magazines for your enjoyment. Browse the collection of popular titles with no holds, no checkout periods, and no limit to the

number of magazines you can download. Go to the library's homepage ([www.barrettlibrary.org](http://www.barrettlibrary.org)), scroll down and click on the RB Digital graphic. First-time users need to set up an account by clicking the "Create New Account" link in the upper right-hand corner. For "Library Card Number," enter 071710000\_ \_ \_ \_, filling in the blanks with the five digits of your library card number (if your card has fewer than five digits, place extra zeroes before card number).

### Free Library of Philadelphia

Any resident of Pennsylvania can get a library card from the Free Library of Philadelphia! With your new library card number, you can access their many digital media platforms. To get your library card, go to <https://catalog.freelibrary.org/MyResearch/register>. Click "Online" under "How to get a card?" and follow the instructions. Then browse all the digital media databases Free Library of Philadelphia has to offer! There are tens of thousands ebooks, audiobooks, and more!

I've been reading Louise Penny's Chief Inspector Gamache mysteries. The first two, *Still Life* and *A Fatal Grace*, have casts of quirky characters and are light escape reading. Next on my list is the third in the series, *The Cruellest Month*.

I'm looking forward to when we can re-open the library! Until then, please stay at home, stay safe, and stay healthy!

Mary Ann



The Village Scene

April Birthdays

Chip Locher  
Max Riccio  
Ann Marie Mancini  
Nathan Robert Barrett  
Debby Batzel  
Allen Corle  
Jen Corle  
Steve Sheloski  
Stan Sheloski  
Adam Sheloski  
Tony Sheloski  
John Andrew  
Jenna Stark Fowlkes  
Austin Sopko  
Dylan Transue  
Owen Williams  
Ethan Drew Williams  
Ryan Pulse  
Rick Hill  
Aaron DePue  
Carol Hayes  
Evelyn Defaveri  
Connie Reed  
Heather Siglin  
Kimberly Stephens

April Anniversaries  
George and Barbara Jenkins  
Joel and Debbie Rossi

Obituaries

**Patricia A. Briscoe**, 78, of Cresco, died Thursday, March 19, 2020; **Micheal Warenczuk**, 27, of Tannersville, died Saturday evening, March 21, 2020; **Isabelle A ('Dink') Bullock**, of Mountainhome, passed away Monday, March 23, 2020; **Audrey C. Transue**, 91, of Cresco, passed away Saturday, March 7, 2020; **Richard D. Janos**, age 63 of Mt. Pocono passed away April 3, 2020; **Kenneth P. Lasher**, 76, of Tannersville, passed away Saturday, April 4, 2020; **Mary E. Monzo**, 84, of Henryville, died Wednesday, April 1, 2020; **Patricia A. Murray**, 75, of Mountainhome, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 28, 2020 and **Claire R. Rudolph**, 88, of Tannersville, died Saturday evening, March 28, 2020

Turn your backyard into a safe space for healthy play

(BPT) - As Americans across the country retreat to their homes to help slow the spread of COVID-19, many are rediscovering the value of their yards as places to take in fresh air, engage their children in outdoor games and enjoy physical activity in a safe environment.

3 tips for safe, healthy outdoor fun for the family

Kids who can no longer participate in organized sports activities or meet their friends at the park need creative ways to burn off energy at home. Unplugging and stepping outside can be good for the whole family's physical and mental health. Consider these three tips as you explore ways to take advantage of the green space around your home.

**Educate:** The backyard offers a great setting to learn about plant biology and the creepy crawlers that call our lawns home. Take a magnifying glass to your lawn and explore the habitat nestled between the blades.

**Exercise:** Lace up your sneakers and take to the yard for a 30-minute workout or arrange an obstacle course on the lawn for the kids. Encourage children to compete for the fastest time or create a course of their own.

**Rejuvenate:** As the days get warmer, enjoy a little self-care by soaking in the sun on the lawn. Consider laying out a blanket and reading. Whether it becomes family story time or some quiet time to yourself, spend some time enjoying your own personal piece of the great outdoors.

Take this time to give your lawn some TLC  
Now is a great time for some DIY spring maintenance to get your lawn ready for summer and the likely heavier-than-usual use it will see as you spend more time at home. To create a lush, healthy, low-maintenance lawn that is summer-ready, follow these spring lawn care tips from the experts at Grass Seed USA, a coalition of American grass seed farmers and turf specialists.

Interseed for a thicker lawn. Lawns that are sparse or have worn patches coming out of winter can be interseeded when the soil warms up in the spring. In addition to enhancing the overall

If you have a non emergency  
and need assistance  
use this number instead of 911,

570-992-9911.

This number goes directly to Control Center



appearance of the lawn, interseeding will help keep turf dense, which is a natural defense to keeping pesky weeds out.

Simply rake away lawn debris or accumulated thatch, broadcast seed widely or target bare spots on

your lawn and irrigate regularly until the seed germinates. Be sure to use a high-quality seed that is a good match for your geographic region and your lawn's soil type, sun exposure and irrigation patterns. Seed can be ordered online and shipped directly to your home from most home improvement retailers.

Water deeply and infrequently. Rather than irrigating lightly every day, begin to water more deeply, only once or twice a week, which will encourage strong root growth and make for a hardier lawn in the summer. Most turf grasses will stay vigorous if they receive about 1 inch of water per week, including rainfall (and drought-tolerant species such as tall fescue do well on even less).

Mow early and leave the grass taller. Start mowing your lawn before it gets too tall. Scalping an overgrown lawn will stress the plants and potentially cause problems all season long, so make sure you never cut off more than one-third of the grass blade height at a time. A good rule of thumb for most species is to mow when the grass reaches a height of about 3 inches. That means you can cut it to 2 inches - or you can even leave it a little taller to protect the growing point at the base of the blade and improve your lawn's wear tolerance.

Feed your lawn. Grasscycling - leaving the clippings on the lawn after you mow and allowing them to decompose - can save you time and provide up to 25% of your lawn's fertilizer needs. To meet the rest of your turf's nutrient requirements, you'll likely need to fertilize in the spring and fall. The spring application should be relatively light and should feature slow-release nitrogen fertilizer to avoid causing rapid but weak growth, which can make the lawn less durable.

If you're among the many Americans seeking activities for energetic kids, suddenly finding time for long-delayed home improvement projects, or just needing a breath of fresh air, step out the backdoor and take advantage of your home's lawn. By engaging in a few DIY spring lawn projects now, your lawn will be ready no matter what summer brings!

Scavello: Senate Approves Assistance for Schools, Other COVID-19 Measures

Harrisburg -- Senator Mario Scavello (R-40) said the State Senate convened remotely today to pass several bills to keep Pennsylvania moving forward during the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency, including a bill to provide school mandate relief and assist schools, students and teachers.

The coronavirus response measures included:  
Senate Bill 751, which updates Pennsylvania’s School Code to waive a number of mandates on schools that cannot be fulfilled under the current circumstances.  
Senate Bill 422, which postpones Pennsylvania’s primary election from April 28 to June 2.  
House Bill 68, which provides for emergency changes to the state’s Unemployment Compensation law in response to COVID-19.  
House Bill 1232, which provides additional funding to healthcare facilities to purchase medical supplies and equipment and extends the deadline for certain state and local income tax payments and filings.

Senate Bill 751 would waive the requirement that all public schools must be open at least 180 days per school year. The bill gives the Secretary of Education the authority to waive similar restrictions for career and technical schools and pre-kindergarten instruction.

The bill would also give the Secretary of Education authorization to increase the number of flexible instruction days that may be used by a school district and waive other requirements for educator preparation programs and assessment exams for career and technical students. It also guarantees that teachers will receive the same compensation they would have received if the pandemic had not occurred.

“As you know, this is a very challenging time as we work to address COVID-19 related issues. Please be assured that I have always and continue to support our education system, teachers, staff, students and parents,” Scavello said. “As a co-sponsor of the original legislation meant to provide clarity and much needed support to all during this uncertain time, I’ve requested swift passage of this important policy measure.”

The Senate also approved the following measures remotely. All are expected to be passed by the House and sent to the governor.

Senate Bill 422 would push back the primary election date to help the state limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The bill would also give county election officials authority to close, relocate or consolidate polling places due to the potential shortage of available volunteers and venues. Volunteers could also be drawn from anywhere in the county; previous law mandated that volunteers had to be from the same election district.

In addition, the bill would allow county election officials to begin processing absentee ballots earlier to ensure election results can be reported earlier, so long as the results are not published or officially recorded. Counties could also continue to use previously printed ballots with the April 28 Primary date.

House Bill 68 would ease eligibility requirements and access to unemployment compensation for workers who have been directly impacted by the coronavirus, including waiving the one-week waiting period for all claimants during the governor’s disaster declaration. Job search and registration requirements for claimants would also be waived under the bill.

The bill also provides automatic relief from benefit charges for any employer whose account would otherwise be charged for weeks of unemployment occurring during the duration of a disaster emergency.

House Bill 1232 would provide up to \$50 million of additional funding to healthcare facilities for the sole purpose of buying medical equipment and supplies to address the increased demands that COVID-19 could place on the entire healthcare system. The new money will help ensure healthcare facilities can better meet the needs of patients and staff.

Additionally, House Bill 1232 extends the deadline for individuals who are required to declare and pay estimated Personal Income Tax as well as delays the filing of informational returns for Pennsylvania S corporations and partnerships, estates and trusts. The legislation also authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to coordinate with local political subdivisions to extend filing and payment deadlines for the local Earned Income Tax. These deadlines have been extended to July 15, 2020.

In addition, the bill would extend temporary regulations related to Pennsylvania’s medical cannabis industry until November 2021.

Gavel-to-gavel video of session and all committee meetings today are available at [www.PAsenateGOP.com](http://www.PAsenateGOP.com).

Barrett Township Monthly Clean-Up 2020

Saturdays 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

May 2nd  
clean up  
cancelled

June 6, July 11,  
August 1, September 12, October 3

Clean-up items will only be accepted on dates posted  
NO EXCEPTIONS

RATES

Automobile Load .....	\$10.00
SUV or Mini-Van.....	\$30.00
Full Size Pick-up Load.....	\$40.00
Trailer (8ft or smaller).....	\$40.00
Trailer (longer than 8 ft).....	\$60.00
One-Ton Load .....	\$50.00
Utility Van .....	\$60.00
Single Axle Dump.....	\$75.00
Box Vans U-Hauls 6-8 ft.....	\$50.00
Box Vans U-Hauls 8-10 ft .....	\$80.00
Anything enclosed over 10 ft .....	\$150.00
Tires (car & small truck).....	\$10.00
Tires (20” and larger) .....	\$15.00
Rims.....	\$5.00
Fridge, freezer, AC .....	\$55.00
No charge for TV’s, CRN’s, Monitors, etc.	

Clean-Up takes place at the Barrett Township Maintenance Facility, 194 Sandspring Rd, Cresco, PA. Clean-up is for Barrett Township residents only. Must show valid ID when checking in.

Items NOT Accepted:  
Household Trash, Oils/Chemicals etc., Paint Cans

Note: All Loose Screws/Nails must be in a container.

PLEASE NOTE: We can no longer accept cash payments over \$50. Make checks payable to: Barrett Township

## Scavello: Senate Approves COVID-19 Emergency Measures for Notaries, Local Governments

Harrisburg – Senator Mario Scavello (R-40) said that the Senate approved emergency measures today to help notaries public and local governments respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Senate Bill 841 would: Give notaries emergency authorization to notarize documents remotely through the use of communications technology. Allow local governments to provide greater flexibility on property tax deadlines.

Permit local governments to conduct remote meetings.

The bill extends the ability of notaries to conduct business remotely

in order to meet the needs of local governments and individuals. A notary public would still be required to confirm an individual's identity and reasonably identify records, and an audio/visual recording of the notarial act and all related interactions would be required.

"In addition to notary services needed in normal times, a public health emergency prompts many citizens to begin estate planning, which currently requires meeting with a notary, a practice that can conflict with social distancing guidelines," said Scavello. "Our offices have received many calls about this issue, and this emergency authorization will allow notaries to safely perform their vital work."

Also under Senate Bill 841, local governments would be authorized to extend deadlines for property tax discount rates to any date up until August 31. The legislation would also allow local governments to waive

any fee or penalty for late payments of property taxes if paid in full by the end of the year. The provisions give local taxing bodies more flexibility to help local taxpayers who are struggling financially due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Senate Bill 841 also extends the ability of notaries to conduct business remotely in order to meet the needs of local governments and individuals. A notary public would still be required to confirm an individual's identity and reasonably identify records, and an audio/visual recording of the notarial act and all related interactions would be required.

The legislation would allow members of local governments to participate in meetings and conduct other business remotely during the governor's disaster declaration. Additional requirements are included to ensure transparency of remote meetings, including provisions for public notice and posting minutes.

Additional time would also be allowed for businesses to contribute to educational scholarship programs in order to earn tax credits.

In addition to providing emergency provisions for local governments, the bill also reauthorizes the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, which is responsible for collecting and analyzing data about the cost and quality of health care in the state and making recommendations to reduce the cost of care.

The panel would be responsible for preparing a report on the effect of the COVID-19 disaster emergency on healthcare facilities, including expenses and lost revenue during the crisis to determine additional financial assistance.

Senate Bill 841 has been sent to the House of Representatives where it currently awaits further legislative action.

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## Brown Thanks Governor Wolf for Temporarily Halting Short-Term Rentals to protect Pocono Residents

EAST STROUDSBURG – After immense pressure from Rep. Rosemary Brown (R-Monroe/Pike) and other Pocono legislators, Gov. Tom Wolf’s team contacted Brown to inform her that his administration will now classify short-term rentals as “non-life sustaining” as opposed to “essential” on their guidance to business operations as the state combats COVID-19.

Brown provided the following statement in response to the governor’s decision:

“I thank the governor for this action and although I have been advocating for weeks on this, sending him information and speaking with his office, I am very pleased he understands how this measure can protect the residents of Pennsylvania, especially the northeast,” stated Brown. “I am extremely pleased our voices were heard and we can move forward on other ways we can help combat this pandemic in our area, that functions very differently than some other areas in Pennsylvania.”

“Short-term rentals were an immediate concern amid the announcement that COVID-19 made its way to PA. While metropolitan New York’s caseloads began to rise, our region’s proximity and popularity as a vacation destination were at extreme risk. When the Wolf administration announced the closure of all ‘non-life sustaining’ businesses, I contacted the governor’s office for clarification on short-term rentals and was advised that short-term rentals were essential because they are deemed as ‘shelter.’

“I have been in consistent, strong communication also with our local hospitals and it was very apparent early on that our medical infrastructure was concerned about controlling the massive influx of out-of-state residents into Pennsylvania. The problem of active short-term rentals became even more apparent as advertisements directed to metropolitan New York were sold as ‘coronavirus free,’ ‘escape the epicenter’ and ‘social distance in comfort.’ While maintaining pressure on the Wolf administration to examine its approach to the Pocono region, I also sought other local solutions to help until the governor acted. I contacted the Community Association Institute of Pennsylvania (CAI), an advocacy group for private communities, as well as our local private communities to assist. I requested they urge their members and boards to implement emergency bylaw changes as it relates to short-term rentals.

“I also wrote a letter to Gov. Tom Wolf, as well as New York’s Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New Jersey’s Gov. Phil Murphy, asking that they work in tandem to urge their residents to adhere to their respective state’s ‘shelter-in-place’ orders in order to lessen the spread of COVID-19 and ensure individuals were in their primary residences. These efforts built the attention of the Wolf administration and team but hopefully also helped curb some of the transactions within our power locally to protect our community.

“On March 30, I asked all state legislators from Monroe, Pike, Wayne and Carbon to jump in full force on a formal letter to Governor Wolf and his need and power to temporarily stop short-term rentals in Pennsylvania to help protect our community. I’m very thankful that Reps. Jack Rader (R-Monroe), Maureen Madden (D-Monroe), Mike Peifer (R-Pike/Wayne), Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna/Wayne), Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) have communicated their concerns and helped give the extra push to achieve this final measure. The letter asked for a direct response and the next day the governor made the final decision. We are all extremely pleased at the governor’s decision.

“It was only with this change we could make a difference and enforce non-compliance legally. While details of this process are still being ironed out, any short-term rental transactions moving forward are NOT allowed and I encourage resident who would like to report a situation to call their local legislator at this time.”



**Heather Schratt**  
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## Life, Or Something Like It

by Judy Linder

***There is a time to take counsel of your fears,  
and there is a time to never listen to any fear.***

George S. Patton

When my husband and I first became homeowners, I'd watch our bank account closely each month, knowing that the next mortgage payment was due soon. When it reached a point where there was enough to pay the mortgage, I felt like we were safe for a while.

As time went along, I'd watch our bank account closely each month, and if we hit a level where there was enough to pay the mortgage plus daycare, I felt like we were safe for a while.

Further down the road, I'd watch our bank account closely each month, and if we had enough to pay the mortgage plus daycare plus start a nest egg for the new car we really needed, I felt like we were safe for a while.

Later, I'd watch our bank account closely each month, and if we saved enough to pay the mortgage, plus daycare, start a nest egg for the new car we really needed, and also put something away for the kids' college fund, I felt like we were safe for a while.

But now if there came a month when we only had enough to pay the mortgage, I would have a panic attack. Only having enough for the mortgage no longer felt safe.

Here's the thing I finally came to realize: "Safe" is never a figure on a piece of paper. Safe is never a certain amount of money or a certain career move or a certain place to live or a certain lock for the front door. Safe is an illusion, a state of mind that we all struggle to hold on to, because without it, the world can feel too overwhelming to handle.

And that's where we find ourselves right now...we don't feel safe.

There is an invisible enemy out there, one that could kill us or take away our jobs, our freedom, and apparently, our toilet paper. We need to figure out how to get through this.

Sometimes when things are bad, it helps to look back in history to see how others handled hard times. I got to thinking about "The Greatest Generation," those people who lived through not only the Great Depression, but also fought or labored during World War II. My God, they were dealt a bad hand. If any group of humans ever had a right to feel unsafe, they were it.

But that generation somehow decided that feeling safe was a luxury they could no longer afford. Instead, they put their ears back and got on with life. I was lucky enough to grow up with stories about these strong people.

My great grandfather, for example, was a man of substantial means, involved in automobile dealerships in Philadelphia in the early decades of the 1900's. We have old photo albums filled with pictures he took as he traveled to virtually every corner of the world, crossing the seas on luxury ocean liners. He was that kind of wealthy. Then he lost everything when the stock market crashed. I'm sure he was scared to death, and I imagine that he spent a bit of time walking in circles, sickened by the magnitude of his misfortune. But then he got on with it. He moved out to the countryside with his son and family to a farmhouse with no running water or central heat, and he started raising chickens. From that point on, he went back to Philadelphia regularly – the city where he was once a successful, respected business owner - and sold eggs door-to-door to put food on the table. I never met the guy, but I sure am proud to have some of his blood running through my body.

My great grandfather was not unique, however. He was part of that Greatest Generation who were brave not because they weren't scared but despite being scared. I think we need to remember that those folks weren't somehow genetically engineered to deal well with hard times. They were people just like us - which is a hopeful thing, actually. It means that we, too, can be "great" in these hard times.

Yeah. I'm scared. Yeah, you're scared, too. But "scared" is a feeling, not a roadblock. Every once in a while, give yourself ten minutes to be scared witless, then put it aside and get on with it. Sanitize. Make a meal. Call someone up to see how they are doing. Start that novel you were always intending to write. Give the dog a bath. Clean out your closets or paint the living room.

Be scared, sure. But then do what has to be done anyway. Be the next Greatest Generation, or at least be a Pretty Damn Good Generation.

### What's Up at the Barrett Senior Center

The Barrett Senior Center meets every Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00AM-1:00PM at The Friendly Community Center. The Barrett Senior Center is free and is open to people 60 years and older. Enjoy conversation with others, play a game of cards, learn during monthly presentations, make a craft, exercise and every Friday play Bingo for prizes. Who wants to cook and clean up the dishes? Stay for lunch. Meals are available for a suggested \$1.50 donation.

### The Barrett Senior Center is currently closed until further notice.

Senior Center manager Tanya Lutin would like to send out a "Hello to all the seniors and hope to see everyone soon." If you need non-emergency assistance, please dial 211 on your phone and a resource person will get you in contact with someone to help you with your needs. 211 is an initiative within Pocono Mountains United Way that connects the Poconos population with community resources.

Or you can contact the Monroe County Area Agency on Aging at [www.monroecountypa.gov](http://www.monroecountypa.gov) – click on Area Agency on Aging or call 570-420-3735



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History’s Obscure Epidemics



John Cafarella

Single man w/TP seeks single woman w/hand sanitizer for good clean fun.....sign outside Texas restaurant.

We live in dangerous times. Everyone of us has been affected by the Coronavirus (formerly the Wuhan Virus). We know that diseases do not travel on their own. They need to become luggage to get from place to place. They have to be carried. The carriers can be human, or animal (including insects), even water. People have always traveled. So have diseases. The Black Plague traveled. Smallpox traveled, AIDs traveled, the Spanish Flu traveled and Cholera traveled. In this age of high, easy, and often necessary mobility, Coronavirus has travelled easily and with alarming rapidity. The fact that a small but significant number of the population are idiots has not helped.

Stuck at home, we can keep busy with: Coronavirus jokes, Coronavirus cartoons, Coronavirus captioned photos, trick golf/soccer/football/ basketball/hockey shots, clever lip synching, dancing, witty satirical songs, fishing in your fish tank, Neil Diamond singing Hands Washing Hands, ..... Laughter is a symbol of hope, and it becomes one of our greatest needs of life, right up there with toilet paper. It’s a physical need people have. You can’t underestimate how it heals people and gives them hope.....Erica Rhodes.

Lets take a look at some of history’s lesser known epidemics. You’ll note that for some reason, 1962 was a magical year.

Carancas-meteorite

Straight out of a Stephen King novel as around midnight on a September night in 2007, a meteorite crashed to Earth near the Peruvian border with Bolivia near the town of Carancas. There was a column of fire 3,300 ft high that followed the meteorite down. No one was injured. Once the dust had settled and the boiling

water seeping from the crater had dried up, everyone had to take a look and hundreds of locals wandered out to witness the smoldering remains of the meteorite. Not a good idea. Within days, as many as 200 of those locals were sick. The symptoms of headaches, nausea and vomiting, and diarrhea spread so fast that local doctors were forced to build makeshift tents around the town’s medical center to cope with the influx of suffering patients. Sound familiar? Working out of buildings whose windows had been shattered by the force of the falling meteorite, the doctors labored for days, trying to establish a cause or an origin for the mysterious plague. No clear answer has ever presented itself.

The June Bug Epidemic

The June bug epidemic refers to an incident in summer, of yes, 1962 when a worker in a North Carolina textile mill claimed to have been bitten by some sort of dangerous insect. Convinced that the latest batch of fabric that the mill had received from England was infested with alien beasties, the woman refused to go back to work. She complained of headaches, dizziness, and a painful rash. Several workers came down with an illness that made them dizzy and nauseous. There was also vomiting. Because there were some June bugs in the mill, they began to believe that the bugs had bitten them, causing the illness. While some of the workers may have been bitten, there is no illness connected with the bite of June bugs. By the time the event had reached its peak, 62 of the mill workers had come down with the mysterious illness. The mill was closed down for inspection, and officials from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta were dispatched to deal with the outbreak. But to their surprise, they could find zero evidence that such a creature even existed.. They decided to have the mill sprayed for insects anyway. The CDC reached the conclusion that it was mass hysteria.

The Tanganyika Laughter Epidemic

They say that laughter is contagious but.....1962, again. In the village of Kashasha in Tanzania (then known as Tanganyika), an epidemic of laughing attacks struck an all-girls’ boarding school. It started with just three people and seemed like an ordinary fit of giggling among teenagers. But by the end of the day, a staggering 95 of the school’s pupils were affected,

more than half the entire student body. The laughing started on January 30 and by March 30, the school had been shut down completely out of medical concern for its students. After the boarding school was closed, the girls affected were sent away to be housed in different villages. Bad idea. Recall how we know that diseases need luggage to travel. It multiplied. By May, 200 people in the nearby settlement of Nshamba were suffering from fits of hysterical laughter, and in June, another 50 in a middle school near Bukoba were giggling away. By the time the laughter died down—having infected some people for as long as 16 days—1,000 people or more had been affected, and a total of 14 schools had been closed down. To this day, no true explanation has been offered for this bizarre series of chuckling events.

The Kolbigk Dance Of Sin

Back we go to 1518 and the Dancing Plague of 1518. The events took place in Strasbourg, France. Sans music, a woman known as Frau Troffea began to dance fervently and without pause. She carried on for almost six days, unable to stop. But when she finally did, the dancing had spread. Within a week, nearly 40 people were uncontrollably dancing in the street. Please alert Martha and the Vandellas as there was Dancing in the Streets. By the end of the month, as many as 400 people were taking part in this boogying outbreak and dozens had died from exhaustion or exposure. This was not the first time this occurred as plagues of this nature have been recorded as far back as 1021. That’s when a group of 18 people in the German town of Kolbigk began to dance and chant uncontrollably outside of their church, preventing the local priest from performing his churchly duties. Furious, the priest reported the afflicted villagers, claiming that they performed “the dance of sin.” Though fewer people were affected by this outbreak, it lasted far longer—almost an entire year! The scariest thing is that we still don’t really know what caused these Disco dancing plagues.

Pokemon Shock

In 1997, nearly 700 Japanese children were rushed to hospitals after the broadcast of “Denno Senshi Porygon,” an episode of the Pokemon cartoon. “Pokemon Shock”was believed to have been caused by flashing lights and repetitive patterns that were shown

during the episode. Experts suspected that this caused epileptic fits in many of the suffering children. Though it seems ridiculous to claim that a television program could have made people sick, think again. Just watch some of the hysteria being broadcast by the contemporary media. Speaking of TV caused diseases, in 2006 the Portuguese soap opera Morangos com Acucar (“Strawberries with Sugar aired an episode in which a potentially deadly virus spread through the characters’ school. Before you could say Kardashian, viewers of the show began to exhibit symptoms matching those of the fictional virus in the show. Once again medical experts were baffled because it was almost as if the disease had spread from Morangos com Acucar into the real world. Clearly, they never saw The Ring. Television can be much more dangerous than we realize, especially these days.

The Picardy Sweat

The sweating sickness was a peculiar, yet deadly disease in Europe during the 15th and 16th centuries. A great many symptoms were attributed to this outbreak, which affected thousands of individuals. Unlike some of the epidemics mentioned in this list, the sweating sickness was really deadly. The mortality rate was almost 50 percent, usually within 24 hours. The strangest thing about this outbreak, however, was that it disappeared completely and then reappeared. After a series of prominent sicknesses in the late 1500s, the virus began to vanish rapidly. By 1578, it was completely gone. We don’t know why. Then, well over 100 years later, in the Picardy region of France, the sweating sickness, returned. It was immediately apparent that it was the same disease. After that, it disappeared from the world once again. We still don’t know the cause or where it went. Scary.

The Nodding Syndrome

Before you nod off, take note of the nodding disease. This epidemic was characterized by the seizures suffered by its victims. They are compelled to nod their heads convulsively, the spasms so severe that it prevents the infected person from eating or sleeping. We return to that magical year of 1962 where it was first identified. It is still present in South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda, where serious outbreaks have occurred as recently as 2012. Once victims

are infected, their development is permanently and completely arrested, both in body and mind. The disease primarily affects children between the ages of five and 15. This leads to life-altering handicaps for the sufferers. Scientists believe that a link between the syndrome and a species of parasitic worm that is common in the affected areas may provide a possible answer. For now, however, there is no real evidence—and no real cure.

Dromomania

They call me the wanderer..... Dion.....In 1886, a man named Jean-Albert Dadas was admitted to a hospital in Bordeaux, France. He was physically exhausted and with no memory of how he had gotten there. This was not unusual (take note, Tom Jones) as Dadas, often found himself waking up from a fugue, having walked hundreds of miles without realizing it. Once in 1881, he awoke to find that he had walked from France to Russia. Really. Dadas, suffered from dromomania—an inexplicable disease classified as “an uncontrollable desire to travel or wander.” Sometimes it is referred to as “pathological tourism”. Dromomania was a brief and inexplicable epidemic that struck France in the late 19th century. Then the disease vanished just as medical professionals were preparing to study it. Possibly travel restrictions? At a psychiatric conference in Nantes in 1909, various academics tried to rationalize the sickness, presenting six or seven different conditions that they believed were the cause of dromomania. Like the others on this list, it is a mystery which remains unresolved to this day.

We join millions in thanking our Healthcare Workers and all of the people who continue to work so that we can eat and be safe. When this tide of disease ebbs, and Social Distancing closes up, we urge you to personally thank each one you encounter.

Sources: Weird Epidemics That Remain a Mystery.....Listverse How Humor Can Combat Corona Virus .....Time This is Bizarre. Bizarre Events Outbreak. Worst Pandemics in History

Since there  
isn't much  
going on in  
our village  
we dug into  
our  
archives for  
some long  
ago photos  
from May  
2006



Egg Hunt held at Daniels  
Madensis



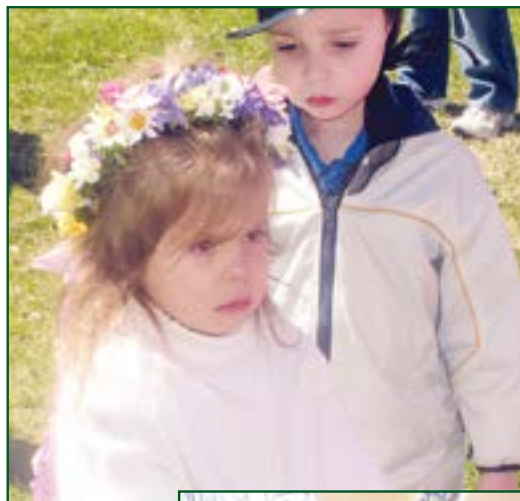
A few "Mom"  
photos we  
had on file.  
Happy  
Mother's Day



Above;  
Emilie &  
Madeleine  
Forssell.



Left; Linda  
Sommers and  
Noel Daniels



Right; Patti  
Dente, Heather  
and Savannah  
Schratt



Left; Mia Megliola  
and Charolette  
Anderson



Below; Tony Fordiani  
and mom Josephine



## The Friendly Community Center



The Friendly Community Center is a great place to stay connected to friends while Staying Healthy, Keeping Fit, and Having Fun. Located at 6683 Route 191 in the heart of Mountainhome. Visit [www.thefriendlycommunitycenter.org](http://www.thefriendlycommunitycenter.org) – New programs and events are added quarterly! Follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

The Friendly Community Center hopes that everyone stays in good health and looks forward to continuing to offer great programs to help everyone Stay Healthy, Keep Fit & Have FUN!

Please find some phone numbers and websites below that offer assistance, may add something new to your day, or give you the opportunity to learn something new.

•Are you or someone you know in need of food or volunteer opportunities? Contact Monroe County Meals on Wheels at 570-424-8794

•If you need to connect with community resources, contact Pocono Mountains United Way in your community at [poconounitedway.org](http://poconounitedway.org) OR call 211 on your phone to speak someone that will connect you with the resources to assist you or your family.

•The Friendly Community Center is available to assist you. If we cannot help you, we can get you in touch with the resources you need. Feel free to call 570-481-4330 or email to [info@thefriendlycommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@thefriendlycommunitycenter.org).

•My [www.ModernMet.com](http://www.ModernMet.com) is celebrating creativity and promoting a positive culture by spotlighting the best sides of humanity. Check it out!

•Crafty or not so crafty, [www.blueprint.com](http://www.blueprint.com) is waiving their fee for 14 days- you can learn new crafts and get interesting recipes for free!

•Get Outdoors, the one place we can be! Visit [www.brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos) for hiking trails throughout the Poconos.

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A certified Apprise volunteer counselor will answer questions and help you to understand your existing Medicare plan. Receive objective information about Medicare Supplemental and Advantage plans, prescription drug plans, and eligibility to get extra help with medical insurance costs. This program is provided by the Monroe Area Agency on Aging and volunteers.

APPRISE Counselors: Sandy Goddeyne and Ernie Camlet  
Call for an appointment at the Area Agency on Aging at 570-420-3746

Below you will find some of the classes offered at The FCC

## BARRE FITNESS CLASS

Tone, sculpt and strengthen your entire body with isometric movements and light weights during a low impact workout. Modifications can be made to accommodate your individual fitness needs. Barre is performed barefoot or with grip socks and a yoga mat.

Time: Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:30 PM  
Membership-Unlimited \$180 Annually  
Instructor: Ashley Meinking, IBBFA Certified

## BARRETT BIRDING CLUB

If you enjoy birds, join in for monthly meetings of the BBC at The FCC. Meetings will include informational programs, discussion of birds and seasonal birding opportunities, including walks and other birding activities throughout the year.

Time: 2nd Tuesday of the month  
7 PM- Membership-Basic \$25 Annually  
Facilitators: Darryl & Jackie Speicher and Tim Grover

## CARDIO SCULPT

Looking for a challenging workout? Increase strength and tone muscles using a combination of cardio and body-sculpting exercises.

Time: Wednesdays from 4:30 -5:30 PM  
Membership-Unlimited \$180 Annually  
Instructor: Colleen LaScala, CPT RYT

## CANASTA

Enjoy a friendly game of canasta. Sometimes the group mixes it up and plays Pinochle, Hearts or other card games too.

Time: Wednesdays from 1-3 PM  
Membership-Basic \$25 Annually

## CHAIR YOGA

Enjoy all of the benefits of yoga with the support of a chair. Learn common chair yoga poses and breathing techniques while increasing strength and flexibility.

Time: Mondays & Wednesdays from 3 – 4 PM  
Membership-Member Plus \$40 Annually  
Instructor: Kimberly Matthew

## CHAIR ZUMBA

Work out to upbeat and Latin style music in a seated position. This seated exercise is ideal for people with balance, hip and knee issues, but all levels are welcome to attend. Time: Tuesdays from 3 – 4 PM  
Membership-Member Plus \$40 Annually  
Instructor: Natalie Schultz-Kahwaty, PhD

## CRYSTAL BOWL SOUND BATH AND HEALING SOUNDS GONG BATH

Stretch out on a mat or sit in a chair and allow the sound to flow energetically through you.

Time: Monthly Membership not required  
Instructor: Kimberly Matthew  
Fee: \$10 per session, registration required

## FITNESS PARK

The FCC is home to The Dottie Hughes Fitness Park – a unique place that allows you to strength train outdoors. Feel free to come work out when it fits YOUR schedule! Park may not be available on certain days due to other fitness group usage.

## “IN STITCHES” – KNITTING & MORE

People of all abilities in knitting, crochet, and other needlework are welcome to join this weekly stitchery group. Learn to knit, revive an old project, or start a new one. Sit and stitch while chatting over a cup of coffee. Get help with your work or share your own expertise.

Time: Thursdays from 1 – 2:30 PM  
Membership-Basic \$25 Annually  
Instructor: Carol Hillestad

## MAHJONG, CARDS AND MORE

Discover Mahjong a game of skill, strategy, and chance. Beginners and experienced players welcome. Join in for a game of Scrabble, Mexican Train or Chess. Not feeling like a game? Work on a puzzle and engage in conversation over coffee or tea.

Time: Mondays from 1 – 3 PM & Thursdays from 12 – 3 PM  
Membership-Basic \$25 Annually

## MEN GET FIT

Men, this class is just for you! Workout to timed interval training inside, and during nice weather utilize the outdoor fit park equipment. This program is for men of all fitness levels, which incorporates balance, flexibility and strength to interval timing.

Time: Mondays from 4:15- 5:15 PM & Thurs. from 3-4 PM  
Membership-Unlimited \$180 Annually  
Instructor: Bob Larsen NASM, C-PT, CES, PES, ENFA BTS

## MINDFUL MEDITATION

Mindfulness, the practice of purposely paying attention in the moment, is a form of meditation that helps us befriend our minds and attain peace within our lives. Learn to practice mindfulness through sitting and walking meditation

Time: Tuesdays from 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM  
Membership-Member Plus \$40 Annually  
Instructor: Sue Ruskin-Mayher, PhD

## QI GONG

This Chinese-based moving meditation improves balance and mental focus while gently lubricating your joints. Each movement simulates beautiful elements in nature. Movements can be modified for those who need to be seated.

Time: Thursdays from 9 – 9:45 AM  
Membership-Member Plus \$40 Annually  
Instructor: Kimberly Matthew

## TAI CHI

An internal Chinese martial art practiced for both its defense training and overall health. The benefits of practicing Tai chi are increased flexibility, balance, and relaxation.

Time: Saturdays from 9 – 10:15 AM  
Membership-Member Plus \$40 Annually  
Instructor: Mario Arvelo, ATCQA

## WEEKLY WALKERS

Meet every Tuesday for easy hikes to beautiful areas of the community. Participants exercise while enjoying time with others and our wonderful natural resources. A list of scheduled hikes will be available at the first walk.

Time: (June thru October, weather permitting) Membership-Basic \$25 Annually  
Location: Meets in Mountainhome U.M.C. parking lot

## YOGA

Learn common poses and breathing techniques in a relaxing atmosphere

while increasing strength and flexibility. Bring a yoga mat.  
Time: Tues at 10:00 AM & Sat.at 10:30AM  
Membership-Unlimited \$180 Annually  
Instructor: Colleen LaScala, CPT RYT

## ZUMBA ®

Have fun while working out to various genres of music and dance. Exercise can be modified to suit your exercise level.

Time: Tuesdays from 4:15 -5:15 PM  
Membership-Unlimited \$180 Annually  
Instructor: Natalie Schultz-Kahwaty, PhD

## RENT THE FCC

Need a venue for your next birthday, anniversary, holiday party, shower or other special occasion? This beautifully renovated historic building with modern amenities is the perfect backdrop for your event. ADA Accessible.

The Friendly Community Center was founded in 2010 as a community center without walls through a grassroots effort of volunteers who saw a need to bring engaging programs and valuable services closer to aging populations in the mountain villages of the Poconos. Beginning with just a few arts and wellness activities offered at various locations throughout the area, volunteers quickly saw the need to have a “home” and a director to coordinate the many programs they dreamed of offering. Renovations were completed on a historic building in Barrett Township in 2013, and The FCC has been operating from this location ever since. People come from the townships of Barrett, Paradise, Dreher, Pocono, Price, Tobyhanna, Coolbaugh, and beyond to participate in the Center’s innovative programs.

For more information or registration, call Nicole Abrams at 570-481-4330 or email [info@thefriendlycommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@thefriendlycommunitycenter.org). For a full listing of programs visit The FCC’s website [www.thefriendlycommunitycenter.org](http://www.thefriendlycommunitycenter.org)



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We plan to re open in May.  
We miss all of our customers and friends.  
And we hope our wonderful community does  
what they need to to stay safe.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR BARRETT TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

In light of the current Covid-19 Health Emergency, the Municipal Building is closed to the public. You can reach staff at the following e-mails and phone numbers:

Pam Gardsy - Exec. Secretary/Treasurer  
Pam@BarrettTownship.com; 570-856-1671

Jeryl Rinehart - Zoning/SEO  
Jeryl@BarrettTownship.com; 570-994-6546

John Seese - Roadmaster  
570-994-6551

Shawn McGlynn - Building Codes Officer  
SMcGlynn@sfmconsultingllc.org; 484-330-9088

Per the Governors order, **STAY HOME**, unless you're performing a life sustaining task, i.e. getting food or prescriptions.

Observe Social distancing - stay 6' apart if necessary to leave your home. Wash your hands often.

The township clean-up scheduled for May 2 is cancelled. Stay tuned for further updates on clean-up dates.

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## Monsignor McHugh School Takes Swift Action In Response To Covid 19 School Closure

Monsignor McHugh School (MMS) in Cresco, PA took immediate action upon the recent announcement of school closures due to the Covid 19 pandemic. MMS has been practicing distance learning from the very first day they missed school, never skipping a beat. Dr. Becca Torregrossa, principal at Monsignor McHugh said, "It's March 31st and we are now in week three of distance learning. This is new for the teachers as well as the children and their families. It's uncharted territory and although it may not be easy in the beginning, I assure you, it definitely gets better." On March 11th, the staff used part of their professional development day to put together lessons that could be done remotely in the event that schools decided to close. On March 13th, just minutes after dismissal, the announcement came that schools were in fact closing. "That is when our teachers immediately rallied. Mrs. Albanese, STREAM



MMS student Katie Thompson in virtual health class with Mrs. Albanese

Coordinator at MMS, immediately set up her classroom to help the primary grade teachers with Google Classroom and offered assistance to all of them", stated Dr. Torregrossa. "She also encouraged grades 4-8 to increase their usage in Google Classroom, as these grades are currently using this program." That night, MMS orchestrated a pick up for parents to get books, lesson packets, and chromebooks, if needed. They offered an additional day on Sunday for those who couldn't make it during the first pick up. Faculty and staff were available during both

sessions to answer any questions. "Continued communication with parents is essential, not only for the students' academic needs, but also to remain connected to the school community, which we call our family", stated Dr. Torregrossa. Daily emails, phone calls, and humorous Facebook posts from their principal and teachers have been helping MMS students continue to feel connected to their school and remind them just how much they are missed. Monsignor McHugh implemented Zoom sessions during their second week of distance learning. On week two, they also celebrated Spirit Week, where the children wore

MMS spirit wear, had pajama day and pet day which they celebrated during each of their zoom classes. The school has also been consistently sharing pictures and videos of their principal, teachers, and students via school facebook posts, all geared at keeping the spirits of the children high during difficult times. Faculty meetings are occurring twice a week via video conferencing to address issues that come up

throughout the week. MMS Principal Dr. Torregrossa has a daily phone conference with the Catholic Schools Superintendent office to keep open lines of communication. There are families who fall into the "food insecure" area and with both food and monetary donations received, they have received house calls from the principal to help them during the pandemic. "Our students did not miss a day of instruction which absolutely is our academic goal. However, the relief and the consistency that it brings during uncertain times is just as important", stated Dr. Torregrossa. "Although our Zoom sessions and Facebook posts help us remain connected, there is no replacement for the smiles and hugs that I am greeted with on a daily basis. I was reminded by

one of our 8th grader's writings earlier in the year, that no storm lasts forever. With that said, this too shall pass. Staying connected and continuing to grow academically will make getting through this "storm" a little easier for our McHugh family to get through." Monsignor McHugh School provides quality catholic education in a safe environment in the Pocono Region. Established in 1961, Monsignor McHugh School aims to develop each and every child spiritually and academically to prepare them for the future. Seats are available in grades Pre-K (for 3 and 4 year olds) through 8th Grade. Our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes are full day programs. Dr. Torregrossa is available to answer any questions you may have about furthering your child's education in the catholic school system. Call (570) 595-7463 to schedule an appointment to take a tour, learn more about our outstanding academic programs and see what our community of faith, knowledge and service has to offer!

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Answers

A	A	R	D		M	A	R	C	O		P	O	O	H		D	O	C	S				
S	E	N	O	R		C	R	E	A	M	S	A	U	C	E		I	N	O	N			
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**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

2	8	4	5	1	7	6	3	9
7	6	1	9	4	3	5	2	8
3	5	9	2	8	6	4	1	7
8	1	7	3	9	4	2	5	6
9	4	5	6	2	8	1	7	3
6	2	3	1	7	5	9	8	4
5	9	8	4	3	2	7	6	1
4	3	6	7	5	1	8	9	2
1	7	2	8	6	9	3	4	5

**CryptoQuip**

answer

If someone is in favor of red root vegetables, I reckon he might get called a beetnik.

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were invented by  
bakery executive James  
Dewar. The original

Twinkie is probably still edible to  
this day.

The April Full Moon is the Pink  
Moon.

1. 1890 - Tuesday - Why  
Scranton calls itself the “Electric  
City”.

The electric trolley car was  
patented by Belgian inventor,  
Charles Van Depoele. He designed  
the first commercial electric  
railway in the US for the Scranton  
Suburban Electric Railway  
which ran a few miles between  
downtown Scranton, Pa. and  
Green Ridge. There were no stops  
for Sam’s in Dickson City.

2. 1978 – Sunday - Vini Vendi  
Velcro ...I came, I saw, I stuck  
around....Velcro, one of the  
great developments of Western  
civilization, was released. It was  
developed by Swiss engineer  
Georges de Mestral, who had  
noticed how cockle burrs clung to  
his clothing during a hike in the  
mountains.

3. 1973 – Tuesday – “Cell  
phones are wonderful, they  
empower the obnoxious and  
amplify the ignorant” .....Peggy  
Noonan. The first portable phone  
call was placed by inventor Martin  
Cooper. The phone was 10 inches  
in height, 3 inches deep and an  
inch-and-a-half wide and weighed  
30-oz. Anticipating the iZombies  
that walk/text among us, Cooper  
walked down the streets of New  
York City using the phone.

4. 1828 - Saturday - Casparus  
van Wooden, of Amsterdam,  
patented chocolate milk powder.  
He developed a system of  
separating the fat (cocoa butter)  
from the ground cocoa beans.

5. 1994 – Tuesday- Lead singer  
of Nirvana, rock star and icon,  
Kurt Cobain committed suicide in  
his home in Seattle Washington.  
Kobain thus joined the “Twenty  
Seven” club with fellow members,  
Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Brian  
Jones, Amy Winehouse, and Jim  
Morrison, all of whom went kaput  
at age 27..

6. 1930 - Sunday – Culinary  
history was made as Twinkies

7. 1933 – Friday- Another  
“Nanny State” failure as

Prohibition in the United States  
came to an end. On March 23rd,  
Franklin D. Roosevelt had signed  
the Cullen-Harrison Act which  
legalized the manufacture and sale  
of certain alcohol, 3.2% alcohol  
by weight, Eight months later, on  
December 5th, prohibition was  
repealed with the 21st amendment.

The boom era for the gangster  
industry began on January 16,  
1919, the 18th Amendment to the  
U.S. Constitution was ratified.

8. 1899 - Saturday - Martha Place  
earned the dubious distinction  
of being the first woman to be  
electrocuted in the electric chair.  
Nowadays prisoners are forced  
to watch 48 consecutive hours of  
MSNBC and die screaming for  
mercy. Martha was convicted of  
murdering her 17 year old step-  
daughter, Ida, by pouring acid in  
her mouth and then smothering  
her to death.

9. 1626 - Thursday - In an event  
too strange for even the Gnus to  
make up, Francis Bacon, English  
philosopher and scientist died as  
a result of a chill he caught while  
trying to invent frozen food. He  
stuffed a dead chicken with snow  
to see if cold would preserve  
its flesh. He couldn’t chill the  
chicken but he did end up as  
frozen Bacon. This was truly a  
fowl deed.

10. 879 – Monday – The editorial  
staff of the Gnus, never resting  
in the quest for strange names  
for rulers, could not pass up the  
opportunity to note the kaputing  
of Louis the Stammerer, eldest  
son of Charles the Bald. In 878,  
he gave the counties of Barcelona,  
Gerona, and Besalú to Wilfred  
the Hairy.....we don’t make this  
up.....really.

11. 1899 - Tuesday - Happy  
Birthday, Percy Julian, the  
grandson of slaves, who  
discovered cortisone as well as  
extracted an inexpensive protein  
from soybeans.

12. 1961 - Wednesday- Vostok  
1 carried the first man into space,  
Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union.  
The flight lasted 108 minutes.

The only statement attributed to  
Gagarin during his one hour and  
48 minutes in space was, “Flight is  
proceeding normally; I am well.”  
Censored statement was, “I’m  
claustrophobic.....aaargh!.....get  
me out of here!.....”

13. 1970 - Monday - “Houston  
we’ve had a problem here.”

Apollo 13 (yes, the 13th  
triskaidekaphobes) commander,  
Jim Lovell informed the world  
that oxygen tank no. 2 had  
exploded 200,000 miles from  
Earth. When no. 2 tank exploded,  
no. 1 also failed. They had to use  
the Lunar Module as a lifeboat to  
live in and steer back to Earth.

14. 1865 – Friday- Abraham  
Lincoln failed to see the humor in  
the comedy play, Our American  
Cousin as he was fatally wounded  
when shot by John Wilkes Booth  
at Ford’s Theater in Washington  
D.C.

15. Why is April 15 Tax  
day? Congress passed the  
Sixteenth Amendment to the  
Constitution, which allowed for  
the implementation of personal  
income tax, and chose March 1,  
1914 of the following year as the  
filing deadline. The deadline was  
changed to March 15 in 1918, and  
then to April 15 in 1955 because  
it gave the IRS more time to  
handle the work....which they do  
so well... and, more importantly,  
more time to hang on to your  
money before issuing you a  
refund.....which was your money  
to start with.

16. 1993 – Friday - Billy  
Burnette added his name to  
the honor role of great career  
moves as he announced that he  
was leaving Fleetwood Mac to  
concentrate on recording country  
music. Evidently Billy had sought  
advice from Chris O’Donnell who  
turned down the role of Jack in  
Titanic, Tom Selleck who turned  
down the role of Indiana Jones,  
Molly Ringwald who turned down  
Pretty Woman, John Travolta who  
turned down Forrest Gump, and  
George Raft who passed on High  
Sierra, The Maltese Falcon, and  
Casablanca

17. 1524 – Thursday - Italian  
explorer Giovanni da Verrazano  
reached present-day New York  
harbor. Unfortunately, he did not

have correct change or his E Z  
Pass to cross the bridge, could  
continue no further and had to  
return to Italy and look in his sock  
drawer for some change.

18. 1906 - Wednesday- “The  
fault, dear Brutus is in San  
Andreas”. 5:15 a.m. The San  
Francisco earthquake was caused  
by a 20 ft. shift in the San  
Andreas Fault. The resulting fires  
burned much of the city. Years  
later, researchers assigned it a  
magnitude of 7.8.

19. 1775 – Wednesday - At 5  
a.m., British Major John Pitcairn  
ordered Patriots to disperse.  
Suddenly, the “shot heard around  
the world” was fired from an  
undetermined gun from an  
undetermined side, and the British  
opened fire. When the Battle of  
Lexington ended the American  
Revolution had begun.

20. 1902 - Sunday - “Hello  
Home Depot? We’d like to order  
eight tons of pitch blend ore”.....  
Marie and Pierre Curie isolated  
one gram of radium, the first  
sample of the radioactive element.  
They had refined it from eight  
tons of pitchblende ore. That’s one  
gram of usable material from eight  
tons of material.

21. 1884 - Monday- Natural gas  
was discovered in Pi ttsburgh.  
Harrisburg is currently the  
largest source of natural gas in  
Pennsylvania.

22. 1864 – Friday - Urged by  
Secretary of the Treasury Salmon  
P. Chase (the only Secretary of the  
Treasury named after a migrating  
fish), Congress authorized the  
use of the phrase “In God We  
Trust” on U.S. coins. The motto  
was placed on United States coins  
largely because of the increased  
religious sentiment existing during  
the Civil War.

23. 1564 - Thursday- ..Happy  
Birthday, William Shakespeare.  
According to tradition, the great  
playwright and poet was born in  
Stratford-on-Avon on April 23,  
1564. It is impossible to be certain  
the exact day on which he was  
born, but church records show  
that he was baptized on April 26,  
and three days was a customary  
amount of time to wait before  
baptizing a newborn.

24. 1184 BC – Tuesday-  
According to tradition, and  
Homer, the Greeks entered Troy  
using the Trojan Horse. The  
Greeks had been unable to breach

the Trojan defenses. Odysseus on  
the advice of Athena, ordered a  
large wooden horse to be built. Its  
insides were to be hollow so that  
soldiers could hide within it.

25. 1507 – Thursday-  
America got its name from  
German cartographer Martin  
Waldseemüller, who first  
used the term on a world map  
(now sometimes referred to as  
“America’s birth certificate”) to  
refer to the huge mass of land in  
the Western Hemisphere, in honor  
of Italian navigator Amerigo  
Vespucci.

26. 1986 - Saturday - The  
nuclear power plant at Chernobyl,  
U.S.S.R., suffered a meltdown  
when the cooling system failed  
during tests resulting in the  
creation of Vladimir Putin.

27. 1887 - Wednesday - George  
Morton performed the first  
operation to remove an appendix.  
After removing the appendix,  
Morton removed the preface, table  
of contents and glossary.

28. 1991 - Sunday - The space  
shuttle Discovery was launched  
with a crew of seven to perform  
“Star Wars” defense research  
so most of what they did was  
classified and secret. The crew  
had to wear fake moustaches,  
beards, and glasses so on one  
would recognize them during  
the top secret mission. In fact,  
Discovery was also wearing a  
giant fake beard and giant rabbit  
ears.

29. 1916 - Saturday - The  
Easter rising, begun on April  
24, in Dublin collapsed as Irish  
nationalists surrendered to  
British authorities. The Rising  
was suppressed after six days of  
fighting, and its leaders, including  
Patrick Pearse, and James  
Connelly, were court-martialed  
and executed. Only when they  
were dead were their sentences  
announced.

30. 1993 - Friday - Happy  
Birthday World Wide Web as  
CERN (European Organization for  
Nuclear Research) announced that  
the World Wide Web would be  
free to anyone, with no fees due.  
Hello internet. Hello dear friends  
of people stranded abroad. Please  
submit your password and Social  
Security number.



Meetings

Barrett Township Historical Society  
3rd Friday, Friendly Community Center,  
Route 191 Mtnhome @ 2 pm

Barrett Township Supervisors  
Business Meeting @ Municipal Bldg.  
2nd Wednesday of the Month - 5:30pm  
4th Wednesday of the Month - 8:00am  
Workshops: 3rd Wednesday of the  
Month - 8:00am

Barrett Township Planning Commission  
1st Wednesday Municipal Bldg,  
Rt. 390, Mountainhome 5:30 PM

Barrett Architectural Review Committee  
Third Thursd 5 PM Municipal  
Building

Barrett Twp. Environmental  
Advisory Council  
Third Tuesday of each month.  
6:30 PM @ Evergreen School

-----  
Rotary Club of the Pocono Mountains  
Every Wednesday, 6.15 pm  
Refer to our website for location  
www.rotaryclubofthepoconomountains.  
com  
-----

Paradise Township  
Board of Supervisors-Regular Meeting-  
1st and 3rd Monday of the month @  
6:00 PM  
Board of Supervisors-Work Sessions-1st  
and 3rd Mondays of the month @ 5:00  
PM, as needed.

Paradise Planning Commission  
2nd Tuesday of the month @ 5:30 PM.

Paradise Zoning Hearing Board-4th  
Tuesday of the month @ 5:30 PM, as  
needed.

Paradise Environmental Advisory  
Council/Open Space Committee—3rd  
Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM  
Held at Paradise Township Building  
-----

Pocono Area Recreation Commission-  
4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM.  
-----

Pocono Mountain School Board  
First & Third Wednesday  
Administration  
Building  
Swiftwater campus 7 pm  
-----

Pocono Masonic Lodge #780  
2nd Wed of the month -7:30 PM  
Except July & August  
Rt. 390 Cresco  
-----

Mt. Pocono Monthly Lupus Support  
Group  
Meeting, Every 3rd Tues. at 7 p.m.  
Separate Teen and Adult Groups - St.  
Mary of the Mount Church, 27 Fairview  
Avenue, Mt. Pocono - For more  
information, call Betty Kruk 570 894-  
3629, the Lupus Foundation  
1-888-995-8787 or visit www. lupupspa.  
org  
-----

Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire  
Company Ladies Auxilliary meets on  
the second Tuesday of each month at the  
Firehouse located off Rt. 611 in  
Mount Pocono.  
Contact Auxillary Secretary Tracy Coutts  
at 570-954-8310 for more info.

Religious Services

**Most Holy Trinity Parish (com-  
prises St. Ann, St. Mary of the  
Mount and St. Bernadette)** Masses  
are celebrated in the gymnasium of  
Monsignor McHugh School located  
at 212 Route 390 in Cresco:  
Saturday Masses: 4pm Sunday  
Masses:  
8am, 10:30am and 12.30pm  
(the Spanish Mass)  
Parish Center contact:  
(570) 595-3100 St.

**Canadensis United  
MethodistChurch**  
Route 390 & 447, Canadensis  
**Worship with Children's  
Experience 10:45 AM**

**Keokee Chapel United Methodist**  
Keokee Chapel Lane., Paradise  
SUN Service, 9:30 AM SUN  
School Classes 9:45 AM

**Mountainhome United  
Methodist Church**  
Routes 390/191, Mountainhome  
Worship 9 AM - Adult Sunday  
School 10:15AM  
Children's Sunday School 9:15AM

**Paradise Valley Baptist Church**  
Koerner Rd & Rt 390, Cresco  
Sun. School, 9:30 AM  
Sun. Worship,10:30AM  
Wed Service 7:00pm Bible Study

**Promised Land Protestant Church**  
Route 390 SUN Services 10 AM  
**Innovation Church**  
Sundays at 9am & 11am 595-2000

**B-Nai Harim**  
(Children of the mountains)A  
Reform Jewish congregation.  
www.bnaiharimpoconos.org  
Pocono Crest Rd at Rt 940 and Sul-  
livan Rd.. Call 646-0100

**LifeChurch Poconos**  
(non-denominational) Sullivan  
Trail, Pocono Pines  
SUN Service: 10:01AM Children's  
Church Available

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
Upper Swiftwater Rd. Swiftwater  
Sunday Service; 9:30AM  
570-839-0730

**Eglise Evangelique De  
La Renaissance**  
Christian Counseling Ministries HC  
1 Box 1-B Swiftwater Pa  
English Morning Service 9 AM

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist -  
8:00 &10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School: September -  
May 9:00 a.m.**  
**Morning Prayer: Tuesdays -  
9:00a.m.**  
**137 Trinity Hill Road, Mt. Pocono,  
PA**  
**570-839-9376. trinitychurchmp@  
verizon.net**

**Grace Community Fellowship,**  
meeting at the Tandoor Palace confer-  
ence room ( right next to the days Inn)  
Rt 715 in Tannersville Pa exit 299 off Rt  
80 Sunday mornings at 10:30  
Call 570-977-7749

**Grace United Church of Christ**  
Sullivan Trail & Rt. 715, Tannersville  
Sunday Service;10:00AM

**Living Hope Baptist Church**  
for info. - 839-5900  
**Warriors For Christ Ministries**  
445 Sterling Rd.(Rt 196) Tobyhanna,  
PA 570-894-1623  
Sunday-11:30Am Wed & Fri 7:30PM

**1 Living Hope Communtiy Church**  
5530 Municipal dr.  
Tobyhanne PA 18466  
Start at 9:45. Service begins at 11:00  
Church office: 570-676-8686

**Mt Pocono United Methodist Church**  
12 Church Avenue Mt Pocono, PA  
570-839-9902 Rev. Samuel Kofi Ashley  
8:15 Communion Service 9:30  
Contemporary Service  
11:00 Traditional Service

**House Of Praise Christian Fellowship**  
meet at Comfort Inn Route 940  
by Lowes  
Sunday Services 10 AM-  
1PM Bishop Hamilton(Pastor)  
Phone# 917.497.5549

**Temple Israel of the Poconos**  
– Egalitarian Conservative Syna-  
gogue: 711 Wallace Street at Avenue  
A , Stroudsburg, Pa. 18360. Sabbath  
Services: Friday evening 7:00 PM followed by  
a Traditional Oneg Shabbat. Saturday morning  
9:30 AM followed by a traditional Kiddush.  
Hebrew School – High Holiday Services – Pass-  
over Seder – Purim Party – Family Chanukah  
Menorah Lighting – Adult Educational Pro-  
grams – Social Gatherings. Contact: Dr. Sandra  
Alfonsi – 570-223-7062.

**Saint Nicholas Byzantine  
Catholic Church**  
Rt. 940 Pocono Summit  
(between Tractor Supply and CVS)  
Devine Liturgy (mass) Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 9:30 AM  
Very Rev. Michael Salnicky, Paster

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
158 Fish Hill Rd., Tannersville PA 18372.  
The Rev. Carl W. Filer, Pastor  
Worship Services at 9:00AM with  
Sunday School for all ages at 10:15AM.  
Contemporary Worship is first Sunday  
of the month. Communion is 1st and 3rd  
Sundays.  
www.stpaultannersvillepa.org  
570-629-1992

**The Cross Church  
(non denominational)**  
3308 Rt.940, Mount Pocono (next to AT  
& T) Tim Sahadeo Pastor  
570-580-2380  
Sunday Bible Study 10.30 amSunday  
Morning worship 11 am  
Children Sunday School 12 Noon  
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 7 pm

Gatherings & Such

**Barrett Senior Center**  
Open Monday, Wednesday, and  
Friday from 9AM-1PM at The  
Friendly Community Center, 6683  
Route 191 in Mountainhome.  
People age 60 and better are  
welcome. Please call Barbara at  
570.481.4330 for details and to  
reserve a lunch.

**Free Alzheimer's Training  
Available to Local Family  
Caregivers**  
The local Home Instead Senior  
Care office is offering free online  
e-learning training sessions for  
Monroe County families managing  
the challenges of Alzheimer's  
and other dementia diseases.  
Available at HelpForAlzheimers  
Families.com  
To request free, on-site Family  
Caregiver Training, contact the  
Home Instead Senior Care office  
in Tannersville at  
570-629-3800.

**Celebrate Recovery**  
Christ centered 12-step  
recovery program  
7 PM every Thursday  
Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church  
915 North Fifth St.,  
Stroudsburg, PA  
for info, contact Debbie at 570-  
421-0750 or [pastordebbieswc@  
gmail.com](mailto:pastordebbieswc@gmail.com).

**Pocono Mountains Men's  
Fellowship** (men only)  
Bible study group meets every  
third Saturday 9:00 – 11:00  
a.m. Eastern Monroe County  
Library, 1002 North Ninth Street,  
Stroudsburg, PA. Bring a friend  
and don't forget your Bible!  
Contact Brother Eason at 917-  
561-9341 for more info

**FOOD PANTRY**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
158 Fish Hill Road Tannersville,  
Tuesdays from  
11:00 AM till 1:00 PM.  
The third Wednesday of every  
month we have a  
**community dinner**  
that is free to the public. The  
dinner is from 4:30 PM  
till 6:30 PM.

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1054 Route 390, Greentown, PA  
Contact # 570-676-3818

**Have a couple of hours free  
weekday mornings?** Volunteer  
with Monroe County Meals on  
Wheels to deliver meals and a  
moment of human connection to  
your homebound neighbors in  
Barrett Township. Volunteer as  
often as you would like - once a  
week, once a month, every once  
in a while.Contact us at  
570-424-8794 or mailto:  
[iraudabaugh@monroomeals.org](mailto:iraudabaugh@monroomeals.org)  
for an application.

**Mountain Laurel Quilt Guild**  
Meets third  
Monday of Month  
at 7:00 PM  
Lower level of Canadensis United  
Methodist Church  
Church located on corner of  
Rts. 447 & 390  
New members &  
guests welcome  
For more info, contact” Rhonda  
@ 570-676-3131.

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support  
Group In Partnership with The  
Friendly Community Center**  
Time: 2nd Monday of each  
month from 5:30-6:30PM at the  
Loder Senior Center in East  
Stroudsburg.  
Facilitator: Jennifer Bayer,  
Community Outreach Volunteer  
with the Alzheimer's Association  
Contact: 570-517-9292 or  
[bayer4@ptd.net](mailto:bayer4@ptd.net)

**Nearly New Shop**  
Rt. 390, Mountainhome, PA  
(across from Municipal Building)  
Accepting consignments Tuesdays  
10am-12pm  
Donations are accepted any day  
the store is open.

The Board of Trustees of the Barrett  
Paradise Friendly Library meets on  
the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30  
pm in the Weiler Family Community  
Room at the library. The Board meets  
every month with the exception of  
December.

**Pocono Mountain Chapter of  
the Embroiderer's Guild of  
America (EGA).** We do all types  
of needlework (Cross stitch,  
Hardanger, Canvas work, Crewel  
work, etc.)  
There is a different program each  
month. We meet every sec-  
ond Monday of the month from  
September – May at 7:00pm at  
Stroudsburg High School Cafete-  
ria, West Main Street,  
Stroudsburg, Pa. The contact  
person for anyone interested in  
our group is Bonnie Miller, 570-  
424-6208.





## Three Reasons not to Landscape with Barberry — And How to Get Rid of it

When the forsythia starts blooming in spring, that light green haze you see low in the woods is likely Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). Our woods are full of it!

That is Reason #1 not to use barberry in your home landscape. Each shrub produces thousands of berries every year. Birds and other creatures eat the berries and then disperse the seeds.

These plants can easily take over the understory of a forest in a few years, where it will grow in dense mats. By out-competing native plants, crowding out sunlight, and changing soil chemistry, this invader creates new colonies that allow for continued spread.

Reason #2 is that recent research has found that ticks love barberry! Deer ticks, the kind that carry Lyme disease, are found at higher densities in barberry patches than in other habitats. And, although some nurseries sell cultivars of barberry that are supposedly sterile, and will not spread, ticks are not choosy and will happily take up residence in so-called sterile plants.

Reason #3 not to plant barberry — we have many more attractive native shrubs! A few examples are our own native bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*), ink-berry (*Ilex glabra*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatum*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) and hearts-a-bustin' (*Euonymus americana*). Good local garden centers can order them for you. And most can be purchased at BWA's annual native plant sale — details at <https://brodheadwatershed.org/plant-native/>.

Barberry is banned in New York and most New England states, and Connecticut nurseries have voluntarily stopped selling it. But it's still sold at big box stores and by some nurseries in Pennsylvania. Landscapers like it because it's cheap and deer tend to avoid it. So if you have barberry in your garden, spring is a good time to start to control it, before its characteristic red berries show up.

Cut the stems as close to the ground as possible. You can paint the stumps with herbicide (ask your garden center for recommendations). These are persistent plants, so plan to lop off or spray any regrowth when it is very young, as soon as you see it. A couple of years of your persistence in this treatment should be sufficient.

If you wait till fall, you must dig it out roots and all, being careful not to spread the seeds. Bag the plant and put it in the garbage. Don't compost it because it will root and take over in your compost pile!

Even a small amount of root left in the ground is enough to help the plant re-grow — it's best to pull plants out when the soil is damp and soft. If you can't pull them out, and you can't wait till spring, cut plants in late summer, before the seed matures. For large infestations, you may have to combine mechanical removal with a weed killer such as Roundup.

Late last spring, a local gardener cut back and grubbed out several patches of non-native invasives including barberry. It's all filled in now with black-eyed Susans, Queen Anne's Lace and phlox — a big improvement!

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