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November 28, 2024

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Vol. 52, No. 19



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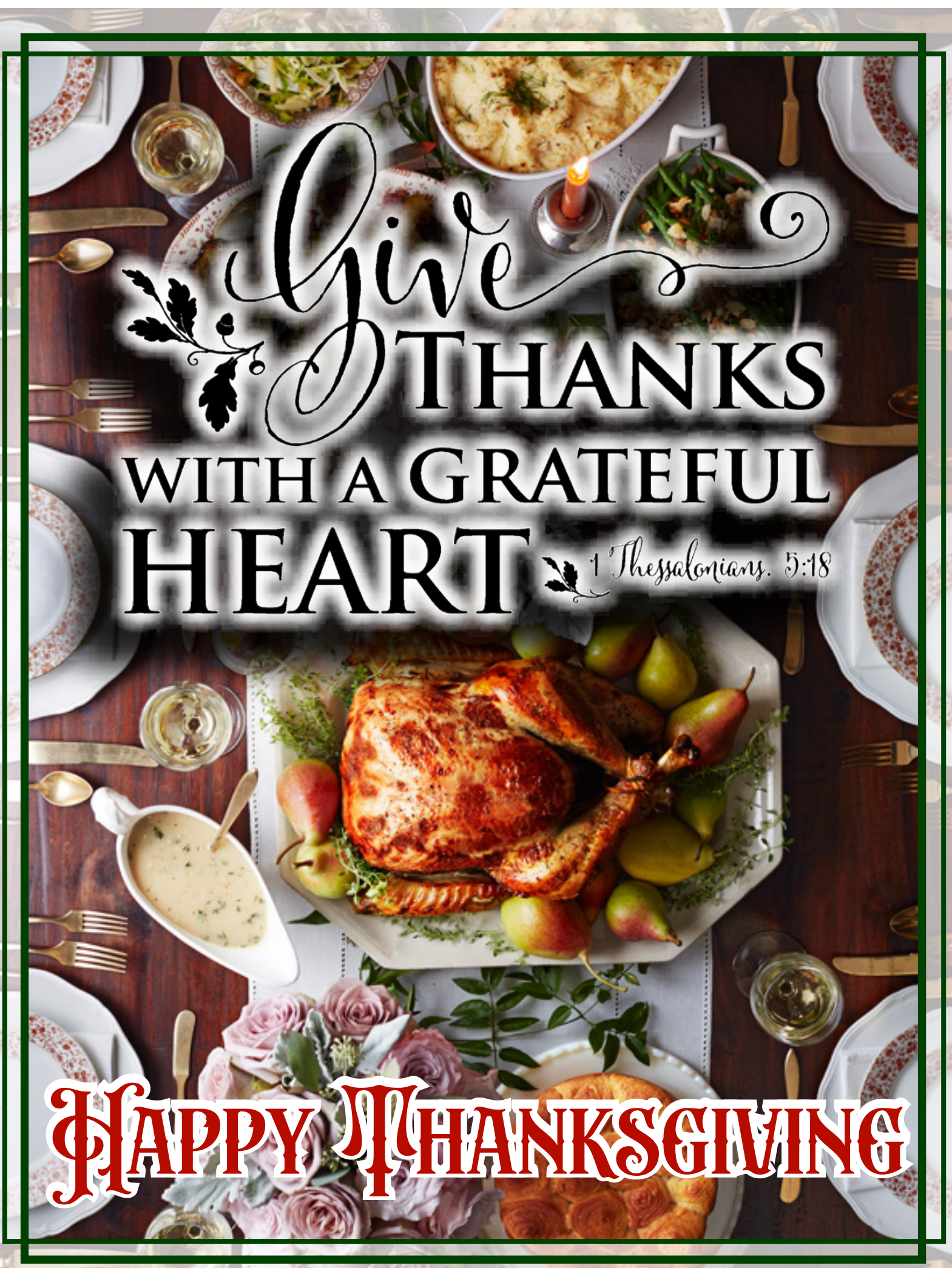
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Pennsylvania Election Law Affirmed



The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has upheld its prior rulings, affirming that undated mail-in and absentee ballots from the 2024 General Election shall not be counted. This decision reinforces the requirements of the Pennsylvania Election Code, ensuring compliance with its provisions for the election held on November 5, 2024. This ruling underscores the importance of adhering to election laws designed to maintain the integrity of the electoral process. Strengthening both election integrity and voter access has been, and will continue to be, a key focus for Pennsylvania lawmakers. Free, fair, and secure elections are the cornerstone of a healthy and thriving republic, and efforts to uphold these principles remain a top priority. As Pennsylvania moves forward, this decision reaffirms a commitment to the rule of law and the standards that ensure public trust in our democratic processes.

Boscola Announces Two Northampton County Non Profits To Receive 80 Laptop Computers Through Digital Connectivity Technology Program

Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Northampton) announced today that Women of Excellence Bethlehem and the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity have been awarded laptop computers by the PA Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) through the Digital Connectivity Technology Program (DCTP).

“In today’s world access to appropriate technology such as laptops is crucial for our citizens to further their education, seek workforce training and to seek necessary health care,” Senator Boscola stated. “Through the Digital Connectivity Technology program, the Commonwealth is providing access to this technology through the awards to Women of Excellence Bethlehem and the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity.”

Today’s awards by the PA Broadband Development Authority will provide Women of Excellence Bethlehem 50 laptops and the Memorial Library of Nazareth

and Vicinity 30 laptops. “Women of Excellence Bethlehem, would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the PA Broadband Development Authority for the award of this needed technology,” Dr. Enid P. Jackson, CEO of Women of Excellence Bethlehem said. “These laptops will allow us to better serve children, families and our community. We believe unity generates a higher productivity in any community.”

“The thirty new laps received from the Capital Project Fund Digital Connectivity Technology Program will have a significant and positive impact on the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity’s service area,” stated Holly Bennett, Executive Director of the Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity. “The new technology will enable our organization to address the critical issue of limited digital access, which currently hinders digital literacy and access to vital information. With this support, we will be able to grow our partnership with the Northampton County Digital Navigation Coalition by offering learning opportunities to help bridge

the digital divide in our community. This collaboration will empower individuals to better navigate the digital world, enhancing their personal, educational, and professional opportunities.”

The Digital Connectivity Technology Program provides laptops to non-profits, community anchor institutions, and governments who will then loan or make the laptops available to Pennsylvanians to improve education, workforce development, health, and employment outcomes.

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), created by Act 96 of 2021, is an independent agency of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). PBDA is responsible for creating a statewide broadband plan and distributing federal and state monies for broadband expansion projects in unserved and underserved areas of Pennsylvania. The Authority focuses on closing Pennsylvania’s digital divide so all residents can get connected to affordable and reliable high-speed broadband internet at home, at work, or on the road.

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Record Number of Families Enjoy Thanksgiving Feast Courtesy of Generous Community

More than 500 Sussex County families will be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings this year, thanks to the generosity of local businesses, churches and individuals who donated voluminous amounts of food for Project Self-Sufficiency participants. Agency staff and volunteers recently bagged hundreds of frozen turkeys, along with fresh produce, cans of cranberry sauce, vegetables, stuffing mix, dinner rolls, and freshly baked pies and distributed them to local families.

“For many of our participants, food insecurity has become a pervasive and deeply troubling issue. The overwhelming generosity of our friends and neighbors is appreciated now more than ever,” commented Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. “We have a lot to be thankful for this year.”

Thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables were provided by longtime Project Self-Sufficiency volunteer Michael McNamara and his family in recognition of McNamara’s recent birthday. “My whole family is involved in supporting Project Self-Sufficiency all year long,” noted McNamara. “I have been fortunate in my life,



Funds donated by the members of the Lake Mohawk Golf Club and others were used to purchase turkeys for distribution to families in need. Pictured left to right: Matt Berke, Project Self-Sufficiency, Chuck Roberts, Lake Mohawk Golf Club President, Andy Frye, Project Self-Sufficiency, and volunteer Michael McNamara.

and I am honored to be able to use this opportunity to help those in need.”

The First Presbyterian Church of Newton Youth Group, along with help from the congregation and members of Girl Scout Troop #98136, donated 200 freshly baked pies. “The Youth Group and the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Newton look forward to baking pies for Project Self-Sufficiency’s Thanksgiving baskets each year. The mission of our church is to be a beacon of light and hope to our community, and pie-baking is just one of

the ways that we let our light shine,” said Colleen Duffy, Associate for Family Nurture at the First Presbyterian Church.

Project Self-Sufficiency Leadership Council member Roy Knutsen, in conjunction with Lake Mohawk Golf Club President Chuck Roberts, spearheaded a fundraising drive to purchase 300 turkeys for donation to the agency. “It’s a real pleasure to be able to help needy families with a Thanksgiving meal who might not have had one without Project Self-Sufficiency,” noted Knutsen. “Kudos to the members

of the Lake Mohawk Golf Club who stepped in to contribute most of the funds this year.”

Significant Thanksgiving contributions were made Selective Insurance, Kiddie Academy of Sparta, Reverend George A. Brown Memorial School, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, and Perfect Pointe Performing Arts Studio.

A joint Thanksgiving food drive was also conducted by Board member Dee Fernandez and Leadership Council member Kathy Nauta, with the help of their friends, families, and neighbors,

culminating in donations of gift cards and funds to purchase bushels of canned goods and fresh produce. Hundreds of pounds of fresh apples were supplied by longtime Project Self-Sufficiency supporter John Mathews with the help of Gulick’s Fruit Farm. Generous donations of turkeys, food, baked goods, gift cards, and funds were also received from numerous other individuals and families.

Deliveries to homebound families were provided by parishioners of the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, a tradition which has been in place for approximately 40 years.

Project Self-Sufficiency has provided services to families in the New

Jersey counties of Sussex, Warren, Morris, and Hunterdon since 1986. Programs include career guidance, computer training, help with obtaining a high school diploma, parenting skills classes, legal assistance and education, financial workshops, health education, childcare and family activities. The agency offers help around the holidays, formal dresses during prom season, and assistance with emergency basic needs, such as food and clothing to its participants. Services are free, and many are open to the public. To donate, or to find out more about the programs and services available at Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500, or visit www.projectsufficiency.org.

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Wind Gap Monument Christmas Decorations 11-23-2024



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Clean Team Workforce Proudly Announces Employee of the Month for October

The Clean Team Workforce announces its Employee of the Month for October, Robert L.

Robert L. can't remember a time when he didn't feel emotional stress. Both of his parents were alcoholics and neglected him. At a young age, Robert lost his brother in a car accident. To deal with the pain, he turned to drinking and smoking weed. Then after his

mom passed away in 2021, Robert elevated his drug use to methamphetamines. With nowhere to go and no one to turn to, he came to the Allentown Rescue Mission after a nearly fatal overdose while living in a tent. He resided in the Emergency Shelter for three weeks but was referred to a drug rehabilitation facility. After his rehab, Robert returned to the

Allentown Rescue Mission and enrolled in the Transformation Program. During his time in the eight-week Transformation Program, Robert enjoyed learning about the Bible, going to church, and being close to God. He said, "The program changed my life," and believes that he is now truly saved. Upon graduation, Robert joined the Clean Team Workforce and

immediately demonstrated his value as a hard worker who cares about getting the job done right. He quickly rose in rank, being promoted to a driver and crew leader. "I enjoy the responsibility I've been given as a leader and driver," Robert voiced. He also stated that he feels appreciated by Clean Team Workforce customers and is grateful for this opportunity. Robert would like to obtain his forklift operator certification with the financial help of the Allentown Rescue Mission's education scholarship fund and ultimately find a warehouse job in the Lehigh Valley.



Meanwhile, he continues to save money working for the Clean Team Workforce and is reconnecting with his son. They spend time together on the weekends and their relationship is "stronger than it's ever been before."

Congratulations, Robert.

The Allentown Rescue Mission, a 501c3, 123 bed non-profit homeless shelter has been providing shelter for homeless men since 1900. In addition to emergency shelter services (365 days a year), the Allentown Rescue Mission offers a residential life skills program, and transitional employment on the Clean Team Workforce that's available for hire to the community. The Clean Team Workforce

pays the men above PA state minimum wage—helping them save a nest egg to transition back into the community. In a typical year, the Allentown Rescue Mission provides shelter services for over 946 men per year, and serves over 42,000 meals a year to men in need.

To refer someone to the Allentown Rescue Mission for services or to learn ways you can help make a difference please visit www.allentownrescuemission.org

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Shapiro Administration Reduces DEP Permit Backlog by 75 Percent, Completely Eliminates Backlog for Oil and Gas Permits

Early investments in permit reduction are paying dividends for Pennsylvania businesses and residents as DEP can respond to applicants more quickly and ensure Pennsylvanians' clean air and pure water is protected

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has reduced its permit backlog by 75 percent since November 1, 2023 – and has completely eliminated the backlog for oil and gas permits.

“At DEP we are moving at the speed of business – taking care of backlogged permits and not adding to the list – while protecting clean air and water and public health,” said DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley. “We’ve invested in people and technology to meet the needs of the people and businesses of Pennsylvania and those investments are paying off.”

DEP reviews more than 45,000 permit applications every year. These include permits for land clearing activities for construction projects, air quality permits for factories and power plants, permits to upgrade drinking waters systems to remove chemicals like PFAS, and permits for oil and gas wells.

DEP is modernizing its permitting process by investing in technology and reviewing processes to identify and eliminate bottlenecks. DEP began

the backlog reduction initiative on November 1, 2023, and had more than 2,400 permit applications that required action received prior to that date. As of November 15, 2024, DEP eliminated 1,750 applications from this backlog – a 73% reduction, while keeping up with new application reviews. In the Office of Oil and Gas Management, staff have reviewed and made decisions on all 115 permit applications received before November 1, 2023.

Throughout the Shapiro Administration, DEP has been hiring staff to improve operational efficiency. Since 2023, DEP has added 225 employees to carry out critical functions like public health and safety inspections and permit application reviews.

Governor Josh Shapiro and the Pennsylvania General Assembly approved \$7 million for technology updates and upgrades in the 2024-25 state budget, which will be used to increase transparency for permit applicants and residents and improve DEP’s record keeping systems.

DEP will also implement the SPEED program, which was part of

the bipartisan 2024-25 budget signed by Governor Josh Shapiro. The SPEED program offers increased flexibility, allowing permit applicants to have a DEP-verified and qualified professional conduct the initial review of the application. DEP staff will review the recommendations of the qualified professional and either make a final permit decision or identify technical deficiencies to the applicant. DEP will have final authority over all permit decisions. Applicants for eligible permits will agree to pay any review fees incurred by the qualified professional, in addition to permit application fees.

Invitations for Bids are being accepted through the Pennsylvania eMarketplace for the qualified professionals to review SPEED permit applications. The SPEED program will be available for certain Air Quality Plan Approvals, earth disturbance, dam safety, and individual water obstruction and encroachment permits.

DEP has sped up its permitting process through the Payback

program, which went into effect in November 2023 that assures a moneyback guarantee for permit applicants if their application is overdue. Since going into effect, DEP has evaluated and decided on more than 40,000 permits without having to refund a single application fee.

DEP is continuing to identify process improvements in its permitting programs. In May 2024, DEP launched a pilot program for Chapter 102 Individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit applications in ten counties. The goal of the pilot program was to reduce overall time between application and decision. This pilot program is already showing results, with one permit application submitted through the program receiving approval 73 days quicker than the average review time.

DEP has also significantly improved the Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment General Permit registration process by updating the registration form and instructions



to make them easier to understand. DEP also launched a new Chapter 105 Pilot Program for individual Joint Permit Applications that should reduce errors in applications and cut the total time to process an application by 63 days. Similar to the Chapter 102 Pilot Program, applicants will need to meet with DEP prior to submitting a permit appli-

cation. The Chapter 105 individual Permit Pilot Program will give review priority to publicly funded energy projects and environmental restoration projects.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s website, or follow DEP on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, or LinkedIn.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Tips To Avoid Frozen Pipes This Winter

It's time to be wise and winterize! As cold weather and winter approach, it's important to protect your pipes from freezing during low temperatures. Frozen pipes can leave you without water in the worst of weather and cost a lot to repair. With a few simple steps, you can easily preserve both your budget and your

peace of mind.

Locate & Test Your Main Water Shut-Off Valve:

Before the cold sets in, locate your main water shut-off valve and hang an I.D. tag on it so you can find it quickly in an emergency. In many homes, it is located near the water meter or close to where the water pipe enters the home.

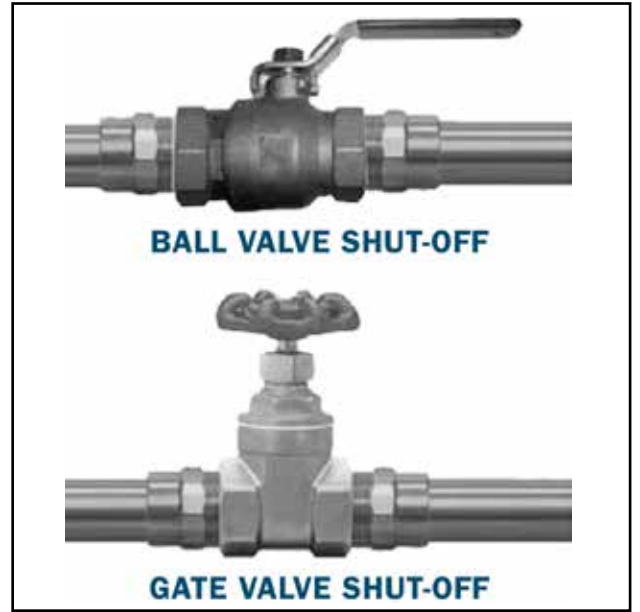
To test your main water shut-off valve, slowly close it. If you have a ball valve, it generally only requires a quarter turn to close. Gate valves are generally closed by turning the handle clockwise and should turn easily. You may need to have it serviced if it does not close easily.

Once the shut-off val-

ve is completely closed, check sinks and other water fixtures to make sure you found the main water valve and that it is working properly. If no water comes out of any faucets, CONGRATULATIONS, you found your shut-off valve! See below for more tips to help keep life flowing this winter.

Tips for Winter:

Open cabinet doors: If pipes run through cabi-



Atlantic Cobia Commercial Fishery, In All State Waters, In The Management Unit To Be Closed



The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has determined as of November 18, 2024, the total reported commercial landings of Atlantic cobia in 2024 from non-de minimis states (New York, PRFC, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina) meets the commercial trigger level. As a result, the Atlantic cobia commercial fishery in all state waters in the management unit (north of the Georgia-Florida state border) will be closed. Based upon this information and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.12(o), the New Jersey Atlantic cobia commercial fishery will be closed as of 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Effective 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, December 18, 2024, no vessel shall land or possess, nor shall any dealer accept any Atlantic cobia through 11:59 p.m. December 31, 2024. The 2025 season will open on Wednesday, January 1 with a possession limit of no more than two cobia per person and no more than six cobia per vessel in any one day. If you have any questions, please contact the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at (609) 748-2020.

nets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.

Protect your pipes: Wrap pipes with insulation or heat tape before cold weather sets in.

Check irrigation systems: Make sure everything is turned off and drained.

Eliminate cold drafts: Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines and fix drafts around windows and doors.

Allow water to flow: When temperatures stay below freezing, keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.



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From Wind Gap: 3rd St., make left onto Delabole Rd., Right onto Merwarth Rd., Left onto Gum Rd.

New Jersey Assembly GOP Members Recognized For Championing Conservative Values

Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia and Assemblyman Paul Kanitra are recipients of the New Jersey Family Policy Center's legislative award for championing legislation protecting conservative values. The Republican lawmakers are the only two legislators recognized at the organization's "A Time to Stand" event on Friday featuring President-elect Donald Trump's pick for defense secretary Pete Hegseth.

"The more people in Trenton show that they have lost their moral compass, the more I feel compelled to push back to protect our most vulnerable", said Fantasia (R-Sussex). "I am a proud, outspoken advocate for our families, our faith, and our

freedoms. This award highlights the values I share with the Family Policy Center, the principles that guide my public service, and my commitment to the well-being of every resident. I am truly honored to serve the people of the 24th Legislative District and to receive this recognition."

Since joining the Assembly in January 2024, Fantasia has openly opposed the Murphy administration's attack on crisis pregnancy centers and legislation that exposes schoolchildren to explicit reading materials and increases a minor's access to abortions by non-medical professionals. She and Assemblyman Kanitra also sponsor the "Fairness in Women's Sport Act"



Photo credit: Assembly Republican Office/Jennifer Peacock.

that bases participation in school-sanctioned sports on biological sex.

Kanitra has also spoken out against board of education appointees who support allowing biological males to play in female sports and technical language changes in legislation that eliminates "women" in favor of gender-neutral nouns.

"I refuse to sit down while far-left politicians attack the very fabric of this nation and attempt to belittle the people I love and the freedoms I cherish," Kanitra (R-Ocean) said. "I think many people in this nation feel the same, as evidenced by President Trump's landslide victory, and there is hope for a future that reflects the importance of family and honors constitutional rights. I am grateful to have the cooperation

and support of organizations like Family Policy Center to advance legislation that makes New Jersey safer and the government more accountable. As a freshman lawmaker, there is still much work to be done, but this award confirms we are moving in the right direction."

Kanitra has introduced bills targeting the rise in crime throughout the state, and chaos at the shore. He has proposed protecting life and property by increasing certain penalties and requiring law enforcement to cooperate with federal officials.

New Jersey Family Policy Center is part of a national alliance of conservative organizations that promote religious freedom, families and the right to life. It also lends its support to elect pro-family candidates.

REMINDER: Record Your DD214 With Your County

RECORD YOUR DD214

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Kate Best
 Monroe County Recorder of Deeds
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Brought to you by State Senator Rosemary Brown

The Monroe County Recorder of Deeds Office has shared two important updates to benefit residents and Veterans alike: **Free Record Alert Service: Protect your property and prevent deed fraud with the office's free Record Alert Service.** This proactive tool helps ensure that any unauthorized changes or fraudulent activity involving your property records are quickly detected. **Safeguard Veterans' DD214 Documents: Veterans are encouraged to record their DD214 military discharge documents with the Recorder of Deeds Office for safekeeping.** This free service ensures that these critical records are securely stored and easily accessible when needed. For more information or assistance, please contact the Monroe County Recorder of Deeds Office at 570-517-3969. Don't miss out on these valuable services designed to protect your assets and important documents!

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PA State Game Lands Campfire Ban Lifted

With recent rains reducing the threat of wildfire, the Pennsylvania Game Commission is lifting the temporary ban on building fires on state game lands.

While camping on state game lands is prohibited, regulations allow game lands users to build small fires for cooking or warming purposes. However, with much of the state under drought conditions and wildfires popping up, the Game Commission on Nov. 5 enacted a temporary ban on game lands campfires. Conditions have improved since, allowing for the ban to be lifted.

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which had issued a similar ban on campfires in state parks and state forests earlier this month, lifted its ban,



too.

Game Commission Executive Director Steve Smith noted the importance of stepping in to ensure wildlife, habitat and hunting opportunities on state game lands remain protected.

“While the temporary ban remained in place for only about two weeks, it provided an additional layer of protection during a span when extremely

dry conditions were fueling wildfires statewide,” Smith said. “State game lands are important to Pennsylvania’s wildlife and hunters, which we’re reminded of frequently at this time of year, when so many hunting seasons are hitting their prime.”

A full list of state game lands regulations Opens In A New Window can be found at www.pgc.pa.gov.



It’s the most wonderful time of the year! Please join us as we kick off the 2024 holiday season by welcoming Santa and lighting the East Stroudsburg Borough Christmas tree on December 6th at Dansbury Depot. This two-hour event, hosted by the Eastburg Community Alliance and the Pocono Chamber of Commerce, will include live musical performances, photos with Santa and Buddy the Elf, activities for children, raffles, and fun for all ages! Refreshments available. Rain or shine.

Support Pen Argyl Cub Scouts as they Honor our Nation’s Veterans



Pen Argyl Cub Scout Pack 34 is hosting its annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 14th at Noon at the Plainfield Cemetery on Delabole Rd.



This event is an opportunity to REMEMBER the fallen heroes who served our nation at home and abroad, HONOR those who currently serve, and TEACH our children the value of Freedom. Individuals, families, and businesses are encouraged to sponsor wreaths to be laid on veteran graves after the ceremony. Those interested can scan the QR code above. All are encouraged to attend the ceremony to show gratitude for our local servicemen and women.

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Warren Fiscally Sound, According to NJ Office of Higher Education

Warren County Community College has gained a top ranking from the state for its fiscal standing and accountability under new legislation that requires a review of institutional finances for all colleges and universities. Warren was recognized by the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education as one of the state's colleges with the 'least risk' in the results of the year long financial assessment and risk monitoring report issued by the state.

The review, which began under legislation passed about a year ago and put in place earlier this year, requires New Jersey's public institutions

to submit an annual fiscal monitoring report to the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. It gives that office the authority to conduct comprehensive audits of a school's finances and administrative operations and to appoint a state monitor under some circumstances where an institution seems unstable.

"We are proud not only of our academic standards and programming here at Warren, but also proud of the strong fiscal foundation we have established thanks to our staff, the local, regional and state officials who have supported us, the people in this region and numerous benefactors who have seen the

valuable role a community college can play," said Will Austin, president of WCCC.

"This is a real tribute to a collection of people who have worked together to make certain that this college is adequately supported – and especially that funding is used efficiently to provide the best educational opportunities possible for our students."

One of New Jersey's most fiscally responsible organizations, Warren was founded in 1981 and accredited in 1985 by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and has grown steadily since, now enrolling about 1800 students at two cam-



The state review gave WCCC the highest of four rankings based on its assessment of the school during its 2023 fiscal year.

Austin singled out the business office, CFO Barbara Pratt, and expressed appreciation to the board of trustees who have helped gain support for the college and provided guidance for its path forward from their wide-ranging perspectives as leaders in business, politics and education.

The legislation (S3406) also requires training for college chief financial officers and establishes their duties and responsibilities and holds them accountable for violations of fiduciary responsibilities.

"We have a responsibility to be good stewards of the significant investment students, their families and the state makes into higher education," said Secretary of Higher Education Brian K. Bridges. "That begins with financial transparency and the stronger accountability model this law now provides. By working with colleges and universities to safeguard those investments, we will ensure New Jersey is better equipped to build and leave a legacy of excellence in higher education."

pus.

It offers associate degrees and certificates in business management, computer science and graphics, creative writing, liberal arts, medical professions, professional studies and science.

The professional studies program includes college's fast-growing drone and unmanned systems training program, which this year enrolls about 100 students learning about designing operating and maintaining a variety of unmanned systems, focusing now on precision agriculture. It now operates out of two new facilities with a strong and growing faculty and connections to both leaders in the field throughout the country and others in the region hoping to implement

the new technology for farms, law enforcement, environmental protection and other functions.

"We have been fortunate to have incredible support from the community, combined with an excellent staff on both the academic and business side," Austin said. "And we've attracted a unique blend of students here who really value the educational opportunities this institution provides."

Under the law, the state reviews the higher education institutions based on 12 criteria: auditor opinion, cash management, cost control, credit rating, debt affordability, debt covenant compliance, enrollment, financial performance, financial reserves investment performance, revenue growth and tuition reliance.

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Effortless Holiday Hosting: Simple Tips to Keep Your Home Sparkling



(NAPS)—During the holiday season, as homes filled with laughter, joy, and loved ones, hosting a happy gathering can be a great way to catch up with friends and family—and it doesn't have to feel overwhelming.

With the right plan in place, you can manage the holiday hustle with ease and wow your guests with top-tier accommodations. Here are hints on how:

Surface Cleaning Made Simple - Kick your old, backbreaking cleaning routine and opt for a true do-it-all product great for any surface. Pinalen 2X, available on Amazon, is a great option thanks to its combination

of grime-fighting power and affordable price.

"It's easy to overcomplicate kitchen cleanup," celebrity chef and AIEn USA ambassador Marcela Valladolid says. "While I want my holiday flavors to pack a punch, when it comes to cleaning I like to keep it as simple as possible. The holidays are busy, which means I am juggling meal prep on top of my kids and family buzzing around the house. The chatter and energy during this time of year is so special, but when you're hosting, it can lead to added mess and stress—but with a powerful multi-purpose cleaner such as Pinalen you really can't go wrong. It makes spot

cleaning a breeze, so wiping up spills is a mindless task and I can keep my energy and attention on celebrating with good food and quality time with loved ones."

You can clean nearly effortlessly between countertops, tables, and even floors, using the same bottle for virtually any cleanup task. For extra glam, Chef Marcela underscores the importance of having your house smell as good as it looks, so she recommends opting for Pinalen Luxury Scents to fill your home with soothing aromas that add a hint of elegance.

Plan Ahead for Spills and Stains - Spills happen and stains inevita-

bly follow, so don't let a tipped glass ruin an evening of laughs with the people you love. Chef Marcela always channels her Mexican heritage through her cooking, which means she loves a good sauce and strong ingredients, so she knows that Ensueño Laundry Detergent has your back if you get a little Guajillo Garlic Butter on your tablecloth or if your kids

are messy eaters like hers. For anything extra tricky, Cloralen Stain Remover is color-safe and boosts traditional laundry detergent for a powerful clean on everything from clothes, tablecloths and napkins to carpets and upholstery.

Prepare for Overnight Guests - Whether it's family members coming in from out of town or just accommodating mid-af-

ternoon food comas, if you're hosting a long holiday celebration you might just end up with a few guests ready for a snooze. Ensueño Max Fabric Softener is great for those guest bedroom sheets and blankets to create a cozy, inviting, and fresh-smelling place for anyone staying the night or sneaking in a nap.

For further tips and information on cleaning visit www.alenusabrands.com.

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Murphy Administration Launches Online Funding Directory For Climate Resilience Projects

The Murphy Administration has launched an online Climate Resilience Funding Directory to help municipalities, community-based organizations and state agencies identify resources for funding climate resilience projects, including local infrastructure improvements, hazard mitigation efforts and community resilience planning opportunities. Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announced recently.

The Climate Resilience Funding Directory offers streamlined access to opportunities for state and federal grants, organized by criteria such as applicant type and cost-share requirements. In addition to connecting users with potential funding sources, the directory showcases success stories from resilience projects and examples of funded initiatives. This tool supports the Administration's statewide climate resilience strategy efforts as established by Executive Order 89, which Governor Murphy sig-

ned on the anniversary of Superstorm Sandy in 2019.

"The Climate Resilience Funding Directory will become an important tool to ensure that local governments, organizations and state agencies take full advantage of every available funding opportunity to make our communities more resilient to the increasing severity of storms and flooding due to climate changes," Commissioner LaTourette said. "New Jersey faces some of the nation's worst impacts from climate change, and this resource will help support critical resilience work that will protect property and lives, while keeping New Jersey's economy strong."

"Having a clear roadmap to funding opportunities is crucial to help communities move from the resilience planning stage to project imple-

mentation," said Chief Climate Resilience Officer Nick Angarone. "By exploring a variety of funding options, our communities can find ways to fund both immediate needs and longer-term resilience strategies. The Climate Resilience Funding Directory offers a vital link in support of these important efforts."

The Climate Resilience Funding Directory was developed in response to the need for funding for the significant number of projects identified through Resilient NJ plans, and requests from municipalities for guidance on locating relevant funding to support resilience projects. In line with Executive Order 89, which calls for identification of grants and financing strategies for resilience and adaptation, the directory facilitates access to essential

funding sources, bridging the gap between resilience planning and implementation.

Designed to support a wide range of users, the Climate Resilience Funding Directory primarily serves New Jersey municipalities, community-based organizations, and state agencies engaged in resilience activities. The tool is especially useful for local entities seeking financial support for climate adaptation and mitigation projects, aligning with DEP's commitment to building resilience across the state.

In addition to a variety of financing resources, the Climate Resilience Funding Directory also includes links to stories about communities that have successfully received and used funding from some of the programs identified. Jersey City in Hudson County,

for example, received \$3.84 million in federal funds to implement the McGovern Park Resilience Project, which used green infrastructure methods to install a stormwater park with underground storage systems to mitigate flooding risk.

To explore the Climate Resilience Funding Directory and discover funding opportunities for climate adaptation and resilience, visit dep.nj.gov/climatechange/resources/tools-and-web-apps/ and click on the Climate Resilience Funding Directory card.

The DEP is seeking feedback to help enhance the functionality of the database and may plan future presentations to help communities become familiar and comfortable with the database. Questions and comments may be emailed to the Resilient NJ program at resilientnj@dep.nj.gov

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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



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Hello, fellow readers,
 As I write, I am overlooking the ocean at Virginia Beach, enjoying a respite before heading to my sister's home near Richmond. It's a treat to have cherished time with family on Thanksgiving. I hope you will, too.

The hotel is at the end of the drive-through Holiday Light Display. We arrived at night greeted with the message "Living the Life in Virginia Beach." A waving Santa and jolly snowman say goodbye to visitors as you exit below a vibrant, color-changing tunnel.

Thanks to Jolee's squeals of delight saying the day was here, we rose to see the sun rising above the sea, its brilliant orange blaze tinting the clouds above and the current below. The daily miracle over the rippled glass of the ocean with puffs of lacey tides is perhaps taken for granted by the folks who live here.

By day, the white wire forms of the unlit dancing penguins, surfing Santa, jumping fish, and crabs around musical notes were a delight to see too. But I'll vote for the nativity scene amongst the secular setting as "best of show" — grateful that Christmas is

still part of the holiday season.

Of course, I can't help but focus on the gardens as we walk the three-mile boardwalk designated among the Great Public Places by the American Planning Association. There are wooden benches to sit on and view the ocean. Amid them, a garden of ornamental grasses and tough seaside perennials tolerant of the salt air—a few still in bloom, such as sunny yellow Yarrows with fuzzy bluish-green foliage.

A single resilient Stella D'Oro Daylily flower renews an appreciation for the tough though overused garden plant. Many roses remain in bloom. How lovely they look beside the ornamental grasses swaying in the breeze in their golden winter glory.

Along the foundation of a high-rise is a leaning white pine whose trunk looks like driftwood embracing a Leopard Plant, one of my favorite deer-resistant, shade-loving plants. The variety is *Ligularia dentata* 'Desdemona,' whose dark red foliage grows into lovely heart-shaped leaves. The undersides remain purple below the yellow flowers standing four feet tall in late summer. Butterflies love the late-season feast.

Then come Yucca, a plant I largely dislike, and joke that its name is fitting—though they have a place in tropical settings and along the shore. Especially when an Ice Plant, a drought-tolerant succulent, serves as a groundcover under a not-so-yucky Variegated Yucca. I believe it's a Coopers Hardy Ice Plant (*Delosperma cooperi*). Bees love them, while



deer don't. The bright magenta flowers open as the sun rises.

I adore the patriotism of Virginia Beach, with courtyards of sculptures honoring those who serve. Maybe if I lived here, the sonic sounds of F-18 Hornets from the nearby navy base would be intrusive. But the roar quickly dissipates, traveling over a thousand miles per hour to land on aircraft carriers out to sea.

The most joyous discovery came at the end of our walk. A Peace Pole with a quotation, "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

For over thirty years, it's a worldwide movement started by Masahisa Goi, born in 1916 in Tokyo, Japan. He dedicated his life to inspiring global peace and har-

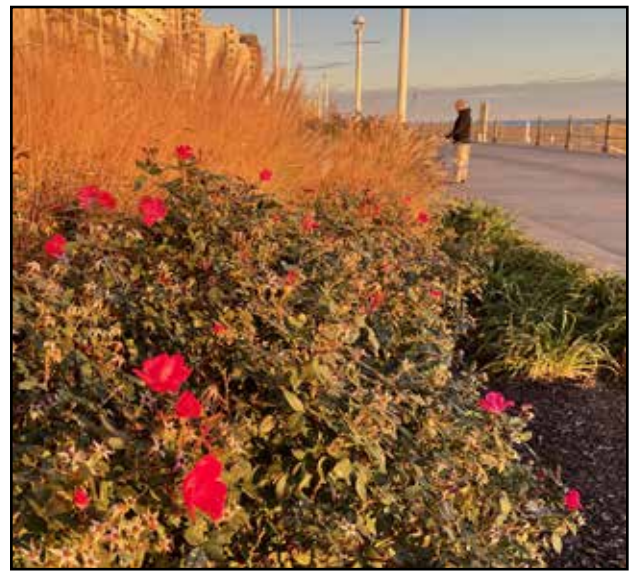
mony after witnessing the devastation of World War II and the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. His famous words—

"World peace comes about when each individual lives in a peaceful setting. Likewise, when each individual lives in a peaceful setting, it means that world peace has been realized"—Goi Sensei.

May we all help propagate peace in the garden of life.

Wishing you a joyful time with family and friends, warm memories of those no longer with us, and healing love for those maneuvering through illness and recovery. Happy Thanksgiving blessings to all!

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Boscola Announces \$1,725,000 In Park, Trail & Conservation Grants For Four Northampton County Projects Including Additional Funding For South Bethlehem Greenway



Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Northampton) announced this year's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grants totaling \$1,725,000 have been awarded for four important park, trail and conservation projects in Northampton County including additional funding for the South Bethlehem Greenway and funding for two projects in Upper Mount Bethel Township.

"Last October, I joined Governor Shapiro in Bethlehem to announce a grant award to the City of Bethlehem for the South Bethlehem Greenway project and now the state has continued

its commitment to this critical project with an additional grant award of \$500,000," Senator Boscola stated. "I am also very pleased of the state investment to assist Upper Mount Bethel Township in moving forward with its Preserve project."

The Commonwealth has recognized the importance of the South Bethlehem Greenway through investing more than \$2.8 million in the project with this additional funding.

"The South Bethlehem Greenway project is a perfect example of the benefits of state government investing in communities on these types of conservation projects," Boscola ad-

ded. "When completed an old rail line will be transformed into a city park that will connect the neighbors of the southside and become a community connector; connecting Bethlehem with Hellertown and other communities. It will draw more people to these Northampton County communities to make this a community and economic development project."

Four grants through the C2P2 program were awarded to Northampton County projects:

Bethlehem City, \$500,000, Payment toward the acquisition of approximately 23.12 acres in Bethlehem City, Northampton County, to provide approximately 0.9 miles of trail for the development of South

Bethlehem Greenway.

Northampton County, \$550,000, Rehabilitation of Bear Swamp Park in Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County. Work to include construction of internal loop trail and boardwalk; installation of interpretive and way-finding signage; ADA access, landscaping and project sign.

Upper Mount Bethel Township, \$600,000, Rehabilitation of Upper Mount Bethel Preserve in Upper Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County. Work to include renovation of trails; construction of pedestrian walkways, trails, boardwalks, overlooks, pavilion, parking area, access drive and storm-water management measures; installation of

riparian buffers and interpretive signage; ADA access, landscaping and project sign.

Northampton County, \$75,000, Prepare an update to the Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan for Northampton County. Work to include an electronic written report.

"Community parks, trails and open space play an invaluable role in the quality of life of a community. Through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Commonwealth is able to partner with local governments to improve community parks, trails to enhance open space and thus improve the quality of life of our region," Boscola said.

The C2P2 program is

administered by DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation to provide financial and technical assistance to local governments, rail and trail organizations, land trusts and other non-profits for park, recreation, conservation and greenway projects. The grant program is funded with a variety of state and federal funding sources including the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key); the Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF); the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) subject to National Park Service approval; the federal Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program (PRT), and the Pennsylvania Heritage Area Program (HA).

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WEEKS RUNNING: _____ AMOUNT PAID: _____

Please PRINT Your Ad Information Below

One inch (actual size shown here)

Two inches (actual size shown here)

CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOON ON FRIDAY IN ORDER TO BE PRINTED IN THE UPCOMING EDITION.

All classified ads must be paid in full, in advance. Credit cards are NOT accepted for charges less than \$25 Classifieds may be submitted by mail **PO BOX 606, Bangor, PA 18013** email: thepressads@gmail.com or fax: 610-599-1185. Classifieds are NOT accepted by phone Help Wanted ads are free for current advertisers.

Make Checks Payable to: The Free Weekly Press, LLC

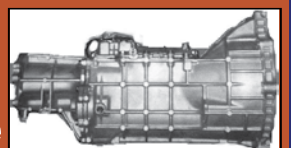
WERNER TRANSMISSION

"Full Service Shop - Transmissions and more"

Racing and Domestic

PA State Inspections / Emissions

Brakes - Oil Changes - Exhaust - Much More



259 E. Central Ave., East Bangor, PA

Open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

610-599-1605

Eat In or Take Out

Emiliano's Pizzeria

610-588-3299

New Hours - Open 7 Days A Week - 11am to 10pm!

Monday & Wednesday Specials

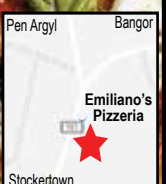
- 2 Large Cheese Pizzas \$23.99+ tax
- 3 Steak Sandwiches for \$26.99 (add Cheese for 50 cents)
- 3 Italia Hoagies for \$26.99
- 1 Lg. Cheese Pizza, 12 wings & a 2 Liter of Soda for \$29.99

We Deliver on Door Dash & Slice

Gift Certificates Available

VISA Find Us on Facebook

1436 Bangor Rd., Pen Argyl (RT. 191)



Wishing Our Valued Customers a Very Happy Thanksgiving

From All of Us at
Capitol Ace Hardware
 438 Blue Valley Dr. Bangor, PA
 (610) 863-2700

ACE
 The helpful place.

*From Our Table,
 To Yours
 Happy Thanksgiving!*

Buck Hill
 BREWERY AND RESTAURANT
 45 State Route 94 - Blirstown, NJ
 908-854-5300 BuckHillBrewery.com

Save the Date!

NOV 30

**This Saturday
 November 30th
 is Small Business
 Saturday!
 Support Your
 Community by
 SHOPPING LOCAL!**

*We Are So Thankful For Our Valued Clients, Readers and Friends
 Thank You For Your Continued Readership and Support!
 May You and Your Families Have a Happy Thanksgiving
 From All of Us at
 The Free Weekly Press*