

The Daily Item

Shamokin Dam author uses children's books to 'tell the stories that need to be out there'

By Katrina Hook | For The Daily Item | Dec 20, 2025 | Updated Jan 7, 2026

Shamokin Dam resident Judi Jessick's debut rhyming children's book, "Agatha Livermore and the Magic Cookie Spoon," featured a little girl with "a big heart and a lot of dreams." A year later, title character Agatha is ready for her next adventure.

Jessick's second children's book, "Agatha Livermore Planted a Tree," was released in October 2025 by Pegasus Publishers. The story hopes to teach 3-to 8-year-olds about the power of teamwork.

The book is about Agatha Livermore, a little girl who lives in a quiet town and dreams of turning an empty space into something more, according to Pegasus Publishers. "With a single tree planted in the center, she sparks a movement bringing the whole community together," according to the book description.

"Agatha was a character I used when telling my own kids stories, and she became a family joke as they grew up," Jessick said. "Agatha is helping me tell the stories that need to be out there."

Inspired by the rhyme schemes of Dr. Seuss, Jessick's stories, she said, come "right from the heart."

Jessick estimates that, while she doesn't consider herself a "disciplined writer," her stories only take around two months to write.

"Agatha really is a special character to me," Jessick said. "When I'm writing a story I know I have my ending when I start to get emotional."

When it comes to challenges, Jessick claims the difficult part of the writing process is marketing. Jessick promotes her book on her social media and with the support of local bookstores, including Otto Bookstore in Williamsport.

One marketing effort brought Jessick to a kindergarten classroom. Jessick volunteered to read her new Agatha Livermore book to a class, and the children were so moved by the storyline that one boy stood up to hug her. His classmates quickly joined. "To see something you wrote move kids like that, that's what I do this for," Jessick said.

The most rewarding part of the process, however, is seeing her books after publication. “You can’t beat the feeling of seeing your book with your name on the cover,” she said.

The third book in the Agatha Livermore series is already approved for publication. Moving forward, Jessick is excited to try something new. The author’s next project looks toward chapter books, hoping to engage tentative readers.

“Agatha Livermore Planted a Tree” is available online at Amazon, Walmart, and Barnes and Noble. Jessick is active on Facebook and Instagram @authorjudijessick, where she frequently posts up-to-date information about her current and upcoming books.