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October 3, 2024

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Vol. 52, No. 11



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## Pen Argyl Wins Over Sailsbury During 2024 Homecoming Game



Pen Argyl took on Salisbury High School in their 2024 Homecoming football game on September 28th. Pen Argyl won, 21 to 3. Pictured above is this year's Homecoming King and Queen, John Keller and Cybil Bashova. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

## Bangor Takes On Palisades High School in Military Appreciation Night Boys Soccer Game



Bangor went head to head against Palisades High School in their boys soccer, Military Appreciation Night game on September 24th. Bangor lost, 4 to 2, but it was a great night honoring the men and women who serve our Country. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

## PA Supreme Court Dismisses Krasner Impeachment Case on Procedural Grounds; Substantive Allegations Unresolved

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court dismissed the impeachment case against Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner on procedural grounds. The court ruled the articles of impeachment filed in 2022 expired with the conclusion of that legislative session.

The Senate trial will not

move forward as a result. The decision leaves the substantive allegations in the impeachment articles unresolved.

Lead Impeachment Manager Rep. Craig Williams (R-Chester/Delaware) and fellow Impeachment Manager Rep. Tim Bonner (R-Mercer/Butler) offered the following

thoughts on the court's decision.

"Today the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives is without constitutional authority to proceed with the impeachment articles from a previous session," said Williams. "It is important to note the court did  
*CASE cont'd on page 2*

## Warren County Honors Teacher Of The Year



The Warren County Board of County Commissioners presents Jennifer Mazziotta-Walter with a proclamation honoring her as the 2024-2025 Warren County Teacher of the Year. From left to right are Commissioner Lori Ciesla, Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski, 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year Jennifer Mazziotta-Walter, Harmony Township School Principal Daryle Weiss, and Commissioner Director James R. Kern III.

Jennifer Mazziotta-Walter, a Visual Arts and Gifted & Talented teacher in the Harmony Township School District, was honored as Warren County Teacher of the Year by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners.

The County Commissioners presented Mazziotta-Walter with a proclamation at the September 25, 2024 meeting, and celebrated her nomination and selection as Warren County Teacher of the Year through the Governor's Educator of the Year Program.

Commissioner Director James R. Kern III expressed how the Board was proud to acknowledge Mazziotta-Walter's excellence as an educator and celebrate her selection as the Warren County Teacher of the Year, stating, "It is great that this is now the second year in a row we have had the opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication that goes into being an exceptional educator. Thank you for all you do and congratulations."

Harmony Township School Principal Daryle Weiss praised Mazziotta-Walter, noting, "Thirty years in education and I've never known someone more deserving of this kind of recognition. Jennifer brings so much to our school and our community and having someone so dedicated to working for our students is the best thing a principal could ask for."

Mazziotta-Walter received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from Arcadia University, a post-baccalaureate certification and master's degree in art education from Kutztown University, a gifted and talented certification from Montclair University, and has been teaching for 14 years. During her time at Harmony, she has secured multiple grants that have greatly impacted her students, bringing a Marvel and DC Comics Artist and a metalsmith to her middle school art classes, organizing a field trip to the Brooklyn Museum, organizing a trip to Grounds for Sculpture in  
*TEACHER cont'd on pg 2*



## TEACHER

Continued from page 1

Hamilton Township, and securing funds for a sensory and community garden at the school.

In 2013, she received the Minx M. Auerbach Award for Excellence in Education, and in 2023 had students' work published in Davis Publication's middle school textbook Experience Art. She currently serves on the executive board of the Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment, through which she orchestrates the fifth and sixth grade

Battle of the Minds tournament for Warren County, co-organizes the Pringle Project, and helps facilitate a virtual parent seminar, supporting parents and teachers of gifted and talented students.

Prior to the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Director Kern had the opportunity to meet with a cohort of previous Warren County Teachers of the Year, who welcomed their new member. The group was formed last year to help advocate, support, and better spread awareness of the successes in Warren County schools.

## Child Care Tax Credit Supports Families, Communities in PA

The Pennsylvania Senate understands that supporting families helps create strong communities. We led the way in establishing the Child Care Tax Credit and increased it to provide relief to as many moms and dads as possible.

Because of the tax credit, more businesses can contribute toward their employees' child care benefits, providing



financial relief to parents, beginning Jan. 1, 2025. Employer contributions may not count

as the employee's income.

The tax credit allows employers to claim a tax credit equal to 30% of what they contribute toward an employee's child care benefits, up to \$500. If an employer chooses to make contributions to its employees, the employer must make equal contributions to all employees who have eligible child care costs.

## Cold Nose Lodge and Clients Helping Save Lives of Pets In Fires

Cold Nose Lodge donated four sets of pet oxygen masks to the Macungie Ambulance Corps on Monday, September 30th.

Oxygen masks used in August 2024 by the Lower Macungie Fire Department to treat cats at the scene of a fire in Alburtis had been donated by Cold Nose Lodge. After learning about the donation, Jack D'Andrea, Safety Coordinator for Macungie Ambulance Corps, reached out to Cold Nose Lodge owner, Rayne Reitnauer, to inquire about providing masks for the ambulances, too.

Cold Nose Lodge reached out to clients through social media



and signage in the store. They matched client contributions towards the mask purchases, which allowed them to order four sets of masks. "Each time I hear that the masks we provided to the fire department have been used to help save lives, it makes me so proud. I am honored

to have the opportunity to partner with our clients to help save even more through our donation to the Macungie Ambulance Corps," says Rayne Reitnauer. "As a Certified Vet Tech, my mission is to take care of animals, and I am happy to provide resources that will

help the Macungie Ambulance Corps do the same."

Cold Nose Lodge is a dog training, and dog daycare, and boarding facility located in Alburtis, PA. Founded in 2008, Cold Nose Lodge is dedicated to helping families and their dogs have a happy and care-free life. The Lodge uses trust-based, positive reinforcement training techniques to ensure proper behavior at home and in social situations. Cold Nose Lodge's boarding dogs are all in daycare playgroups daily, and sleep in their own suites at nap and night. The Lodge also has a newly expanded store with carefully selected dog food, harnesses, treats, grooming products, and a variety of other dog products.

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## CASE

Continued from page 1

not answer if the allegations of misbehavior in office met the constitutional standard for impeachment and conviction for the same. Those questions must be resolved by the Supreme Court. The rule of law and the public's confidence in the criminal

justice system requires it."

The impeachment articles were primarily based on allegations of false statements and omissions to state and federal courts about certain cases. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court did not address the merits of the allegations against Krasner, instead dismissing the case on the procedural basis that impeachment proceedings initiated by the House

cannot carry over into a new legislative session without reauthorization.

"I'm disappointed today that we did not learn if the Supreme Court believes the misbehavior in office meets the constitutional standard," said Bonner. "A prosecutor who deceives the courts compromises our justice system and cannot be allowed to continue in office. We will continue to fight for integrity."



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### Flood, Policy Committee Host Hearing on Pennsylvania's Manufacturing Workforce

Rep. Ann Flood (R-Northampton) and the House Republican Policy Committee, led by Chairman Josh Kail (R-Beaver/Washington), convened a hearing to discuss the workforce challenges Pennsylvania manufacturers face and how to fill the abundance of family-sustaining jobs in the Lehigh Valley with skilled workers.

The hearing, titled "Manufacturing Momentum: Assembling PA's Workforce," took place at the Lehigh Heavy Forge Corporation, the last remaining super-heavy forging plant in North America, and featured testifiers Michael Druckenmiller, vice president, Lehigh Heavy Forge; Blair Woodring, director of business development,

Precision Custom Components; Nancy Dischnat, executive director, Workforce Board Lehigh Valley; and John Rhatigan, chairman, Marine Machinery Association.

Training and recruiting skilled workers are top concerns for all testifiers. As Druckenmiller said in his testimony, "If I could flip a switch and have access to a pool of qualified machinists, I could justify hiring 20 of them overnight...But there just are not enough of them out in the market today to do so."

"Manufacturing plays a vital role in the Lehigh Valley, contributing to 16% of our region's GDP. There is no better time than now for Pennsylvania policymakers to find

solutions to keep this industry thriving and to secure the Lehigh Valley as a destination for family-sustaining jobs in manufacturing," said Flood.

"Manufacturers have helped to build America and to protect our great nation. Pennsylvania's rich history is in great part because of the manufacturing industry," said Kail. "We cannot miss this opportunity to re-invigorate an industrial force that could help Pennsylvania to not just compete, but to dominate. We must maintain manufacturing momentum—Pennsylvania's economy depends on it, our nation's security depends on it."

To watch the complete hearing, visit [www.pagoppolicy.com/video/policy](http://www.pagoppolicy.com/video/policy).

### Sponsor A Family - Project Self-Sufficiency Seeks Donations for Thanksgiving



Project Self-Sufficiency is soliciting assistance for hundreds of low-income families who need a little extra help this season, by asking area residents and organizations to donate traditional Thanksgiving food, or to donate funds towards the purchase of food. Donors are invited to sponsor a family for only \$50 or to make a contribution of their choosing. The agency will gratefully receive pumpkin or apple pies; canned vegetables, including yams and cranberry sauce; dinner rolls; gravy; stuffing and mashed potato mixes. Frozen turkeys will also be accepted; however, donors are asked to alert the agency ahead of time if frozen turkeys will be offered. The non-prof-

it agency is gearing up to distribute complete Thanksgiving dinners to approximately 500 local families this year, so monetary donations are particularly needed. "Requests for assistance are pouring in every day and we expect to serve more than 500 families this year," explains Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. "However, our wonderfully generous community has consistently demonstrated compassion towards our participants during the holidays and we are confident that this year will be no exception." Contributions, or notification of the intent to contribute, are requested by Friday, November 15th, to allow ample

time to package and distribute the goods to needy families. Frozen turkeys can be delivered on Monday, November 20th, between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; turkeys cannot be accepted earlier or later due to the lack of refrigerated storage space. Individuals and families who need help at Thanksgiving are invited to call Project Self-Sufficiency at 973-940-3500. Thanksgiving donations will be gratefully accepted at Project Self-Sufficiency which is located at 127 Mill Street in Newton. To donate, or to find out more about the programs and services available at Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500, or visit [www.projectsselfsufficiency.org](http://www.projectsselfsufficiency.org).

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### Assembly Agrees to Amend Bill Increasing Accessible Transportation in NJ



The Assembly on Thursday concurred with the governor's recommended amendments to a bill expanding accessible transportation options for New Jersey residents with disabilities and seniors. The action sent the bill to the Senate, where it must be adopted and passed before becoming law.

Assemblyman Michael Inganamort's bill (A2607) creates a two-year program that permits taxicabs, limousines, and transportation network companies to provide rides to New Jersey residents who would otherwise use NJ Transit's Access Link van.

"This proposal offers a modern-day solution to address the challenges NJ Transit has experienced in providing Access Link riders timely and efficient service. It builds upon the agency's successful pilot program and ensures our seniors and residents with disabilities have the safe, reliable and accessible transportation they deserve moving forward,"

Inganamort (R-Sussex) said.

NJ Transit offers a Riders' Choice Pilot Program that allows Access Link customers in 16 counties who do not need wheelchair lifts to opt in to receive their rides through transportation network companies. The program has reduced wait and trip times for both the riders who opt into the program and those who rely on the van's wheelchair accessibility.

"Our most vulnerable residents depend on reliable transportation to get the medical care they need, groceries and life-sustaining services," Inganamort said. "All New Jersey residents with limited mobility require more widely accessible service, but it's especially concerning for those who live in our more rural communities who currently have very few options. I look forward to this becoming law in the near future so we can expand NJ Transit's reach through alternate providers."

### Clean Team Workforce Announces Employee of the Month for August

The Clean Team Workforce congratulates its Employee of the Month for August, Javon P.

After Javon's European basketball career ended, he struggled to transition to life as a nine-to-five worker. He worked but wasn't satisfied with his life. He said, "I was miserable and didn't know who I was. I was frustrated." His pay barely covered the rent and once his landlord raised the monthly rate, Javon could not maintain his residence.

Javon decided to come to the Allentown Rescue Mission's Emergency Shelter for a place to stay at night while he continued to work during the day. While staying in the shelter, he met another man in the same situation, and they agreed to move into an apartment together. Unfortunately, Javon's roommate lost his job



and couldn't pay his portion of the rent. So, Javon returned to the Mission.

This time, Javon joined the Transformation Program. He particularly enjoyed the life skills and workforce development classes. Javon learned that he struggled with two workplace values, being prompt and ready to work. He realized he had to improve in these areas to be successful.

After graduating from the Transformation

Program, Javon began working for the Clean Team Workforce and implementing the workplace values. He has been working hard and learning what type of work suits his personality. He has learned that he enjoys physical work and has landed a job in the housekeeping department of a local college. The position offers full benefits and generous pay. Javon continues to work part-time for the Clean Team Workforce while working full-time at the college.

Javon's short-term plan is to save as much money as he can so he can afford an apartment in the Lehigh Valley. Then once he becomes established, he would like to start a basketball camp for young people. The Allentown Rescue Mission wishes Javon the best of luck to accomplish his goals.

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](http://www.allentownrescuemission.org)



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Addison Priestaf with her parents, Suzy and Chris



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Johnathon Talero with his parents, Alexander and Alba



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# PEN ARGYL VS NORTHERN LEHIGH SENIOR NIGHT BOYS SOCCER



Alexis Burrier with her mother, Amanda



John Keller with his mother, Roxana



John Parnes is the son of Carla Parnes



Gavin Casey with his parents, JR and Carol



Ben Arthofer with his parents, Jen DeLong, and Jason and Tracey Arthofer



Cameron Conrad with his parents, Shawn and Jamie



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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# Pen Argyl Homecoming Football Game



2024 Homecoming



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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Perfect weather, great music, shoppers abound, good eats and lots and lots of fun at Washington's 20th Annual Festival in the Borough on Saturday Sept. 21. Three stages of music, kids activities, vendors made for an all-day, all-night event that attracted thousands of people to Downtown Washington. Among the performers pictured here were the JerZgirls, Rick Houston and Katie Henry of the Katie Henry Band jamming with guest performer Jonathan Fritz. Photos by Cathy Miller.

# ATTENTION

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Monday, October 7th, 7-9pm

**Frelinghuysen Will Hold Their Land Use Board Meeting on Monday, Oct. 7th from 7-9pm at The Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve, Located at: 139 Lincoln Laurel Road, Blairstown, NJ**

This meeting will be a continued hearing on the Industrial Cannabis Applicants Arguments! If you don't want to have 10,000 gallons of water per day, taken from your well aquifer; would like to still have a dark sky to see the stars, rather than 24/7 bright lights; or would like to still be able to smell the crisp, fresh New Jersey air rather than constant fertilizer and pesticides, which are pumped out and running into

your wells... **PLEASE COME TO THIS MEETING!**

*\*Not To Mention Your Property Value Will Decrease If You Live Near The Facility\**

## Tell Your Neighbors, Bring a Friend!

# New Pennsylvania Sportsman License Plate Unveiled

Just in time for the fall hunting and fishing seasons, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) are excited to announce the offering of the new PA Sportsman license plate!

The specialty plate, available now through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), is adorned with artwork featuring iconic Pennsylvania hunting, fishing, and boating imagery including the white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and anglers fishing from a kayak on a scenic river. The license plate costs \$40 plus the registration fee, of which \$14 will be deposited into a Youth Hunting and Fishing Restricted Account to be allocated evenly to the PGC and PFBC for the purpose of promoting youth hunting and fishing activities.

To purchase a PA Sportsman specialty license plate, visit the PennDOT website, choose Special Fund, and select the PA Sportsman option.

"The outdoors are important to so many Pennsylvanians, and our state's outdoor resources

es – both now and in the future – depend upon the people who care enough to protect them," said PGC Executive Director Steve Smith. "Hunters, trappers, boaters, and anglers play an active role in conserving fish and wildlife and their habitats, but the torch they carry ultimately will be passed to the generations to come, highlighting the continual need to involve youth in these activities and shape them as stewards who one day can pass the torch to those who follow. With this license plate, sportsmen and sportswomen can help that cause while showing their pride in the things that make it all possible."

PFBC Executive Director Tim Schaeffer reinforced the value of growing youth education programs around conservation-based recreational activities and stressed the importance of safety for those who enjoy the woods and the water.

"Fishing and boating are year-round lifetime activities for individuals and families in Pennsylvania," said Schaeffer. "It's critical that we introduce young people to outdoor recreation

and instill a conservation ethic early on. Equipped with the skills needed to enjoy all that Pennsylvania's waters have to offer, they are also more likely to become stewards of our aquatic resources. To me, the best part of the license plate may be that the adult and child depicted are wearing their life jackets. It will be great to have that public safety reminder on roadways across the Commonwealth."

Both the PGC and PFBC have youth education programs that encourage interest in outdoor recreational activities including hunting, trapping, fishing, boating, and conservation.

Popular PFBC youth programs include Trout in the Classroom (TIC), which provides educational experiences for students and teachers who raise Rainbow Trout from eggs to fingerling-size fish in aquariums as part of their school curriculums. During the 2023-24-25 school year, 57,114 students in 417 classrooms across 61 counties participated in TIC, and the program has reached more than 525,000 students since

2008. Additionally, each year on the Saturday before the statewide opening day of trout season in April, the PFBC holds its Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day. This special day is offered annually to allow youth participants ages 15 and under to learn how to become successful, ethical anglers while fishing with their licensed adult mentors.

The PGC reaches into more than 300 schools statewide through its administration of the National Archery in the Schools Program and offers educational curricula through its Wildlife on WiFi and Seedlings for Schools programs. Junior Game Warden Camps held each summer provide an opportunity for youth to experience the broad scope of work performed by conservation officers, while organized Junior Pheasant Hunts might give young hunters their first glimpse of the action that awaits them afield.

These programs are just a snapshot of each agency's involvement with youth.

PennDOT offers several special fund registration plates, including the PA Sportsman plate. These

plates support various causes across the Commonwealth from preserving Pennsylvania's heritage to honoring veterans.

"Our goal was to help create a design that resonates with everyone who enjoys the outdoors while serving as a reminder of Pennsylvania's abundant wildlife," said PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll. "When you display this plate, it tells other Pennsylvanians and people throughout the country that you're a dedicated hunter, an enthusiastic fisherman, or someone who supports the state's natural resources."

The PA Sportsman license plate was created through Act 51 of 2024 which was signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro on July 8, 2024. The legislation, sponsored by Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr. (PA-35), designates the funds generated by sales of the plates to youth hunting and fishing programs in Pennsylvania.

"This license plate allows our rich heritage of hunting and fishing to be proudly displayed by motorists while raising money for future generations of hunters and fishermen," said Langerholc. "I look forward to seeing these beautiful license plates displayed

on vehicles as I travel throughout my district and beyond, knowing that we're keeping kids involved in the outdoors."

Members of the Pennsylvania Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation (Youth Council) joined in celebrating the offering of the PA Sportsman license plate, noting the need for additional funding for programs that engage their young peers in outdoor recreational opportunities.

"Empowering youth through access and opportunity to outdoor recreation like hunting and fishing not only builds a deeper connection to our natural resources but also builds Pennsylvania's next generation of conservation leaders," said Grace Ziegmont, Youth Council President. "Programs supported by this license plate will reach a wide diversity of Pennsylvania's youth and help empower them to protect and steward our fish and wildlife resource for generations yet to come."

For more information on youth hunting, fishing, and boating education programs, visit the PGC and PFBC websites.

# The Overlook

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### Sen. Space Bill to Add Deaf Designation on Registration Passes Committee In New Jersey

Senator Parker Space's (R-24) bill to add a designation on a motor vehicle's registration information indicating the registrant is deaf passed the Senate Transportation Committee.

"Ensuring those with disabilities can communicate effectively with law enforcement so everyone involved stays safe is of the utmost importance," said Sen. Space. "By making this designation, it takes the concern out of the equation by notifying police officers that someone is deaf, and that they should act accordingly."

S1000 requires the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to add a designation on a motor vehicle's registration information indicating the registrant is deaf. The nota-



tion would only appear when a law enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's license plate information through the commission's online interface with law enforcement agencies and may only be used to alert the law enforcement officer that the person is deaf or hard of hearing.

Additionally, the designation would be added to the applicant's motor vehicle registration information pro-

vided the applicant has a hearing loss of 41 decibels or greater. As part of the application process, an otorhinolaryngologist (ENT) or an audiologist clinically certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is required to verify the applicant's hearing ability.

To speak with Sen. Space, contact Kyle Fischer, SRO director of communications, at kfischer@njleg.org.



On September 19th, the Knowlton Township Fire and Rescue Family welcomed another fully certified Firefighter to their ranks at the Warren County Fire Academy Class 91 Graduation. Congratulations to Firefighter Alex Wright and the rest of class 91 for all the hard work and dedication over the last several months in achieving your hard earned certification. Photo courtesy: Knowlton Twp. Fire and Rescue Company #1 - Station 41 Facebook

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### Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



**Mary E. Stone**  
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Hello, fellow readers,  
A display of marigolds caught my eye while shopping for annuals for a client a while back. I hadn't planted them for years, having grown them incessantly as a kid; I fondly remember my garden —primarily marigolds grown from seed. "Mary's Gold," I called them. I'd wear out a path around the rectangular plot, rushing to weed it in time for judgment day (for 4-H, that is.) I'm giggling as my enthusiasm for planting a garden still by far overshadows the task of

weeding — poor, neglected gardens.  
I shared my long hiatus from marigolds with Holly of Blairstown, who worked at our local nursery then. She told the story of their significance in the Day of the Dead, known as Día de Muertos, celebrated for centuries in Mexico—a joyful commemoration from October 31st to November 2nd flooded with the glorious vibrant yellow, gold, and orange hues of marigolds. Loved ones who passed away are believed to be soulfully present in the celebration.  
"During the Day of the Dead, if you don't remember your loved one, it's as if they died twice," Holly said.  
Stemming from a long-ago legend, Marigolds became the theme flower for the Day of the Dead. Two Aztec children who grew up together loved to explore a mountaintop nearby. While there, they presented flowers to the Sun God, who in return would "smile from the sky with warm rays," writes Inside-Mexico.

com. As they grew into adults, they fell in love and swore to each other that their love would never end.  
Huitzilin goes off to war and dies in battle. Devastated, Xóchitl returns to the mountaintop and prays to the Sun God to bring them back together. A ray of sunshine kisses her cheek and transforms her into a flower as bright as the sun. Then, a hummingbird suddenly appears and touches the flower. Her twenty petals are instantly open. As the story goes, their love will remain if marigold flowers and hummingbirds stay on earth.  
Learning about the legend renewed my admiration. Since then, I have planted a tray of Aztec Marigolds each season and celebrate every hummingbird's arrival.  
Marigolds are deer-resistant and also attract butterflies. They're often companion plants in vegetable gardens to control insects and nematodes. And are used as a spice in cooking. Golden flowers are fed to chickens to yellow up their



them up like soldiers, though, as some folks do, because smiles look better in groups, just like on people.  
French Marigolds are shorter and broader than the African Marigolds, also known as Aztec Marigolds—named after the Aztecs. Besides the iconic golden yellow, there are creamy-white and orange African Marigolds. Some varieties have large pom-poms of happy face blooms that sit above dark green foliage and grow three feet tall. Please don't line

rebloom when the temperatures cool.  
Triploid hybrids are a cross between the African and French marigolds. Some call them Mule Marigolds because they can't reproduce. Their blooms last longer because they don't go to seed and do well in the heat.  
Even after the summer, when our gardens grow weary, the golden sunshine of marigolds continues to grace them, bringing a smile to the fall landscape and, hopefully, you too.  
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# House Republicans Announce Package to Tackle Crime in Pennsylvania, Begin Focus on Crime Prevention

The Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus Monday announced members will be introducing a package of bills to tackle the effects of the national crime crisis in Pennsylvania.

"We know from the statistics, but more importantly the experience and news stories, that crime—including violent crime—in our communities is out of control," said House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) at a press conference announcing the legislative package.

"From rural to urban Pennsylvania, no com-

munity has been spared from the crime crisis. It has exhausted police and prosecutors. It has exhausted local and state resources. And it has exhausted our patience," Cutler added.

The legislative package unveiled by House Republicans will take a four-pillared approach to tackling crime and violent crime in Pennsylvania with focuses on prevention, policing, prosecution and punishment.

Monday, lawmakers focused on the prevention pillar of the package with legislation sponsored by Rep. Craig

Williams (R-Delaware/Chester) and Rep. Valerie Gaydos (R-Allegheny).

These prevention bills will empower communities and neighborhoods with the ability to spot and prevent crime with their own resources and new legal structures.

Legislation sponsored by Williams will establish an advisory committee at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to promote the organization and operation of community crime stopper programs, identify and direct funding for rewards, and share best practices across the state for all the programs to benefit.

"My legislation is about empowering communities to safely and anonymously help solve crimes," said Williams.

"By supporting independent crime stopper programs, we can ensure that tipsters feel secure in providing critical information without fear of retaliation. Retail theft and other crimes drive up costs for businesses, which pass those losses onto consumers through higher prices, further exacerbating inflation. Establishing an advisory committee will help standardize these programs across Pennsylvania, making them more effective in keeping our neighborhoods safe. As we confront the challenges of rising crime, inflation, and the impact of illegal immigration, this legislation is one step toward restoring security and stability in our communities."

Legislation sponsored by Gaydos will create

a framework for communities to organize their own neighborhood watch programs with the support and assistance of local law enforcement. Law enforcement programs will provide volunteers with training in what behavior to report to law enforcement, how to avoid bias and safety measures participants can take.

"My legislation would authorize and expand neighborhood watch programs and addresses the critical issue of determining bail for violent offenders," said Gaydos. "These bills represent a comprehensive approach to addressing crime in Pennsylvania. While some forms of crime are down significantly, others are increasing. By empowering communities to

help prevent crime before it happens and prioritizing public safety when determining bail for violent offenders, we can begin to restore a sense of safety and security for all Pennsylvanians."

You can view the co-sponsorship memos sent to members concerning these bills here: [www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20230&cosponId=43216](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20230&cosponId=43216)

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20230&cosponId=43217>

You can view Monday's press conference in its entirety here: <https://pagopvideo.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/361449298.mp4>

**Designer Handbag Bingo & Tricky Tray**  
**Sunday, November 24th**  
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