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Liberty’s new business is aiming to get more children, women and men interested in the sport of archery. It’s a great sport to help you relax and also learn how to focus on your goals. See how they are doing and what great services they have to offer.

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By *Derek Kirk*

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By *Vinny Kurzrock*

If you would like to treat you and your family to a wonderful Italian meal – or other cuisine – you have to look no further than Sullivan Ave., Wurtsboro. The recently opened Pasta D’Oro prides itself in serving the finest dishes prepared by chefs who make your meal a true culinary experience. Learn more about this exciting restaurant here.

Slick and Colorful: Salamanders and Newts 40

By *Kathy Daley*

Did you ever go looking for salamanders or newts after summer rain? Well, if you did, you will know learn much more than you ever thought possible in this in-depth story about these little creatures.

Cochecton Pump House conserves history 46

By *Alex Kielar*

Nearly 150 years old, the Cochecton Pump House was used by Standard Oil to move oil from Western New York to the Metropolitan area. Abandoned a century ago, the building lay in ruins until a new owner – with a vision – turned it into an exciting music and food venue.

On the Cover:

The red eft is a pretty orange and also a very soft creature in the woods of Northeastern America.

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CATSKILL-DELAWARE PUBLICATIONS, INC.

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Catskill-Delaware Summer Magazine

Published by

Catskill-Delaware Publications, Inc.

P.O. Box 308, Callicoon, N.Y. 12723

May 24, 2024

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CALLICOON, NY 12723
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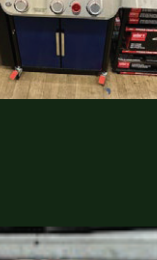
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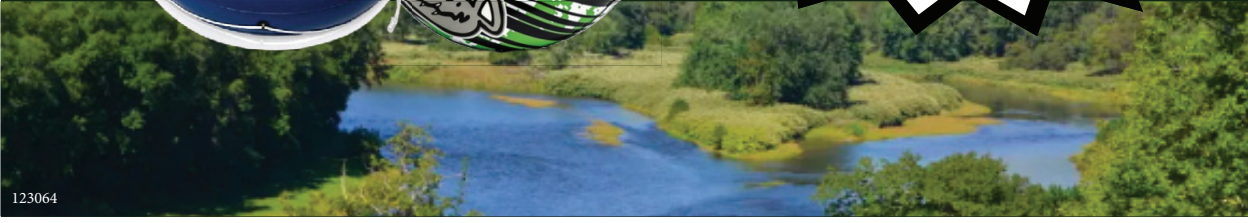
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One of Sullivan County's most famous golf courses reopened late last fall and is now ready for its first full season. Join Democrat Sports Editor Anthony Morgano as he visits the famous 18-hole layout in...

THE MONSTER: A GOLFER'S PARADISE

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ANTHONY MORGANO

Resting on more than 200 acres of land and boasting some of the most difficult greens in the Northeast, the newly-redesigned Monster Golf Club at Resorts World Catskills is back and better than ever.

The historic plot of land used to be home to two 18-hole golf courses, The Concord Monster and The International. While still featuring holes from both of these magnificent courses of years past, Rees Jones designed several new holes and renovated the course to cultivate a new experi-

ence.

From the Monster tees, the course is a daunting 7,327 yards long, with an average of 6,000 square feet per green to navigate as you make your way through the 18-hole course.

If the Monster tees seem a bit too intimidating, there are five other sets of tees to choose from, making the course very playable no matter your skill level.

The Monster 'shows her teeth' early, with a water hazard awaiting just after the first tee box. From there, much of the back nine includes water hazards, and combined with the gradient-changing greens, makes for a complex golf-



The Monster Golf Club has plenty of water – so keep your tee shots long and straight.

ing experience.

The course, which in years past was named in the top-50 of Golf Digest's Top 100 Golf Courses, is beautiful from start to finish. The view from the clubhouse is breathtaking, looking across at holes 1, 14, 11 and 18, as well as the wide open driving range. A practice putting green is also waiting for you right at the starting area, so if you arrive before your tee time you'll have plenty to do before hitting the links.

As with many of the other premier golf courses in the country, the greens and tee boxes are mowed daily, providing consistent putting throughout your round.

Another interesting thing about The Monster is that the holes are moved every single day. You could play every day of the season and never experience the same pin location twice.

The top-of-the-line GPS enabled carts have the cup location updated automatically every morning before the first tee time of the day, which provides exact yardage to the pin.

Club Manager Uri Jimenez, and his attentive, customer service-focused team, seek to exceed the expectations of all Monster guests, whether it be in a corporate outing or normal day of play.

After their soft opening last August, The Monster kicked off its inaugural season on April 19, and seem primed to give golfers a great experience.

One man versus The Monster

I recently had the opportunity to experience The Monster on May 7. The course was immaculate. The experience was incredible. My golf

skills? Not so much.

There are six sets of tees for each hole, and for my skill level, I decided to stick to the I and II tees. After parking and checking in at The Alder, my clubs and I were escorted by shuttle and driven to the clubhouse.

Upon arrival, the scenery opens up, and looking out across the course I was inspired to play the best round I could and prove that I could conquer the former Top-50 course that has instilled fear in so many.

I was escorted down to the first hole, equipped with my yardage guide and the GPS map of the course, and I set out upon my journey.

After immediately teeing off and losing my first ball in the woods, I was able to place my second attempt square in the middle of the fairway, and away I went.

Golfing alone, I was able to move at a quick pace, despite stopping for photos and chasing some of my shots into the woods. The carts tell you how ahead or behind your pace is, and the further I got along the course, the more time I was able to make up.

I was conservative with my shots, and managed to stay out of the sand traps for the entirety of my round. Water, on the other hand, became my sworn enemy on the back 9, as nearly every drive ended with a splash.

Despite my sub-par golfing skills, I was able to get my first, and only, par of the day on hole 8. After a drive to the left side of the fairway set me up for two easy 9 iron shot to get close to the green, I brought the 9 iron back out for a bump

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

and run, which miraculously rolled into the cup. Hopefully the pair mowing the tee boxes on Hole 9 did not see me jumping for joy.

I finished off the front nine and stopped by the clubhouse for a quick snack before heading back out to take on the back 9.

It started well, mostly because there were no water hazards on 10 and 11. Once I got to 12, however, The Monster really started to take the advantage.

After 12, 13 and 14, I began to wonder if I'd even be able to finish the round as my supply of golf balls was rapidly diminishing.

Once I finished 15 and headed to the 16 tee box, just to be greeted with more water, my worries started to increase.

Somehow, I managed to avoid the water for the first time all morning, sending my drive down the fairway and feeling pretty good about myself.

I followed up with a bogey on 17, the deceptively tricky Par 3, and headed to the final hole.

After a lackluster drive from the tee box, I followed up with back-to-back shots from my irons, and a few bad ones, to set me up between the

cart path and my final green of the round.

Despite being one of the most intimidating greens on the course, my irons had placed me in a perfect position to chip onto the green and sink a putt for a double bogey.

As I made my way back up to the clubhouse I felt as though I had conquered The Monster. Despite feeling like an imposter when I arrived, I was able to finish all 18 holes in just under three hours, and I felt ready to conquer the rest of my day.

I arrived back at the clubhouse, received a heated lavender-infused towel, and looked back over the view that greeted me when I arrived in the morning, feeling fulfilled.

Despite finishing the course as quickly as I did, there were at least a dozen times where I had to stop and just admire the course, the way the sun rose over the trees and the way that everything on each hole felt that it was right where it should be.

The course is challenging but rewarding, intimidating but beautiful, long but pristine. I am excited to see this course continue to grow and exceed the already high expectations that its legacy and history have set.

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The practice area comes complete with pins at various yardages as well as bunkers to hone up on your sand wedge – which you may need during a round at The Monster. In the background is Resorts World Catskills.

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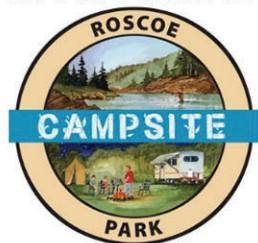
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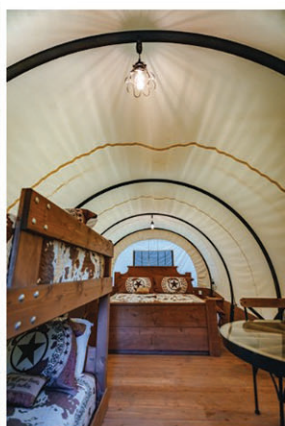


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Get on the greens

2024 Golf Course Guide

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Memberships: Available. Call for info or visit www.lochmorgolf.com

Greens fees w/cart: \$57 weekends \$46 weekdays. Walking: \$22 weekdays, \$27 weekends

Special: Monday - Friday Senior Special \$39 Discounted afternoon rates are offered for \$36.

Professional: Taylor Walsh

Tarry Brae

387 Pleasant Valley Road, South Fallsburg, NY 12779, 434-2620
Memberships: Available. Call or visit www.tarrybrae.com.

Greens fees w/cart: \$57 weekends and holidays; \$46 weekdays; \$37 for seniors. Discounted afternoon rates are offered after 2 p.m. Discounted prices are \$36 for weekdays and \$47 for weekends.

Food service available.

Professional: Geoff Walsh, PGA

Roscoe Mountain Club

100 Fairway View Drive, Roscoe, NY 12776, 607-498-5000, www.roscoemountainclub.com

Greens Fees: Monday-Thursdays (cart included) 18 holes \$40, 18 holes 60+ \$32, nine holes \$26

Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays (cart included) 18 holes (Sullivan County resident) \$65, 18 holes twilight (after 2p.m.) \$45, nine holes twilight (after 12 p.m.) \$29

Advantage Cards go for \$39 as a one time fee to save money for playing courses.

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General Manager: Shannon Feeney
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Greens Fees: 18 holes with cart \$31.00 weekdays, \$47.00 weekends; 9 holes with cart \$27.00 weekdays, \$33.00 weekends; 18 holes walking \$20.00 weekdays, \$28.00 weekends; 9 holes walking \$14.00 weekdays, \$20.00 weekends; 18 holes Unlimited Golf & Cart non-members \$47.00 weekdays, \$59.00 weekends.

Contact info@frenchwoodsgolf.com for more information.

Villa Roma

356 Villa Roma Road, Callicoon, NY 12723, 887-5097, www.villaroma.com/golf

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Single membership: For residents of Sullivan County it is \$1000 and for non-residents it is \$1,100. Each additional family member: \$400 for Sullivan County residents and \$450 for non-residents. Cart fees for members are \$700 for single, and \$400 for each additional member within the area. Non-residential visitors will cost \$800 for single, and \$450 for each additional member. Membership includes green fees for the entire season, Club storage & locker room, 10 percent off Clubhouse restaurants, members only tournaments, and USGA handicap service. Walking privileges anytime.

For Greens fees please call for up to date information.

The Hancock Golf Course

522 Golf Course Road, Hancock, NY 13783, (607) 637-2480

Greens Fees with cart: Nine holes, \$29 all week, weekends and holidays.

18 holes, \$36 all week, weekends and holidays.

Walking Fees: Nine holes, \$15 all week, weekends and holidays.

18 holes, \$18 all week, weekends and holidays.

Junior Green: Nine holes, \$14 all week, weekends and holidays.

18 holes, \$17 all week, weekends and holidays. An adult must be present with children at all times.

Walking Fees: Nine holes, \$12 all week, weekends and holidays.

18 holes, \$14 all week, weekends and holidays.

All rates are per person.

Memberships are available. Visit hancockgolfandcountryclub.com.

Professional: Available by appointment

Twin Village Golf Club

144 Rockland Road, Roscoe, NY 12776, 607-498-5829, twinvillagepark.com

Single Membership: \$400, Couple Rate \$650, Junior (under 18 or full time student) \$100, Child (under 12) \$25.

Green Fees: 9 Holes: \$20 weekdays/\$25 weekends/person; 18 Holes: \$28 weekdays; \$35 weekends/person. Carts available.

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Please visit twinvillagepark.com for up-to-date fees, hours and restrictions.

The Lynx at River Bend Golf Club

87 Neversink Drive, Port Jervis, NY 12771, (845) 858-4653, www.thelynxgolf-club.com

Greens fees: Monday 7AM - 12PM, \$38, 12PM - 4PM \$28, 4PM - 7PM \$28, Tuesday-Thursday 7AM - 12PM \$48, 12PM - 4PM \$38, 4PM-7PM \$28, Friday 7AM - 12PM \$58, 12PM - 4PM \$48, 4PM - 7PM \$28. Weekends 7AM - 12PM \$68, 12PM - 4PM \$58, 4PM - 7PM \$28.

The Monster at the Concord

750 Resorts World Dr, Monticello, NY, 12701, (833) 586-9358, rwcatskills.com.

Green fees: From April 19 – May 23

Monday – Thursday: Starting at \$145

Friday – Sunday: Starting at \$175

From May 24 – November 1

Monday – Thursday: Starting at \$225

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Sullivan County Golf & Country Club

2514 NY-52, Liberty, NY 12754, 292-9584

Membership: Visit www.sullivancounty-golf.com.

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Cart fees: \$15 for 9 holes and \$22 for 18 holes.

Full day unlimited golf offers are \$100 for walking and \$140 with a cart included.

Club and Pullcart rentals are \$10 each.

No tee time necessary! Well-behaved dogs on leash welcome. Cart players must tee off by 6pm.

All Things Accuracy sets sights on success



STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ANTHONY MORGANO

Archery, and other outdoor activities have seen a resurgence in recent years, with a heavy emphasis on youth sports.

Recreational, and competitive, archery can provide a great way to learn concentration, as it requires focus, strength and determination to succeed.

“One of the best things about archery is the discipline that goes into it,” All Things Accuracy owner Mike Leavitt said. “You have to relax your mind to shoot your bow, and once you complete your shot process it becomes repeatable. You learn the muscle memory of what works and you can feel if something is off.”

In Sullivan County, hunting and fishing plays a vital role in the lives of many, and groups like the Sullivan County Longbeards (SCLB) and the Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs of Sullivan County (FOSCOSC) promote youth programming to preserve the hunting heritage for generations to come.

Recently, the SCLB hosted a fundraising event at the Rockland House, and one of the featured booths in the dining room was All Things Accuracy (ATA), a new shop in Liberty with an emphasis on bringing archery to everyone.

In their first year, they have already ex-

panded from an 800sqft space into an 8000 square foot shop, with an indoor 30-yard range. They carry name brands such as Mathews, Hoyt, Prime, Bowtech, Elite, PSE, Excalibur, and TenPoint. Providing full service work on all bows, they are an authorized TenPoint Service Center and make custom bowstrings in house.

Aside from retail, ATA provides range rentals and lessons for anyone interested in learning or honing their archery skills. Leagues are also hosted by ATA, introducing the competitive side of the sport to archers of all ages, as well as professionals. In their inaugural Paper League season, there were 70 shooters competing – ranging from youth to national champions.

Alongside the leagues, All Things Accuracy also sponsors 17 local shooters who travel all over the country to compete in American Shooters Association (ASA) events.

Another draw when it comes to archery is taking hunting trips. Traveling to a new place to participate in an elk hunt, for example, can be a life-changing experience.

“I want to be able to show people what they would need to travel west for a hunting trip,” Leavitt said. “We’re hoping to have all the gear in-house to simulate what a different pack might look or feel like. Hunting trips are physically demanding and you need to have the right mindset and gear to truly enjoy it.”

Focused on Family

All Things Accuracy is a family-owned and operated shop, run by husband-and-wife duo Mike and Ashley Leavitt. Their “adopted” family at the shop includes a handful of employees and volunteers that come around and spend time working and learning about the business side of shooting sports.

“When I started, it was just me,” Leavitt said, “but now there’s multiple guys who come around for ‘family time at the bow shop.’ We call them our adopted family. Each one of them walked in off the street as a customer, and now have be-

come our family”

Besides their work family, Mike and Ashley also have two kids and four dogs, and love when families come to the shop or rent out the range for parties.

“The Homestead School hosts their Archery Club here, and we want to be somewhere that kids can go after school to hang out and do something fun and educational. The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) has grown a lot in recent years, and we hope that it continues to get bigger.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



Husband-and-wife duo Mike and Ashley Leavitt enjoy owning All Things Accuracy.

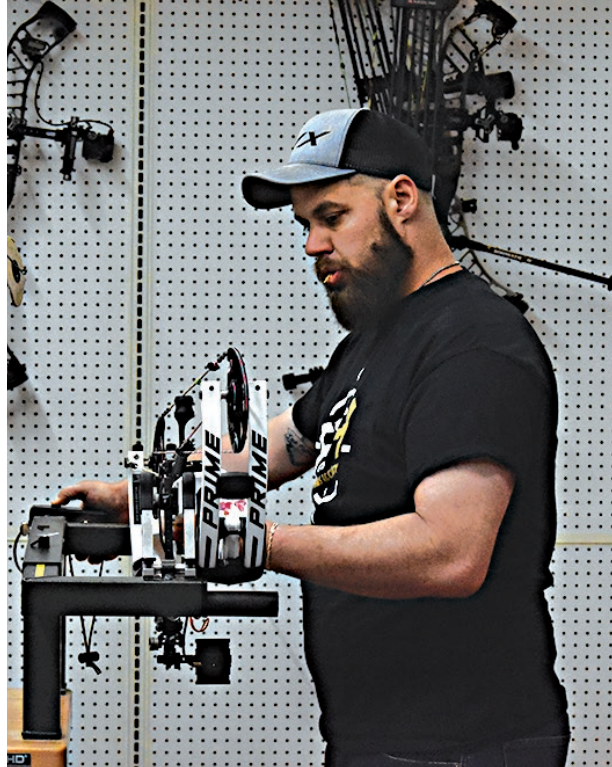
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Adam Blakesley works on a custom bowstring in his work area in the back of the shop.



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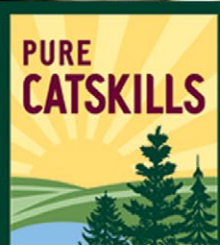
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When it comes to the benefits of youth archery clubs Mike said, "It takes a lot of concentration. You put in the work and you see results, and that mindset can be used in the classroom as well."

When it comes to goals for the shop, Mike's focus is firmly on bringing the sport of archery to everyone.

"I want to be able to help anybody that wants to get into archery. We want to be a place where

they can come to learn and get the right gear."

While archery has been the early focus for ATA, they have plans to expand their services and offer more to customers.

ATA is currently in the process of setting up a Laser Shot Simulator at the shop, which functions as both a game option for parties and can be used for military and law enforcement certifications as well.

"We don't want to just be archery, we want to be a go-to shop for everything outdoors," Mike said.



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At Diehl Me In Performance Horses, strong bonds are forged over the love of horses.

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BY DEREK KIRK

When choosing what to do this summer, a lot can come to mind; fishing on the trusted sweet spot of the Delaware River, visiting the family-favorite restaurant, and all the other routine stops. But this summer, why not learn something new, like how to ride a horse?

At Diehl Me In Performance Horses, start your journey with lessons from trained professionals and passionate equestrians. Located at 33 Diehl Road, Callicoon, Diehl Me In (DMI) specializes in all things equestrian as Sullivan County's premier horse facility.

Both private and group horse riding instruction are available via appointment. In these lessons, you'll receive teaching from Megan Diehl Blumenthal, a skilled rider and educator who seeks to share her expertise with riders of all ages. Joining her in showing

others the reins at DMI is Heather Ryder, a Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor as well as a Mentor through PATH Int'l who joined the DMI team to offer beginner hunt seat and western lessons.

In gaining a new skill, the support given to DMI allows programs like Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County 4-H and Hippology competitions to enrich the lives, experiences and knowledge of many youths in the county.

Already know the basics on how to ride? Consider DMI for continued boarding and training and spur on this summer towards being one of the best.

For further information on DMI, contact Megan at (845) 866-8183 or diehlmeinph@gmail.com. More can be found on their website, www.diehlmein.com, and be sure to check out their socials on Instagram and Facebook.



Diehl Me In is a great place to learn more than just how to ride, but engage in a variety of lessons as well.

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BY VINCENT KURZROCJAK

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Established in August 19 of 2019, co-founders Christian and Edison found just the right place on Sullivan Street in busy Wurtsboro to call home.

The co-founders met about ten years ago at Limoncello, where they set their roots in fine dining, Italian cuisine, and admiration for the culinary arts.

They both worked and managed this establishment, and Edison was even one of the owners for a short time.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

From appetizers to desserts, Pasta D'Oro prides itself in the finest cuisine and great atmosphere.

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DINING



pages 30-31



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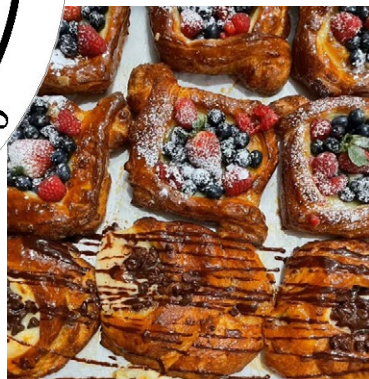
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Between Christian and Edison, there are twenty-five years of experience behind those meticulously-crafting hands.

The restaurant offers catering as well. This includes off-site and on-premises to meet any and all events, as well as occasions.

They also provide staff to run and serve your event off-site if need be.

In regards to their on-premises work, their recommendation is that you book for an event at least two weeks in advance for parties larger than 25 or more persons.

For smaller groups, they recommend at least the day before. It is also preferable that reserva-

tions are made a few days before if one wants to secure their spot.

"Weekends are especially busy!" says General Manager Gilberto Gonzalez.

If you are coming on the weekend (Friday, Saturday, or Sunday), it's advised to have a reservation booked – and to ask for any of their specials, whether it be food or drink on the special menu that evening.

They guarantee that you won't be disappointed.

They suggest having a pasta course to start the evening, salad, and entree, like one of their steak boards for two or four with seafood, then finish the evening off with one of their delicately-crafted homemade desserts.

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These recommendations hold especially true if you are fresh to their restaurant.

"We love to cater any and all events, small and large. If you feel you want to experience something special with your loved ones for any



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occasion whether it be weddings, birthdays, communions, baptisms, showers, retirement, etc. Pasta Doro should be your location to let us make your Afternoon or Evening memorable," stated Gonzalez, "Great food and drinks, top of the line service, warm cozy inviting ambiance all are reasons why!"

Take-out is offered during all hours of operation. They even work with delivery services, such as Slice and DoorDash, to provide delivery for their food.

Their hours are as follows:

Tuesday - Thursday: Noon - 10 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: Noon - 11pm

Sunday: Noon - 9 p.m

They are closed Mondays

"Pasta D'Oro started from just an idea: Using the finest and best ingredients to create something you don't see everyday – food that's a conversation piece that's also incredibly delicious. It'll leave you wanting more!" said Gonzalez, "Edison and Christian truly love what they do. They love the people they serve, the food they cook, and the memories that are made with all our guests – friends old and new alike. Once you walk through the door you're a family member, come dine at our house!"

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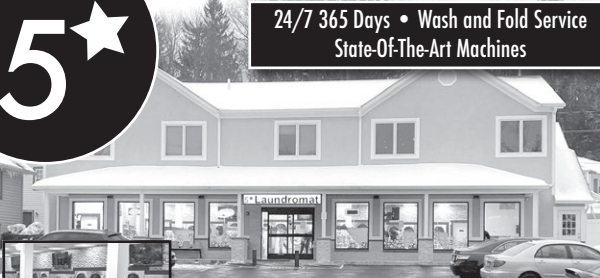
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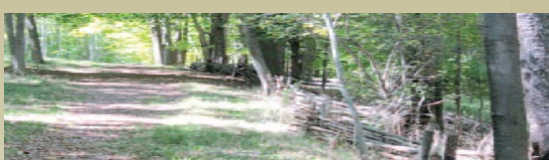


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I hauled up a backyard rock a few weeks ago and freaked out over a tiny shiny red moving thing – a miniature little dragon, sort of, that went bonkers on its own.

Gingerly, I placed the rock back and did some research. Then I spoke to the well-respected editor of this Catskill-Delaware magazine who enthused about his childhood in Roscoe.

“When I was a kid,” said Anthony Morgano, “we used to find these all the time when we would hike in the backyard!”

I then wound up calling my nephew Jesse Hoffman who works for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. “It sounds like you found the Eastern red-backed salamander that (rather than are born in lakes and rivers) live in moist areas under logs and rocks.”

My rock. My baby salamander.

Of course, the red-back had no interest in having me haul up his or her stone every time I felt like it. It was gone the next time I looked.

So, here’s something about the lives of these quiet beautiful creatures, as well as their cousins, the newts, who prefer water to stones.

No Swimming for Salamanders

Red-backed salamanders live in eastern and central U.S. and as far north as Canada. Scientists think these creatures evolved somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains between 60 million and 70 million years ago

From only about two inches to four inches long, these salamanders lack lungs, so they must absorb oxygen through their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 39



Newts sometimes take to the water and can be good swimmers.



Sometimes salamanders can take on scary appearance.
A red backed salamander can grow to up to 4 inches in length.

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skin. They are land-dwellers and typically will not go into water.

With four toes on their front feet and five toes on their back feet, red-backed salamanders sleep during the day from under their rock, log, fallen bark, or moist leaf litter. Then at night, they go looking for supper. Their well-developed toes allow for digging in soil as they feast on ants, spiders, centipedes, snails, beetles and termites.

Both males and females leave scent marks on the ground along with their droppings. They learn from each other's territorial boundaries, the size of the salamanders that live there, and their identity, including whether or not they are related. Intruders are warned to go away by seeing the size of the salamander and watching it give threatening displays.

Male Eastern red-backs seek females from October to December, but courtship and mating activity takes place in early spring. One display allows for the male to rub his snout on the female's head and chin!

The female lays a small cluster of 3 to 17 eggs suspended from a gelatinous stalk on the roof of the couple's nest. Both parents care for the developing eggs, keeping them moist with their own skin secretions. The juveniles – tiny perfect salamanders the size of pencil

erasers – remain in the nest cavity up to three weeks after hatching. Then they are on their own.

Webbed Feet: It's Newts to Us

In Sullivan County and environs, the most frequently seen salamander is the Eastern red-spotted newt. Larger than the tiny red-back, the newt alternates between living in water and living on land, making it more likely to be seen by humans.

With webbed feet and a paddle-like tail, the red-spotted newt's skin is rough and covered with warts – quite different from the red-backed salamanders that are wet, slick and shiny.

The Eastern newt lives through four life cycles: the egg, the larva in the water, the adult on land known as an eft, and the adult in the water.

In spring, Eastern newts lay their eggs in water attached to a submerged plant or fallen leaf. Within five weeks, the tiny larvae no longer than an inch live in water for about three months. Their skin is olive colored and they have feathery gills.

Then, in fall they shed the gills and move onto the land where they live as efts for three to four years. The efts are then a bright red color with a smattering of black-bordered orange spots along

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42



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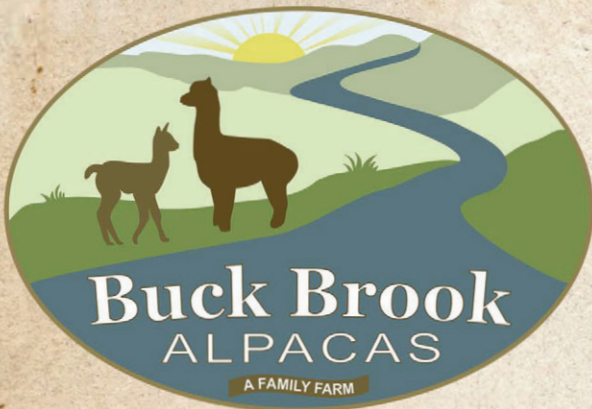
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

each side of their backs, warning predators of a poisonous toxin that is secreted by their skin.

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After sitting and deteriorating for several decades, the Cochection Pump House was stabilized as a seasonal open-air venue in 2021.

Cochection Pump House conserves history with open-air venue





The once-abandoned ruin was turned into a community space for hosting live entertainment and offering food and drink items to visitors by owners Dave Lieber and Jin Zhang.

STORY BY ALEX KIELAR
PHOTOS BY ALEX KIELAR
AND WILLOW BAUM

Built in 1879 and established in 1881 as a pump house for the Olean Bayonne Oil Pipeline, the Cochection Pump House was taken out of service as an oil line in the 1920s and eventually scrapped for steel and left roofless.

The Cochection Pump
CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

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House was one of nine stations on this specific line and was part of the Standard Oil Co. while operating under the name "New York Transit Co." The other eight stations were located in Olean, Cameron Mills, Horseheads, Catatonk, Sanitaria Springs, Hancock, Huguenot and Unionville, all approximately 30 miles apart.

The old Cochection pump station pumped oil east for Rockefeller during its heyday.

After sitting and deteriorating for several decades while being overtaken by vegetation, the Pump House, located off State Route 97 two miles south of the hamlet of Cochection, was stabilized in 2021 by a project team led by owners Dave Lieber and Jin Zhang.

At the onset of the project, the owners worked with the Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure that there were no leftover environmental issues from the oil pumping

era of the pumphouse. They ensured the walls were stable through the consultation of a local architect and engineer, hired a mason to take care of the loose upper run of bricks, ran electricity and excavated the area to open up more accessibility.

The once-abandoned ruin was transformed into a community space that speaks to the area of Sullivan County and its want to restore history. It was turned into an open-air restaurant and event space that hosts a variety of live entertainment, features a vast beer and wine menu and offers a variety of food items. Since it is an open-air venue, the Cochection Pump House is seasonally open during the summer.

This year, the Cochection Pump House will be opening on Saturday, May 25.

Lieber and Zhang were recognized at the 34th Annual UDC Awards Ceremony in 2022 for their transformation of the overgrown building.

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