

'WALKS OF LIFE'
Chestnut Ridge wrestler Kooper Deputy places 5th at world championships. A4.



MINDSET SHIFT
Mike McCarthy's Steelers 'thud up,' but don't tackle at training camp. A4.



West Suburban team beats Canada

The East's Adalyn Hines takes a swing against Canada at the Junior League Softball World Series Sunday in Kirkland, Wash.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

BY ALLYSON BALLARD
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KIRKLAND, Wash. – Once West Suburban's 14-Under team began driving in runs during its first game of the Junior League Softball World Series, it never looked back.

Kylie Sweeney singled to bring in Reagan Bills – representing her team's go-ahead run

Deep lineup keys local squad's victory at Junior League Softball World Series

– in the second, and West Suburban beat Repentigny, Quebec, 7-1 Sunday afternoon.

Adalyn Hines doubled and stole third, and Bills reached first. Camdyn Westover singled on a hard ground ball to right field to bring Hines home and open the scoring before Sweeney gave her team a 2-0 lead.

Offensive depth proved to be the difference-maker for West Suburban in its Pool B opener.

Please see **BEATS**, A2

Businesses, responders connect to community

First 'West Hills Heroes' event features music, dogs, activities for kids

BY RUSS O'REILLY
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Sunday marked an event that could become a growing tradition in the West Hills area, organizers said.

The West Hills Heroes Community Event at the Westmont Grove, 1000 Edgehill Drive, featured live music, local small business vendors, dogs and children's activities. It also provided an opportunity for residents of the West Hills municipalities to meet first responders serving the region.

Fire rescue, police and ambulance vehicles representing Southmont and Westmont boroughs, Upper Yoder and Lower Yoder townships, and the city of Johnstown were parked alongside snow cone and ice cream trucks.

The event was hosted by the Lyter Side Business Association, a group representing small businesses that populate Lyter Drive near the Westwood Plaza in Lower Yoder Township.

It was initially scheduled to take place on Lyter Drive, intended to pack the street with entertainment, vendors and emergency vehicles as a way to pay tribute to local first responders and promote the surrounding small business community, said Nancy Clemente, a Lyter Side Business Association member.

Please see **WEST HILLS**, A2

'THE JOB'S STILL GETTING DONE'



PHOTOS BY BENNY REEVES/FARM TALK
Zach Rendel, owner and operator of Rendel Farms, stands in front of an autonomous irrigation system in Miami, Oklahoma, above. Below, an autonomous grain cart rides behind farm equipment on a farm in Oklahoma.

Farmers test autonomous tech



New systems get real-world workout, eyed as next chapter for ag business

BY BENNY REEVES
FARM TALK

A four-row planter rolls through a field just off the highway in Miami, Oklahoma. Panic hits drivers passing by as they notice the cab is empty and the machine, though distant, seems to be headed straight for the road.

Calls have been made to the local fire station, notifying first responders that an elderly farmer must have fallen out of his tractor and they should prepare for the worst.

To their relief, the locals in the area have just been introduced to an autonomous tractor being beta-tested at Rendel Farms.

Please see **TECH**, A2

Organizers: Rumble fest to remain at fairgrounds

Rally's 3rd year labeled 'biggest and best ever'

BY RUSS O'REILLY
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EBENSBURG – With three festivals now in the rear-view mirror, organizers of Rumble Through the Valley said the event has hit its stride.

The 2026 Rumble Through the Valley festival was hosted Friday and Saturday at the American Legion Fairgrounds near Ebensburg, a departure from the prior venue of Peoples Natural Gas Park in downtown Johnstown.

"We were extremely happy with the turnout compared to the first two years," Rumble Through the Valley Vice President Duaine Detrick said.

Turnout for Friday was strong, and Saturday's turnout was even bigger, he said.

The annual Rumble Through the Valley rally was organized by a group of local business owners in 2024 to replace the longtime Thunder in the Valley motorcycle rally in Johnstown, which ended in 2023 after 25 years.

"This was the biggest and best ever," Detrick said. "What can we say? We are so pleased it came together. We'll make changes in the future, but we will stay at the fairgrounds. Everybody really liked it."

Detrick had no estimate of the total attendance for the festival Sunday as Rumble board members continued adding up numbers of adults who received ID checks for alcohol purchases.

Please see **RUMBLE**, A2

Squonkapalooza draws crowds from around nation to Bottle Works

BY RUSS O'REILLY
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For Alyssa Hoopman, of Pike County, stumbling upon the folklore of the Squonk, a mythic creature native to Pennsylvania's hemlock forests, led her to discover Johnstown.

For the past four years, Johnstown has been the place for Squonkapalooza, a festival drawing art vendors and people from all over the country.

Hoopman and her mother, Christine Garvey, and her aunt, Lisa Garvey, were among the estimated thousands of people to visit

Art vendors, cryptid fans celebrate legendary creature in city

Squonkapalooza Saturday at Bottle Works, 411 Third Ave. in the Cambria City section of Johnstown.

"We've made a five-hour trip, and we feel it's worth it," Lisa Garvey said.

After enjoying Squonkapalooza, they planned on learning more about Johnstown's history by visiting the Johnstown Flood Museum.

The Shumate family, of Dallas, Texas, found Squonkapalooza on their travel back from Maine.

"We are on a cryptid road tour to Maine and back and happened

"There's incredible art and great vendors here. Johnstown is cool to see."

DANA SHUMATE,
VISITOR FROM DALLAS

to see this on the way home," Dana Shumate said. Other stops included West Virginia, in which a museum is dedicated to Mothman.

"There's incredible art and great vendors here," Dana Shumate said.

"Johnstown is cool to see."

About 90 art vendors packed the street as well as the Bottle Works building, according to Bottle Works Executive Director Matt Lamb.

People swarmed the street, the rooftop garden of Bottle Works and the venue's show rooms.

"Bottle Works has been a sponsor of the event from the beginning, and we are thrilled it's happening here now," Lamb said. "It's a great community event."

Please see **SQUONK**, A2

RUSS O'REILLY/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

Lisa Garvey, Christine Garvey and Alyssa Hoopman (from left) wear homemade Squonk ears Saturday in Johnstown.

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300+ people join in race along runway at Johnstown airport. A3.

SPORTS

Dodgers acquire Cy Young-winning ace Tarik Skubal in trade with Tigers. A6.

WORLD

Moscow's mayor says fatal bombing at restaurant was 'terrorist act.' A11.

WEATHER

Thundershower in spots today. High 75, low 60. Five-day forecast/A12