

GETTING READY FOR THE 4TH: MORRISTOWN CELEBRATES ITS REVOLUTIONARY ROLE: SUNDAY BEST

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'FINDING BIGFOOT' IN NEW JERSEY

Animal Planet's team searches for Sasquatch in Sussex County

By Lorraine Ash
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FREDON — Animal Planet's four-person "Finding Bigfoot" team searched the mountainous terrain of rural Sussex County last week in search of a Sasquatch, also known as Bigfoot. The crew for the hit show came into town quietly.

"We don't want people to be crawling around in the woods while the team is there," said Joe James, producer of the North Jersey episode.

As always, the team — Matt Money-maker, president of the Bigfoot Researchers Organization; Cliff Barackman and James "Bobo" Fay, researchers; and Ranae Holland, skeptical scientist — started their stay with a town hall-style meeting to collect local stories of Sasquatch sightings.

Though their arrival was not made public, word circulated through the Bigfoot community and some 60 people gathered at The Fountain House on Route 94, a tavern dating to 1860, for the June 21 taping. They listened to stories of community members who reported sightings from as far back as the early 1970s and as recently as two weeks ago, particularly in the northern reaches of the county.

Fourteen people came forward with stories, 13 of them firsthand sightings and one with a cast of an alleged Sasquatch footprint he had made. No specifics on any story shared by the locals will be released until the show is aired.

The "Finding Bigfoot" episode featuring Northwest Jersey will be aired months from now, potentially as late as December, according to the film team. The show is now in its fifth season.

"These are the best stories we've had in years," said an enthusiastic Fay, who wore a "Keep It Squatchy" cap, as the town hall drew to a close.

"This is Jersey, baby!" yelled back someone from the audience.

Consistent with the show's format, the team mapped out the locations where eyewitnesses allegedly had their encounters. In that way, they determined hot spots for conducting investigations in the days after the town hall took place.

Sasquatch, or "Squatch" for short, is a term used mostly in the Pacific Northwest to describe an 8- to 10-foot bipedal



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Waterloo event celebrates Morris Canal

Weekend programs feature interpretive tours, history

By William Westhoven
@wwesthoven

BYRAM — Waterloo Village celebrated the first full weekend of summer on Saturday by opening newly restored 19th century businesses where visitors could step back into time and witness functioning local history.

"We have a new seamstress shop and a new carpentry shop," said Joe Macasek, president of the Canal Society of New Jersey, who was busy preparing the historic village for this year's Canal Day celebration. "The new buildings are open and, last-minute, we squeaked through and got permission to open the saw mill."

Staffed by volunteers wearing hand-made period dress, the renovated trade buildings sat along an unpaved path where visitors could get a taste of what life was like before automobiles, telephones or electric lights. Eight buildings were opened, interspersed between other magnificent old homes and buildings, currently uninhabitable but on the list of restoration projects the Canal Society hopes to tackle in the future.

With origins predating the American Revolution, Waterloo became a thriving center of the local 19th century economy during a time when the Morris Canal was a key transportation link to major urban cen-

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Tom Ross, superintendent of Morristown National Historical Park, talks about the renovation of the park. PHOTO BY KAREN MANCINELLI/CORRESPONDENT

Morristown landmark to reopen July 4

Fort Nonsense repaired from Sandy damage

By Michael Izzo
@MizzoDR

MORRISTOWN — A Morristown National Historical Park closed on Independence Day? Nonsense!

The beautiful portion of the historical park system, perched atop the highest point of Morristown, is completely repaired and better than ever following damage from superstorm Sandy, and just in time for the Morristown National Historical Park's biggest day of the year.

The grand reopening will take place as part of Morristown National Park's Fourth of July festivities.

On July 4, following a 2 p.m. ribbon-cutting and ceremony, historian and park ranger Eric Olsen will dress in his colonial garb and lead tours of Fort Nonsense, discussing its history, including the fort itself, the winter encampment of 1777, and the alarm systems that were used at the time.

"Morristown was a supply depot, and this was the

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Operation Sunshine: Kyra, 10, could use a break from taking care of others

By Matt Harper
Special to the Daily Record

Kyra could use a break from the adult responsibilities put upon her at home and some time to focus on herself rather than care for her younger sisters. Two weeks at summer camp could provide just what she needs.

Kyra is 10 years old and finishing the fourth grade. She shares a small apartment with her two older brothers, two younger sisters and her single mother. When she is not at school, Kyra's mother often relies on her to care for her sisters while she works two jobs to make ends meet. While Kyra understands the need for this and wants to help her mother as much as she can, it means that she has to

take on adult responsibilities and the stress that goes along with them.

Though Kyra does well in school and has a handful of friends, her mom suspects that if she were less stressed, she would be able to focus more on her schoolwork and that would be reflected in her performance. She hopes that time at camp will also remind her what it is like just to be a kid and have fun with other boys and girls her age.

Kyra's mom knows how important it is that her daughter be able to attend camp this summer; however, there is no way she can afford to send her on her very tight budget. That's where Operation Sunshine and Daily Record readers

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