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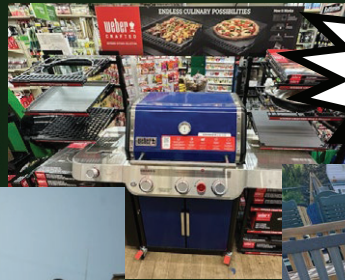
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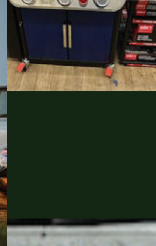
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By Matthew Albeck

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On the Cover:

When the 100-year-old Sullivan County Golf Club needed help, Tom Coyne, center, stepped in with a couple of special friends, Jason Kelce, left, and Bill Murray, right.

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Fred W. Stabbert III

Editor

Derek Kirk

Sports Editor

Crystal Tweed

Editorial Assistants

Kathy Daley, Matthew Albeck
Jeanne Sager, Vincent Kurzrock

Business Manager

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Advertising Representative

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Ruth Huggler, Nyssa Calkin,
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Maria Grimaldi

Distribution

John Fischer, Bradley DuBois

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Sullivan County Golf Club celebrates centennial in style



BY TOM COYNE

A renovated clubhouse and new restaurant. A new putting course modeled after the Himalayas putting course in St. Andrews. A new driving range, new holes, new cart paths, new carts, and two new owners you may have heard of: actor Bill Murray and NFL star Jason Kelce. It's a new day at Sullivan County Golf Club, just in time for its 100-year anniversary.

Sullivan County Golf Club has a rich and rare history as one of the oldest golf courses in the Catskills. It was here for the golden age of Catskills tourism, a home for generations of local golfers who en-

joyed this sporty, hillside nine-hole while the nearby resort courses reserved their tee times for hotel guests. Those courses are almost all gone now, but the perseverance of golf in Liberty is a testament to the commitment of the local community, the passion of golfers from far away, and the vision and drive of a Liberty superintendent.

Three years ago, I received a DM via social media telling me about a great little golf course in New York that was going to close and asked if I knew any investors or architects who might be interested in taking a shot on a golf club that deserved one. The message came from Sulli-

van County's greenskeeper, Shaun Smith, and some research revealed that the course indeed deserved a new shot at success.

From Otto Hillig's flight from its 8th fairway to Denmark in 1931, to families who had played golf at Sullivan County for four generations, to golf holes with exceptional views and rare topography, it became clear that Sullivan County Golf Club was a place that mattered and was packed with golf potential.

I had spent most of my life wandering the golf globe for books and articles and had become something of a spoiled golfer.

I was editor of a golf magazine (The Golfer's Journal), a partner in a golf architecture firm (Smyers, Craig & Coyne), and owned a golf tour travel business (CoyneGolf). I was also due to write another book, and certainly wasn't looking to take on a new endeavor, with no time or money to run a golf course.

But it occurred to me that while I'd been a voracious golf consumer, I knew little about being a golf provider, and getting on the other side of the golf counter began to feel like a natural next step.

It was worth a shot, anyway.

What golfer didn't dream about

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Golf anyone? What does retired NFL center Jason Kelce, left, golf writer Tom Coyne, center, and famous actor Bill Murray all have common? They are all partners at Sullivan County Golf Club in Liberty. Fore!



The ninth green, with the clubhouse in the background, is the finishing hole on this course. A new restaurant, Otto's, opened on Mother's Day.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

owning their own golf course? And it might make for a good book (turns out it did, and *A Course Called Home* will be released by Simon & Schuster in 2026). With Shaun's passion inspiring me to give this idea a go, I became the

operator of Sullivan County Golf Club in 2023, with little idea what that meant or would entail.

The global golf community loves an underdog story, and thanks to social media and podcasts and articles written about our work at Sullivan County, we captured that community's attention. By the end of our first year, 250 golfers






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from outside Sullivan County had purchased nonresident memberships, people from as far away as California, Ireland, and the UK. We commissioned a new logo and started selling merchandise, and that took off as well. And the golfers came.

Folks from New Jersey and Massachusetts and Brooklyn arrived, excited for the chance to play an unfussy, country golf course at a very reasonable price. No tee times. Bring your dog. Hang around and have a beer from a local Catskills brewery. There are thousands of golfers out there who are looking for an alternative to the expensive, stuffy country club scene, and they found a happy home at our little nine-holer in the mountains.

We made small improvements to the course during that first year. I begged favors from every contact I had in golf, and Shaun soon had better equipment and inputs with which to maintain the course. But after my first year as operator, a question loomed—what next? I'd borrowed the course for a year to see what we might be able to accomplish, but would I stay on and now buy it? A golf course wasn't in this writer's budget. We had made great strides, but where were we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Tom Coyne let his dream become a reality at the Sullivan County Golf Club in Liberty.

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headed?

Golf has a great way of forging unlikely friendships. Thanks to this game, I had become golf friends with an unlikely cast of characters, including Bill Murray (who I'd met through his brother Brian, who played a part in the film adaptation of my first book, *A Gentleman's Game*).

I'd gotten to know some football names as well—Mike Madden, son of the Hall of Fame football coach, and Jason Kelce, who had just retired and was aiming to play more golf. I'd also come to know and trust the owners of Sullivan County from whom I'd borrowed the course—

Sims Foster and Chris Monello of Foster Supply Hospitality—and I admired their hotels and lodges and restaurants in the area. They didn't have a golf business background, so despite their best efforts, they had been losing money on the golf course.

But when we turned the corner on golf, it seemed that if I could connect this unlikely network into an ownership group passionate not just about golf, but making something great in a community that deserved it, we might be able to give this a go. So that's what we did.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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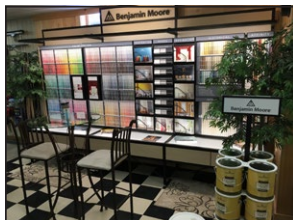
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Many of the hillside holes have been redesigned at the Sullivan County Golf Club.



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and the expertise of Foster Supply, the formerly shuttered Sullivan County clubhouse has a new pro shop and will open its new restaurant and pub, Otto's, this Mother's Day. And after a busy year of work and remodeling in 2024, the course now offers a more walkable routing with three new dramatic holes built on the most scenic parts of the property.

We've made way for a new driving range, new cart paths and a new fleet of carts, and a new outdoor social space beside the putting course

where residents are welcome to come have lunch or drinks at twilight and maybe hit a few putts. We are now booking outings and events again and welcome new leagues to the course. We've come a long way in an short time, and it is all thanks to a community and a greenskeeper who would not let their golf course go.

Our hope for 2025 is that the Sullivan County community will come visit and enjoy this historic space born anew. With the support of local golfers and diners, we could not be more excited about what the next 100 years may hold.



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Take to the skies with Wurtsboro Airport

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

Wurtsboro Airport is more than just one of the oldest continuously operating airports in the United States—it's a living snapshot of aviation history. Located in Sullivan County, New York, this small but mighty airport has served as a hub of recreational flying since the early 20th century. Its roots stretch back to the 1920s, when glider flying began long before the area was officially designated as an airport. Enthusiasts would tow gliders using cars, launching them off the side of the nearby Shawangunk Ridge, landing in what was then farmland.

Glider flying has always been the heart of Wurtsboro. "Every operator here has focused on glider rides and training flights," says current airport manager Daniel Yates. "It really is amazing. It's the best kind of flying. I feel like an observer that's not part of the world

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Without an engine, the glider rides wind currents.

The glider is towed by a plane that will assist in the takeoff and then carry it to a specific altitude and location before "cutting the rope."

Trailed by the glider, the tow plane sails over the Shawangunk Ridge.



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I'm looking at." Yates even recalls one of his most memorable moments: soaring alongside a bald eagle that glided just a foot above his wing.

This passion for gliding persists to this day. Currently, the airport owns five gliders ranging in wingspan from 45 to 58 feet. The single-seat versions weigh around 400 pounds, while the two-seaters weigh closer to 780 pounds. These aircraft are engineered to fly efficiently at speeds of 40–55 mph, using gravity, altitude, and rising air currents rather than engines.

As Yates explains: "Gliders fly by trading altitude for speed... if they get into air that rises faster than they descend, they get farther from the ground." The Shawangunk Ridge—located just 3,200 feet from the runway—makes this possible, especially when wind from the northwest creates a 1,000-foot cushion of air.

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Rides can be booked online at wurtsboro-airport.com, by calling (845) 888-2791, or via email at info@wurtsboroairport.com. If online booking appears full, calling is encouraged—staff can often accommodate rides manually.

Upon arrival, guests complete a waiver and receive a safety briefing. They're then brought to the glider, where the pilot—who typically

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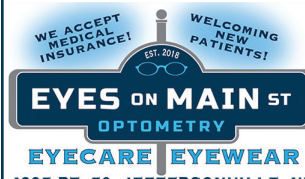
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sits behind the passenger—explains the seating and safety belts. A tow plane attaches to the glider via a rope and lifts it to the desired altitude before release. The glider then soars freely until it returns to land.

Though serene in the air, gliders have specific limitations on who can ride. To maintain proper balance and safety, each seat must adhere to strict FAA-certified weight limits. For example, two-seat gliders that weigh 800 pounds empty can carry only 400 pounds of combined passenger weight. Riders must weigh at least 154 pounds (70 kg); otherwise, ballast is added to keep the aircraft in balance.

“Gliding is relatively rare in the U.S.,” Yates notes. “Other countries don’t get to experience aviation of any sort like we do. It’s a good idea to see if it’s something you’d like.”

Still, Yates emphasizes that this isn’t a casual hobby: “There is a lot of effort to become a pilot... this isn’t a hobby you just take up every now and then.”

On a typical day, glider activity begins around 10:00 a.m. as pilots assemble their aircraft. Launches occur around noon, and most flights wrap up between 4 and 6 p.m., depending on air conditions. In the summertime, airport hours stretch from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in winter). Weather can lead to closures, especially in rain or storm conditions.

The airport also plays a role in community engagement. In past years, they’ve hosted aviation-themed math instruction for Pine Bush School students. Today, public events include the Fourth of July fireworks (held this year on July 12) and an open glider competition where 12–20 pilots compete throughout the week.

Though commercial flights are a common misconception, Wurtsboro Airport does not offer them. Its services are centered on personal aviation and include fuel, maintenance, hangar rentals, and instruction. They even

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



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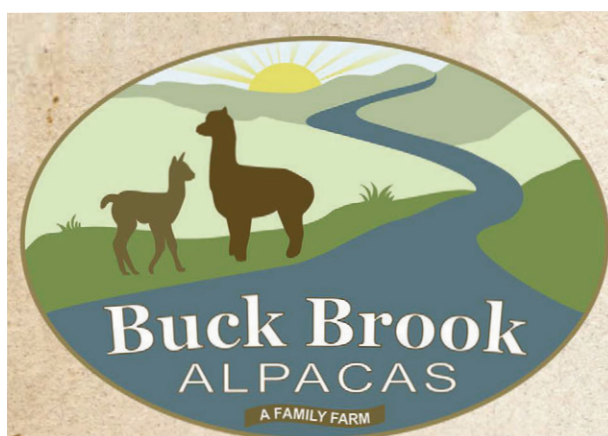
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

host youth camping events and offer tie-downs for transient flyers.

Wurtsboro's appeal lies not just in what it offers, but in how it makes visitors feel.

"We need to advertise more, but [regardless] we still get visitors," Yates admits. The airport attracts both city dwellers looking for a taste of the skies and international trainees—one

recent pilot even came from Japan.

Ultimately, the airport is a rare gem: a place where aviation tradition, local geography, and the sheer joy of flight come together. Whether you're interested in pursuing a pilot's license or simply want to glide above the Hudson Valley for an afternoon, Wurtsboro Airport invites you to see the world from a different angle—quiet, weightless, and timeless.



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STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATHY DALEY



River otters have small ears, plenty of whiskers, and are generally brown with silvery bellies. Their webbed feet allow them to be the excellent swimmers that they are.

An animal that delights in life: The playful river otter

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The delight of otters

A river otter is weasel-like in shape: a long-

slimmed body, dark brown fur, a golden color on the head and shoulders and a thick furry tail tapering toward the tip. A mature male weighs 10 to 25 pounds and is 30 to 40 inches in length, plus a 12- to 15-inch tail. Females are about 25 percent smaller than males.

The animals are members of the mustelid or weasel family with fully webbed feet and broad, flattened heads. Believe it or not, the animal has closeable nostrils and ears that assist in swimming in water and then opening up the

nose for foraging on land.

"They're also extremely intelligent," notes Steve Daley, a brother who lives in Narrowsburg. "I've seen them in my pond, and I figured they might have come from the Ten Mile River that feeds into the Delaware River."

One summer a few years ago, Steve spied another river otter, this time in Lake Huntington: "It was about 50 feet out and I realized it wasn't a fish, it was an otter."

On a trip to Alaska, he's watched otters taking

stones to break open clams and mussels.

River otters are smart and agile. But they are also one of the few creatures that seem to spend much of their time at play. Otters slide down slopes. They belly flop in the water. Alone or with other otters, they delight in making an hours-long game of chasing after a pebble.

In fact, otters take to bouncing pebbles on their paws as though they are juggling. They

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wrestle with other otters or play games of tag – all creating strong social bonds, improving their hunting skills and marking their territory.

Since otters are up and about in wintertime as well, they are known to spend hours sliding down muddy or snow-packed stream banks. And they play by nudging sticks across the water, and by dropping pebbles to the bottom and retrieving them.

Some scientists have theorized that otter sliding isn't play at all but rather a functional way to get around. However, a study of river otters found that the otters managed to slide 16 times in less than a minute – just for the fun of it.

Eating and talking

River otters are glad to eat fish, crayfish, crabs, frogs, birds' eggs, birds and turtles. They go for aquatic plants when found and will prey on other small mammals like muskrats or rabbits.

With others of its kind, they communicate



Cute, cuddly-looking and carnivorous – the river otter lives in ponds, marshes, lakes and rivers and eats fish, small mammals, birds and aquatic plants.

by at least 12 calls: a whine, chirp, grunt, blow, chatter, creek, squeak, scream, hiss, swish, hiccup, and whistle. They express affection through various behaviors: cuddling while

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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Researchers have identified nine vocalizations for otters, including distress screams and contented coos, as in this photo.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

sleeping, holding paws, and engaging in playful interactions like gentle nibbling on each other's paws or tails.

River otters usually breed in March or April. The female gives birth to between one and three pups, which are blind and helpless when born. They first learn to swim after about two months with mom pushing them to jump into the water. They then remain as a family unit for seven or eight months.

These fascinating animals can live eight to

nine years in the wild but have lived up to 21 years in captivity.


Interestingly, it was an 1800s English poet, philosopher and theologian Samuel Taylor Coleridge who penned a tribute to one of the animals of his childhood. Here is part of it.

*"Whispers of currents, a joyful dance,
Otter's laughter, a fleeting glance.
Through waters swift, a playful gleam,
A river's child, a living dream."*



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Catskill Public Theater: Sullivan County's outdoor theater experience

STORY BY CRYSTAL TWEED

When most people think about attending a theater performance, they likely assume that it will take place indoors. However, there are exceptions, such as Shakespeare in the Park, where audiences are seated outdoors under the elements. While traditional outdoor theaters, like amphitheaters, offer tiered seating in an open-air setting and typically remain in one location, Catskill Public Theater (CPT) has drawn inspiration from the likes of Joe Papp, a theatrical producer and pioneer who's known for creating Shakespeare in the Park. That outdoor concept began on the back of a flatbed truck, where many actors of note, including Raul Julia, Meryl Streep, and Stacy Keach, had their start in some of the earlier productions. When I started to think about starting a theater, someone had given me a copy of a biography about Joe Papp, titled *Free for All*, and it was inspirational," shared Marshall Shnider.

Shnider, the founder of Catskill Public Theater, wanted to apply a venture philanthropy model, where the enterprise works as a business venture that has a philanthropic outlook. "I thought if I could get a state-of-the-art 20th Century version of the flatbed truck, I could rent the stage and that would help subsidize 'free admission theater.'" Although CPT is just getting started, it seems like this concept is working so far.

Why an outdoor theater

"We live in such a beautiful area. I was inspired by the idea to take advantage of the gorgeous setting and try to do something different than the other theaters. The shows go on rain or shine, but the audience and the actors are covered if the weather is less than cooperative." Last summer, during the inaugural season, I had the pleasure of being one of those actors on stage during a performance of *Terror* when it rained the whole night of the performance. Members of the stage and tech crew did their best to ensure that the actors and guests stayed dry during that performance.

The mobile stage

After consulting with a friend who is a theater architect, he urged Shnider to look into the purchase of a Stageline, a company that designs

and manufactures stages and other sound and lighting equipment. Stageline mobile stages are known for their speed of installation, safety, and of course, mobility. As for the setup, crews can expect to spend about 2 hours from start to finish. Four team members from CPT hold the proper certification to deploy the stage, and

Stageline provides training as part of the package. Shnider describes the deployment of the stage as "something out of the Transformers."

Is the mobile stage right for your outdoor event?

According to Catskill Public Theater's website, to rent the mobile stage, it's as simple as clicking the "Rent the Mobile Stage Form" and filling in the required information. Submit your form, and a member of the CPT team will contact you about your event. By renting the mobile stage, you will be supporting our mission to present free admission, donations-only theater.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

"Thespy" is as its called is CPT's hauling vehicle. It doubles as a Box Office where Patricia was hard at work.



At left: The stage set up and the cast of *The Terror* during its summer run last year.

Below: Last season Catskill Public Theater set up their home on the Roscoe-Rockland Firemans Field. The location provided plenty of space for the stage and parking accommodations for attendees.



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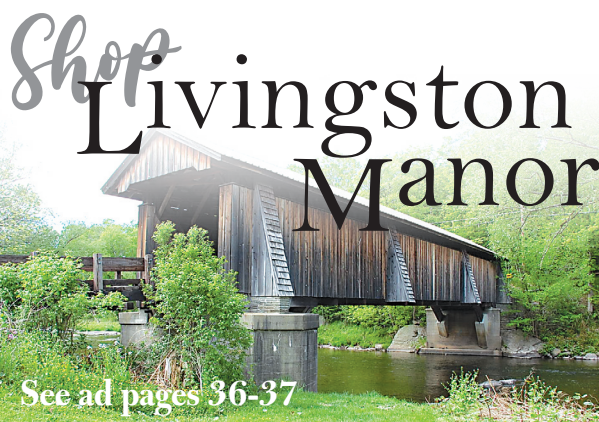
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The Upcoming Performance Season

Catskill Public Theater has several performances scheduled for this upcoming season, starting with "Woodstock Ripples," a collection of works submitted by local artists that pay homage to the Woodstock Festival. "I'm excited about Woodstock Ripples, and the public's response to doing something that's connected to Woodstock has been very positive. We received almost 200 submissions. It just seems to be something that everybody is excited about.

Depending on its success this year, it might be a feature of every season. We're not trying to imitate any of the artists, we're trying to portray those "ripples."

Shnider also looks forward to Catskill Public Theater's performance of *The Gin Game*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning play, a classic, and the fourteenth longest running play in the history of Broadway. "It

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very much supports the mission of 'do new plays like they were classics and classics like they were new plays,' he shared.

This season, CPT will perform a shortened version of last season's play, *Terror*, titled *Renegade*. The audience is the jury in this interactive and immersive experience. Collaborations with local businesses include Big Kev's Bar-B-Q, The Catskill Brewery, and the Westinghouse Estate in Goshen.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



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At last year's ribbon cutting left to right: Jesse Raymond,
Nick Clemente, CPT founding director Marshall Shnider
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STORY AND PHOTOS BY MATTHEW ALBECK

The 144-acre Van Scott Nature Reserve is the headquarters of the Delaware Highlands Conservancy (DHC), an accredited non-profit land trust dedicated to conserving the natural heritage and quality of life in the Upper Delaware River region in partnership with the region's landowners and communities. The DHC provides educational opportunities

that help facilitate engagement with the natural world through guided hikes, canoe trips, eagle-watching excursions, evenings of guided stargazing, and classroom lectures. With over three miles of hiking trails, The Van Scott Nature Preserve provides an ideal environment for both field and classroom experiences for education, and has an impressive roster of programming

lined up for the summer.

On Friday, April 25, Educational Director Rachel Morrow presented “Boundin’ Furbearers,” a class about the furry mammals that live in our woods, rivers, and wetlands. Morrow gave a synopsis of each animal’s foraging habits and behaviors, in addition to presenting fur pelts and replica skulls that gave audience members a chance to feel the fur and see the underlying bone structure of each animal. Morrow’s class included details on these furry animals: Eastern Coyote, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Bobcat, River Otter, Weasel, Beaver, Muskrat, Mink, Fisher, Woodchuck, Raccoon, and Opossum.

The **Eastern Coyote** (*Canis latrans*) is much larger than the western coyote because there used to be wolves in the area that bred together with the coyote to create the Eastern Coyote. Males are generally larger than females and most live to be about four years old. They are opportunists, so they will eat carrion and carcasses. Typically they eat small mammals that are usually not large enough to share with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 45



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 44

whole pack; when you hear their calls, they are most likely excited to see each other, or establishing their territory.

When asked if the Coyote is targeted for its fur Morrow responded, "All these animals at one point had some fur value." Morrow said that when settlers came to America from Europe, people put a fur bounty on predators and this led to the decimation of many populations. Today there are still trapping or hunting seasons for many furry animals, but it's much more regulated. Morrow said Coyotes are very good at adapting to their environment and hiding from humans, and these skills allow them to live around urban areas including Chicago and New York City.

As Morrow passed around the replica Coyote skull, she mentioned that it has many pointy teeth, and also some flat ones; this reflects their diet. Coyotes are primarily carnivorous but they do supplement their diet with berries and roughage. Morrow offered this mnemonic device to help categorize animals as predator or

prey: "eyes on the front- hunt; eyes on the side, hide." Morrow explained: "Predators need more pinpointed perception to chase their prey, and prey need their peripheral vision so they can see if predators are coming to munch on them."

The **Red Fox** (*Vulpis vulpis*) has orange and red colors in its fur that help the animal blend into the landscape of fields. "Foxes are really good at triangulating sound," Morrow said. She explained that snowfall creates a subnivean zone, an air pocket between the ground and the snow that small animals use as a path. As rodents and moles run through the subnivean zone, foxes can listen for their footsteps and pounce on them from above. Foxes, which range in size from 8-12 lbs, are very successful hunters and their opportunistic diet includes mice, rats, woodchucks, opossums, porcupines, insects, squirrels, bird eggs, fruits and grasses.

The **Gray Fox** (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) is smaller and resides in interwoodlands. It has more dexterity in its paws and this allows it to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

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climb trees; the gray fox is the only canine species in North America that can do so.

The **Bobcat** (*Lynx rufus*), which is closely related to the Canada Lynx, has 12 subspecies in the U.S and gets its name from its bobbed tail. Morrow said its teeth are all pointed because cats are true carnivores, meaning they don't supplement their diet with any vegetation. Morrow said, "Bobcats are nocturnal and extremely secretive, so if you have seen a bobcat in your life, consider yourself lucky because they are very hard to see, very elusive, very quiet creatures."

The **River Otter** (*Lontra canadensis*) lives to be about 12 years old and consumes a wide variety of foods, including fish, frogs, turtles, snails, mussels, crayfish, snakes and snake eggs, worms, insects, aquatic plants, birds and small mammals. Morrow said its fur is smooth and less fluffy than previously discussed animals; this is because its fur has oils that help "slick off" the water as they are swimming.

The **Weasel** (*Mustela erminea*) has three subspecies and its fur changes color based on the length of sunlight during the day. Once it realizes that the days are shortening, it will chemically

alter its fur and start to push out white fur; as the days lengthen, it will push out brown fur to better fit the seasonal colors of their habitat.

The **Beaver** (*Castor Canadensis*) has eyes at the top of its head so it can see above while swimming. It also has iron tannin in the front of its teeth that create a powerful chisel, allowing it to chew through trees. Beavers are a keystone species and as such serve as a marker of ecosystem health; they are also considered a turning point species because they build dams and shape water movement and as such can alter entire habitats and ecosystems. Morrow said Beavers were heavily targeted when Europeans first came to America because the meat in their tails was considered a delicacy and the oils in their castor glands were used to make perfumes. She said the Van Scott Nature Reserve hosts resident beavers in the big pond.

The **Muskrat** (*Ondatra zibethicus*) has a really long and skinny tail. Morrow said it likes to live on the side of stream banks, and a large population of muskrats on the same bank can cause erosion issues. Like the Beaver, the muskrat also has iron tannin in the front of its teeth.

The **Mink** (*Neogale vison*) is closely related to



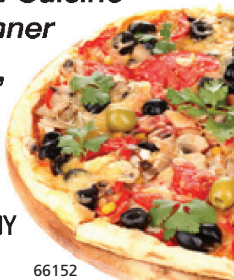
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ferrets and is hated by farmers because it likes to eat chickens. Morrow said that when mink breed and the egg is fertilized, they can hold onto that egg until conditions in their body and the environment are ideal, at which point the body starts to move the pregnancy towards completion.

The **Fisher** (*Pekania pennanti*) is an aggressive animal known for having a special skill: it can eat porcupines. The fisher, one of the few animals that can do this, attacks the face and underbelly of the porcupine to avoid its quills.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

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Events require advance registration, and a small registration fee is requested. Visit DelawareHighlands.org/events or scan the QR code for additional details, to register, and to view our complete calendar.



How Does a Tree Work?

May 23 • 1pm-2:30pm

Join us for an exciting deep dive into the inner workings of a tree! While you may already know how to identify different types of trees, this session will go beyond that. We'll explore the fascinating processes that allow a tree to grow, thrive, and interact with its environment, from how trees transport water and nutrients to the vital roles they play in ecosystems.

Design and Grow: Permaculture with Maria Grimaldi

Design and Grow, Forage, and Create Series

May 24 • 1pm-3:30pm

Learn to use permaculture principles to design a livable environment using sector and zone analysis. Participants will produce a rough sketch and design plan. The Grow portion will focus on the elements necessary for plants to grow successfully, including site analysis for sun, shade, soil, and water, along with a discussion of the variety of methods used to grow plants.

Forage: Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk with Heather Houskeeper

Design and Grow, Forage, and Create Series

June 21 • 2:30pm-5:30pm

Join herbalist Heather Houskeeper in exploring the wild edible and medicinal plants that inhabit our landscape. Meet plants that are easy to recognize, safe to work with, and inhabit your backyard, garden, and familiar wild places. Learn how to identify, ethically harvest, and prepare them as delicious meals and useful home remedies.

Mystery Zoom!

June 24 • 12pm-1pm

It's a mystery! Join us on the last Tuesday of every month for a fun and exciting Mystery Zoom workshop on a new topic each month.

Pond Investigation

June 28 • 11am-1pm

Join us as we take an in-depth look into life in a pond! During our pond investigation, you will be getting your hands dirty looking for insects known as macroinvertebrates. We will use our findings to determine the quality of our pond!

Summer Bird Walk

July 5 • 9am-11am

Join us for a morning walk at the Van Scott Nature Reserve to look for birds in our meadows, forest, and along our ponds.



Create: Straight from the Garden with Jeanine Davis

Design and Grow, Forage, and Create Series

July 20 • 1pm-2:30pm

Building on the previous two sessions in the series, learn some simple recipes for using the herbs you can grow or forage in our area. We will make and sip a delightfully cooling peppermint tea—one sweetened with honey, the other plain—and make a take-home salve out of simple ingredients to soothe skin from bug bites.

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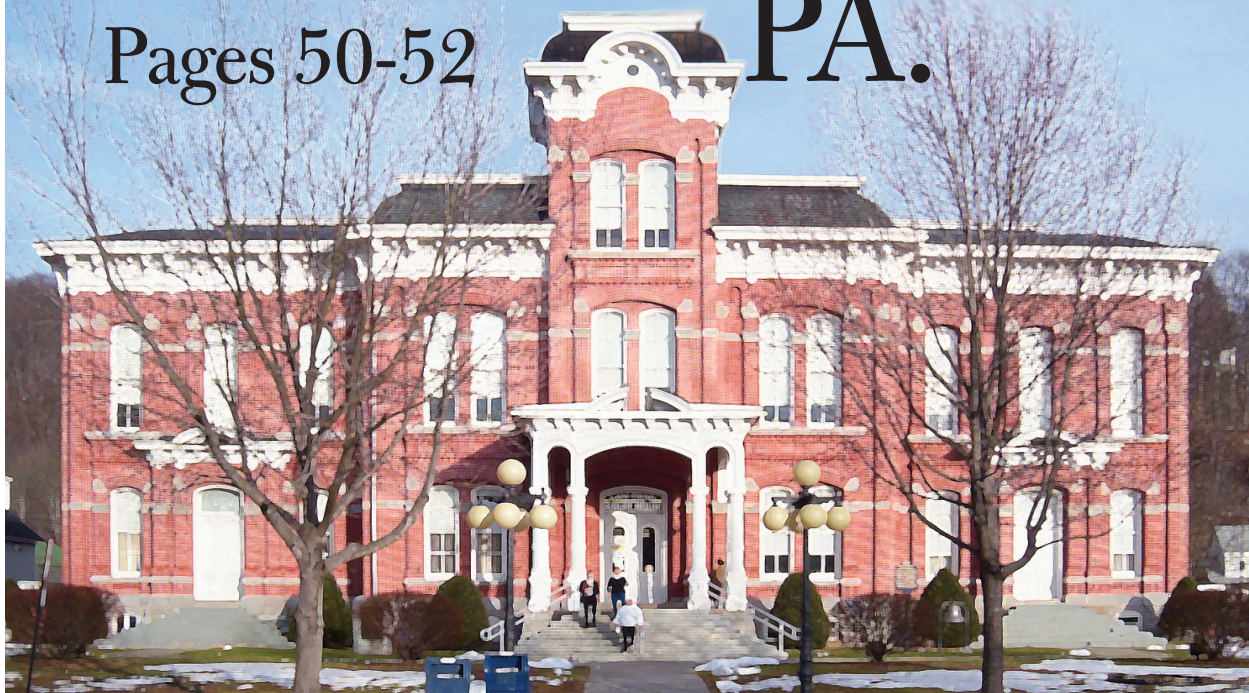
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Morrow said their proclivity towards raiding trash bins and also their stripes has earned them the nickname 'Trash pandas.' Racoons have opposable thumbs which makes them more dexterous and able to grab onto things; sometimes they even wash their food before consuming. As an omnivore they have a mix of pointy and flat teeth, just like humans.

Opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*) like to groom each other, will eat ticks, and have prehensile tails that allow them to hang upside down. They are marsupials and carry around their young in their 'pockets'. Because their body temperature is so low, Morrow said they are very unlikely to carry rabies. They range in size from 4-12 lbs and their diet is omnivorous and opportunistic and includes terrestrial and aquatic vertebrates, lizards, and snakes.

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