

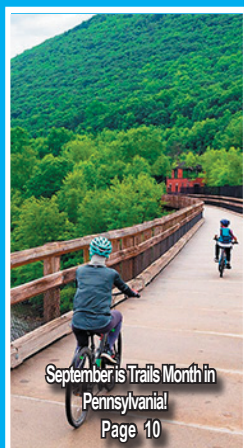
Blue Valley Times



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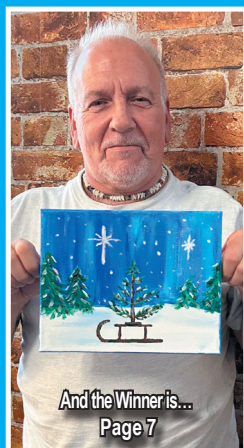
SEPTEMBER 22, 2026



September is Trails Month in Pennsylvania!
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Lehigh Valley Minor League Ballpark Gets New Name
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And the Winner is...
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Scenes from the 40th Senate District
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Carol Andersen Featured on Common Threads



Left Carol Andersen recently joined host Megan Frank on PBS39's Common Threads

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - Bloom CEO Carol Stoutland Andersen recently joined host Megan Frank on PBS39's Common Threads podcast to share the story behind Bloom and the heart of our mission.

Their conversation explores how trafficking and exploitation often begin when systems fail and individuals are left without safe options. Carol also discusses how Bloom helps survivors move forward through safe housing, healing, meaningful employment, and a supportive community.

We are grateful to Megan for creating space for this important conversation.

Watch the video here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrDgXUha_dk&t=16s
Get Involved—Join Us for Volunteer Orientation!

Whether you are a new Bloom volunteer or have not completed Volunteer Orientation within the past year, we invite you to attend our upcoming session on Monday, September 21, 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the St. Francis Retreat Center.

Volunteer Orientation is offered monthly on the third Monday of each month. To let us know you'll be attending, email volunteer@bloomforwomen.org.

Already volunteering—or interested in getting involved? Make sure you're receiving Bloom's Volunteer Newsletter! The newsletter includes current volunteer opportunities, upcoming training and continuing education, important Bloom updates, and more. Email volunteer@bloomforwomen.org to sign up for the newsletter or register for orientation.

Mark Sessanta Receives National Community Service Award

By Bloom for Women

LEHIGH VALLEY - We're proud to celebrate longtime Bloom board member and volunteer leader Mark Sessanta, founder of Stark Financial Group, for receiving a national Community Service Award from the MassMutual Foundation.

In recognition of Mark's years of dedicated service, the Foundation awarded Bloom a generous \$10,000 donation. Bloom is one of only 32 nonprofits nationwide selected for an award this year.

Please join us in congratulating Mark and thanking the MassMutual Foundation for supporting Bloom's mission and the survivors we serve!



Monroe County Historical Assoc. Presentation

By Amy Leiser

STROUDSBURG - Emmy Award-winning meteorologist and author to give free presentation titled "Historic Storms and the Role of Climate Change in Pennsylvania and the Poconos" at the Stroud

Mansion Museum and Library.

The Monroe County Historical Association is pleased to announce a free presentation with East Stroudsburg native Ben Gelber on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library, 900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. Gelber, an Emmy Award-winning meteorologist for NBC4 in Columbus, Ohio, will give his presentation, "Historic Storms and the Role of Climate Change in Pennsylvania and the Poconos," at 7:00 pm.

Inducted into the East Stroudsburg High School Meritorious Hall of Fame in 2004, Ben was already a student meteorologist in the third grade, giving daily morning classroom forecasts. He constructed a backyard weather station during his high school years, beginning a long-term dataset in the Poconos in 1970, with the help of his parents, who maintained the records, which are part of NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information historical archives.

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