



Blue Valley Times

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SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.

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Youth outdoor program built turtle platforms thru 'Friends of Minsi Lake' for Minsi Lake during the summer of 2018 to be installed in 2019 at the lake.

Minsi Lake to Receive \$125,000 LSA Grant

By Michael Ortoski

UPPER MT. BETHEL - Minsi Lake to receive \$125,000.00 LSA Grant for Infrastructure plans by the new caretakers of the lake 'Friends of Minsi Lake.'

Some of the groups plan is to build and install over 800 habitat structures in the lake bed this year.

Other plans include new: rest rooms, accessible kayak and fishing docks, new paved parking lots, signage, more accessible fishing from shore, picnic tables and a new bridge over the spillway so now the trail will be connected around the entire lake.

LSA grants support economic development, job training, community improvement and public interest projects through gaming funds under Act 71 of 2004. These specific grants come from Monroe County, which funds projects in Monroe and its contiguous counties.

Go to www.facebook.com/FOML.org to learn more about 'Friends of Minsi Lake.'

Slate Belt Rising Receives \$25,000 From ESSA

By Michael Ortoski

STROUDSBURG - ESSA Bank & Trust provided the third of its six-year commitment of funds to Slate Belt Rising, the state's first multi-municipal Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. This program is focused on investing in and revitalizing the boroughs of Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland and Wind Gap.

Representatives from ESSA Rachel Burbank, Gary Olsen (Pres. ESSA) presented a check for \$25,000 to the Slate Belt Rising Director Stephen Reider and members of the Slate Belt Rising Committee. "I would like to thank ESSA for their generosity and continued support of the Slate Belt Rising program," said Reider.

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L-R Michael Ortoski (SBR), Steve Reider (SBR), Rachel Burbank (ESSA), Gary Olsen (Pres. ESSA)

Bangor Boys Tennis Senior Night

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Three students took part in the Bangor Boys Tennis Senior night celebration last week Tyrus Frost, Grant Kaye and Jevon Pennix.

Tyrus Frost: Tyrus is the son of Jill and Eric Frost, Roseto, PA. Tyrus started playing at the end of last season, first year on the team.

One of Tyrus' tennis achievements is making Varsity's top 7 first year playing.

Some of Tyrus' other interests are: Ski Club, Class Cabinet, Quarry Crew Leader, Youth Group Leader, and plays on an eSports team. His future plans is to attend Northampton Community College to complete General Education courses and pursue a career in Aviation at Orlando Flight Center.

Grant Kaye is the son of Paul & Jerlyn Kaye, Mount Bethel, PA. He has been playing tennis for 3 years at the high school level.

Some of Grant's tennis achievement are: JV Districts Sophomore

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L-R Grant Kaye, Tyrus Frost, Jevon Pennix all seniors on the Bangor Tennis team who were recognized at their senior day celebration.

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Slate Belt Rising

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Other Slate Belt Rising sponsors and partners include Merchants Bank of Bangor, Waste Management, Lafayette Ambassador Bank and Northampton County.

Slate Belt Rising is part of the first multi-municipal, comprehensive and economic development plan for the Slate Belt.

The new council members are Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, East Bangor, Roseto and Portland boroughs, and Upper Mount Bethel, Lower Mount Bethel, Plainfield and Washington townships.

Other partners that will be involved are: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission; Slate Belt Rising (a Committee of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley); Northampton County; Slate Belt Chamber; Slate Belt Council of Government; Lehigh Valley Transportation Study.

This regional plan will effect about 37,000 Slate Belt residents in Northampton County. Slate Belt Rising (SBR) (a Committee of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley) received a \$45,000 grant from the state for this project.



Melissa Scott and her son George Scott from Portland



L-R Allison Reed, Elis Hahn and her daughter Ingrid Hahn all from Upper Mt. Bethel

SBR Scholarship Application Night At The HUB

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Slate Belt Rising (SBR) hosted an event at the HUB last week encouraging students to fill out applications for the many scholarships available in the Bangor area school district.

"The biggest hurdle with scholarships is getting the students to fill out the applications" said Steve Reider, Slate Belt Rising Dir. So one of the committees of the SBR, 'youth engagement' decided to have an event to attract and help students and parents fill out applications.

CIT Dir. Adriane Jones brought laptops for students who wanted to fill out online applications.

Slate Belt Rising is offering scholarships to graduating seniors living in Bangor and Pen Argyl Area School Districts. Scholarships can be used for furthering education as well as tool purchases for those entering the workforce in a trade. Scholarship guidelines and application are available for print online! <http://www.slatebeltrising.org/sbrscholarship>.



L-R From Merchants bank Larry Rice, Dianne Newman, CIT Dir. Adrian Jones, Chris Karasiewicz, Slate Belt Rising Dir. Steve Reider, Jim Adams, from ESSA bank Sharon Griffith, Emily Uliana

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Bangor Borough will be conducting Borough wide yard-waste collection from April 8th - April 12th.

Please place loose leaves at the curb in rows and not in bags. Bagged leaves and any leaf piles containing dog waste, stones, grass or sticks/branches will not be picked-up. Small branches cut to three-foot length may be put out at the curb separate of leaves. Pick-up will end on April 12th, no exceptions, so please place yard-waste out at the beginning of the week.



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