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YEAR CXVIII
 ISSUE 5

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

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Save the dates and join in the excitement of

42ND ANNUAL Slovenefest

July 11-13, 2025

hosted by the
SNPJ Recreation Center
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 AS ONE OF THE
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The \$100 winner of the fourth quarter drawing in the 2024 SNPJ Recommender Program:

Marcia Bleggi
 Lodge 581, St. Marys, Pa.

Congratulations, and thank you for participating!

briefly

Home Office closed for Memorial Day holiday

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office will be closed Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. Normal office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., will resume Tuesday, May 27. We wish all SNPJ members and friends a safe, healthy and happy Memorial Day.

SNPJ Lodge 31 hosting a dinner meeting May 7

SHARON, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 31 is holding a dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 7, at Amen Corner, 20 West Main St., Girard, OH 44420; phone (330) 454-5694. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. Members will order from the menu; the Lodge will pay for the cost of the meals. If you are planning to attend, or if you need help with transportation, call Barb Bogolin at (724) 347-1197.

BARB BOGOLIN
 Lodge 31 Secretary/Treasurer

Policy owners, register to access the SNPJ Portal

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Home Office staff encourages all SNPJ members and agents to register for access to the online SNPJ Portal. The portal can be used by policy owners to review information about their SNPJ life insurance policies and annuities. Agents can use the portal to check on their existing business, pending policies and updates.

To register for the portal, you must access the SNPJ website, snpj.org, and click on any of the "SNPJ Portal" links. You must be a policy owner or an agent to register for the portal. Once enrolled for the SNPJ Portal, members can access policy information that Home Office staff cannot provide over the phone.

We hope you enjoy your SNPJ Portal experience!

THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are June 2 and July 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, May 19, for the June 2 issue, and by Monday, June 16, for the July 1 issue. If you're concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to prosveta@snpj.com or submit your material via the publications area of our website, snpj.org.

PERIODICAL MATERIAL

SNPJ Heritage Center prepares for the 2025 season

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)
 SNPJ Heritage Center Director

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — April showers bring May flowers... and with that, mowing the grass every week to keep up with the spring growth!

The SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center is getting ready to meet in person at the Recreation Center on May 3. We held our third Zoom meeting on April 5 to continue finalizing plans for our May, June and July activities.

Heritage Center Committee members are returning to the European Union embassies Open House event in Washington D.C., visit-

ing the Slovenian Embassy on Saturday, May 10. Ed Robich and Patty Candela, along with Kathy Hlad and Patty's father, Frank, will be attending this event. They will have our traveling museum on display, along with information about SNPJ and Slovenefest. The open house, scheduled from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., always attracts a large crowd of visitors.

The following Saturday, May 17, several committee members will be attending the Polka Music Festival at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, with items for sale from our gift shop for those interested in making a purchase. We hope to have several new items available, so be sure

to stop by and say hello. The gates at the SNPJ Farm open at 11 a.m.; the music starts at noon.

The SNPJ Heritage Center museum and gift shop at the Recreation Center will officially open for the season on Saturday, May 24, from 1 to 5 p.m. We will be open every Saturday in June, July and August.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Heritage Weekend, June 6-8 at the Recreation Center. We'll kick off the weekend with Patty Candela and The Guys performing in the Gostilna from 8 to 11 p.m.

SEE HERITAGE CENTER SEASON
 ON PAGE 2

A series of cherished memories for Miss SNPJ

by ERIN LAWRENCE (138)
 Miss SNPJ 2025

STRABANE, Pa. — Time often has a way of slipping through your fingers faster than you might realize. It's hard to believe that in just a few months I will be passing on this beautiful legacy with which I have been privileged.

Between school, bowling and, of course, serving my duties as Miss SNPJ 2025, this year has undoubtedly blown by me in the blink of an eye. However, the cherished memories I have made have left an indelible mark on my life, and I can only thank the SNPJ community for that. Come along with me as I highlight my experiences from the beginning of my reign through the end of 2024. Stay tuned for part two as I share my 2025 journey in the next article.

SEE MISS SNPJ MEMORIES
 ON PAGE 5



Miss SNPJ 2025 **ERIN LAWRENCE** presented the All-Time Greatest Hit award for "Squeezers Polka" at the 35th Polka Music Awards Show in Cleveland.



ERIN [second from left] with her "Fraternalism" teammates. [from left] **DANIELLA VOLPE** (158), **MORGAN SINAN** (782) and **LEXI TROUT** (6), at the Strabane Lodge 138 Lanes during the National Bowling Tournament in October 2024.

Lodge 581 baking day benefits Troha scholarships

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
 Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — Lodge 581 members had a great day baking on March 26. The group made and sold 25 poticas, raising enough money to fund the two scholarships awarded in memory of Jerry Troha. Both scholarships will be presented in May at awards ceremonies held at the St. Marys schools.

The baking group enjoyed a lunch of homemade chicken soup with dumplings made by Judy Stager. They completed their meal with homemade *kremšnita*; the same recipe as that served at Lake Bled — so good!

The Jackson Road cleanup day organized by John Troha was postponed until April 19, with a rain date on May 10, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. PA Cleanways will provide the safety gear and garbage bags. All volunteers will be served breakfast, lunch and drinks during the day. SNPJ Lodge 581 will provide the donuts, and the Troha family and the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters will

SEE LODGE 581 BAKING DAY
 ON PAGE 2



Emma Rose Doyle
 Born April 8, 2024
 Detroit Lodge 564

SNPJ Lodge 564 welcomes Emma Rose Doyle as the newest addition to the Lodge. Emma is the daughter of Joe (564) and Krista Doyle, and the granddaughter of Ed and Chris Doyle (564), and James and Dinnie Gilmore. We welcome Emma to the Society and extend our best wishes to her entire family.



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PROSVETA

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A number of volunteers from several local organizations joined SNPJ Silverstars Lodge 729 members for the 11th annual Yukon Community Cleanup.

A good spring cleaning: SNPJ Lodge 729 gathers volunteers for the Yukon Community Cleanup

by JOANN KRANCE
Lodge 729 Secretary/Treasurer

YUKON, Pa. — SNPJ Silverstars Lodge 729 recently sponsored the 11th annual Yukon Community Cleanup. This annual event brings together local organizations, businesses and residents to work toward the common goal of beautifying our town and strengthening relationships within the Yukon community.

Our Lodge — with the as-

sistance of the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon Lions Club, Yukon Fire Department, South Huntingdon Township, MAX Environmental, and the Yukon Miners baseball team — had a beautiful day to clean the streets of Yukon. Following the cleanup, Lodge 729 treated all volunteers to a lunch of pizza, salad and dessert.

The Silverstars Lodge is very proud to be able to sponsor this event year after year.

St. Marys Lodge 581 baking team utilize their skills for potica benefit



The Lodge 581 baking day team, [from left] PAT MOORE, JOHN MOORE, DON BLEGGI, MARCIA BLEGGI and Donna Bjorkquist, prepared and sold 25 poticas.

LODGE 581 BAKING DAY FROM PAGE 1

provide the lunch.

Upcoming Sunday dances sponsored by the North Central Pennsylvania Slovenian Polka Boosters are scheduled May 4 at the Kersey Firemen's Club in Kersey, Pa.; on May 18 at Wildwoods in St. Marys; and on June 1 at the Kersey Firemen's Club.

During the April meeting, Lodge members discussed plans for the Aug. 17 picnic which will be held at the Kersey Firemen's Club featuring music by the Polka Classics. The public is invited to attend.

For more information about Lodge 581 activities, contact Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983.



JOHN MOORE entertained while the baking team completed the poticas.

The Heritage Center details event plans for the upcoming season

HERITAGE CENTER SEASON FROM PAGE 1

The following day, Saturday, June 7, will be a busy one, starting at 9 a.m. with a balina tournament in the Balinarena. Denny Brand, who is organizing the tournament, would like you to e-mail him at dhbrand3517@gmail.com if you have a team to enter.

SNPJ Region 1 Vice President Maury Sinan and his wife, Kathleen, will present a baking demonstration of *kremšnita* (Bled cream cake) in the SNPJ Trailer Court dorm on Saturday starting at 1 p.m. Space is limited to 12 participants. If interested in taking part, please send an e-mail to maury@zoominternet.net.

Sarah Loudon has the project ready for the paint-and-sip activity scheduled Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Wine Room. Those participating will have their choice of a suncatcher design — a dragon, a carnation, or Lake Bled. Be sure to register for the paint-and-sip on Friday night on the board outside the Gostilna. The

cost is \$20 for the wine, snacks and art supplies. This activity will be limited to 30 people.

Saturday events will conclude with bingo in the Gostilna starting at 8 p.m.

The SNPJ Heritage Center annual dance will be held Sunday, June 8, in the Heritage Pavilion featuring the Frank Stanger Band. The Western Pa. Button Box Club will be playing during the band breaks. Guest speaker Joe Valencic from Cleveland will present Slovenian activities planned in the Cleveland area.

Another fun festival to note is the Simply Slavic folk festival scheduled June 13-14 at the amphitheater in Youngstown, Ohio. The Heritage Center Committee will attend both days, displaying our traveling museum in the ethnic tent area, along with items from our gift shop in the Marketplace. The hours for Simply Slavic are Friday from 5 to 11 p.m. and Saturday from noon until midnight.

Plans are shaping up for Slovenefest. Our gift shop will be open on



Participants in the Heritage Center Weekend paint-and-sip activity will have their choice of a dragon, a carnation or a Lake Bled design for their suncatcher project.

Friday, July 11, from 5 to 8 p.m.; on Saturday, July 12, from noon until 6 p.m.; and on Sunday, July 13, from noon until 5 p.m. Our Marketplace hours on the patio outside the Heritage Center museum are Saturday from noon until 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon until 3 p.m.

Although we're still working on our "Closer Look at Slovenia" presentations on the patio, which are planned Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m., we can announce that Sarah Loudon will be there both days with an art

project for both children and adults to enjoy. In addition, Betty Hartman will be working with the puppets that were donated by Terry Steffl on Saturday, and Joe Valencic will present information about Kurentovanje on Sunday afternoon. We're planning a few more presentations which will be announced next month.

That takes us halfway through summer before it has even started, but I must say that it looks like it will be another fun season at the SNPJ Recreation Center!

Members can help SNPJ save by reading PROSVETA online

IMPERIAL, Pa. — In an effort to curb continually escalating postage rates, PROSVETA is asking all SNPJ members to evaluate the need of receiving the newspaper in its printed format. We're also asking all members to provide us with an active e-mail address, and to consider receiving an e-mail link to the online PROSVETA issues.

There are numerous benefits to receiving PROSVETA online. First of all, the issues are posted to the SNPJ website, snpj.org, a week or so prior to the publication date — no more waiting around for your mail carrier to deliver the current issue.

Secondly, archived issues are also available on the website. Click on the the PROSVETA archive link and

you'll have years worth of PROSVETA issues at your fingertips.

Third, and most importantly, by selecting to receive a PROSVETA e-mail reminder, you will help SNPJ save thousands of dollars in postage and printing expenses each year.

So what's your first step to helping PROSVETA whittle away at mounting expenses? Send us your

e-mail address. Simply send an e-mail to snpj@snpj.com and include your name and the e-mail address at which you would like to receive the online issue reminder.

Still not sure? Do yourself a favor: Pay a visit to <https://snpj.org/membership/prosveta-publication/> and see for yourself the conveniences offered by the online PROSVETA issues.

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- MAY 17Fifth annual Polka Music Festival hosted by the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio; noon-9 p.m. The entertainment schedule features 12 polka bands. For more information contact SNPJ Region 3 Vice President Don Srnick at (440) 283-9373.
- JUNE 6-8.....SNPJ Heritage Center weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- JUNE 13-15SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and event details contact Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144, or e-mail ckoenig@snpj.com.
- JUNE 29Loyalites Lodge 158 annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Music by the Don Wojtila Band.
- JULY 4Annual Fourth of July dance at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio.
- JULY 5SNPJ Lodge 643 picnic at Tod Park, Girard, Ohio, in the large pavilion; 1-4 p.m. Admission is free for Lodge 643 members, \$5 for non-members. Includes food and soft drinks. Music by Anthony Culkar and Wayne Golob. For details contact Ray Kovac at (330) 824-2154 or e-mail raykov29@aol.com.
- JULY 11-13.....The 42nd Slovenefest and the 67th Miss SNPJ Pageant at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- JULY 20SNPJ Farm/Cleveland Federation annual picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Celebrating 50 years of the Jeff Pecon Band. Music by the Polka Classics featuring Brian O'Boyle.
- JULY 27Miss SNPJ Commission Family Fun Day picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Music by the Don Wojtila Band.
- JULY 2714th annual Pretty in Pink fundraiser hosted by the Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges, 2-6 p.m. at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa. Music by Polka Classics. Door prizes, 50/50 drawing, and basket drawings. Food and refreshments available for purchase. For details contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404.
- JULY 27-AUG. 2Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- OCT. 26.....Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges Fall Dance at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa.; 2-6 p.m. Music by the Heritage Band; food and refreshments available. For more information contact Lois Denning at (412) 554-7404.

Have something for
Up-and-Coming?

Lodge/Organization _____

Type of Event _____

Site _____

If a concert or dance, who is performing? _____

Date _____

Time _____

Who to contact _____

Phone () _____

E-mail _____

Complete and return to:
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We've Got You COVERED

by DAVID GOMBKOTO
SNPJ Sales Director



When the market sneezes, just say... "bless you"

Last month, the stock market had what we in the financial world like to call "a moment." The kind of moment where you open your retirement account, wince, and wonder if maybe stuffing money under your mattress wasn't such a bad idea after all. The S&P 500 and Dow Jones dropped rapidly, investors panicked, and financial talking heads filled the airwaves with enough doom and gloom to make a Shakespeare tragedy look like a Disney movie.

But let's take a breath – preferably not a panicked one. For SNPJ members who have fixed annuities in their financial toolkit, there's good news: you've got something the market can't shake; a guaranteed foundation.

The Calm in the Storm: Fixed Annuities

While the market zigzags like a roller coaster at a carnival run by caffeine-fueled squirrels, fixed annuities just keep chugging along. They don't get rattled by headlines or quarterly earnings reports, they simply do what they're designed to do: grow your money at a steady, guaranteed rate. And let's be honest, there's something oddly comforting about knowing at least one part of your financial life isn't subject to daily emotional whiplash.

Let's Talk About That 3% Guarantee

Here's where it gets even better. SNPJ's current flexible annuity offers a minimum 3.0 percent lifetime interest guarantee. That means no matter what happens in the market – whether it's inflation, deflation, or another rogue meme stock uprising – your annuity keeps earning. Rain or shine. Bulls or bears. Even during those "I-can't-look-at-my-portfolio" weeks like the one we just had.

And yes, in a world where bank CDs are a conservative investment option, they like to play limbo with interest rates ("How low can you go?"), so that SNPJ 3.0 percent guarantee should absolutely make you smile. Maybe even twice.

According to Fidelity, the national average of a 60-month CD was at 1.42 percent in February of this year. And let's not forget, between 2010 and 2020 the average CD rate was virtually zero percent... well, unless of course you think earning 0.10 or 0.24 percent on money you can't touch is a good thing.

Qualified, Non-Qualified – Still Quite Qualified to Help You Sleep at Night

Whether your annuity is qualified (think IRAs, 401(k) rollovers, and retirement accounts with tax perks) or non-qualified (after-tax dollars), the power of a fixed annuity remains the same. It adds predictability to your portfolio. It's the slow-cooked Sunday dinner in a world of fast-food investing. And in uncertain times, predictability isn't boring – it's beautiful!

Diversification Isn't Just for Show

If your portfolio was entirely in stocks last month, you probably felt like you were riding a bucking bronco. But if a portion of your savings were tucked safely in a fixed annuity, congratulations! You had your feet on solid ground. The best investors know diversification isn't just a buzzword, it's a survival tactic.

Stocks go up, stocks go down. Annuities? They just go forward (especially with that guaranteed minimum 3.0 percent). All CDs, and even a lot of annuities, have zero withdrawal options until maturity. CDs and MYGAs (Multi-Year Guaranteed Annuities) don't allow you to make additional contributions. SNPJ flexible annuities not only offer 10 percent free withdrawals in every year of the policy until maturity, they accept additional contributions at any time (given IRS tax code requirements are met), which never restarts the surrender period.

Your Future Self Will Thank You

Picture this: It's 10 years from now. You're sitting on your porch with a cool drink in hand, watching the sunset and not worrying one bit about the S&P 500's latest mood swing. Why? Because you made smart decisions today. You chose stability. You chose SNPJ's flexible annuity option.

And while we can't predict the market's next move, we can tell you that adding a reliable, guaranteed-income-producing vehicle to your retirement mix is not only a time-tested way to outwit the chaos, you can virtually predict your financial outlook with basic math equations.

In Conclusion (and With a Wink)

Markets will rise. Markets will fall. But your peace of mind doesn't have to follow suit.

So the next time your friend says "Did you see what the stock market did today?" you can smile, nod thoughtfully, and then change the subject to something less volatile – like the weather in Pittsburgh. (Just kidding, the weather here is as predictable as my cat's mood).

Stay steady, stay smart, and don't forget: When your financial plan includes an SNPJ flexible annuity, you've already got one reason to smile... make that 3.0!

If you have yet to start your flexible annuity or have questions about an existing annuity, call the Home Office at 1-800-843-7675.

SNPJ does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Consult with a tax, legal or accounting professional regarding your specific situation.



Slovenia lays out plan to protect its cultural assets

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In late February, four government ministers signed an inter-ministerial program on comprehensive landscaping and architectural development projects in order to protect cultural heritage assets from climate change and extreme weather events throughout the 2025-2028 period.

The program was signed by Culture Minister Asta Vrečko, Natural Resources and Spatial Planning Minister Jože Novak, Health Minister Valentina Prevolnik Rupel, and Minister for a Solidarity-Based Future Simon Maljevac.

The program, prepared by the Culture Ministry, is the government's response to all common natural disasters – floods and landslides, in particular – that threaten cultural heritage assets in Slovenia.

As part of the program, several parks and the surroundings of four castles will be further developed and landscaped: Katzenstein Castle in Begunje, which houses a psychiatric hospital and a museum; Grad Castle in the Goričko region, which houses the Goričko Nature Park; Ptuj Castle, the home of the Ptuj-Ormož Regional Museum; and Javornik Castle in Ravne na Koroškem, which houses a retirement home. The Volčji Potok Arboretum will also be included in the program. Financing for the five key projects will be provided from the post-flood recovery fund, the Culture Ministry announced.

"Many public institutions in Slovenia are housed in buildings designated as protected cultural sites, which should be preserved for future generations, while good conditions for the employees and visitors should also be provided immediately," Minister Vrečko said. She added that the Culture Ministry will oversee two of the projects, the Volčji Potok Arboretum and the surroundings of the Ptuj-Ormož Regional Museum.

"The government has already earmarked EUR 8.7 million (\$9.45 million) toward renovation of the Begunje Psychiatric Hospital," Minister Prevolnik Rupel said, adding that the kitchen, day clinic, and hospital administration building are currently under renovation.

Slovenia launches a wildfire training center

SEŽANA (STA) — Slovenia opened its National Large Wildfire Center in Sežana (southwest) in late March. The center started training firefighters in early April and is hoping to train 1,000 in its first year of operation.

According to Leon Behin, Director General of Slovenia's Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, "Construction of the center was completed in December. It was set up according to a philosophy of resilience. The infrastructure was built first, followed by the program." Firefighters will be trained following a specialized program developed for rescue and protection efforts.

"Funding for the wildfire center and training program was provided through the Recovery and Resilience Plan," Behin said. The building alone cost EUR 3 million (\$3.24 million) to construct. The center is planning to add a fire station and firefighting training grounds. The Administration will finance the training grounds with its own funds. "Our goal is for Sežana to become the central coordination center in the event of fires in western Slovenia. That is already possible now with all the new assets we have," Behin explained.

Piotr Serafin, the European Commissioner for Budget and Administration, visited the center as it opened. "The wildfire center and the other new assets are important not only for the protection of Slovenia, but will also allow Slovenia to help neighboring countries," he said.

Serafin stressed that the EU funds for resilience and recovery will not be used for armaments. "Security has many dimensions. The first is defense, which is important especially for those who are fighting [an] aggressor. But here in Slovenia, we are mostly focused on civil protection," he said, recalling the disastrous 2023 floods.

Serafin also praised the level of activity of Slovenian volunteer firefighters, which he described as "unique in the EU."

The wildfire center opened in Sežana nearly three years after devastating wildfires broke out in July 2022 in the Kras region, which is only some 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) northwest of Sežana. More than 20,000 firefighters worked to put out the worst wildfire on record, which scorched 3,700 hectares (approx. 9,140 acres) of land in 17 days.



Pedal boats included in new bans at Lake Bohinj

BOHINJ (STA) — Kites, pedal boats and motor-propelled stand up paddleboards (SUPs) have been banned at Lake Bohinj after a similar ban was imposed at nearby Lake Bled last year. Located in the Julian Alps, the lakes are among the top tourist destinations in Slovenia, especially in the summer.

The Bohinj municipal council had considered the ban last year, but then decided to analyze the situation on the lake during the summer. The analysis showed an average of 243 vessels on the lake at any given moment, well beyond the lake's capacity of 200 vessels. SUPs accounted for almost 75 percent of all vessels recorded; kayaks and canoes accounted for more than 20 percent.

When discussing the changes in March, municipal councilors also discussed modern sports equipment and vessels that can reach high speeds, thus increasing the risk of accidents, especially during the high summer season when the lake shores are packed with swimmers.

Local authorities had received a number of complaints regarding such vessels; however, during the period of analysis, which consisted of five non-consecutive days in July and August, only one such vessel was sighted. Nevertheless, council decided to include these in the ban as well, expecting them to become more common in the future.

Pedal boats have also been banned in an effort to promote traditional boats made of natural materials, along with boats that do not spoil the image of the Alpine lake. Boats will be permitted between March and November. A general ban is in place in designated swimming areas; however, those in boats, kayaks, canoes, and on SUPs are allowed entry and exit from the water when steering perpendicular to the shore.

The municipal council also decided that oversight should become stricter more frequent. Bohinj Mayor Jože Sodja and other representatives explained that the lake is located in Triglav National Park, Slovenia's largest natural park, and therefore sufficient measures must be taken to protect the park's ecosystem.

Sodja added that the municipality would also like to curb illegal camping, an issue faced by virtually all communities in northwestern Slovenia, and address heavy traffic in the area.

Slovenians researching properties of cosmic dust

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Utilizing data obtained from the James Webb Space Telescope, Slovenian researchers have made a groundbreaking discovery about the properties of cosmic dust in galaxies that formed soon after the Big Bang. The study, published in the scientific journal *Nature Astronomy*, also reveals the key role of early supernovae in the formation of cosmic dust.

"The findings provide crucial insights into the life cycle of cosmic dust, its evolution over billions of years, and the key role of early supernovae in its formation," lead author Vladan Markov from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at the University of Ljubljana said.

A fundamental building block of galaxies, space dust consists of tiny particles and plays a key role in star formation since it allows clouds of molecular gas to form. Space dust also absorbs and scatters – and eventually re-emits – the light from stars in galaxies depending on their wavelength, a process known as attenuation.

Despite its importance, however, little is known about how much cosmic dust there is in the earliest galaxies.

The team of researchers led by Markov analyzed data from 173 distant galaxies that formed when the universe, which is 13.7 billion years old, was just 400 million to three billion years old. They found that the dust attenuation curves in early galaxies are generally flatter than those in the local universe. This suggests that cosmic dust had a less significant effect on the observed light from these distant galaxies.

According to the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, this flatter shape [of the attenuation curve] suggests that the dust in the early universe was dominated by larger grains, probably formed in the remnants of supernova explosions. In later epochs, smaller grains became

more abundant, leading to steeper attenuation curves and the appearance of the so-called ultraviolet bump, as seen in nearby galaxies, including the Milky Way.

Newly discovered cave straddles Italian border

SEŽANA (STA) — In further proof that nature knows no national boundaries, a cave straddling the Slovenian-Italian border was recently discovered in the southwest Sežana area. An underground river is believed to be close by, and in their effort to explore further, speleologists would like to reach the stream.

Located in the Orlek area near Sežana, the cave was discovered by Matej Husu, a member of the local caving association who is credited with finding several unmapped karst caves.

While the entrance to the cave is in Slovenia, a large portion of the cave is in Italy. To date, cave explorers have managed to travel 175 meters (574 feet) underground and map 265 meters (869 feet) of passageways, but there is still work to be done since the system spans further.

The draft felt at the entrance to the cave led explorers to suspect that an underground portion of the Reka River (the Timavo, in Italian) may run through or near the cave. "There are roughly an additional 150 meters (492 feet) until the Reka River, but we ran out of rope on our last exploration. So we will have to wait until our next visit to continue exploring the cave," Husu's father, Ludvik, who is also an experienced caver, told the press.

"I look for new caves when the ground temperature is low and it is around eight degrees Celsius (46 Fahrenheit) in the cave. That is the most ideal time, as the warm air blows or evaporates from the cave," Matej Husu explained. And it was precisely the slivers of mist hanging over the cave entrance that led to his latest discovery at the beginning of this year.

Now named after Matej, the cave includes a chamber and many various dripstones, which seem to be intact.

There are a number of caves in Slovenia's karst region, many yet unmapped or unexplored. Slovenia is considered a pioneer in cave exploration and karst science, and the Slovenian Speleological Association's official number of recorded caves, last updated in mid-2024, stands at some 15,500.

Hydroelectric power plant opens a museum

KANAL (STA) — In late March, a museum of technical heritage opened at Doblar, the oldest operating hydroelectric power plant on the Soča River. The museum, launched as part of the 2025 European Capital of Culture project, features an exhibition on energy, renewables, and the technical history of hydro plants.

The Doblar hydropower plant, located in western Slovenia, is considered an irreplaceable part of the history of production of hydroelectric power on the Soča and a gem of Slovenian industrial heritage. Built in 1938, the plant started operating a year later and it is still active.

"The building is a special feature of the area that was built in another time that was not so friendly toward us, the people of the Primorska region; but it is right that we preserve the technical and cultural heritage," said Mitja Gorjan, director general of Soške Elektrarne Nova Gorica (SENG), the operator of the hydro plant.

SENG invested significantly in the Doblar plant after the Second World War, including a modernization in the early 2000s. "Now it is time to open the doors of the hydro plant and show what it looks on the inside. I believe the sector we are working in should be accessible," Gorjan said, adding that SENG is also working to build trust with the locals and [sustain] the environment.

The museum collected the materials for the exhibition from the Nova Gorica regional archive, as well as the Venice University archive, the Institute for Cultural Heritage and the Institute of Contemporary History, according to Kaja Širok, the museum's conceptual designer.

The museum displays the original blueprints for the hydroplant, and two original models of the plant dated from the early 20th century.

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SNPJ fraternal sympathies

BRO. JOHN J. GRAFF
• LODGE 6 •

SYGAN, Pa.—The members of Lodge 6 sadly report the Nov. 10, 2024, passing of Bro. John J. Graff, 91, a lifelong resident of Canonsburg, Pa.

Bro. Graff was born April 12, 1933, a son of the late John and Josephine (Bondi) Graff. He was a proud graduate of the former Canonsburg High School, class of 1951, and proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953 as a member of the 101st Airborne Division, stationed in Germany during the Korean War. His service to his country was a testament to his deep sense of duty and patriotism.

He retired as a welder from Cooper Industries, and following his retirement delivered flowers for L&M Flower Shop.

Throughout his life, John was an active member of his community. He was a member of the Train Gang in Washington, Pa.; the VFW; the Canonsburg Senior Citizens Center; and the Catholic Men's Club. He was active with Canonsburg-Houston Meals on Wheels and volunteered at Canonsburg Hospital, where he gave of his time to serve others.

In addition to his SNPJ membership, he was a lifelong member of St. Patrick Church in Canonsburg, where he served as a Eucharistic Minister.

A passionate outdoorsman, he loved to fish, hunt and play cards with friends and family. John was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather whose unwavering love for his family and his community left a lasting impact on all who knew him. He was a man who always stood firm for what he believed in and fought for the causes that mattered to him, earning the respect and admiration of those around him.

His commitment to his faith, his family and his community was evident in all that he did. His memory will live through the countless lives he touched with his generosity,

kindness and devotion. John will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 69 years, Carolyn; their four children, Gary (Diane) Graff, John (Barbara) Graff, Sharon (Gary) Sladick and Kimberly (Tim) Grego; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Margaret Carnahan; and his brother, Joseph Graff.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Bro. Graff on Nov. 18 in St. Patrick Church. Interment, with full military honors accorded by the VFW Post 191 Honor Guard and the United States Army, followed in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil Twp., Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 6 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Graff's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. TIM L. ULARICH
• LODGE 757 •

PRICE, Utah—The Ularich family and the members of Lodge 757 sadly report the Feb. 24, 2025, passing of Bro. Tim Lane Ularich, 54, of Murray, Utah, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Bro. Ularich was born Jan. 23, 1971, in Price, Utah, to Frank and Delores (Tolich) Ularich. Tim was a beloved son, brother, uncle and friend who touched countless lives with his kindness, love of teaching, amazing sense of humor, and his unwavering loyalty and love of his family and friends.

Tim had a passion for the great outdoors, whether it was spending time with the family at the cabin, boating at Lake Powell, or working on various projects around his homes and in his garage.

Upon graduating from Carbon High School, Tim received



Bro. TIM L. ULARICH (757)

his degree in civil engineering from Utah State University and started his successful 20-plus-year career at the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). Although he retired from UDOT, during his career he branched out from civil and structural engineering and put his vast knowledge, skill set and talent to alternative energy.

Tim's solar company, Positively Energized, played a major part in the Natural Bridges National Monument Park solar upgrade project, which generates power for the park's day-to-day operations, including the Visitor Center, which welcomes 100,000-plus visitors annually to the park.

The original solar modules, handmade by MIT students in the late 1960s and early 1970s, were damaged by lightning and required replacing with current panels and technology. Tim was the "brain" behind the renovation, creating the approved bid and scope-of-work, which included his oversight and guidance throughout project completion. The original/outdated panels that remained in good working condition were donated to the Engineers Without Borders program.

A passionate man, Tim always wanted to help others who were less fortunate, and he continually strived to make the world a better place.

In the early 2000s, Positively Energized partnered with Interethnic Health Alliance to procure used solar panels and equipment that currently

provide electricity to an estimated 10,000 children in some 50 rural schools throughout small villages in Uganda. This partnership brought electricity to classrooms and power to young children's computers, and made this project incredibly rewarding for Tim.

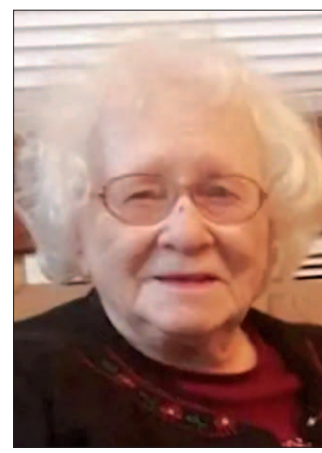
Tim had a love for knowledge and was up-to-speed on the latest solar technology, current events and cancer treatments. His research and understanding of his illness led him to participate in a cutting-edge clinical trial at the University of Texas, Houston Medical Center in hopes that his participation and effort would help lead to a cure for pancreatic cancer.

Tim was preceded in death by his father, Frank A. Ularich; an uncle, John Ularich; his paternal grandparents, Frank E. and Theresa Ularich; and his maternal grandparents, John and Anna Tolich.

He is survived by his mother, Delores; his brother, John (Marcie) Ularich; his sister, T'Ann Ularich; niece Lysie Ularich; nephews Landen Ularich and Colt (Jessica) Wilson; and four great-nephews.

Tim and the family request donations to the Interethnic Health Alliance (www.interethnichealthalliance.org) or to a charity of choice.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 757 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Ularich's family, relatives and friends on their loss.



Sis. AGNES DELEUZE (6)

Martin and Cornelia (Ursitz) Dolence.

Agnes was an avid bowler, bowling well into her 90's. She was even a contestant on Bowling for Dollars. She also enjoyed playing dart ball with her friends, and cards at Senior Citizens Life.

An 86-year SNPJ Lodge 6 member, she was also a member of the Eastern Star. Agnes also spent time working at the Record-Outlook and enjoyed crocheting in her free time.

Agnes was an angel on Earth. She was the kindest lady you would ever meet, and she cared for every person who crossed her path.

Her faith was very important to her. Agnes loved attending church services at Noblestown United Presbyterian. One thing for which Agnes was always known was

gifting everyone she knew with angel pins.

She loved her family and was very fortunate to see her family grow for as long as she could. Agnes was blessed with 104 years, and her family was so lucky to spend those wonderful years with her. Her love was special and always just what everyone needed. She will surely be missed by all who knew her. All those angel pins are just that much more special now.

Surviving are her daughter, Patricia "Patty" George; grandchildren Dana (Alex) Yu, William "Jook" (Tammy) George II, Debbie (Doug) Buchanan, Shelly (Greg) Duran, and Heather Sparks; great-grandchildren J.J., Kayla, Catalina, Derek, Ben, Reba, Aleksandr, and Kadence; and several great-great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Morse "Porky" Deleuze; her son, Morse "Mouse" Deleuze III; and her son-in-law, William "Jook" George.

Private interment was in Robinson's Run Cemetery, South Fayette Twp.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 6 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Deleuze's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

DEATHS REPORTED
For the month of March 2025

LODGE NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01 Nancy C. Richert	02-12-2025	Bridgeville, Pa.
A02 Charles Richard Hunt	12-23-2024	Cranberry Twp., Pa.
3 Carol H. Hamilton	02-06-2025	Stratford, Conn.
6 Ronald L. Pape	12-15-2024	Lawrence, Pa.
6 Judith Lynn Waggett	02-11-2025	Canonsburg, Pa.
6 Shirley A. Jessep	02-23-2025	Presto, Pa.
8 John C. Akers	01-10-2024	Chicago, Ill.
31 Linda J. Waite	09-15-2024	Union City, Pa.
33 Linda J. Rosenquist	02-24-2025	Arlington Heights, Ill.
34 Gary L. Williams	02-16-2025	Indianapolis, Ind.
87 Sharon L. Golobish	02-22-2025	Rilton, Pa.
87 June P. Feltes	02-24-2025	Irwin, Pa.
89 Paul M. Precopia	03-20-2023	Corapolis, Pa.
106 Ernest D. Andrews	04-14-2024	Weirton, W.Va.
106 Walter R. Rejniak	07-28-2024	Imperial, Pa.
106 Alice M. Davis	12-13-2024	Imperial, Pa.
106 Theresa A. Wilson	02-03-2025	McDonald, Pa.
106 Frank J. Progar	02-08-2025	Imperial, Pa.
138 Walter J. Potochar	10-29-2024	Houston, Pa.
138 Eva P. Chupinsky	01-27-2025	Washington, Pa.
138 Edward Earl Perry	02-17-2025	Eighty Four, Pa.
138 William R. Hollister Jr.	02-18-2025	Waldorf, Md.
138 Martin M. Smith	03-08-2025	Eighty Four, Pa.
158 Richard L. Oshaben	09-17-2023	Clearwater, Fla.
174 Eileen L. Lehman	01-15-2025	Johnstown, Pa.
174 Patricia A. Hinson	02-09-2025	Osterburg, Pa.
223 Joseph Cvitkovic	02-16-2025	Scottsdale, Pa.
225 Betty D. Waisner	11-13-2024	Overland Park, Kan.
277 Mariann Jones	11-21-2024	West Pittsburg, Pa.
371 Betty J. Krstulich	01-16-2025	Durango, Colo.
562 Karen A. Yanda	11-09-2024	Dillonvale, Ohio
562 Robert Pramik	03-09-2025	Sheffield Lake, Ohio
564 Nancy E. Nuss	02-09-2025	Phoenix, Ariz.
584 William Vranicar	12-05-2013	Virginia, Minn.
584 Shaun C. Lensing	09-06-2024	Waukegan, Ill.
584 Anthony H. Raymond	01-29-2025	Franklin, Wis.
584 Jon M. Mullaney	01-29-2025	Beach Park, Ill.
584 JoAnn Norkus	03-02-2025	Wadsworth, Ill.
603 Frank D. Benedict	12-04-2024	New Smyrna Beach, Fla.
604 Rudolph Lipovec	03-24-2024	Chesterland, Ohio
604 Richard L. Vadnal	11-13-2024	Euclid, Ohio
643 Eugene F. Fedorchak	12-17-2024	Beltsville, Md.
643 Lucille R. Tascione	02-18-2025	Girard, Ohio
665 Joseph W. Lubich	02-25-2025	Pittsburgh, Pa.
715 William N. Dornbusch	11-23-2024	Beaver Falls, Pa.
715 Madonna D. Bleckrie	12-23-2024	Clarksburg, Md.
715 Jane Adamczyk	02-24-2025	Latrobe, Pa.
723 Mark A. Davis	03-12-2025	Mesa, Ariz.
745 Patricia C. Wood	01-31-2025	Folsom, Calif.
749 Edward R. Ukmar	02-23-2025	Johnstown, Pa.
757 Tim Lane Ularich	02-24-2025	Murray, Utah
782 Genevieve Slovenec	01-01-2025	Cheswick, Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

In Loving Memory

W. Daniel Biarman

Dec. 11, 1935 — May 26, 1994

Those we love remain with us,
for love itself lives on.
And cherished memories never fade
because a loved one's gone.
Those we love can never be
more than a thought apart,
for as long as there is a memory
they'll live on within our heart.



Sadly missed by his wife Esther; daughter Susan (Jay) Sedmak; sons Fred (Brenda) and Dennis (the late Joyce); grandchildren Katie (Chris), Stephanie, Sam (Laura) and Christine; and great-grandsons Michael and George. BRIDGEVILLE, PA

In loving remembrance of

Rose Cadez



B: JAN. 25, 1927
D: MAY 18, 2014

STRABANE, PA.
LODGE 138

Sons Jim, Ronald ("Buzz") & Jeffrey and their families.

PROSVETA 2025 Publication Dates

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SNPJ Recreation Center 2025 Fraternal Events Schedule



June 6-8	SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend
June 13-15	SNPJ Young Adult Conference
July 11-13	SLOVENEFEEST 2025
July 27-Aug. 2	SNPJ Family Week
Aug. 29-31	National SNPJ Days

Indy Lodge 34 plans a celebration of Slovenia's Statehood Day in June

by JERRY WATSON
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

INDIANAPOLIS — *Dober dan!* Jozef and I would like to express our gratitude to Lodge 6 and Lodge 138 for hosting an outstanding SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament. It's always a pleasure to attend a tournament at the Lodge 6 and 138 bowling alleys.

Jozef and I are looking forward to the National Bowling Tournament this fall. Winning some of the prize money – thanks to Jozef – adds to the memorable time.

Lodge 34 members held their first quarterly meeting

in March, and we continued our support of the Slovenian National Home (SNH). On March 21, our very own grilled cheese chef, Jozef, prepared his famous sandwiches for the SNH Friday night dinner. More than 30 dinners were served. The SNH greatly appreciates our Lodge for the continual support.

Our next meeting will take place on June 28 starting at 1 p.m. at the SNH. Our Lodge is joining forces with the SNH to celebrate Slovenian Statehood (Independence) Day. Our Lodge will provide krofi for the event. We hope to see you!



[From left] SNPJ Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer **JERRY WATSON**, Lodge President **MARY DRAGAN** and grilled cheese chef **JOZEF WATSON** served more than 30 dinners at the Indianapolis SNH in March.

2025 Miss SNPJ Pageant Official Entry Form

Entrants must be between the ages of 18-28 by July 11, 2025, and an SNPJ member in good standing for at least three months.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

E-MAIL _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

SNPJ LODGE NUMBER _____

PARENTS' NAMES _____

GRANDPARENTS' NAMES _____

I will compete in the Miss SNPJ talent competition
 YES NO

Type of talent _____

(NOTE: Talent is not necessarily proficiency on a musical instrument or singing ability. Creativity is encouraged. Everybody has a talent.)

ENTRIES ACCEPTED BY E-MAIL ONLY
 E-mail the completed entry form, along with a clear, color photo, to SNPJ Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig:
ckoenig@snpj.com

In your e-mail, please describe any school honors you have received, and any organizations, clubs and activities you are/were involved with. Be sure to include specific SNPJ Lodge, Youth Circle or Federation activities.

Pageant Entry Deadline: June 6, 2025
 For more information contact SNPJ Fraternal Director Courtney Koenig by phoning 724-825-8180

A case of "Easter Fever" for Loyalites members

by DANIELLA VOLPE
Lodge 158 Treasurer

EUCLID, Ohio — First off, happy spring! We hope that everyone had a very happy Easter surrounded by friends and family (and hopefully a few sweet treats!).

We want to thank everyone who showed up for the Loyalites first annual Easter Bunny Brunch on April 13. We hosted this event in an attempt to get more youth members involved, but even non-members were welcome to attend.

The day was filled with lots of fun, good food – and the best part of all, an Easter egg hunt! We look forward to hosting this event again next year, as well as a few more, to add onto the Lodge 158 calendar.

Looking to find out where and when our events and meetings are planned? Check out our newly updated website and Instagram page. You'll

find us at www.snpj158.com and on Instagram @snpjloyalites. We want to make sure you always have access to our calendar of events, along with information about the Lodge and the SNPJ.

Speaking of events, our next event is the annual Loyalites Lodge picnic on Sunday, June 29, at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. Aside from your attendance, the Loyalites need your support for this event. We want your photos! Black and white, color, grainy or clear, any and all photos of past Loyalites events are appreciated. These can be sent either via Instagram or through our website.

We really want to celebrate Loyalites throughout the years, and as always, we use our picnic as an opportunity to highlight our 50-year members. The day will be filled with memories both old and new, so we hope



COLLEEN CLEARY and daughter **CLARE** [left], and **SAMANTHA LORENZATO** and daughter **LUCY**. Clare and Lucy are two of the youngest Loyalites members, and their mothers, both of whom serve on the Lodge events committee, did most of the planning for the Easter Bunny Brunch.

to see you there! members and to the families of deceased members during these difficult times.

Miss SNPJ cherishes memories made during her reign

MISS SNPJ MEMORIES
FROM PAGE 1

The first event at which I was so proud to represent SNPJ was for my home Lodge, Strabane Lodge 138, for the annual Duck Race. This event was full of fun as we watched hundreds of rubber ducks floating down the creek, everyone hoping their duck would be a winner. Not only was I so lucky to spend my first duty with my home Lodge, but I also got to wear the crown in front of my beloved Grammy and Pap, Rose and Bob Lawrence Sr. I have always wanted to make them proud.

This event was so much fun. I was able to meet and talk with some of the younger girls about the pageant, sell drawing tickets with former Miss SNPJ 2024 Morgan Sinan (my trusty partner in crime), and share my love for my heritage in a new way.

Not too long after, I was invited by SNPJ National Secretary and Sygan Lodge 6 President Karen Pintar to their SNPJ 120th anniversary

party. I was warmly welcomed by many new faces, as well as some familiar faces, including one of my fellow pageant contestants, Alexis "Lexi" Trout.

I had such an amazing time, and I lit up as I watched the kids enjoying the outdoor games and fun. I got to share a polka dance with Lexi, as well as with my wonderful father. I am very grateful, and I would like to thank Lodge 6 again for inviting me to celebrate this special day with them.

As school began, I did my best to put my school work first. However, that didn't deter me from attending many more events.

During National Days at the SNPJ Recreation Center, held Aug. 30 through Sept. 1, I had the pleasure of watching some of the National Balina Tournament, listening to the wonderful bands while enjoying delicious food, and joining Lodge 358 in a card-making activity for a national charitable organization, Cards for Kids in Hospitals.

A few weeks later, I was



Miss SNPJ **ERIN LAWRENCE** and her parents, **BOB** and **JAN**, enjoyed the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame Slovenian Sausage Festival at the SNPJ Farm.



Erin also had the opportunity to visit SNPJ Lodge 603 in Samsula, Fla., for Florida SNPJ Days in February.

invited by National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame Vice President Joe Valencic to experience the 20th Slovenian Sausage Festival hosted by the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. I had the pleasure of being a judge for each outstanding sausage while listening to polkas all day long.

It was a beautiful day with amazing people. It was an honor to meet the Consul General of Slovenia, Suzana Češarek. This incredible event was full of so much love and spirit that I cherished each moment dearly.

In October I was called back to my home Lodge 138 to throw out the first ball and participate in the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament held at both Strabane Lodge 138 and Sygan Lodge 6. Bowling will always hold a special place in my heart; I have so much passion for this beloved sport.

I was so ecstatic to bowl with my lovely girls, Daniella Volpe, Morgan Sinan and Lexi Trout, bringing fraternalism to the lanes. Thank you to these special Lodges for inviting me!

To wrap up the year 2024, I was invited to attend the 35th Polka Music Awards Show in Cleveland. This event was so beautiful, and I am so grateful that I was able to present the All-Time Greatest Hit award for "Squeezers Polka," written by Jack Vasko. We were all treated to a performance of that song by Joey Miskulin, Jeff Pecon and Brian O'Boyle.

I am so honored that I was invited to this event by Joe Valencic and that I got to enjoy the insanely talented individuals who played all of the polkas.

My time as Miss SNPJ isn't up yet. I have a few more months' worth of stories to share with you of my time as Miss SNPJ 2025. I am deeply grateful for those I have shared these special times with so far, and for those of you reading along as my story unfolds. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to my parents, Jan and Bob Lawrence, for accompanying me to most of these events.


Thank you for an amazing first half of my reign as Miss SNPJ – I can't wait to share the rest of my story with all of you in the coming months!

PROSVETA Crossword SPRING'S IN THE AIR (#0425) solution


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C	R	A	B	S		E	R	A		A	D	D	A	X	
E	I	R	E		M	E	O	W	E	D		I	K	E	
R	A	T	A	T	A	T			X	E	R	X	E	S	
			T	R	Y			K	A	P	P	A			
	C	O	L	A			V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	
A	Z	T	E	C			I	R	O	N		S	A	I	D
R	A	I	S	E			C	O	R	D		E	T	N	A
M	R	S					E	O	N			S	H	A	Y

Damjan Popelar's Workshop

Meticulously detailed scale-model reproductions featuring Slovenian folk architecture handcrafted by Dolenjski artist Damjan Popelar



Traditional *Apiary*, Stična, Slovenia, 19th century



Simončič's *Hayrack*, Bistrica, Slovenia, 1936

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Lodge 449 members roll their way into 2025 events

by TINA RIGLER
Lodge 449 Secretary/Treasurer
CICERO, Ill. — SNPJ Lodge 449 members held their first meeting of the year on March 23. Secretary Tina Rigler read all correspondence and gave the financial report. Auditors Jan Maresh, Vince Rigler and Jason Rigler gave the audit report and found all Lodge books in order.

During this meeting, Lanie Maresh, Robert Rigler, Jason Rigler, Zach Stimach and Alenka Rus were selected to attend the Young Adult Conference the weekend of June 13-15. As this year's Young Adult Conference chairman, Lanie Maresh informed the members of the charity she chose to pro-

mote and to collect donations. She selected Special Olympics, and the Lodge voted to make a donation to this charity.

Secretary Tina Rigler reported that the Lodge received the bonus award for reaching the Gold Level for Activity in the 2024 SNPJ Lodge Bonus Program.

All Home Office communications were read, including the list of the 50-, 60-, and 70-year members. Alenka Rus and Jan Maresh won the meeting awards.

The next Lodge meeting will be held June 21 and will include a barbeque at the home of Lanie Maresh in downtown Chicago. Please contact Secretary Tina Rigler at (708)



Lodge 449 members held their first meeting of the year in March, enjoying a few games of bowling afterward.

257-8312 for the address if you plan to join us. and youth members and guests enjoyed bowling and had a great time.

After the meeting, all adult

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries May 2025

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member
142	Dorothy Smrtnik
584	William S. Tomljanovich

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
138	Geraldine M. Zeitler	225	Virginia F. Main
142	Louis F. Grzely	584	Joyce C. Metzger
223	Sondra K. Long	A02	James R. Flynn

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
1	Eileen D. Troutt-Ervin	223	Mary A. Baran
2	William F. Kuhar	559	Lynn J. Giebudowski
8	Frank E. Labaj	564	Cheryl A. Jacobsen
33	William J. Dakes	584	Lois Ann M. White
87	Carolyn Yasechko	584	David M. Pocernich
106	Nancy L. Hughes	584	Carol M. Techar
106	Joseph J. Vidmar	603	Margaret E. Rodgers
106	Cheryl Defigio	715	Amelia R. Martin
138	Nancy Spangler	715	Helen J. Bozick
142	Victor L. Ferrolli	A01	Karen V. Norcross

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
1	Marianne Murray	277	Ronald P. Aey
2	Bonnie J. Focci	358	Margaret D. Tarasi
5	Joseph C. Spellacy	559	Kevin E. Podbevsek
5	Marie D. Loparo	564	Kathleen M. Emerson
5	Sharon R. Currier	581	Anita O. Meek
5	Dianna M. Ratulowsky	584	Steven M. Vidmar
8	Debra L. Kaminski	584	Lynn A. Krause
33	Robert M. Shepel	584	Linda J. Niemi
33	Marlene Powell	770	Joyce A. Karsnak
106	Deborah A. Tracy	771	Richard R. Cook
138	Charles A. Mals	776	David Piccirillo
142	Thomas J. Hospodar	776	Gayle M. Kozina
153	Nancy K. Shacklock	786	Richard A. Kotnik
158	Cathy A. Peyton	786	Timothy M. Koci
174	Elsie P. Rummel	786	Rebecca L. Usnik
257	James J. Valencheck	A02	David J. Schroll
277	Carol A. Aey		

Rec Center Cabin Renovation Donations for the month of March 2025

Club Level Donations	
Bronze Level	
Tim Dean & Leslie Dean Walko, Columbia, Md.	\$1,000
<i>In memory of Marty Kumer</i>	
David & Peggy Cushman (138), Houston, Pa.	\$100
<i>In memory of Mariann Jones and Anna Evanish</i>	
<i>The following donations were made in memory of Anna Evanish:</i>	
The Cvetas family (California & Florida).....	\$500
Fred Mlakar (786), Irvine, Calif.....	\$200
Marlene Kumer Dean (715), Monroeville, Pa. ...	\$200
Butch & Wendy Kinney (106), Clinton, Pa....	\$200
Jeffrey Stepek and family, Sarasota, Fla.....	\$150

Nancy Stassen (33), Indianapolis.....	\$100	Kathy Brown (6), McDonald, Pa.	\$50
SNPJ Heritage Center Committee.....	\$100	Gary & Jennie Pernisek (138), Canonsburg, Pa.....	\$50
Janice Rockwell (138), Middletown, Md.	\$100	Vida Kosir (106), McMurray, Pa.	\$50
Jeanne Cvetas (106) and family, Juno Beach, Fla.....	\$100	Brian & Terry Cain (106), Imperial, Pa.	\$50
Joseph Kumer (715), Erie, Pa.	\$100	Terri Halaburda (158) & Darryl Valencic (138), Eastlake, Ohio	\$50
Ken & Kim Zakraysek (174), Elton, Pa.	\$100	Dave & Kathy Skrajner (142), Willoughby, Ohio	\$50
Miss SNPJ Queens	\$100	Amy Mavrich (138), Canonsburg, Pa.	\$25
Douglas Volovic (6), Pittsburgh	\$100	Esther Bearman (6), Bridgeville, Pa.	\$25
Annette Mikeal and family, College Station, Texas	\$50	Patty & Greg Ehalt (715), Murrysville, Pa.	\$25
Karen & Ken Pintar (6), Bridgeville, Pa.	\$50	Nancy Koutoulakis (721), Aliquippa, Pa.	\$20
Jim & Colleen Tatano (138), Canonsburg, Pa. ...	\$50		

Performance schedule announced for the SNPJ Farm annual Music Festival

by DON SRNICK (158)
SNPJ Region 3 Vice President
KIRTLAND, Ohio — Join us at the SNPJ Farm, 10946 Heath Road in Kirtland, on Saturday, May 17, for our fifth annual Polka Music Festival. This event is sponsored by Monreal Srnick Funeral Home.

The gates open at 11 a.m. The music is scheduled from noon and until 9 p.m. We have 12 polka bands lined up to perform; see the band schedule at right.

Ticket price is \$15 at the gate; guests age 16 and under admitted free of charge. The SNPJ Farm is a family-oriented picnic grounds offering a large

playground for kids, three ball courts, and more.

Bill Azman will be selling his award-winning Slovenian sausages, and Gerri Trebets and the SNPJ Farm kitchen crew will be selling roast beef sandwiches and Slovenian potatoes. Once again, Wojtila's Bakery will be joining the festival, selling all their tasty baked goods. The ice cream truck and kettle corn vendor are also returning this year.

Members of the SNPJ Heritage Center Committee will have a table this year, and we'll also have a table with information about SNPJ and how to become a member.

Overnight lodging is avail-

able at Red Roof Inn, 4166 State Rt. 306, Willoughby, OH 44094; phone (440) 946-9872. Red Roof Inn is seven miles, approximately 13 minutes, from the SNPJ Farm.

The SNPJ Farm is a cash-only venue. There are no ATMs on the property, so plan accordingly.

The Polka Music Festival is our main fundraiser for the year, helping to keep our SNPJ Farm alive and well. We hope to see you all on Saturday, May 17, at the festival. For more information contact SNPJ Region 3 Vice President and SNPJ Farm Board Vice President Don Srnick at (440) 283-9373.

SNPJ Farm Music Festival Band schedule for Saturday, May 17, 2025

INSIDE STAGE #1

Noon.....	Jeff Pecon Band
1:30 p.m....	Good Times Orchestra
3 p.m.....	Valencics and Friends
4:30 p.m....	Eddie Rodick Band
6 p.m.....	Bob Kravos Band
7:30 p.m....	Bob Zolka Band

INSIDE STAGE #2

12:45 p.m..	Joey Tomsick Band
2:15 p.m....	Patty C and The Guys
3:45 p.m....	Culkar Golob Band
5:15 p.m....	Don Wojtila Band
6:45 p.m....	Frank Moravcik Band
8:15 p.m....	Ron Likovic Band

THANK YOU TO ALL THE MUSICIANS
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS
and thank you to our sponsor
MONREAL SRNICK FUNERALS AND CREMATIONS

SNPJ Farm, 10946 Heath Road, Kirtland, Ohio
off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306
Visit www.snpjfarmkirtland.com for a schedule of events

PROSVETA Crossword

Fictional Mothers (#0525) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

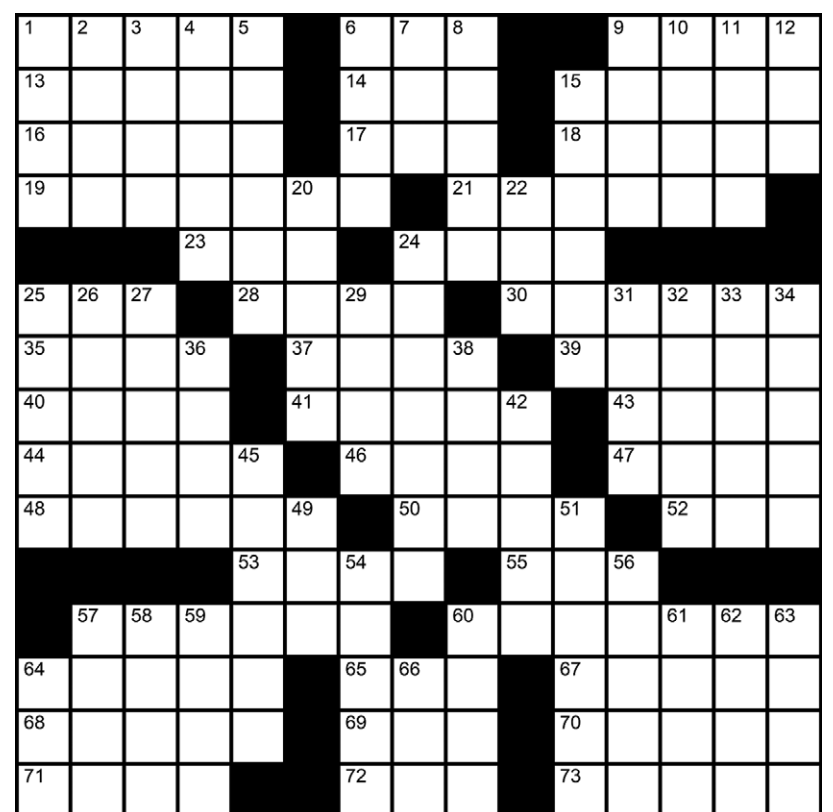
- Bars
- Escape or flee
- Green gemstone or Heather Graham in "The Hangover"
- Turning point
- 34th U.S. Pres
- Actress Sophia ____
- Each and all
- Lake, in France
- Roof overhangs
- *Lovable mother of seven in "Harry Potter" Mrs. ____
- *Mother in "The Terminator," Sarah ____
- Not safe, in baseball
- "Hold on!"
- Uno ____, in Mexico
- Iranian monarch
- Be a go-between
- Kind of cuckoos
- Passing mention
- Dwelted
- TV show "____ 911!"
- **Beloved" mother
- Like a tennis skirt
- Scottish kinship groups
- Spare in car
- Email folder
- Vertical dimension
- Turf alternative
- Morse Code dash
- Hippocratic ____

DOWN

- Do like volcano
- Honey home
- Iris holder
- Human trunk
- iPad "pen"
- *Matriarch, ____ Munster of "The Munsters"
- *Nadezhda of "The Americans," ____ Elizabeth Jennings, acr.
- Muhammad's birthplace
- Melissa Rivers' mom
- Australian slang for afternoon
- Widely hunted ruminant
- Follow ems
- A particular legume

- Not pathos
- Second O in EVOO
- Kinda white
- *Mrs. ____, a.k.a. Marmee
- Anoint
- Red Sea peninsula
- Drive a getaway car, e.g.
- Goals
- Like a Harvard building?
- Plant-based laxative
- *____ Bunker, mom to Gloria in "All in the Family"
- Dance partner
- Drive-____, for short
- Like a haunted house
- Daisy dukes, e.g.
- ____ chi
- Casts a line
- Popular electric car
- Newton's first name
- Foul substance
- Matured
- Bob of "The Joy of Painting" fame
- Better than never?
- On top of
- "High" time
- Cosine's counterpart
- In the past
- **Married... with Children" mom

The solution to puzzle #0525 will run in the June 2 issue.



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