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October 24, 2024

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Vol. 52, No. 14



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North Warren Wrestling's "Team Takedown" Wins Annual Bed Races with Record Time



The Annual Blirstown Fall Festival hosted by the Blirstown Enhancement Committee, had the best turnout since it started years ago. The weather was perfect on October 20th for the fall festivities. They came for the bed races and were not disappointed. There were seven entrants in this year's bed race. There was food, a lot of food; Music by The Cellar Dwellers and Water Street; pumpkin painting and more! This year also featured a special double decker racing bed created by Matt Keller, that gave children rides up and down the course as they gathered pumpkins to bring home. The official opening was held by the WCFF 2024 JR. AMBASSADOR Kinsley Kise of Blirstown, NJ. This year's top three racer were: The SEA RAIDERS, with a time of 30.83 seconds in third; Blair Academy with a time of 30.24 seconds in second; and in first place with a record time of 28.72 seconds, Team Takedown (the wrestling team from North Warren Regional High School, pictured above). Photo by Bob Halberstadt/The Free Weekly Press

Sen. Brown Announces Agreement Between PennDOT and National Park Service on Route 611 Closure



Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R-40) announced recently that an agreement has been reached between the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the National Park Service to begin temporary work on Route 611 in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The agreement marks a significant step

forward in reopening the roadway which has been closed since December 6, 2022, causing substantial disruption to residents, businesses and commuters.

"I am absolutely thrilled to share that after extensive discussions and collaborative efforts, PennDOT and the National Park Service have agreed on a temporary solution to reopen Route 611," said Brown.

The work will involve the installation of a temporary rockfall barrier, which will enable traffic to open through a portion 611 cont'd on page 3

North Warren Takes On Belvidere High School in Their 2024-25 Homecoming Game



North Warren took on Belvidere in their 2024-25 Homecoming Football game on October 19th. North Warren lost, 37 to 0. This year's Homecoming Queen is Kaley Ann Bonner, and this year's King is Carson Cota. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Helpful Tips For Keeping Wildlife Safe This Fall



A friendly reminder while decorating this fall, please be considerate of all your neighbors, including wildlife. Keep these tips in mind to take your creepy decor to the max while keeping your local critters safe: Refrain from "washing" pumpkins in chemicals to preserve them. Pumpkins will decompose... there's no stopping it. Just let it happen; If you choose to paint instead of carving pumpkins, use a non-toxic or natural paint that won't harm animals if ingested. Or choose to keep your painted pumpkins inside, then dispose of them properly; Consider composting or recycling your pumpkins once it's time to switch seasons. Local farms, shelters, and zoos will sometimes accept toxic-free pumpkins for special treats for their animals; Avoid faux "spider web" decorations outside, where birds, bats, or other small critters can easily get entangled. This can cause severe injuries, and even death, for an animal that becomes caught. Thanks for doing your part to help keep Pennsylvania wildlife safe! Happy haunting, everyone! (Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission)



The Slate Belt Heritage Center will hold their monthly historic presentation on Sunday, November 10th at 2:00 PM. Speaker for the afternoon will be Mr. Perry Morris whose topic will be: The Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Mr. Morris will be speaking on what may be "little known facts" about the cemetery and other historical annotations. There will also be a tribute to all Veterans. The event is free and open to the public. Veterans are all encouraged to attend. The Center is located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA. For additional information please contact: Karen Brewer at 484-894-5661.

Sentator Lisa Boscola Announces Nearly \$50,000 in Nonprofit Security Grants

Senator Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh/Northampton) announced today that \$49,319 in funding has been awarded to two nonprofit organizations in the 18th Senatorial District through the Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

"Following the tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, we acted as a General Assembly to approve funding for nonprofits and religious institutions to invest in security upgrades through the Nonprofit Security Grant Fund program," Boscola stated. "I am pleased that in this round two additional nonprofits in my district will be receiving state funds to provide for increased security and safety measures."

The following grants awards were approved in the 18th District:

- Holy Family Church -



\$25,000

- Congregation Bnai Shalom- \$24,319

The Nonprofit Security Grant Fund Program was originally passed by the General Assembly in the fall of 2019 and signed into law as Act 83 of 2019. The program was

extended an additional five years to 2029 by Act 104 of 2022. Under the program, PCCD is directed to administer grants to Pennsylvania-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations who principally serve individuals, groups or institutions that are in-

cluded within a bias motivation category for single bias hate crime incidents as identified by the FBI's 2017 Hate Crime Statistics publication. The categories include race/ethnicity/ancestry; religion; sexual orientation; disability; gender; and gender identity.

Pennsylvania's FY 2024-25 Budget included \$10 million, which doubled the funding available in the previous budget, for the program, all of which was awarded to 208 nonprofit organizations. A total of 605 unique applications were received during the open funding announcement requesting more than \$25 million.

Boscola Announces \$3,793,000 State Loan for Palmer Township Stormwater Authority for Old Nazareth Road Drainage Improvements

State Senator Lisa Boscola announced today that PENNVEST has approved a \$3,793,000 loan for the Palmer Township Stormwater Authority to increase capacity and ensure adequate drainage along Old Nazareth Road during large rainfall events.

"This PENNVEST funding will enable the Palmer Township Stormwater Authority to address safety hazards along Old Nazareth Road due to frequent flooding that have occurred along

the road during periods of heavy and extended rains," Boscola stated. "This is an important project as we continue to work to prevent significant and dangerous flooding in Palmer Township. It is another example of the Commonwealth partnering with a local authority to assist with a critically important public safety project."

The Palmer Township Stormwater Authority will install 605 feet of 24-inch smooth-lined corrugated polyethylene pipe, 585 feet of 48-

inch smooth-lined corrugated polyethylene pipe, and 1,638 feet of 60-inch smooth-lined corrugated polyethylene pipe to separate drainage flows and relocate existing infrastructure to increase capacity and ensure adequate drainage during large rainfall events. Twenty-three inlets and two manholes will also be constructed as part of the project.

Established in 1988, PENNVEST provides funding for sewer, storm water and drinking water projects.

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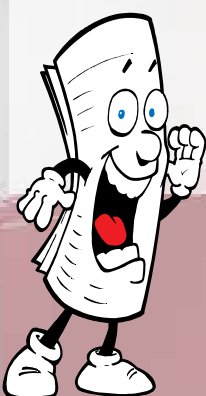
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Sunday, Oct. 27 from 2 to 5pm

Lower Mount Bethel Township:
Sunday, Oct. 27 from 4 to 6pm

Plainfield Township:
Thursday, Oct. 31 from 5 to 7pm
(rain or shine)

Bushkill Township, Easton, Forks, Nazareth, Pen Argyl, Stockertown & Wind Gap:
Thursday, Oct. 31 from 6 to 8pm.

Happy Halloween

BLAIRSTOWN FALL FESTIVAL AND BED RACES

Photos by Bob Halberstadt/The Free Weekly Press



611

Continued from page 1

of the affected three-mile section. Once the permit is issued by the National Park Service, PennDOT expects the work will take roughly six weeks to complete.

"This is a critical step in restoring accessibility and alleviating the hardships faced by our residents and businesses," said Brown. "While this is a temporary fix, it is an important move toward a permanent resolution. I will continue to advocate for a comprehensive, long-term solution that balances all interests."

Route 611, owned and

maintained by PennDOT, runs through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, which is managed by the National Park Service. The roadway was initially closed in April 2022 due to heavy rains washing out sections, and subsequent rockslides necessitated further safety measures.

"I want to publicly thank PennDOT for their persistence in collaboration," said Brown. "I am optimistic that this temporary solution will provide the necessary relief to our community as we continue to work toward a permanent resolution."

Updates will be provided as the temporary work progresses and plans for a long-term solution are developed.



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The GFWC Women's Club of Pen Argyl held their October Meeting at the Phoebe Home in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania. During the meeting the members had a "Show and Tell" program. Each member displayed a memento that was very important to them and elaborated on it. Thank you to all who supported our bake sale at Ace Hardware. It was a huge success. We appreciate all who participated in helping the club. Anyone interested in purchasing cemetery logs, wreaths or grave blankets should contact the Pen Argyl Women's Club. The email is listed below Interested in joining the club? The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 1 p.m. at the Phoebe Home, 665 Alpha Road, Wind Gap, Pennsylvania. Drop by, we would love to see you. FMI: Email: womensclubofpenargyl@gmail.com



The New Jersey Forest Fire Service urges caution from New Jersey residents and visitors during this period of prolonged dry conditions, which have resulted in a very high fire danger. 99% of wildfires in New Jersey are human caused; however, most wildfires can be avoided by adhering to these commonsense safety tips: Don't discard cigarettes, matches or smoking materials on the ground. Use wood stoves and fireplaces carefully, since both can emit embers that spark fires. Fully douse ashes with water before disposal. Keep matches

and lighters away from children. Teach youth about fire safety. Children can learn about wildfire safety with Smokey Bear's new mobile game "Smokey's Scouts" <https://smokeybear.com/en/smokey-for-kids/smokeys-scouts>. Protect your home and other structures from wildfire by creating defensible space. Learn more: <https://www.nj.gov/.../parksan.../fire/program/firewise.html>. **STAGE 2 FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT:** All fires in wooded areas will be prohibited unless in an elevated prepared fireplace, elevated charcoal grill or stove using electricity or a liquid or gas fuel. An elevated prepared fireplace must meet the following criteria: constructed of steel, stone, brick or concrete, elevated at least one foot above the ground, surrounded by a mineral soil radius no less than ten feet. Current New Jersey Fire Danger: <https://www.nj.gov/.../infot.../conditions-restrictions.html>. Photos above are from A 2-acre wildfire burns in Jackson Twp., Ocean County, on Friday, Oct. 18th. (photos courtesy New Jersey Forest Fire Service)

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Both Sides Agree On School Funding Reform

A recent New Jersey Policy Perspective report recommends reforms to New Jersey's school funding formula that align with the Republican proposal, says Assemblyman John DiMaio.

The report calls for the Department of Education to monitor equity in school property taxes and ensure taxpayers aren't overly burdened by their local fair share amounts, particularly in New Jersey's underserved communities.

"New Jersey has a constitutional responsibility to fund schools equitably. A lot of people agree and advocate for the Republican proposal without even realizing it," asserted DiMaio (R-Warren), the Assembly GOP Leader. "It is absolutely achievable if priorities are in the right order. Fully funding schools, increasing their savings, and lowering property taxes in low- and middle-income communities should be nonnegotiable."

Recommendations in the report suggest developing a set of indicators on property tax equity across the state, and using the indicators to reassess the balance of property and income rates used to determine local share in the School Funding Reform Act — known as the SFRA.

DiMaio's bill (A1125) directly addresses tax equity by lowering school property taxes in towns where the total tax levy is more than 5% of its district's personal income. It would provide more state aid to schools in communities

that can't afford New Jersey's nation-high property taxes.

The report illustrated that need: "Again, the theory behind LFS [local fair share] is that communities with less wealth — and, therefore, less tax capacity — should receive more state aid to fund their schools as they generate less from local property taxes than wealthier communities. This approach aims to make tax rates less regressive, if not fully progressive. However, in practice, the outcome doesn't always align with this theory."

Approximately 300 school districts pay more than their local fair share, according to state data, and dozens of school districts are below adequacy. Funding changes due to the law known as S2 were phased in over seven years and completed this year. The state claims schools are fully funded on their end, leaving property taxpayers to fill in the gaps.

Had the bill been enacted before this school year, every district would have been funded up to adequacy. Nearly 340 school districts would have received more aid in this school year. None would have lost aid.

It would have cost about \$1.3 billion — less than StayNJ while cutting property taxes for more people. Taxpayers' would have saved \$874 on average.

"The Republican plan does exactly what the New Jersey Policy Perspective report recom-

mends," said DiMaio. "We can actually lower property tax bills annually while significantly helping schools financially. Fully funding schools means fully funding each school up to adequacy."

The SFRA distorts how much taxpayers can afford by including property wealth in the local fair share calculation. As a result, skyrocketing property values have resulted in less aid and outright cuts for many districts despite taxpayers' income not increasing as much.

"[T]he relationship between local fair share and taxable property wealth is stronger than the relationship between local fair share and median household income," the report emphasized. "The property and income rates set by SFRA have profound consequences for both school funding and local taxes."

Recommendations in the report also included updating the data that determine school funding in the SFRA every three years — a long-time priority for the state's Education Law Center — and implementing data driven approaches to better keep up with changing education standards and student needs.

"Where there is a will, there is a way. Republicans have the will and found the way. The state needs to update the formula and the data it uses," concluded DiMaio, who also sponsors A1127 to further protect school districts during a recession.

Project Self-Sufficiency's Earth Angels Initiative Seeks Holiday Donations for Local Seniors

Project Self-Sufficiency is currently seeking monetary donations and gift cards to local stores to be distributed to senior citizens as part of the agency's Earth Angels initiative. During mid-December, students in the New Jersey Youth Corps high school diploma program at Project Self-Sufficiency will stuff festive bags with the cards and gifts; the items will be delivered by volunteers and Project Self-Sufficiency staff to homebound seniors during the week leading up to Christmas. Along with monetary contributions, the agency is seeking the donation of gift cards from local retailers, including Kohl's, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Wal-Mart, Weis and the hair salons at the Homestead and Liberty Towers senior residences.

Newton attorney Elenora L. Benz, Esquire, originated the Earth Angels program in 1999 by enlisting the support of her staff member Mary Jones, along with clients, business colleagues, and community volunteers. The initiative was taken over by Project Self-Sufficiency in 2017.



Although most Earth Angels recipients reside in Newton's Liberty Towers and Frankford's Homestead, senior citizens in other parts of the county have been added every year as the program expanded.

"The Earth Angels program invites all of us to demonstrate compassion for those in our community who may feel overlooked or forgotten during the busy rush of the holiday season," comments Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon. "Our vulnerable seniors need our support, and we are extremely gratified by the outpouring of concern shown by those who donate to this valuable service year after year."

"This year we expect to bring holiday cheer to more than 100 seni-

or citizens in our area," remarked Earth Angels Project Coordinator Alice Prendergast. "This program also gives us the opportunity to meet with our older neighbors, find out what they need, and introduce them to the services we offer throughout the year."

Monetary donations can be made online at www.projectsselfsufficiency.org or by making out a check to "Project Self-Sufficiency" and indicating "Earth Angels" on the memo line. Donations of checks and gift cards can be dropped off at Project Self-Sufficiency, 127 Mill Street, Newton. To register to receive gifts from the Earth Angels program, or to find out more information, call Alice Prendergast at Project Self-Sufficiency, 973-940-3500.

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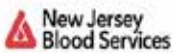
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Pennsylvania House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler Appoints Regulatory Review Administrator as House Republicans Continue to Prioritize Executive Oversight

Pennsylvania House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) announced today he has appointed Michael Totino, Esq. as the caucus' permanent Regulatory Review Administrator as House Republicans continue to prioritize executive oversight and reining in Pennsylvania's bloated administrative state.

"Through the work and leadership of House Republicans, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission recently found that many regulations on the books were no longer in the public interest. Through the appointment of a Regulatory Review Administrator, Pennsylvania House Republicans will provide constant vigilance to ensure government is continuing to work

for the people," Cutler said.

"As we have seen with regulatory debacles like Pennsylvania's entrance into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, regulations have the ability to increase costs on Pennsylvanians when they avoid the constitutionally mandated authority of the legislature," Cutler added. "Our Regulatory Review Administrator will work directly with standing committees to review regulations so as to minimize the burdens of an ever-increasing and largely unchecked administrative state."

According to Cutler, Attorney Totino will be responsible for constant review of old and new regulations across all state government platforms and working with, and re-

porting directly to, House Republican leadership to chart the caucus's administrative oversight strategy.

"Attorney Totino has significant experience in regulatory and oversight matters with a history at the Independent Regulatory Review Commission, the Pennsylvania Senate and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives," Cutler said. "Her appointment as the caucus' Regulatory Review Administrator will ensure the House Republican Caucus continues to deliver on the General Assembly's core functions to legislate, appropriate and provide oversight of executive agencies."

House State Government Committee Republican Chairman Brad Roae (R-Crawford/Erie) prai-



sed the hiring of Attorney Totino to take on the role of Regulatory Review Administrator on behalf of the House Republican Caucus.

"Attorney Totino is the perfect person for the position and will greatly enhance our efforts to rein in excessive regulations that make Pennsylvania less competitive," Roae said.

Totino will begin her work immediately.

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Sen. Brown Works to Prevent Further Delays on Glenbrook Bridge Project



Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R-40) is working closely with contractors, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to keep the Glenbrook Bridge replacement project on track for completion by December. After receiving numerous inquiries from residents concerned about the extended closure, Brown has been actively involved in ensuring the project moves forward without additional setbacks.

"The residents of our community have shown great patience, but I know frustration is growing as we passed the fourth year of the Glenbrook Bridge being out of service," said Brown. "I've been working with the contractor and coordinating

with PennDOT and DEP to streamline the necessary approvals and avoid further delays."

The Glenbrook Bridge was initially closed in August 2020 due to damage sustained during Tropical Storm Isaias. While construction began in October 2022, there have been challenges with obtaining permits and managing environmental restrictions. However, Brown has made it a priority to work with the relevant agencies to address these issues and prevent further interruptions.

"I'm pleased to report that through collaboration with PennDOT and DEP, we are now in a position to work simultaneously on both sides of the bridge," said Brown. "This will help us stay on track with the goal

to pour the bridge decking by December of this year."

The permit granted by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission allows construction to continue near the stream until October 2024. In preparation for trout spawning season, the contractor is using a cofferdam to continue work through the winter, without disrupting the stream. The proactive measure with DEP's approvals should help avoid further setbacks.

"I remain committed to ensuring the bridge is completed as quickly as possible," said Brown. "My office is in regular contact with relevant state agencies and the contractor. I will continue to advocate for the community's concerns throughout this process."



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North Warren Regional High School 2024-25 Homecoming Court



The Homecoming Queen nominees for North Warren Regional High School were: Kaley Ann Bonner, Emily Donise, Nya Giller, Paetynn Happe & Delia Voorhees. King nominees were: Carson Cota, Jack Furhmann, Owen Honey, Robbie Pignotti & Drew Smolen. This year's king and queen were Kaley Ann Bonner & Carson Cota. Photos from North Warren Vs Belvidere Homecoming game, and homecoming court were taken by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

DID YOU KNOW?

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(Please note due to certain holidays, supplies will be offered on the 3rd Saturday of the Month)

September 28th, 2024 | October 26th, 2024 | November 23rd, 2024
December 21st 2024 | January 25th, 2025 | February 22nd, 2025

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The 105th meeting of the Bangor-Pen Argyl football teams will be played Saturday, October 26th at 1:30pm at Pen Argyl Alumni Stadium. Pre-game festivities begin the Friday night before with a Parade from the High School at 6:30pm to our Community Pep Rally & Bonfire at Weona Park at 7pm. There is no parking this year at the Bonfire site, so all Green Knights attending should park at the High School and parade down. There will also be school buses shuttling people to and from the bonfire site from 6-9pm. Pick up and Drop off points will be Pen Argyl HS & Park on South Main Street (Look Out Fire Co.) Advanced Tickets for the 105th Bangor-Pen Argyl Football game on October 26th at 1:30pm can be purchased online at Pen Argyl Online Tickets \$7 for Adults and a discounted \$5 for Students/Sr. Citizens. All tickets at the game will be \$7 so students & seniors should make sure to purchase tickets online prior to the game.

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FRIDAY OCT. 25TH

IT'S A SCARY GOOD TIME!



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Blood Donor Becomes Recipient and Ever So Grateful for Kindness of Others Like Him



When George Patchen of Washington Township, Northampton County, became a regular blood donor, he never thought his kindness toward others would come full circle. However, in April, after Patchen, 65, had surgery on his prostate at St. Luke's Hospital's Anderson Campus, he needed a blood transfusion to ensure his recovery. Bloodwork had shown his red blood count was low, so Patchen was gi-

ven two units of blood. Patchen remained in the hospital longer than he anticipated because of his need for blood. He stayed three nights rather than just the one he thought he would. But all went well, and Patchen is grateful that he was able to get the blood he needed when he needed it without any problem. Patchen said he had donated not only blood but also platelets regularly for a few years prior to his diagnosis of

prostate cancer. "It was something I could do to help others," he said. Little did he know that someday soon he was going to be one of who needed the help of other donors like himself.

Having seen both sides of blood donations, Patchen would encourage people "if they are able to donate blood when they can." Recipients, he said, are very grateful that blood is available for them in their time of need. And donating, he said, is just a matter of giving a little of your time -- and blood.

St. Luke's, a founding member of Miller-Keystone over 50 years ago, continues its unwavering commitment as the only local health care network that identifies MKBC as its primary blood supplier. Without St. Luke's steadfast support for MKBC, the Lehigh Valley could run out of the blood necessary to provide lifesaving care for patients, particularly during a regional or national blood shortage or other crisis.

MKBC has locations in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Reading, the Poconos, Pittston and Ewing, NJ, and holds blood drives at area businesses and other locations.

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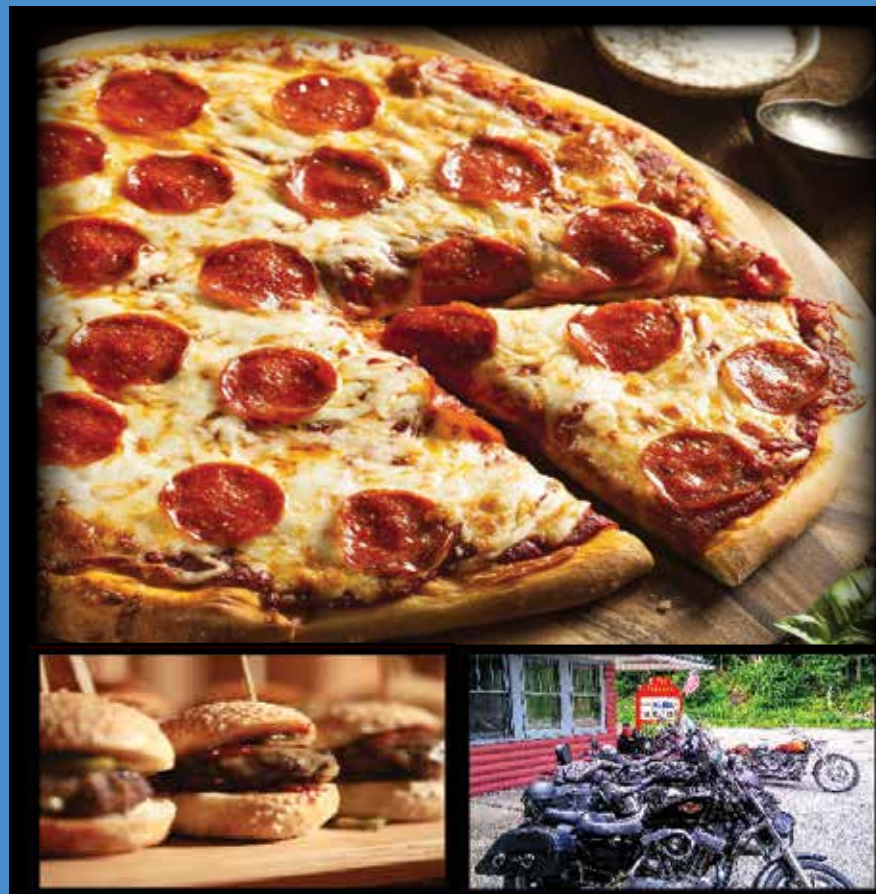
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Legislation to Combat AI-Generated Deepfake Images of Minors in PA Set for Enactment

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R-24), Sen. Jimmy Dillon (D-5) and Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-18) to combat “deepfake” images of minors and child sexual abuse materials generated by artificial intelligence (AI) received final legislative approval and is set for enactment into law. Senate Bill 1213 addresses the alarming rise in AI-generated sexual images of non-consenting adults and children. Currently, Pennsylvania law makes it illegal to share intimate images without consent but does not clearly address the use of AI deepfake technology for this purpose. This gap in our law leaves many vul-

nerable to a new form of digital abuse. “AI technology can be used for good or evil, and Pennsylvania needs a law to target depraved people who use it to create sexual images of people who did not give their consent, along with child sexual abuse materials,” said Pennycuick, who chairs the Senate Communications and Technology Committee. “This bipartisan legislation sends the message that this insidious use of AI will not be tolerated in Pennsylvania.” In August, police in Lancaster County launched an investigation into a case of artificially generated nude photos

that use the faces of more than 20 female teenage students. The district attorney said that in some cases charges can’t be filed because the images don’t involve actual children. Senate Bill 1213 would close that loophole. “With the passage of Senate Bill 1213, we are one step closer to protecting Pennsylvanians—especially our children—from the harmful misuse of AI technology,” said Dillon. “This bill addresses a gap in our laws, ensuring that AI-generated sexual images without consent are treated as the serious violations they are. I’m proud to have worked alongside

my colleagues, Senators Pennycuick and Boscola, to see this vital legislative move forward.” “I applaud the bipartisanship that got this bill across the finish line,” said Boscola. “In passing this legislation, we have taken a big leap forward in stemming the use of AI technology for exploitive, vile ends. I am grateful for the hard work of my colleagues in getting this done.” The bill originally passed the Senate in June, was amended by the House of Representatives, and received final Senate approval today. It will now be sent to the governor to be signed into law.



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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



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Hello, fellow readers,
Silver Maple, once
a Native American tre-

asure, has lost favor in the horticultural industry. Still, I find them one of Cape May, New Jersey's marvels—how the abundance of Silver Maple trees shimmers along roadsides.

Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, is native to the eastern United States and Canada and is often found near water. Hence, they've acquired other common names such as Soft Maple, Swamp Maple, or White Maple. But they are also adaptable to drier areas and require more sunlight than other maples.

I remember playing with Silver Maple leaves



as a kid. The silvery under-leaf reminded me of shiny silver dollars. I'd pick them for currency and play shop. The top part of the leaf is green, but when the wind blows, the trees seem to sparkle. The bark is silver in color, too, until the tree grows older, when it darkens to grey and becomes shaggy. (Sound familiar? Smile.)

Silver Maple became popular after World War II for their fast growth offering quick shade. They were used as street trees in the suburbs and cities to substitute for the American Elm impacted by blight.

Today, Silver Maple is far less favored. They are banned from being used as street trees in some towns because their wood is brittle and needs pruning to maintain an attractive form. And they're considered mes-

sy, making lots of babies from their pairs of winged seeds over 3 inches long. The autumn color is not a prominent feature either, typically turning pale yellow and dropping earlier than other maples.

Silver Maple and Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) are the only maples that produce seeds in spring instead of fall and can immediately germinate. Their close kinship allows them to hybridize in nature and has become a trade staple. The hybrid is known as the Freeman Maple (*Acer x freemanii*), which has the features of fast growth with less brittle wood, less invasive roots, and bright red fall color.

Cultivars are sometimes listed for sale under *Acer rubrum* instead of *Acer x freemanii*, which can be confusing. 'Jeffersred,' sold under the 'Autumn Blaze' trade

name, is one of my favorites, turning into a blaze of orange-red fall color that lasts longer than most.

Native Americans used Silver Maple to make sugar, baskets, and furniture and made cough medicine from the bark. Cape May is a favored spot to find Native American artifacts. We came upon an arrowhead washed up amongst the seaweed on Sunset Beach. There's something sacred about touching something made by the hands of someone over 2,000 years ago. But be sure to leave it where you found it.

The USDA has a poster. The headline - Just Leave it Be in a big, bold-faced font. It goes on to say that artifacts found on public lands are protected by state and federal laws, making it illegal to take them.

They define artifacts as anything used or created by humans, including arrowheads, pottery, coins, baskets, old bottles, and cans. Taking artifacts disrupts the archeological record—the information will be lost forever. You can draw or photograph it. Then, map its location and share that information with your local Forest Service office. But leave it in place, the poster reads in bright red letters.

Shouldn't we say the same thing about the sculptures of people or books depicting the history of our country? Leave them in place and teach history to our youth so we don't repeat wrongs and continue to learn and grow to become better than we used to be.

Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com and your favorite Podcast App.



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- PLUS -

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OCTOBER

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Non-commercial classified ads (Misc., Vehicles, Recreation, Wanted, Pets, Yard Sales) are \$5 per week, per inch (1.8" W x 1" H). There is no charge for Free items. Services, Rentals, Real Estate, Homes For Sale and Help Wanted ads are \$15 per week, per inch. Please specify the category in which your ad should appear, the size your ad should be (boxes on right), and how many weeks your ad will run. Please PRINT ad information.

Ads with Photos! \$18

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CATEGORY: _____

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One inch (actual size shown here)

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November

28

12pm-8pm

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Seatings begin promptly
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Plus Tax and Gratuity

Thanksgiving Menu

*Choose From a Four Course Meal
Which Includes: One Family Style Salad,
Soup, Appetizer, Entree & Dessert!*

First Course:

(Family Style)

Not Available Ala Carte

HOUSE SALAD

MIXED GREENS | CUCUMBERS
ONION | TOMATO | CARROT |
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CUP OF SOUP (\$9):

BUTTERNUT SQUASH
BEEF BARLEY

Fourth Course:

(DESSERT)

Apple Pie - \$10
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Second Course:

(APPETIZERS)

Clams Casino - \$16

Stuffed Mushrooms - \$12

Sausage | Spinach

Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail - \$19

Cocktail Sauce

Swedish Meatballs - \$15

Garlic Cream Sauce

Gorgonzola Bruchetta - \$12

Crostini's | Tomato Bruschetta | Gorgonzola Sauce

Pretzel Antipasto - \$20

Giant Prtzel | Beer Cheese | Beer Mustard

Assortment of Italian Meats | Mozzarella & Tomato

Third Course:

(ENTREES)

Butternut Squash Ravioli- \$24

Sundried Tomatoes | Pecans

Spinach | Sage | Olive Oil

Thanksgiving Ham - 24

Sliced Virginia Ham | Pineapple Glaze

Baked Sweet Potatoes & Stuffing | Mixed Vegetable

Young Tom Turkey - \$27

Mashed Potatoes & Stuffing | Green Beans

Gravy | Cranberry Sauce

Jail Island Salmon - \$30

Gratin Potatoes | Sauteed Spinach

Grainy Mustard Sauce

Oven Roasted Prime Rib - \$40*

(*Adds \$9 to Per Person Charge*)

Baked Potato | Vegetable | Au Jus Sauce

Menu Items Are Available To Order Ala Carte...See Menu for Pricing*

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Credit Cards are required to make reservation. Cancellations will be accepted 24hrs in advance w/ no charge.
Failure to cancel on time will result in a \$10 per person charge.