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PRESS LLC

November 7, 2024

GOD BLESS AMERICA & OUR VETERANS

Vol. 52, No. 16



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Thank You Veterans for your sacrifices as you protected
the freedoms of our great Nation.
Special Thanks to our very own veteran, Dale Young!

VETERANS DAY

November 11th, 2024

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Veterans Day Luncheon Held at Wind Gap Legion Post 724



The Wind Gap Legion Post 724 hosted a Veterans Day Luncheon on November 2nd to Honor the Men and women who served, and continue to serve our country, Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Northampton County, PA, Honors Veterans with Events

Northampton County Executive Lamont G. McClure and the County's Veterans Affairs Division encourage residents to remember the importance of Veterans Day.

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, at the Palace of Versailles in France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the

Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Every year, November 11th is a time to pause and reflect on those who have died in our nation's wars and is a reminder to honor, respect, and remember the men and women who have served this incredible country and made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Northampton County Veteran's Affairs is providing a list of scheduled events to honor local Veterans

Twins, John (Jack) MacVicar and Pearl MacVicar Wisner, of New Jersey, Celebrate Their 90th Birthday



The family of 90 year old twins, John (Jack) MacVicar and Pearl MacVicar Wisner recently celebrated their birthday at the Knowlton Lions Den in Columbia, NJ. They were born in Rahway, NJ where a doctor was present instead of their homestead in Hope, NJ due to an anticipated complicated birth. The attending physician put Jack aside because he wasn't breathing but their oldest sister who was in the delivery room refused to accept that he was dead. There were 6 sisters and he would be the first and only son...and she revived him! Always close, he and Pearl were raised in Hope and even raised their families on adjacent properties connected by a field. Between then they have 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. Jack is married to Barbara Mastrantonio MacVicar and Pearl is married to John Wisner. Their parents were the late John L. MacVicar and Augusta Sager MacVicar of Hope, NJ

and all those serving our country and help keep the memory of our fallen military service members alive.
Thursday, Nov. 7th

at 6:00PM – A Salute to Veterans: Honoring Those Who Served at Memorial Library of Nazareth and Vicinity,
295 East Center St. Na-

zareth, PA, 18064
Monday, Nov. 11th - Veterans Day Ceremony at Hackett Park, Easton, PA, 10:30AM
VETERANS cont'd on pg 2



VETERANS
Continued from Pg 1

Monday, Nov. 11th at 11:00AM - Williams Township Veterans Memorial at 655 Cider Press Road, Easton, PA.

Monday, Nov. 11th at 12:00 Noon - Veterans Day Celebration at Victory House of LV - 314 Fillmore St, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

Monday, Nov. 11th at 1:00PM - Marine Corps League Parade the Civil War cannon on S. 17th and Washington Streets, Easton PA, ending at Warrior Lane, Wilson HS, weather permitting with the Wilson HS marching

band. Tuesday, Nov. 12th at 11:00AM - Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony at LVHN - Cedar Crest, 1200 S. Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown, 18102.

The Brown & Lynch American Legion Post 9 is accepting \$55 donations to dedicate a brick inscribed with the name, service dates, and detail of a person dear to you to show appreciation and support of our Veterans. The bricks will be displayed at the forthcoming memorial at the Legion Post at 2260 Corriere Road in Palmer Township, PA.

Uniting for Our Heroes: The Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber and The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Launches Emergency Fundraiser to Support Firefighters Battling Blue Mountain Blaze

The Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber has taken swift action in response to the ongoing Blue Mountain wildfire, which has now engulfed over 150 acres and is expected to grow. This emergency fundraiser, organized with the support of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC), aims to provide crucial aid to local volunteer fire departments and emergency crews fighting to contain the blaze under challenging conditions. This urgent effort aims to support the volunteer fire departments and emergency crews who have been tirelessly working to protect the area and contain the flames.

The wildfire, initially reported in Lehigh Township, has continued to spread at a concerning rate, fueled by dry weather conditions and strong winds. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has coordinated efforts to manage the blaze, deploying emergency res-

ponse crews from multiple counties, including Northampton, Lehigh, Carbon, and Berks. These brave volunteer firefighters have been contending with difficult terrain, challenging conditions, and a fire that has threatened local wildlife habitats and natural resources.

The fire has not only posed a direct threat to homes and infrastructure but has also strained local resources, with many departments relying on volunteers and limited budgets. Their teams expressed that it is not a shortage of resources but rather, funds needed to offset the rising cost of fuel and machinery needed to fight the fires.

In a demonstration of solidarity, the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce is contributing an initial donation of \$1,000 to encourage community participation in this vital effort and jumpstart this campaign. Any further support from the community, no matter the amount, will prove invaluable in helping our firefighters continue their heroic work.

"We commend the brave firefighters and first responders who have been on the front lines, and we urge our community to come together during this critical time," said Jessica O'Donnell Gower, Ex-



clusive Vice President of the Affiliated Chambers at the GLVCC. "We pride ourselves on not just being a chamber of commerce but also a chamber of communities, and now we are leaning on our communities to come together during this crucial time. Every dollar raised will go directly towards support efforts and resources needed."

How to Contribute & Join the Effort:

Community members are invited to contribute to this initiative through the following methods:

Cash or Check Donations:

Visit The Neffs National Bank locations to contribute.

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5629 Route 873, PO Box 10, Neffs, PA 18065

*If you plan to drop off a check at either of The Neffs National Bank lo-

cations, please make check payable to Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber

You may also mail or drop off a check made payable to GLVCC at any Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber Office.

Venmo: Donations can also be sent via Venmo to the Chamber (@GLVCC) with the memo: Initiative to Support Local Fire Departments

Credit Card Donation and Additional Inquiries: Call Jessica O'Donnell-Gower at (610) 573-4010 or Elyse Cuttic at (484) 834-7868.

With local agencies and volunteers expending significant resources to safeguard our region, this is an urgent moment for community members to stand together. By contributing, we can help relieve the strain on our first responders and provide critical support as they continue their heroic work to protect lives and land from this destructive wildfire. Together, we can make all the difference.

Serving the Slate Belt & Surrounding Areas in PA, and Warren, Sussex & Hunterdon Co. in NJ

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Blairstown Rotary Halloween Parade

Bangor Halloween Parade



The Blairstown Rotary held their Halloween parade down Main Street to the Agway loading dock for their annual costume contest. The weather was perfect. The North Warren Interact Club had the tough job to pick out some of the best costumes, the winners were as follows: Under 5 years. Cutest: number 139, Dobby. LIAM; Scariest: number 1, Green Witch. ZARIA; Original: number 117, Rainbow Cloud, MADELINE. 6 to 10 years: Cutest: number 27, Jasmine, VICTORIA; Scariest: number 133, Zombie; CONNOR; Original: number 62, Sea Queen, BAILEY. 11 yrs. and up. Cutest: number 91, Angel Spirit, NATALIE; Scariest: number 130, Alien, CYRUS; Original: number. 126, Parakeet, LILY. Group costume: Cutest: number 13, Hawaiian Labster, KELLY and TEEL; Scariest: number 166, Joker & Harley Quinn, CJ and ISABELLA; Original: number. 69, Dragon Goats Family, LOVELL FAMILY. Photos by Bob Halberstadt/The Free Weekly Press



Photo courtesy Lisa Lobb

the Bangor Halloween parade was held on October 17th! Representatives for Bangor's 150th anniversary celebration were there to spread the word, the event will take place, June 7-14th, 202.



Other Photos courtesy of The Bangor Borough and Wild Acres Pulling

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WE DON'T KNOW THEM ALL
 BUT WE OWE THEM ALL!
THANK YOU

Parents Needed to Serve on Advisory Board - Project Self-Sufficiency Seeks Input from Parents about Needs and Services

Local parents are invited to attend an information session about the Journey Family Success Center Parent Advisory Board at Project Self-Sufficiency, Tuesday, November 19th, 5:00 p.m. Organizers are seeking input from families regarding area services, parenting challenges and concerns, and ideas for upcoming events. Family Success Center staff will highlight ways the agency can address issues facing local parents and incorporate feedback into future programs. Din-

ner and childcare will be provided for those in attendance. The gathering will also be available on Zoom; interested participants are invited to call 973-940-3500 to obtain log-in details. Advance registration for the in-person session is required. "Input from parents is crucial to the success of the Family Success Center and we are excited about offering residents the opportunity to meet area providers, express their concerns about gaps in services, and identify

strategies for moving forward," remarked Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. "The Family Success Center has supported Sussex County parents and children for many years. Expanding the Parent Advisory Board will allow us to further respond to the needs of area families and incorporate their suggestions into existing and new programs for the community." Those who attend their first meeting of the Jour-



ney Family Success Center Parent Advisory Board will be eligible to receive a gift card. Project Self-Sufficiency is located at 127 Mill Street in Newton. For information about the Parent Advisory Board, or to find out more about any of the programs sponsored by the Journey Family Success Center at Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500 or visit www.journeyfsc.org.

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emergency basic needs, like food and clothing. For more information about the programs and services offered by Project Self-Sufficiency, visit www.projectsselfsufficiency.org or call 973-940-3500. The Journey Family Success Center at Project Self-Sufficiency is a program of support which includes parenting skills training, economic self-sufficiency services, family activities, legal education services, information about health and nutrition, referrals, advocacy, and other services. All activities are free and open to the public. Family Success Centers offer services to children, youth, families, individuals, and communities. Funding is provided by the New Jersey Department of Children & Families.

Rep. Ann Flood Announces \$1.5 Million Grant for Power Plant Improvement Project



The Slate Belt Heritage Center will be holding a 'Christmas Open House' on Saturday December 7th from 1-5 PM. This will be in conjunction with the Borough of Bangor's "Holiday Artisan Market and Tree Lighting." On exhibit will be the mechanical "Santa's Workshop" that used to be on display at the Merchants Bank in downtown Bangor. There will also be mechanical hand made carnival rides and old toys. A special storytime will be conducted and the children can make a craft to take home. Refreshments will be served. The Heritage Center is located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA . For additional information please contact: Karen Brewer at 484-894-5661

Rep. Ann Flood Announces \$1.5 Million Grant for Power Plant Improvement Project

Rep. Ann Flood (R-Northampton) is pleased to announce that \$1.5 million in funding has been allocated for a critical project in the 138th District at the Portland Power Plant through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). Upper Mount Bethel Township in Northampton County will receive \$1.5 million for the abatement of hazardous materials at the power plant site and

the demolition of one of the boilers. "This critical investment will enable Northampton County to safely address hazardous materials at the Portland Power Plant site and proceed with the demolition of one of the boilers, paving the way for future development and ensuring a healthier environment for our community," said Flood. "As a state legislator, I am committed to securing ne-

cessary funding for our district, and I appreciate everyone's support in helping to obtain these grants." The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the design, acquisition, and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational and historical improvement projects.

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Project Self-Sufficiency Programs Educate Public, Support Trauma Survivors, Promote Prevention (Virtual Presentations Offered in English and Spanish)

Project Self-Sufficiency will offer three workshops during November regarding adverse childhood experiences with the goal of educating the public, supporting trauma survivors, and offering tips for prevention and healing within the community. The workshop and discussion series, "Connections Matter", which facilitates the conversation about issues surrounding childhood trauma, will be offered virtually over Zoom in English, Tuesday, November 12th, 2:00 p.m., and in Spanish, Wednesday, November 13th, 2:00 p.m. A virtual "Understanding



ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities" presentation on Wednesday, November 20th, 2:00 p.m., will address the neurological and biological effects of adversity on development and its corresponding impact on

the health of the overall population. Tips for protection, prevention, and promoting resilience within the community will also be discussed. All workshops are free and open to the public; interested participants are invited to call 973-940-3500 to receive log-in details.

The Connections Matter curriculum invites providers, parents, and community members to build caring connections to improve resiliency. Discussion during the workshops will focus on understanding adverse childhood experiences and demonstrating how caring connections can

serve as a primary buffer in the negative effects of trauma. The training is appropriate for parents and providers raising and teaching school aged children.

During the Understanding ACEs workshop, parents, caregivers, and other community providers will learn how childhood trauma impacts physical and neurological development and discuss methods for improving health and well-being across the lifespan. All three workshops are funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and led by Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey.

Speakers will address the impact of adverse childhood experiences on social, emotional, and cognitive development, and offer tips and strategies for building resilience. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are widely recognized as falling into three distinct categories, abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. Examples of negative beha-

avior said to result from ACEs include smoking, alcoholism, drug use, absenteeism, and lack of physical activity. These behaviors can cause a cascade of physical and mental health problems, from diabetes to cancer to suicidal thoughts. It is estimated that approximately 67% of the population has experienced at least one adverse childhood experience.

Project Self-Sufficiency is bringing together professionals, providers, and parents who are committed to increasing awareness of the impact of childhood trauma on juvenile development, future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. "Our goal is to help make our community a place in which every child can thrive by providing education and training on adverse childhood experiences and assuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments," explains Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon. "Protection, prevention,

and resilience promotion can profoundly improve health according to recent discoveries in neuroscience, epigenetics, and epidemiology. The tools identified in these workshops can positively impact public health, safety, and productivity, and reduce public and private costs now and for future generations."

Project Self-Sufficiency has assisted low-income individuals and families in northwestern New Jersey since 1986. Services offered at Project Self-Sufficiency include high school equivalency education, computer courses, employment skills training, job placement services, support groups, parenting classes, childcare and preschool, legal assistance and education, counseling and advocacy, referrals, and help with emergency basic needs, like food and clothing. For more information about the programs and services offered by Project Self-Sufficiency, visit www.projectsselfsufficiency.org or call 973-940-3500.

DEP to Host Public Meeting Regarding Schuylkill County Landfill Permit Renewal

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public meeting to answer questions from the public with concerns regarding the Blythe Recycling and Demolition Site (BRADS) in Blythe Township, Schuylkill County. The meeting will take place from 6:00 to 9:00 PM on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at Saint Clair Elementary/Middle School located at 227 South Mill St, Saint Clair, PA 17970. Representatives from the department will be on hand to answer questions.

BRADS is a construction and demolition waste landfill, currently operating off of Burma Road just East of St. Clair. Currently, the department has two applications under review for the facility. BRADS has applied for a renewal of

its operating permit. The renewal application requests that DEP allow BRADS to continue accepting construction/demolition waste for an additional 10 years. BRADS has also applied to increase its daily waste acceptance limit from 1,500 tons per day to 3,000 tons per day.

Those wishing to ask questions regarding the facilities are asked to submit a written notice of their questions. Those notices can be submitted to: Maria Ocasio, Environmental Justice Coordinator at: mocasio@pa.gov or can be mailed to the department's Bethlehem District Office at: 4530 Bath Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Written notices will be accepted up until the date of the meeting.

The meeting format

will take place as follows: each person will be allowed to ask two questions plus one follow-up question. Once attendees have been given the opportunity to ask their questions, and if time allows, each person can ask one final question. Individuals who pre-register to ask questions will be given priority on the agenda. Those who have not pre-registered to ask questions can sign up at the meeting.

Persons with a disability who wish to ask questions and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation should contact Colleen Connolly, 570-826-2511 or through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how the Department can meet their needs.

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Sunday, November 24th

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Proceeds support our local Veterans, VA Hospital & VALOR

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Lunch, Beverages & Snacks Available for Purchase

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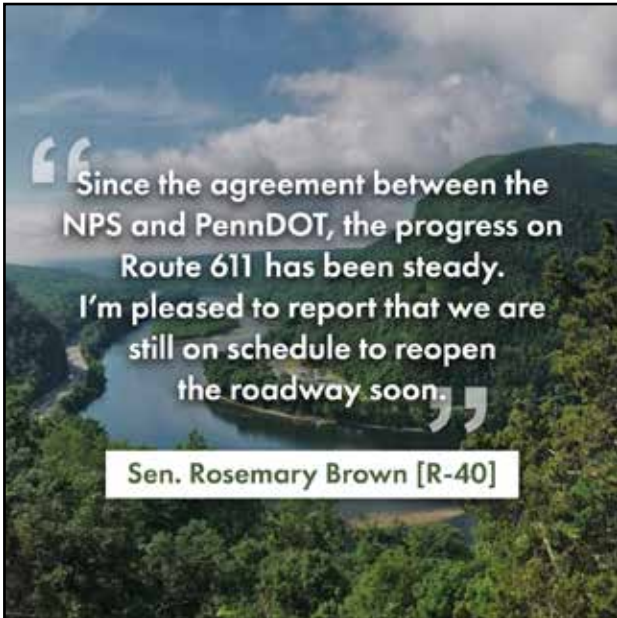
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Route 611, Which Has Been Closed Since Dec. 2022, Expected To Open This Week



“Since the agreement between the NPS and PennDOT, the progress on Route 611 has been steady. I’m pleased to report that we are still on schedule to reopen the roadway soon.”

Sen. Rosemary Brown [R-40]

Submitted by Senator Rosemary Brown: I’m pleased to share that Route 611, which has been closed since December 2022 through the Delaware Water Gap, is expected to reopen the week of November 4. This is great news for our residents, local businesses, and all those who rely on this route. This project has required significant coordination between PennDOT and the National Park

Service, and I’m grateful for their work in overcoming the challenges involved. The state has remained ready to step in, ensuring all necessary steps are taken to support a safe reopening. Thank you to everyone in our community for your patience and resilience as we’ve worked toward this outcome. I’ll continue to work closely with stakeholders on this project through completion.

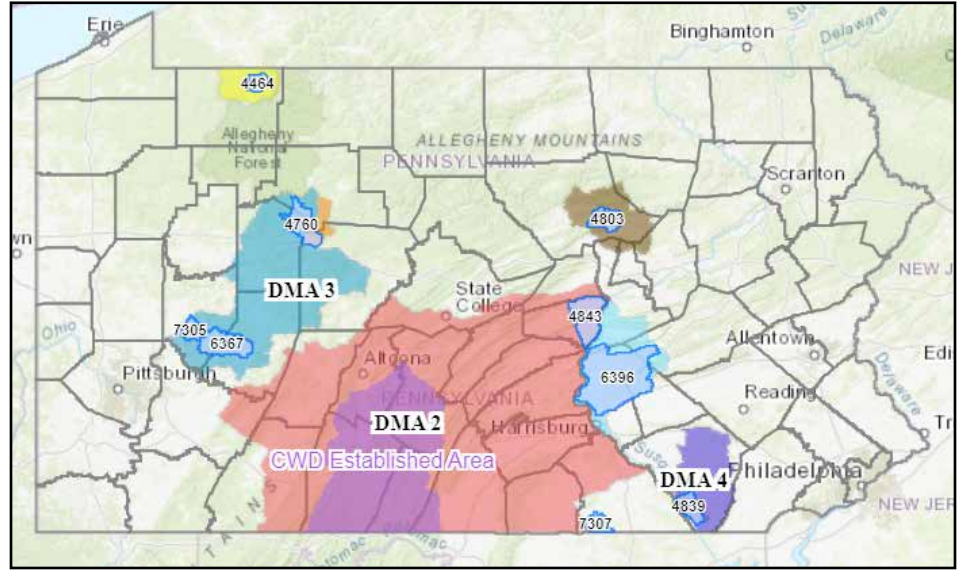
New CWD Detections Available for PA with DMAP Units

In Pennsylvania’s fight against Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), deer hunters are the first line of defense.

And in Armstrong and York counties, where new Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) units have been established in response to new CWD detections, hunters can purchase additional tags to hunt and harvest antlerless deer. By filling those tags, hunters can help the Game Commission learn more about CWD impacts in these areas.

Game Commission Executive Director Steve Smith encouraged hunters to take advantage of these additional opportunities, and thanked them for their valuable assistance. “Hunters who secure tags, harvest deer and submit them for testing play an active role in helping to monitor CWD where it exists in Pennsylvania,” Smith said. “At the same time, the free CWD testing the Game Commission offers in these areas allows hunters to make an informed decision before consuming venison.”

In Armstrong County, 500 DMAP antlerless deer permits have been made available in the ne-



wly established DMAP Unit 7305, near Ford City. This unit comprises about 25,000 acres including all or parts of Ford City, Ford Cliff and Manorville boroughs and Bethel, Burrell, Kittanning and Manor townships. In York County, 588 DMAP permits have been allocated in the new DMAP Unit 7307, near Black Rock. This unit comprises about 29,440 acres including all or parts of Jefferson Borough and Codorus, Heidelberg, Manheim, North Codorus, Penn and West Manheim townships. To view the exact boundaries, visit the Game Commission’s inter-

active CWD map at : <https://pagame.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=084308c67d524d14a90dcb2232b0c01> While available in limited numbers, DMAP permits can be purchased anywhere hunting licenses are sold, including online at www.huntfish.pa.gov. You must provide the DMAP unit number. Each permit costs \$10.97, and hunters may get up to two permits for each of the new DMAP units, or any other DMAP unit where tags remain available and redeeming a DMAP coupon isn’t required. Hunters should note that

most of the acreage within the new DMAP units is privately owned, and hunting may not occur on private properties without first securing permission from the landowner. Hunters seeking to get their deer harvests tested for CWD can find the locations of head-collection bins on the Game Commission’s interactive CWD map. Results typically are available two weeks after samples are submitted to the lab, but the length of time might vary depending on the volume of samples the lab receives. A wealth of other information can be found on the CWD page at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Forever in Our Hearts, Ronold J. Karasek, Jr.

On behalf of the Karasek and Lobb Families, we wish to express our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love and support shown for the loss of our beloved Ronold J. Karasek, Jr. Your kind words, cards, prayers, thoughtful gestures, food deliveries, flower arrangements, special outings with Addison, attendance at Cooper’s football game and your general presence at this difficult time has meant more to us than any of you will ever know.

To Rescue Fire Company #1: Thank you for organizing and coordinating with the help of Tatamy Vol. Fire Company, Portland Fire Company, Wind Gap Fire Company, Columbia Fire Company No. 1, North Bangor Fire Company, Mount Bethel Vol. Fire Company Sta. 37, Suburban EMS, Lower Mount Bethel Fire Company, Lookout Fire Company, Plainfield Township Fire Company, Bangor Police, Roseto Police and Washington Township Police for the final salute to Ron. It was truly an amazing tribute!

To Washington Township Vol. Fire Company: Thank you for providing your beautiful space that allowed all who knew and loved Ron the ability to be together both during the viewing and for the fellowship meal. Your gift meant so much!

To Emrick Plumbing & Heating and the entire Lambert Family: Thank you for having Ron as part of your work and home family for the last seven (7) years and for your gracious gift of the fellowship meal (provided by Hillside Smokehouse). You meant more to him than you know!

Thank you to Rev. David P. Felker for officiating at the service. Your words were warm, heartfelt and helped so very much!

Thank you to TK’s Bar & Grill for hosting our families on Tuesday. Your gift was so generous and so kind!

And to John Fiore and the entire staff of the Fiore Funeral Home, thank you for all your dedication, professionalism and hard work to make sure the entire day was one of detail, compassion and one that will not be forgotten!

It’s not easy to lose someone who has meant so much. Thank you all for holding us close, sharing your memories and for helping us celebrate Ron’s life.



From the Bottom of Our Hearts, Thank You

Pennsylvania Declares Drought Conditions in 35 Counties - 33 Counties Now In Drought Watch - 2 Counties Now Under Drought Warning, Dry Conditions Persist Statewide

The Pennsylvania Drought Task Force has announced that the counties of Adams, Allegheny, Beaver, Bucks, Butler, Carbon, Chester, Clearfield, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Indiana, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland and York counties are under a Drought Watch and Berks and Schuylkill counties are under a Drought Warning due to consistent dry conditions. The Drought Task Force is monitoring other areas of the state.

While not required, residents and businesses are encouraged to voluntarily conserve water by reducing nonessential water use. Public water suppliers may request water conservation measures to ensure reliable delivery of drinking water.

"Pennsylvania received very little rain over September and October, capping off a dry six months, particularly in the southeast part of the state. DEP makes drought declarations based on long-term trends; a rainy week may not lift the drought status for an area," said

DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley. "We want residents to be aware of these conditions and be mindful of their water use."

"Much of the Commonwealth is at a high risk for fire danger as a result of dry conditions, and it is critical that Pennsylvanians use extreme caution when handling fire or avoid any burning as these conditions persist," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "Stay up to date with the latest information using DCNR's Wildfire Danger Forecast Map and be sure to follow all local guidance pertaining to burn bans to do your part to keep our natural resources and communities safe from fire."

"Water is essential for growing food. Voluntary restrictions do not apply to farms and other businesses that rely on it to produce food," Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding said. "Risks and volatility in farming are weather-related more than in any other business. Pennsylvania's beneficial natural average rainfall has been upended by weather extremes and unpredictability in recent years and 2024 is no exception. Nearly 40 percent of the topsoil across

the state is either short or very short in moisture content in the past week, and several counties are eligible for federal relief for earlier drought conditions or flooding.

"It's critical for farmers to keep track of losses, and take advantage of federal crop insurance to help recoup losses. State conservation funding and business planning grants help protect their soil, diversify their operations, and cushion against future weather extremes. Planning cannot change the weather, but it can help farm businesses manage the risks that come with it."

Drought declarations are based on four factors - precipitation, stream flows, groundwater levels, and soil moisture. DEP makes its drought declarations after assessing the departures from normal ranges for periods of 3-12 months. DEP also factors in information it receives from public water suppliers.

There are several different stages of drought declaration that can be declared by the Commonwealth: Drought Watch, Drought Warning, and Drought Emergency.

Drought Watch - a Drought Watch is typically declared for a county with three of the four factors in a "watch" status.



Residents are encouraged, but not required, to voluntarily reduce their water use by five to ten percent.

Drought Warning - a Drought Warning is typically declared for a county with 3 of the four indicators in "warning" status. Residents are encouraged, but not required, to reduce their water use by 10-15 percent.

Drought Emergency - if conditions become more severe a Drought Emergency can be declared by the Governor and emergency water restrictions can be implemented. In the unlikely event of a drought emergency, water suppliers and/or municipal governments will guide residents about water use and conservation.

DEP will not implement mandatory water use restrictions outside of a Drought Emergency.

Individual public water systems may implement their own conservation measures.

Dry conditions have also heightened wildfire risk. Human activity causes 99 percent of wildfires in Pennsylvania, leading to the destruction of thousands of acres of state and private woodlands each year.

Wildfires require specific conditions to ignite:

An available fuel source, like dried grass or leaves

Dry conditions, including low relative humidity

An ignition source - a way for the fire to start

DCNR advises those lighting fires at home or campsites to keep combustible items at least 10 feet away. A rake or shovel, along with water, should be readily available to fully extinguish embers. Officials also re-

commend checking DCNR's website for elevated fire risk alerts.

Dry conditions can also affect farm operations. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture encourages farm operations to plan to help protect their viability, track operational losses, and utilize federal crop insurance to recover from those losses. Information for farmers and ranchers is available on farmers.gov.

More information about drought can be found on the DEP website: Drought Information

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Washington (NJ) Borough Park Transforms to Pumpkin Park



Washington Borough's Veterans Park was renamed Pumpkin Park for one day as part of Hometown Halloween sponsored by the Washington Business Improvement District on Oct. 26. Earlier, the Washington Borough Council passed a resolution renaming the park, which is located in Downtown Washington. Thirty six hundred pounds of pumpkins and over 6000 orange lights transformed the park into a magical scene for local families. After volunteers gutted all the pumpkins that morning, local families were invited to carve 167 pumpkins to light up that evening. Three pumpkins in particular caught the attention of the contest selection committee. Taking first place was Blake Leeds of Washington, second place to Chris Torres, East Rutherford, and third place to Zoey Freeman of Washington Twp. Bob Valinski, organizer of Pumpkin Park, described the scene as "happy chaos" as dozens of families spread out to design and carve their pumpkins wherever they could find space. The pumpkins were then lit up at 6 p.m., then families could take them home after the ghost walk tour that evening. The entire event was free to local families. Hometown Halloween is an annual event sponsored by the Washington BID when local families Trick or Treat at downtown Washington Borough businesses. Pumpkin Park was a new addition this year that included the pumpkin carving, pumpkin illumination along with "Tales of the Borough" ghost walk tour.

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Boscola Announces \$13,275,000 in State Funding for Lehigh Valley Redevelopment Projects

State Sen. Lisa Boscola today announced \$13,275,000 in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding to eleven redevelopment projects in the Lehigh Valley.

"I am pleased to announce the investment of these state dollars that allow these important regional economic and community development projects to move forward," Senator Lisa Boscola stated. "The Commonwealth recognizes that by partnering on these economic and community development projects, we are helping make them a reality and improving our local and state economy."

The following projects/beneficiaries being awarded RACP funding are:

- Mill at Easton Phase III, Stewart Silk Mill Redevelopment Company, City of Easton (\$3,625,000);
- Lehigh Valley Semiconductor Development Center, Newark Broad LLC, City of Bethlehem (\$2,500,000);
- Portland Power Plant Remediation II, RPL East, LLC, Upper Mt Bethel Township (\$1,500,000);
- LHF Machine Shop Upender Phase 2, Lehigh Heavy Forge Corpora-

tion, City of Bethlehem (\$1,400,000); - Hellertown Medical Office, PD Hellertown, LLC, Borough of Hellertown, (\$1,250,000);

- Johnston Mansion Renovation, Bethlehem Township (\$1,000,000); - Dixie Cup Factory Site Redevelopment, Skyline Investment Group Easton, LLC, Wilson Borough (\$500,000);

- Greater Valley YMCA, Nazareth Branch, Greater Valley Young Men's Christian Association, Nazareth Borough (\$500,000);

- Nurture Nature Center Improvements, The Nurture Nature Center, City of Easton (\$500,000);

- Steel General Office Complex Selective Demo and Abatement, Peron Development, City of Bethlehem (\$250,000);

- Watermark Easton, Phase II, Watermark Easton, LLC, City of Easton (\$250,000)

"The Lehigh Valley delegation has once again acted in a bi-partisan manner along with the Governor to make funding for these joint priorities a reality," Boscola stated. "The Lehigh Valley delegation recognizes the importance of these redevelopment and community projects and

the impact they will have to promote economic growth and improve our communities."

The Mill at Easton project will entail the construction and development of a Federally Qualified Health Care Clinic ("FQHC") to be operated by Valley Health Partners, an affiliate of the Lehigh Valley Health Network, which will offer a wide range of services, including pediatrics, family medicine, vision, dental, integrated behavioral health, OB/GYN, social services, and a walk-in pharmacy. As an FQHC, Valley Health Partners is a true health equity agent.

The first phase of the Lehigh Valley Semiconductor Development Center project will involve acquiring a building with 48,000 square feet of cleanrooms, labs, and offices. The second phase of the project will focus on repairing the existing lab rooms and infrastructure. This will completely renovate the building interior and upgrade its cleanrooms. A new GaN reactor, HVPE units, and other research equipment will also be constructed. The third phase of the project will involve further upgrading the facility's

clean rooms and physical plants. Finally, the fourth phase will involve transforming the facility such that 80-90% of the building consists of "high/highest purity" clean rooms.

The Portland Power Plant Remediation project includes abatement of hazardous materials at the Upper Mt Bethel Township site, and demolition of one of the boilers. The funding award will expedite the redevelopment of the site.

Funding for the Lehigh Heavy Forge Machine Shop Upender Phase 2 will be utilized to finalize the engineering aspects of the project as well as purchase and install the foundation, equipment, and ancillary components of the Upender. Installation and use of the Upender will maintain safe and continued supply, as well as improved efficiency and reduction of incidents and supply chain disruption.

The Hellertown Medical Office project calls for the abatement and demolition of a former industrial manufacturing facility and the construction of a Medical Office Building. The funds will be used to assist in the acquisition of the proper-

ty, the abatement and demolition of the existing building, the protection of the existing environmental protective cap and the implementation of the site improvements proposed across the property necessary for the construction of the Medical Office Building.

Funding for the Johnston Mansion Renovation project will allow Bethlehem Township to do a complete renovation of the mansion's first floor, including substantial improvements to the building's electrical, plumbing, and heating/ventilation/air conditioning systems. The renovation also includes a fire-suppression system (sprinkler) with water tank and service. The proposed renovation also includes improvements to walls, floors, floor coverings, and ceilings, as necessary to bring the building into compliance with modern building codes.

Funding for the Dixie Cup Factory Site Redevelopment Project will be used for specific hard-cost construction expenses. The intended use of funds will be for the public site improvements including open space improvements, overall site landscaping, upgrading

site utilities, and improving the public venue along the Two Rivers Trail. Other potential uses of funds include remediation of hazardous materials, demolition of non-historic elements, structural stabilization of buildings, and new fire protection systems.

Greater Valley YMCA will use the grant award to renovate the Nazareth Y, which is a downtown Nazareth landmark located at 33 S. Main Street. Funds will be used to support the project's direct construction costs, including, but not limited to, concrete, masonry, steel work, carpentry, roofing, framing, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, environmental cleanup, equipment, escalations, etc.

The Nurture Nature Center will use RACP funds for construction costs related to the building envelope restoration, infrastructure and sustainability upgrades as follows: Rehabilitation of the historic Northampton Street façade, including: repointing masonry; air sealing; repair and preservation of wood trim; stabiliza-

ARTICLE CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Boscola Announces \$13,275,000 in State Funding for Lehigh Valley Redevelopment Projects - CONTINUED

tion and/or replacement of existing ornamental masonry; Building envelope improvements, including a complete roof replacement with a new, thermally improved roofing system as well as new window and door systems; Structural reinforcement of the roof; Replacement of outdated HVAC system.

The Steel General Office Complex Selective Demo and Abatement project will address the deteriorated condition of the building. Currently, there is significant asbestos abatement that must occur in order for an adaptive reuse to be a viable option. Furthermore, the complete interior will need to be demolished to make for a clean core and shell that can then serve as the starting point for the new construction.

Watermark Easton is a new construction pro-

ject located at 45 Larry Holmes Drive in Easton that includes a 250-space parking deck flanked by two buildings containing a total of 150 apartment units. Each building will be approximately 21,700 square feet and offer residential space with balconies and views of the Delaware River. All parking required for the development will be provided for on-site, so this project will not burden the already stressed parking infrastructure of the city.

The RACP (Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program) is used for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement projects. Qualifying projects have a regional or multi-jurisdictional impact, help create or maintain jobs, and generate economic activity.

Washington Business Improvement District's Hometown Halloween a SPOOKTACULAR Success



The Washington Business Improvement District's Hometown Halloween drew hundreds of people to Downtown Washington on Oct. 26. With children, families and pets dressed up in so many costumes the judges had their work cutting out for them to choose the top ones. When the winners were announced it was Ashley Deboo as Beetlejuice Bob, the Lamberti family as the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Peach (with owner Heather Freeman) as Santa Rider in the pet category.

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Clean Team Workforce Recognizes September Employee of the Month



The Clean Team Workforce announces its Employee of the Month for September, Shaheed B. Shaheed, a 2022 graduate of the Allentown Rescue Mission's Transformation Program, worked for the Clean Team Workforce until June of 2023. That year, he earned the June Employee of the Month award. After nine months of working for the Clean Team Workforce, Shaheed saved enough money to secure a place to

live and moved out of the Mission. He then found work in the private sector and lived independently for eight months. After eight months, Shaheed ran into financial trouble due to unexpected expenses and reduced work hours, which left him struggling to pay rent. He was forced to move out of his apartment and returned to the Allentown Rescue Mission. The Clean Team Workforce provides

good-standing former employees with the opportunity to be immediately rehired if they find themselves without a job and acts as a safety net for men who experience trouble making the transition to independent living, like Shaheed. During his time back with the Clean Team Workforce, Shaheed has led property cleanup, junk removal, and grass cutting teams. He is a hard worker who pays attention to detail and gets the job done. He arrives on time every day and is ready to work. Shaheed has been saving money with hopes of starting over again with a new place to live and a new job. The Clean Team Workforce congratulates Shaheed for becoming Employee of the Month a second time and being brave enough to start over again.

NJ DEP Puts Out Agriculture Special Use Permit Bid

The Department of Environmental Protection is putting out to bid an Agriculture Special Use Permit on land owned by the Department and managed by New Jersey Fish and Wildlife. Special Use Permits (SUP) afford more farmers access to agricultural opportunities on State lands. For generations, the Department has worked closely with farmers to the mutual benefit of agriculture, our natural resources, and our resource users. The SUP will be effective from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2029 for a period of five years. Rental values and minimum bids are based on the soil types of each parcel and calculated using the soil rental rates established by the United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA), discounted by 20 percent to take into account disadvantages of farming on public land. The bid is open to all interested farmers. This is a sealed bid process – farmers may submit only one bid per SUP. The SUP will be awarded to the highest bidder. Bids must be received by 2pm, Friday November 15, 2024.

Instructions for Submitting A Bid are as follows: Please review the material contained in the "Bid Information Package". The bid package will contain:
 - A map of the fields included in the Special Use Permit and any in-kind service areas
 - The minimum bid based on current soil rental rates
 - The in-kind service obligations for 2025
 - A copy of the Agriculture SUP that will be

signed by the winning bidder
 Once you have reviewed the documents in the Bid Information Package, please complete and return the "Bid Form" by the deadline stated above. Bid forms can be mailed, hand-delivered, or emailed to the address listed on the form.
 If you have questions, please contact Melissa Woerner at (609) 789-2052 or Melissa.Woerner@dep.nj.gov.

Photo Correction for North Warren Homecoming King 2024



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 Homecoming King is Robbie Pignotti. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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CUP OF SOUP (\$9):

BUTTERNUT SQUASH
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Fourth Course:

(DESSERT)

Apple Pie - \$10
Pumpkin Pie - \$10

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

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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



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Hello, fellow readers,
Previously, I shared coming upon an arrowhead in Cape May and the importance of leaving artifacts where they are, including the sculptures and books depicting American

history. Indeed, while there are shameful times, we can learn and grow from them. The same is true about shameful things we still do if we collectively change how we judge and react to things.

Arrows were not only for battle; Native Americans used them to hunt. Bowhunting is a growing trend, which seems fairer than guns during a hunt. It reminds me of when our neighbor was outside with his young children and scolded hunters for how close an arrow came to his property. When we returned from Cape May, the screens on the porch were in shreds. Shot through. I think those hunters thought our house was Bill's, and they were retaliating.

It's a human condition



on that we want to retaliate when attacked. When verbally attacked, too. Some attack weeds in their garden and yards with Glyphosate, the main ingredient in Roundup, which is illegal in most countries since authorities exposed evidence of the implications to our dear Earth and our health. Fortunately, there are Alternatives to Harmful Weed Killers (archived on AskMaryStone.com).

World leaders use the sophistication of weapons as a marker of the level of civilization. But it's the contrary – isn't it? Because we can destroy all life on Earth if we use weapons of mass destruction. There would be no civilization. No life.

It makes me think of my brother's passion for Tai Chi, a practice he began teaching on August 8th, 1988. 8888. Four infinities.

I use 8888 as markers between sections in my book, The Lesson of the Leaf, if I may share a brief section titled Pushing Hands.

Tai Chi is an ancient martial art with slow self-defense movements that evolved from observing animals in nature. Brother Bill became embraced in Tai Chi for the meditative principles based on nature and the balance of all living things. His demonstration of Pushing Hands is my favorite. With legs widely spaced and firmly grounded, he stands hands against hands with a partner. Their upper bodies flow back and forth together in cadence with the ocean tides, Bill's hands slowly yielding to his partner's push, then slowly moving forward to redirect the energy rather than resist the force with force.



A verbal way to push hands when someone gives you a point of view to incite an argument is to say, "Thank you for sharing - I hadn't thought of it that way." There's no point in retaliating. You don't have to agree. We all have freedom of speech. I hope we can preserve that. Just as I hope we can preserve history to grow forward.

The cadence of the ocean tides-- there's such wisdom in the rhythm and strength of water that is soft to the touch and flexible. Water always finds its way to the lowest place, which may seem weak. But we know the strength of water. Think of the times in your daily life you can fill with your softness rather than pushing back with your words or actions. If we all act like water, we'd grow in strength and understand-

ding of each other. We've spoken about the increase in bounty with the No-Till method of gardening – a technique of not digging up the soil because turning it over encourages more weeds. Just as digging up arguments and perpetuating them escalates more conflict.

But I'm not naive here. There are times when we must defend ourselves. But only use force as a last resort, and with that comes sadness for the devastating losses because the resolution didn't come peacefully—in a civilized way.

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." We credit Martin Luther King Jr. for sharing such wisdom.

Garden Dilemmas? Ask-MaryStone.com and your favorite Podcast App.



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Appliances, Pianos, Woodstoves, Furniture, Large-Screen TVs, Anything BIG or SMALL

One Piece Or A Truck Load AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK & LAST MINUTE SERVICE!
Call Us Today!
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Rosal Jewelers
Sal & Rosemarie


We Buy Gold & Diamonds
Repairs Done on Premises

14K Gold · Platinum · Silver
Diamonds & Gemstones

4 Market St., Belvidere, NJ
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Landscape Makeovers

Gardens need TLC?



Ask Mary!
Stone Associates
Landscape Design & Consulting
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MASONRY

Thomas R Sabatine, Jr.
Masonry

Pavers · Sidewalks · Patios
Chimneys · Stone · Stucco
Block · Concrete · Bilco Doors

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Free Estimates
Fully Licensed & Insured



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YESKA
SEPTIC SERVICE

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Call Henry Today!

Septic Tank
Pumping & Repairs

TILE WORK

Vicario's
Tile Installation

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Ceramic · Marble · Laminate
Wood Floors · VCT Tile
Countertops · Floors · Walls

Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling

INSURED FREE ESTIMATES

Call Tim Vicario
610-588-1620

TREE SERVICE

Hawk Mountain
Tree Service

570-807-7746

Serving the Slate Belt, Blairstown,
Sussex & Warren Counties

Tree Trimming/Removal
Stump Grinding · Firewood
60' Bucket Truck · Lot Clearing
Brush Chipping

Fully Insured Free Estimates



Classifieds

Help Wanted

Tree Company Seeks, FT. Worker. Must Have Valid DL. jensentreeexperts@gmail.com or call 908-459-4005 Warren & Morris Co., NJ TS

Siding, Roofer, and Window Installer. Experienced only. Must have drivers license. Work available immediately. Call Comunale Construction at 610-588-6715 TS

Caregivers Needed. Weekends & Nights Some Lifting Required Call 610-588-6000 TS

Help Wanted Must Have Taken CDL Endorsment Class A or B Benefits Offered & Vacation Time Apply by Calling 610-759-3290

CDL & LABORERS WANTED

Henry Yeska & Son Septic Service Hiring CDL Drivers Class A & B and Laborers. Full time & part time available. Experience preferred but not required. Will train on the job. Please call the office at 610-759-3290. TS

Saturday & Day Shift Servers

Wanted At Hunter's Lodge in New Jersey Please Call 610-888-6613

NOW HIRING FOR 2024 SEASON!

Ground Men, Climbers & CDL Drivers Needed Call Us at 570-807-7746

Part Time Tree Helper

Wanted! Must Have Valid DL. Call 610-588-1034 TS

HELP WANTED PART TIME FIREWOOD SPLITTER

Call Today: 610-588-1034

NOW HIRING

Bartender/Server at The Fountain House in Fredon, NJ, Immediate Hire. Call Today: 484-988-0969

Looking for an Experienced Sewing Person

Needed for Creative Private Label. High Fashion, Custom Clothing Studio. Part Time in Blairstown, NJ. Call Julia at 610-573-8313 or email: julia.robin.rutherford@gmail.com

Firewood

Firewood for Sale. \$120 pick up truck load. Call Craig Wickett at 610-599-6882. Pick Up Only No Delivery!

Firewood for Sale.

Mixed Seasoned Hardwoods. \$450 per dump truck load. approx. 1 3/4 cord. Free delivery within 10mi radius. Call Craig Wickett at 610-599-6882 or 610-442-2996.

FIREWOOD

Cut-Split-Delivered \$210 a Cord 570-202-6902

Seasoned Firewood

\$190/cord \$95/half cord 570-202-6902

Firewood for sale

\$200 a cord All different sizes 14, 16 or 18 inches long. Call 610-588-7513

Rentals

Office/Retail Space for Rent Heat, AC, Water, Sewer, & Garbage Included. \$550/mo. William St., Pen Argyl. Call 484-330-0093

10 x 20 Garage for Rent!

Electric Overhead Door w/ Concrete Floor. \$125/mo. William St., Pen Argyl. Call 484-330-0093

Country Home

3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, Big Yard. For Rent. \$1,450/mo Call 484-542-5524

Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rummage Sale!

- PLUS -

Soup & Bake Sale

Nov. 8th: 9am-5pm
Nov. 9th: 9am-Noon

2445 Lake Minsi Dr, Bangor, PA 18013
610-588-2355

Don't Forget To Stop By Pop's Treasures. Open The Same Hours Of The Sale!

WE ARE thankful FOR YOUR SERVICE

Classified Ad Order Form

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: _____

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

Emiliano's Pizzeria Eat In or Take Out

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 <small>(add Cheese for 50 cents)</small>	3 Italia Hoagies for \$26.99	1 Lg. Cheese Pizza, 12 wings & a 2 Liter of Soda for \$29.99
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We Deliver on Door Dash & Slice

Gift Certificates Available

VISA Mastercard Find Us on Facebook

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



Open Daily: Mon.-Fri., 8am-6pm; Sat., 9am-4pm; Sun., 9am-3pm

Proudly Stocking



We Carry All Horse, Chicken, Sheep, Rabbit, Pig, & Goat Feed From: Albright's Mill, Buckeye Nutrition, Kalmbach, And Purina

- Kleins Raw Milk And Cheeses
- Heinsohn Honey - 1lb, 2lb, 5lb Jars
- Hop A Long Farms Grass Fed Beef
- Italian Pastas
- We Also Carry Chicken, Turkey & Pork
- Watergap Coffee - All The Specialty Flavors
Whole Bean • Decaf • Regular Ground

**ALL OF THIS PLUS:
Eggs & Produce!
Stop By For Your
One Stop Shop!**



**STOP IN FOR FRESH
BAKED GOODS**



Wines From Tolino Vineyards

50lb Bags of Shell Corn - \$11

25lb Black Oil Sunflower Seeds - \$15.95

**Stop In For Pies &
Local Apple Cider**

**We Sell Hay
& Straw!
Rye & Wheat**



**Why Did The Chicken
Cross The Road?**
To Try Our Very
Own CHICKEN FEED!
Made From Our
Own Corn With
Black Oil Sunflower
Seeds Added
\$16.95



**Stock Up on
Barefoot Woodpellets
By The Bag or By the Ton!**

\$370/Ton

FREE Grinch Photos!

November 30th: 11am- 2pm
December 7th: 11am- 2pm
December 14th: 11am- 2pm
December 21st: 11am- 2pm

Pets are welcome on a leash!

Toy Donations will be accepted for the Slater Family Network Foundation




Cindy Lou Who will also be on site!

**96 Mt Bethel Hwy
Bangor, PA 18013**