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Soaring Eagle Campgrounds is located on the shore of the Upper Delaware River and is accepting online reservations for camping spots after the reopening for the season on May 1.

Resting and rowing with the Soaring Eagles

BY DEREK KIRK



The Soaring Eagle staff are, from the left: Francis McBride, Jeremy Backlund, Tara Backlund and Anne Backlund, prepping for yet another season of camping at the Soaring Eagle Campgrounds.

For as long as the Great Outdoors existed, camping has been a social connector like no other. It engages the most basic, sincere version of life, inviting people to spend irreplaceable time with others – especially family.

That spirit of adventure in the outdoors is kept alive and well with the Backlund family, owners and operators of the Soaring Eagle Campground in Equinunk, PA.

It began under the guidance of Artie and Arvilla Backlund (Brian's parents). They incorporated the campground in 1983 and started building the bathhouse. In 1994, they asked their son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Anne Backlund, for their



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A quaint but very sturdy Kellams bridge spans the distance from the New York to the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River overlooking the campground.

assistance in getting the campground open for the season.

So three generations worked hard to open the campground in 1995. It continues under the care of Anne, her son, Jeremy Backlund, and his wife and children (the upcoming generation), daughter Tara Backlund and her partner Richard Traviss and Francis McBride.

Together, this soar of eagles has become shepherds for the enjoyment of the outdoors. Under the care of the Backlunds, the campground located at 4092 River Road, Equinunk, PA, (6 miles north of Callicoon across Kellams Bridge) has been in operation since 1995, and with their reopening for the season on May 1, the tradition is set to continue.

“People come here to enjoy the Delaware River,” Anne said. “It’s a treasure.”

Boasting eight RV sites, 36 tent sites, eight with electric and

water, 28 no hookup, and eight 30 amps, Soaring Eagle has the space to camp in peace.

In addition to maintaining a beautiful campground for the perfect summer camping trip, they offer rental services for kayaks and canoes to further enjoy the Delaware River. Out on the water, there’s a good chance of catching a glimpse of those beloved soaring eagles!

Their rates go as follows: From Long Eddy (two miles), both kayaks and canoes run at \$32 per person, or \$64 per boat. A single person tube is \$32.

A cooler tube, which includes a bag of ice to chill your favorite drinks as you float along the river is \$20.

From Lordville (eight miles), both kayaks and canoes run at \$52 per person, or \$104 per boat.

When you’re ready to hang up your paddles for the day but forgot to pack your tent for the

weekend trip, Soaring Eagle has available for rent an expansive, pet friendly space called the Lodge. It includes an in-ground outdoor pool, large dining room and lounge, A/C in each room and other amenities.

Be sure to place your online reservations early to ensure your

spot underneath the stars and on the river this summer.

For more info on the campground, please visit their website at www.soaringeaglecampground.com, give them a call at 570-224-4666 or email them at info@soaringeaglecampground.com.



A bridge and eagle’s eye view of campers canoing and kayaking along the beautiful Delaware

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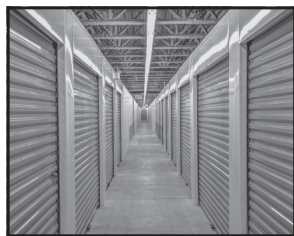
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Primrose Heating and Cooling;

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BY ALEX KIELAR

Primrose Heating and Cooling is a small, local business that was started by Ceceil Primrose just five months ago, out of his residence in Smallwood. Originally from Washington state, Primrose, who has over 15 years of industry experience, wanted to start his own heating and cooling company so he could provide an economical and professional alternative to individuals and companies looking for his services.

“I strive to provide services as cheaply as possible and cut out the inflation rates,” Primrose said. “I enjoy saving my customers money and making connections beyond the job.”

Although he started and runs the company by himself, Primrose said that he dedicates it to his family. His family is made up of his three daughters – nine-year-old Savanna, seven-year-old Olivia and four-year-old River – as well as his girlfriend Julia.

“I’m a small business with only a couple of guys, and I do all of my own jobs,” he said. “I’m in the field with my guys day-to-day. There is no sales guy or manager, and we take pride in our work.”

Primrose also said that other companies can charge up to \$25,000 to \$50,000 for services, and he can provide those same services more economically.

He even spoke of an instance in which a customer wanted a certain system installed and he was able to save them a full 75%, installing the same system for just \$13,000.

Primrose Heating and Cooling provides many

Ceceil Primrose’s work truck for his business, Primrose Heating and Cooling.



Owner of Primrose Heating and Cooling, Ceceil Primrose, dedicates his self-owned business to his family - girlfriend Julia and his three daughters River (4), Olivia (7) and Savanna (9).

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) services, including residential services, new construction, diagnostics, repairs, equipment sales and installation of indoor climate control rooms as well as heat pump installation.

In addition, Primrose also offers gutter installation, repairs and

cleaning as well as yearly maintenance to any of the services he provides.

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Shannon Dee Bailey



Primrose Heating and Cooling provides ventilation services for homes and buildings.

Another example of saving a customer money that Primrose talked about was a local church in which their electrical bill was \$700 a month during the winter.

After he installed their new heating pumps, he said that he was able to bring the cost down to just \$160 – a 77% savings.

“I enjoy taking a really outdated system out and professionally designing and installing a new effective system that will save my



customers money day-to-day,” Primrose said.

Primrose said that he also offers a one-year labor warranty on anything that he touches.

Primrose Heating and Cooling can be contacted via email at primroseheatingcooling@gmail.com and via phone at (360) 281-5686.

You can also fill out the contact form on their website, primroseheatingcooling.com to get a free estimate. They also offer 10% off your first service.

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STORY AND PHOTOS
BY VINCENT KURZROCK

In order to make everyone's life less stressful, insurance has always been crucial to protect you and your belongings in case of an accident, fire, or other tragedy. And when customers need a good insurance agent, they need look no farther than Misner Agency, which is situated at 489 State Route 52 in Woodbourne, and owned by Greg Goldstein and his son, Todd.

The Goldstein family and Misner Agency both have their roots in Roscoe. The Misner Insurance Agency was established in 1928 by Norman Misner and coincidentally, Greg Goldstein grew up in Roscoe.

Following World War II, Greg Goldstein's father-in-law, Ralph Holmes, joined Norman Misner and together they built the agency into a thriving business that has been serving the community for the past 96 years.

In August of 1975, Greg Goldstein, then just a young and eager man, decided to join his father-in-law in the family business. Ralph had been tirelessly devoted to the agency for many years until tragically passing

away in 1982. Despite the sudden and unfortunate loss, Goldstein persevered, and in 1984 he made the decision to buy the agency from his mother-in-law, Ruth. It was a challenging and emotional time, but Goldstein's dedication to the company never wavered.

This year will mark the 49th year since Goldstein first began working for the agency, a testament to his enduring commitment and hard work. Over the years, he has overcome many obstacles and steered the business through countless challenges and slopes, always demonstrating resilience and determination. As he reflects on his journey, Goldstein can take pride in how far the agency has come under his leadership, and he looks forward to many more years of success and growth.

"I love dealing with people," said Goldstein, "Misner is the perfect business for that!"

The agency offers a wide range of insurance products and services, including home, auto, and life insurance. Through their dedication and commitment to their customers, the Misner Insurance Agency has become a trusted and reliable

source for insurance in the area.

In addition to their insurance services, the agency also takes pride in giving back to the community by supporting local charities and organizations. They believe in the importance of being active and involved in the community they

serve.

With a long history of hard work and a focus on customer satisfaction, the Misner Insurance Agency continues to be a cornerstone of the community, providing peace of mind and financial protection to families and individuals.



Greg Goldstein co-runs the business with his son Todd. He is currently starting his 49th year at the company.

Being an independent agency, Misner represents various companies to provide the best price and coverage for their insurer. They also provide insurance for individuals and businesses.

Running a family business can be challenging at times. When decisions need to be taken, Goldstein characterizes it as a slippery slope. He mentioned that one of their challenges was having one son leave the company to launch his own firm. There is a benefit, though, in that working with family makes the holidays interesting!

According to Goldstein, he and his wife, Linda, desired for both of their boys attend college for four years and not feel compelled to work in the family business.

Greg highlights the need of establishing a clear vision for your child, including expectations for them in the event that they inherit the firm, for individuals who aspire to establish their own family business.



Misner has its roots dating all the way back to 1928.



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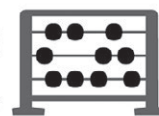
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The 'World Famous' Roscoe Diner is situated perfectly off of Exit 94. The building stands proudly on the grounds it was first opened on in 1962, and has remained in the Niforatos family since 1969.

The interior walls of the diner feature college flags from all over the country. It started with local colleges as families stopped for a meal before dropping children off and expanded from there.



STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ANTHONY MORGANO

A world-famous eatery in Sullivan County



Tasse and Cheri Niforatos, along with their three children Athena, Anastasia and Stavros, have each worked in the diner and the Niforatos family's Ice Cream Parlor. The children are all enrolled, or graduated from, Roscoe Central School.

The Roscoe Diner is situated perfectly alongside 17 West, right off exit 94. The location allows travelers to pull off to rest, eat and even charge their Teslas before getting right back on the highway.

"Tesla was looking for an area outside of the flood plain. They had a checklist of things that they were looking for, and we just happened to check all the boxes," Tasse said.

Whether you wake up in Trout Town USA or you're just passing through on a cross-state roadtrip, the World Famous Roscoe Diner awaits you.

Equipped with great food and friendly staff, the Roscoe Diner has become a community staple for both local traffic and travelers.

"Location, location, location," Roscoe Diner Owner Tasse Niforatos said. "That lesson was taught to me in my Restaurant Business Management class. You can have the best burger in town, but if nobody can find your restaurant then it won't matter."

Despite being the sole proprietor of the Diner since 2012, Tasse has shared ownership since 1988 and the business has been in the family since 1969.

"My dad [Steve Niforatos] started in the food business with lunch wagons in Newark, NJ. He heard that the diner was available through friends and family and drove up to take a look and fell in love with it. He bought it from the original owners, the Schwartz family, and we've had it ever since."

As a kid growing up in Roscoe, Tasse remembers standing on a milk crate and helping wash dishes when he was just eight years old. Eventually, he became a busboy when he was old enough to have working papers and became a 50/50 owner in the same decade.

"Memories like that just stay with you," Tasse said. "I remember that like it was yesterday."

Another benefit of growing up in Roscoe, according to Tasse, is the small town mentality, and the support that goes along with that.

"Growing up, everybody here knew each other and there was always a sense of a safety net," Niforatos explained. "You could roam around town and everyone kept an eye on you, for better or worse. It was like a neighborhood watch program with how tight-knit the community was."

Although time has passed since

those early years, the Diner has remained a constant, becoming an information hub within the community.

Regulars will come in first thing in the morning for a cup of coffee and to stay up-to-date on the local happenings, whether that's checking in about a sick community member or just gathering to enjoy each other's company before starting their days.

Alongside the Rockland House, the Roscoe Diner is one of the oldest-running businesses in the community, and the Niforatos family stays involved in events throughout Roscoe and beyond.

Tasse is a member of the Roscoe Central School Board and the President of the Riverview Cemetery Board. Meetings, including PTA and the Roscoe Chamber of Commerce are hosted at the Roscoe Diner as well.

"We try to give back and do what we can for the community and the school as much as we can," Tasse explained. "Whether it's for Roscoe Cares, a benefit dinner or breakfast, we try to help out. We're a big part of the community so we have to be involved, and we enjoy being able to give back."


The family-owned business extends far beyond the Niforatos family, and includes co-workers, employees and even distributors in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14F

CONGRATULATIONS TASSE!

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FROM PETE & KRISTEN JOHNSTON & THE KIDS



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13F

Tasse's eyes.

"With customers and employees, I find that there are a lot of good people in the world. Family-oriented people that pass through on their way to visit family or go on a trip. Over the years, you begin to recognize returning customers and build a relationship," Tasse said. "They become a familiar face in the crowd. It's a relationship that requires no work."

Tasse also noted that having a good relationship with distributors makes the operation run smoother. "When you have distributors you can trust, you can be sure that

you're getting the quality that your customers deserve."

There has been no shortage of employees that have spent many years working at the restaurant as well.

"There have been hundreds of employees that have come through here over the years," Tasse said. "Some part-time, some full-time, short term or long term, you get to know a lot of these people and they become a part of the family."

Tasse has been in the business so long that children and even grandchildren of former employees have made their way in to pick up a job application.

"I've noticed that employees that have had parents or siblings work here take a lot of pride in their work. They have big shoes to fill with all of the family members that have worked here before them," Tasse said. "When you have employees for long periods of time, it makes it much easier to run the business. They know what to do and they know the customers, which makes everything more personal."

One regular has been coming in for years, twice-a-day like clockwork. He celebrates employees with birthday or graduation cards and even with coupons from the newspaper. He has become a staple of the lunch and dinner shifts, sitting in the same seat at the end of the counter every day.

For his birthday, servers will decorate his seat with balloons and a special placemat, and many a customer have paid his bill not knowing him and his dedication to coming in each day.

Through the years, there have been many of these regular customers, whether it's twice-a-day, every morning or once a week, seeing them becomes part of the routine, just as it would visiting family over and over.

Congratulations Tasse

for being a great community leader!

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