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Pickle Me Poconos to serve up fun

Festival is back for 6th year with pickleball and other ‘dill-lightful’ twists

Emmanuella Pierre
Pocono Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

Here’s something that won’t get you in a pickle: The Pickle Me Poconos Festival is back for its sixth year, taking over Crystal Street in East Stroudsburg this Saturday, Oct. 4, from 12 to 5 p.m. This free event is all about celebrating everything pickle, with some exciting new twists for 2025.

Sierra Lefurgy, assistant manager of the Pocono Chamber of Commerce, said one of the biggest additions this year is a

pickleball court right in the heart of the festival.

“We’ve been wanting to add a pickleball court for quite some time,” Lefurgy said.

“Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in America these last couple of years, and we thought that would be a perfect fit since we’re doing a Pickle Me Poconos Festival,” she said.

Lefurgy said Keystone Sealcoating approached them with the idea. Demonstrations will be run throughout the day. Festivalgoers can sign up to play and give pickleball a try themselves.

And that’s not the only new feature. This year’s children’s area is also getting a glow-up with a brand-new stage called the Gherkin Garden, located by the Dansbury Depot building. Lefurgy said families can look forward to a princess cabaret, family-friendly comedy and a performance by the East Stroudsburg Area School District pep band.

With food, vendors, entertainment, and now pickleball in the mix, the Pickle Me Poconos Festival promises another “dill-lightful” day in downtown East Stroudsburg.



The Pickle Me Poconos Festival, featuring a pickleball court in the middle of the festival, is back on Oct. 4, from 12 to 5 p.m.
THOMAS CORDY/USA TODAY NETWORK

Monroe County to ring in America’s birthday



The Monroe County keystone for America250PA is unveiled during the April 1 Founders’ Day celebration at the courthouse. MAX AUGUGLIARO/POCONO RECORD

Bell unveiling event set at historical association in Stroudsburg

Emmanuella Pierre and Max Augugliaro
Pocono Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

Next year marks a huge milestone: America is turning 250. And to celebrate, America250PA is inviting the community to be part of something special right here in Monroe County.

According to the America250PA website, the statewide Bells Across PA project will feature local artists transforming fiberglass bell sculptures into works of art in honor of the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026.

At least one bell will be placed in each of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties, all spon-

In April, Monroe County officials and artist Jody Singer unveiled a keystone representing the county as part of the semiquincentennial celebration. It features wildlife, nature, the Monroe County Courthouse and the Delaware Water Gap with a sunrise and a bald eagle.

sored by businesses and individuals. The Monroe County bell unveiling will take place on Friday, Oct. 3, at 1 p.m. at the Monroe County Historical Association at 900 Main St., Stroudsburg. The

event is free and open to the public.

In April, Monroe County officials and artist Jody Singer unveiled a keystone representing the county as part of the semiquincentennial celebration. It features wildlife, nature, the Monroe County Courthouse and the Delaware Water Gap with a sunrise and a bald eagle.

The keystone also has the words “Monroe County” at the bottom, “America 250 PA” at the top and an American flag.

The keystone will be mounted outside of the courthouse for the remainder of the America250 celebrations.

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Settlement proposed in lawsuit against Mount Airy

Max Augugliaro
Pocono Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

The class-action lawsuit accusing Mount Airy Casino Resort of underpaying employees is heading toward a settlement.

According to court documents filed on Sept. 22, plaintiffs of a class-action lawsuit against Mount Airy are seeking approval of a \$2,300,000 settlement in the case.

The plaintiffs’ memo says that the \$2,300,000 common fund would represent “over 98% of estimated unpaid wages” and, after paying out one-third for the plaintiffs’ attorneys’ fees and \$25,000 for litigation expenses, would give 696 minimum wage workers on average over \$2,000, with no payment less than \$100.

In exchange for receiving settlement payments, “class members agree to an appropriately narrow release of claims tailored to the facts alleged in the complaint.”

Mount Airy was sued on Feb. 7 by former employees Jennifer Mak and William Neidig.

Accused of violating labor laws

They accused their former employer of violating the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Pennsylvania Minimum Wage Act and the Wage Payment and Collection Law.

Specifically, their federal class-action lawsuit accused Mount Airy of improperly notifying employees about tip credits, using table dealers’ tip pool money to pay for paid time off for dual-rate supervisors who act as both dealers and floor supervisors, rounding the times employees clocked in and out to the nearest 15-minute interval, and calculating tipped employees overtime rates lower than they should have been.

The settlement needs to be approved by United States Middle District Judge Joseph F. Saporito Jr. before it goes into effect.

Max Augugliaro is the public safety and government watchdog reporter at the Pocono Record. Reach him at MAugugliaro@gannett.com.

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