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A Look at the Region's Spirit, Beer and Wine Offerings

Cochecton
Pump House
gets new owner
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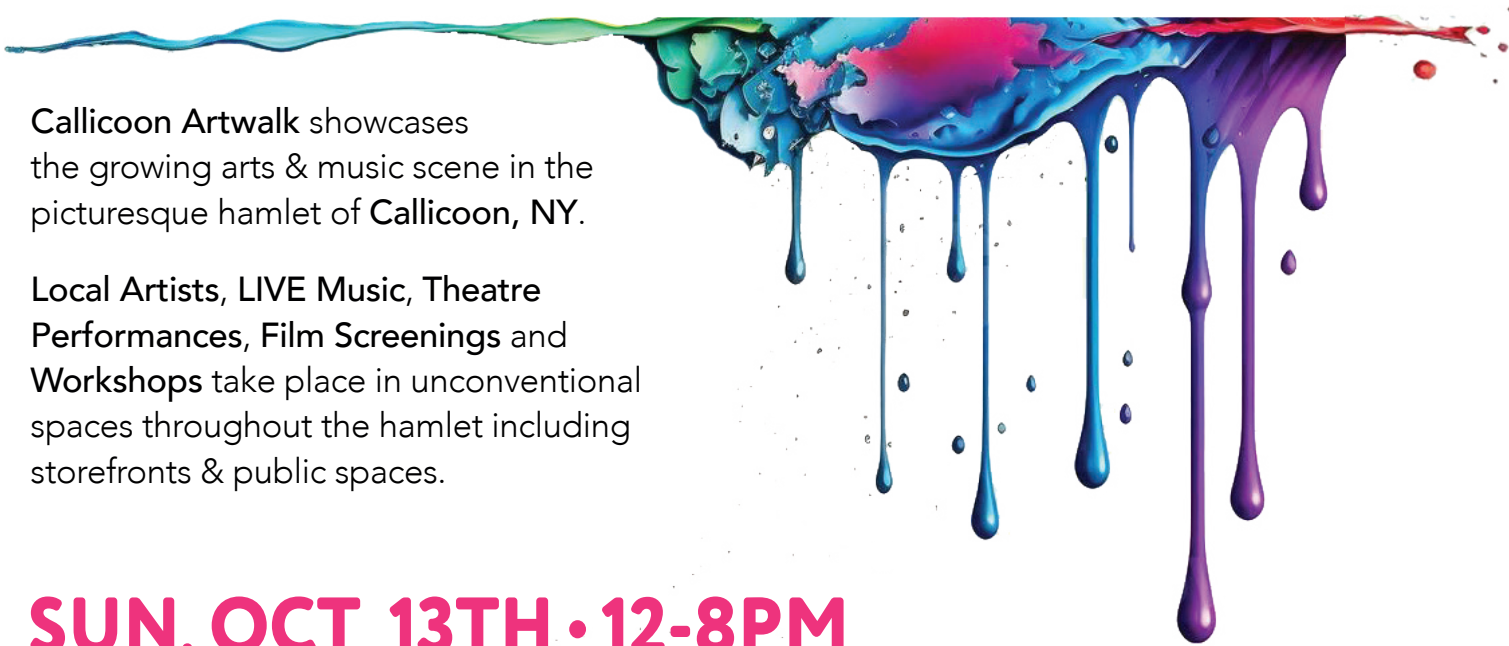
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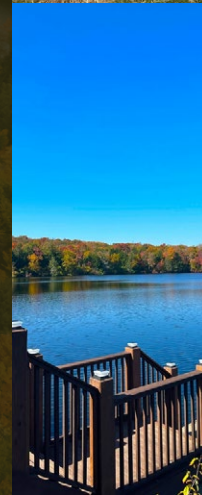


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Big Eddy Brewing breaks out the "Amber Waves"

Becoming Narrowsburg's first-ever original craft beer

BY DEREK KIRK

When the inviting overhead garage door was finally lifted wide open by the brand new Big Eddy Brewing Company on Main Street in August, the community flocked to the hamlet's first-ever brewery to catch a drink and eat fresh barbecue. But it was only a soft opening, as the brewery was waiting on one final ingredient – original craft beer!

Now, for the first time ever, the brewery has recently unveiled their own Narrowsburg-based craft beer — the "Amber Waves" amber ale.

This beer is described as medi-

um-bodied, copper in color with a balanced flavor profile, blending malty sweetness with a mild hop bitterness. It has an ABV of 6.1 percent and is on tap for only \$7 a pint.

The next brew up to be released is the "Haze Me Baby" Hazy IPA, followed by the "Killer" Kolsch and then the "King of the Road" English Porter.

For their soft opening in August, master brewer Jake Johnson was joined by his team, consisting of his wife Alison and their business partners, married duo Caitlin and Tom Coacci. Jake shared his excitement leading up to this big moment after 14 months of renovations and two months of

brewing. Their continuing story is still leading up to the brewery's official ribbon cutting on Saturday, November 2 at 1 p.m. followed by live music until 9 p.m.

Gearing up to the slashing of the ribbon, the brewery is hosting an Oktoberfest event on October 6 starting at 11 a.m. going all day, and every first Tuesday of the month will be an open mic night from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Their taproom, located at 93 Main Street in Narrowsburg, is open everyday except for Wednesdays. Weekdays are Noon to 10 p.m., Saturdays are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The BBQ kitchen, operated by Smokd, closes an hour before.



"Amber Waves" (6.1 percent ABV) is a medium-bodied beer, copper in color with a flavor that balances malty sweetness with a mild hop bitterness.



From left, Big Eddy Brewing Company's Caitlin and Tom Coacci alongside fellow co-owners Jake and Alison Johnson.



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Big Eddy Brewing Company had their soft opening in August, but are now celebrating the release of their first-ever original beer.

Cochecton Pump House welcomes new owners



The Cochecton Pump House off of New York State Route 97 has recently gone through a change of ownership. Married couple and business partners Judy Brown and Randall Lane have purchased the business from the original owner and devel-

oper, Dave Lieber. The Pump House will now remain open through the end of October and feature some fall events, including a Halloween party on Saturday, October 26 as they partnered with Catskills Night Circus.

BY ALEX KIELAR

The Cochecton Pump House has new owners, Judy Brown and Randall Lane, who are taking over for original owner and developer Dave Lieber. The married couple purchased the Pump House with Judy's cousin, James Cullinan.

According to the pair, Cullinan purchased all of the surrounding property, including the farmhouse next door and 12 acres of land across the street, including the Pump House Proper. Judy and Randall purchased the Pump House business itself.

The new owners said they are mostly keeping the Pump House the same while adding some additional events such as specialty food events like pop-up events and takeovers with guest chefs and other spectacle food events.

"For our friends and neighbors party that we had after we closed, we had Matthew Lane, formerly of Matthew's on Main in Callicoon, do a paella over an open fire," said Randall. "So he built a fire and cooked two types of paella."

Brown noted that Lane did this event in the Pump House Proper at the center of the space.

"So it was a very interactive, fun experience," she said. "Everyone got to see him making it and ask him questions and all of that."

"That was a very successful event where we invited a large number of local business owners and friends that we've made since we've been up in the area," said Randall. "We had approximately 200 attendees and it was a lot of fun."

The new owners also said that the cook ran out of paellas and wound up coming back to make a whole other batch later that night.

One of the things that Randall Lane said that he wants to do is a Carolina-style whole hog roast, which is one of those spectacle types of food events that they had mentioned previously.

"So these are the types of things that we want to add to the Pump House," said Randall. "We love the Pump House and we want to keep it mostly the same."

Randall also said that they are close friends with the original owner Dave Lieber and recalled when Lieber first got the idea of purchasing the old oil pumphouse and turning it into an event venue.

"We met him in 2020 when he did Dave's Backyard Skewers, a little pop-up," he said. "He and his wife Jin Zang made these Chinese skewers over in his side yard... we were all at Dave's Backyard Skewers one day and Dave pointed out this giant, old relic of a brick building. He said that it's an old, Standard Oil pumphouse from the 1880s and he was going to buy it and turn it into an event venue."

Randall said that it was overgrown with weeds and trees - which left the structure barely visible. However, he said that they watched Lieber develop the structure into a business successfully.

“He had such great vision and just did such an amazing job,” said Randall. “We really want to keep true to what Dave’s original goal was. Just to have it as a place for everyone in the community to come and be a part of it, have fun and experience a real community vibe. We definitely want to be inviting and welcoming to everyone. From locals that have been here for generations, to newcomers to weekenders and tourists, to have an affordable destination for food and drink and gathering and events.”

While Lieber was going to close in the mid-to-end of September, the new owners said that they are going to stay open through the end of October, doing Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the fall.

They are partnering with Scott De La Cruz of Catskills Night Circus to host a Halloween Party at the Pump House on Saturday, October 26.

“He does this really fun, performative and crazy over-the-top circus,” said Brown. “Cochecton Pump House is going to be the new home of the Catskills Night Circus, so we’re going to do a few events with him throughout the season.

They said that next season, they will open earlier than Lieber was opening, which was Memorial Day and open earlier in May during the busy summer season.”

“We want to try and be open at least five days a week, if not seven days a week,” Brown said. “And then stay open through Halloween again [next year].”



The Pump House was originally purchased and revamped by Dave Lieber in 2020.



“We really want to keep true to what Dave’s original goal was,” said Randall Lane.



The new owners, Randall Lane and Judy Brown, will have more featured food events.

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Gear up for Hoptoberfest



This annual event marks the end of the season.

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

For a yearly festival that closes the season, Hoptoberfest is back tomorrow, September 28 at noon until sundown for its fourth year of festivities, and it's shaping up to be better than ever.

Hosted by the familiar Second District Brew Farm, located at 163 Fallsdale Rd, Milanville, PA, which has become a local favorite for its warm atmosphere and exceptional brews, this event promises a delightful experience for beer enthusiasts and families alike.

Attendees can look forward to an impressive lineup of seasonal beers crafted by Second District Brewing, showcasing the rich flavors of autumn.

"This puts a capstone on the summer season at the farm," explained Reid Benditt of Second District Brew Farm. "It's a way to celebrate the fall season with lots of fall flavors and activities."

But that's not all—other fall favorites from nearby Pennsylvania brewers will also be served, allowing guests to explore a variety of unique brews that celebrate the spirit of the season.

Whether your palate prefers pumpkin ales, spiced lagers, or rich stouts, there's bound to be something to tickle your taste buds.

In addition to the varied selection of beverages, the festival has

planned a whole host of yard activities that will keep the fun going all day long.

From fun tractor rides that take you through the beautiful fall foliage to pumpkin picking where you can find the perfect gourd for your fall decorations, there will be something for everyone.

Live music will fill the air, featuring local bands that will have you tapping your feet and singing along, creating an atmosphere of joy and community.

Food will also play a significant role in the festivities, featuring a menu infused with German influence.

You can expect delicious fare that pairs perfectly with the craft beers. And for those who enjoy a little friendly competition, activities like cornhole and horseshoes will be set up to challenge your skills and bring out your competitive spirit.

For those looking to extend the fun into the night, a limited number of campsites can be reserved for the weekend.

Admission for the event is pay as you go, making it easy for everyone to enjoy the festivities without breaking the bank. So gather your friends and family, grab your favorite sweater, and get ready for a day filled with laughter, great beer, and unforgettable memories at Hoptoberfest!

"We hope you can make it out this year!" said Benditt.



The event at the Second District Brew Farm in Milanville, PA, promises to bring good times and good brews as it always has.



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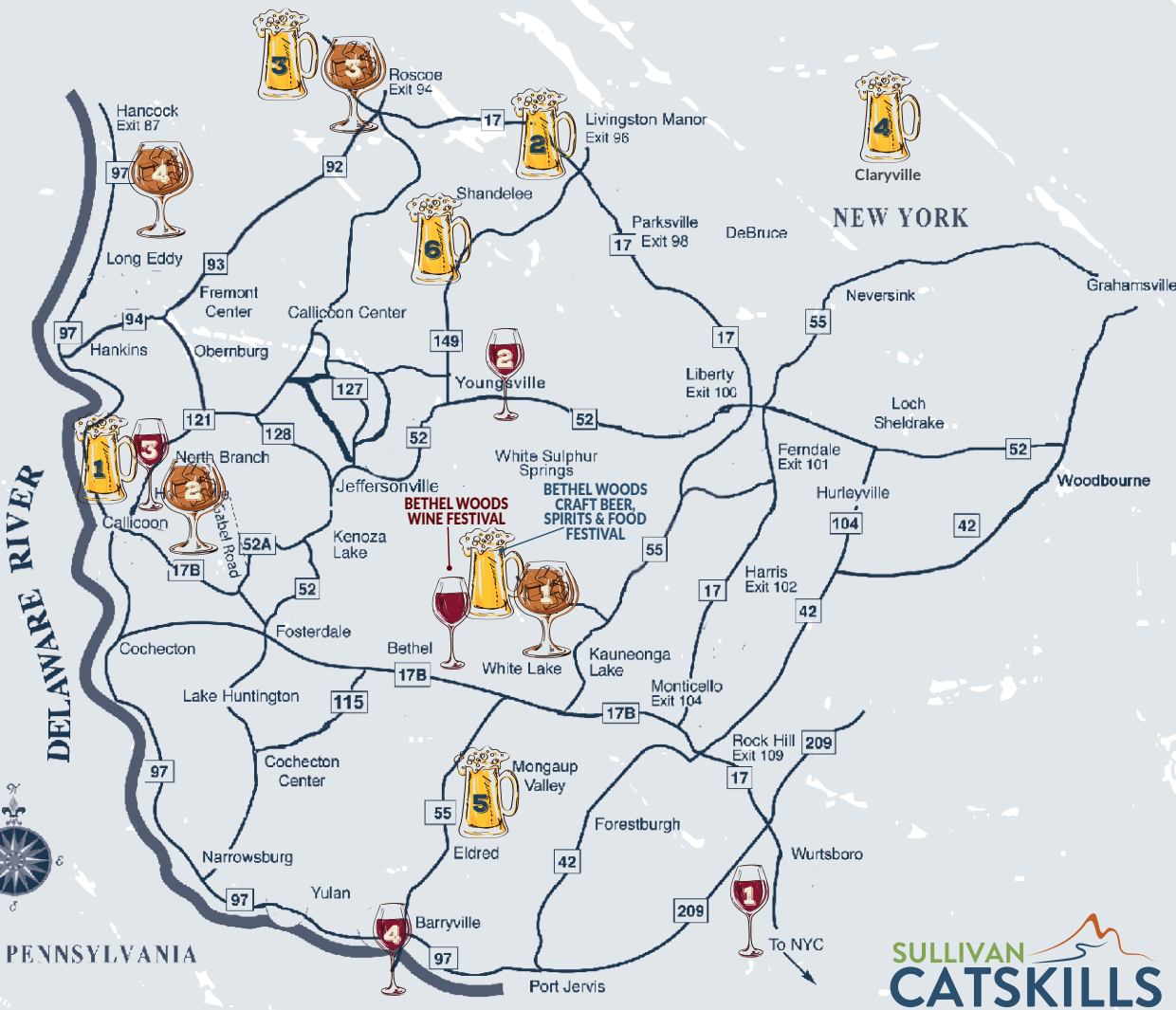


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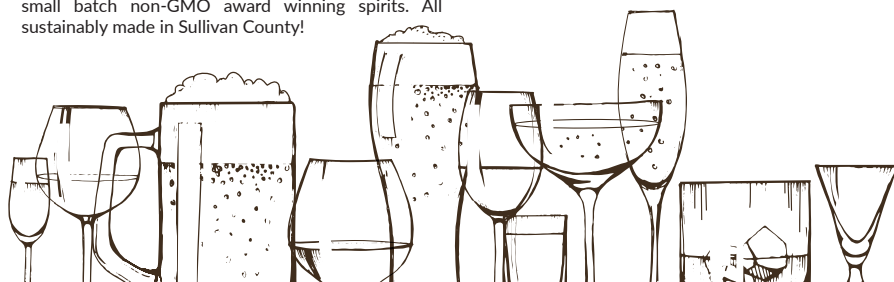
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