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BUCKS COUNTY

Courier Times

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025 | PHILLYBURBS.COM

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Kyle Asplundh, a New Hope native, holds the American Alligator he caught this week, at Bristol Township's Magnolia Lake, in New Hope, on Aug. 8. DANIELLA HEMINGHAUS/BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Florida alligator sanctuary owner rescues gator in Bucks

Jo Ciavaglia
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kyle Asplundh wasn't planning on a working vacation during a visit with family this week. He certainly wasn't expecting to be threatened with arrest.

Then Thursday evening his cell-phone started blowing up. Someone posted on social media that a small alligator was spotted in Magnolia Lake in Bristol Township.

Asplundh figured there would be people out there looking to find it first. He has seen enough viral videos of amateur animal wranglers to know that nine

times out of 10, it's the human who loses, he said.

"I knew I had to do something while I'm here," he said Friday.

He immediately canceled his dinner plans and drove nearly 30 miles from his family farm in New Hope to Magnolia Lake in Bucks County's Silver Lake Park complex to look for the rogue reptile.

A few hours later after wading in foot-deep water through lily pads, he captured the 4-foot long male.

It was another successful rescue for Asplundh, 35, a Bucks County native who operates an alligator and wildlife sanctuary in Jupiter, Florida that goes by the acronym "JAWS."

How did Kyle Asplundh rescue the 'Magnolia Lake Alligator?'

But first, he had to figure out where in the lake the alligator might be.

To do that he called Bristol Township Police, who hours earlier had posted two videos to their social media accounts warning people to stay away from the lake at Bristol Oxford Valley Road and Lakeland Avenue.

When he explained who he was, police gave Asplundh the location where the videos were recorded.

He arrived around 8:30 p.m., which

See ALLIGATOR, Page 2A

OXFORD VALLEY MALL SHOOTING

Police arrest suspect

Lacey Latch
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Almost two months after a shooting sent the Oxford Valley Mall into lockdown, Middletown Township police have announced the arrest of the alleged shooter.

Shannon James Lewis, 33, of Philadelphia, was arrested the morning of Aug. 8. Police said he shot and injured another man at the bus stop outside of JCPenney on June 19, according to a social media post and news release from Middletown Township police on the afternoon of Aug. 8.

Just after 5 p.m. June 19, police responded to a report of a shooting outside the mall located at 2300 East Lincoln Highway. The victim was later found inside the shopping center with a gunshot wound to his left arm.

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Middletown police turned away this mother and child who were attempting to enter the Oxford Valley Mall hours after a shooting outside left one person injured on June 19. JESS ROHAN/BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Police say fire that damaged homes, van was arson

Jo Ciavaglia
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Bucks County authorities are investigating a suspected arson fire that left a firefighter injured, destroyed a vehicle and home. It also damaged a neighboring home.

A Bristol Township police officer, on his way to a different call shortly after 5 a.m. on Aug. 8, discovered a van parked in a driveway heavily engulfed in fire that spread to the home in the 700 block of Cedar Avenue.

The officer and additional units responded and evacuated five adults inside the home, police said. One cat died in the fire and two are missing, police said.

The Croydon Fire Department and other stations were able to put the fire under control in under two hours. A Bensalem firefighter who was assisting suffered a respiratory-related injury and he was treated and released from Jefferson-Frankford Hospital.

The home where the fire occurred sustained "catastrophic damage" while

a home next to it sustained moderate damage, police said.

The Bristol Township Fire Marshal's Office and the Bristol Township Police Department ask anyone with information about the fire to send tips to mgrebloski172@bristolpd.org or call 267-812-2916.

Reporter Jo Ciavaglia can be reached at jciavaglia@gannett.com

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