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May 17, 2025

**GOD BLESS AMERICA** 

Vol. 52, No. 43



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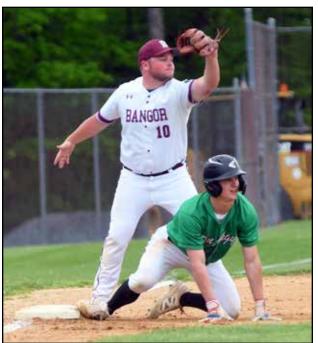
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**The Free Weekly Press PO Box 606. Bangor, PA, 18013** 



Head To Head in Rivalry Senior Night Baseball Game



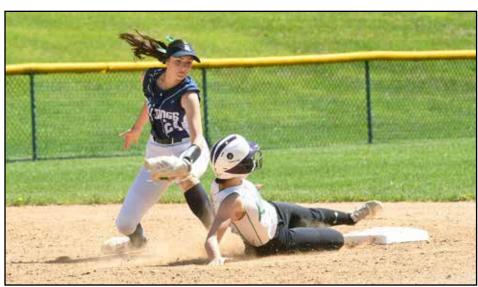
Bangor and Pen Argyl went head to head in Bangor's Senior Night Baseball Game on May 7th. Pen Argyl won the 4/2 suspended game, 2 to 1, before the scheduled game. Bangor won the game 4 to 3. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

North Warren **Takes** The Dirt Diamond To Battle Kittatinny High School in Baseball



North Warren played Kittatinny High School on May 8th. North Warren was defeated, 17 to 1. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly

Bangor and Pen Argyl Go | Pen Argyl Wins Over Northern Lehigh in Colonial League Wildcard Game, Advancing **To The Semi-Finals** 



Pen Argyl vs Northern Lehigh Softball Colonial League wildcard game on May 10th. Pen Argyl won, 12 to 2, and advanced to play Palisades High School on May 13th in the semifinals. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

#### Summer Workplace Training Program Offered to Limited Number of Area Teens

A select number of teens can receive paid employment and learn valuable workplace skills at the Summer Youth Employment Program at Project Self-Sufficiency, Monday – Thursday, July 7th – August 15th. Rising Sussex County high school sophomores

and juniors are invited to apply; eligibility guidelines include family income, transportation status, current enrollment in high school, and other factors. Candidates will be assessed and interviewed prior to admittance to the program. Free transporta-

tion to and from Project Self-Sufficiency will be provided to participants; use of the transportation program and references from high school staff members are required. Those who have previously participated in the Summer Youth WORK cont'd on pg 2

#### North Warren Takes on Morris Hills in Girls Lacrosse



North Warren took on Morris Hills in Girls Lacrosse on May 8th, but they were defeated, 16 to 8. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly **Press** 

### **New in the Bangor Public Library**

Adult Fiction: Ireland by Sylvia Day; One Golden Summer by Carley Fortune; The Names: A Novel by Florence Knapp; The Tenant by Freida McFadden; Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell; The Book of Azrael by Amber V. Nicole

Adult Non Fiction: I Wish Someone Had Told Me ....: The Best Advice for Building a Great Career and a Meaningful Life by Dana Perino

Easy Fiction: Odder: An Otter's Story by Katherine Applegate; Clifford Follows His Nose by Norman Bridwell; Smoky Night by Eve Bunting; Scary, Scary Halloween by Eve Bunting; The Vanishing Pumpkin by Tony Johnston; The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night by Peter Spier

Easy Non Fiction: Biggest, Strongest, Fastest by Steve Jenkins

Easy Reader Fiction: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Secret by Steve Murphy

Easy Reader Non Fiction: Beyond the Dinosaurs: Monsters of the Air and Sea by Charlotte Lewis Brown; Dinosaur Days by Joyce Milton

Junior Non Fiction: Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (And What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull

Young Adult Fiction: Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

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### WORK

Continued from page 1

Employment Program are ineligible. Space is extremely limited; applications must be received by June 13th.

The Summer Youth Employment Program offers teens a wide variety of work experiences, handling everything from clerical tasks to assisting with landscaping projects on the Project Self-Sufficiency campus and at select sites throughout the area. Teens are also given daily classroom instruc-

tion about workplace etiquette, resume development, interview skills, and other topics at Project Self-Sufficiency's state-of-the-art Career Center.

The program has a measurable impact on the adolescents it serves. "For many of these young people, the Summer Youth Employment Program is their first workplace experience," comments Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. "This program allows teens to explore their interests and aptitudes, introduces them to basic

job skills, and gives them guidance about workplace expectations. The experience gives teens a foothold in the working world and often serves as a springboard into a future career."

Interested applicants should visit www.projectselfsufficiency.org/summer-youth-employment-program to download an application. Completed applications must be submitted by June 13th; eligible applicants will be contacted to set up an interview. Call Project Self-Sufficiency at 973-940-3500 for more information.



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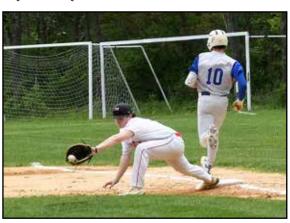
All Dogs Must Be on a Leash

### NORTH WARREN (1) VS KITTATINNY (17) BASEBALL







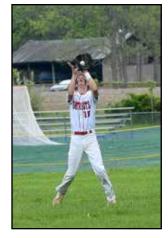










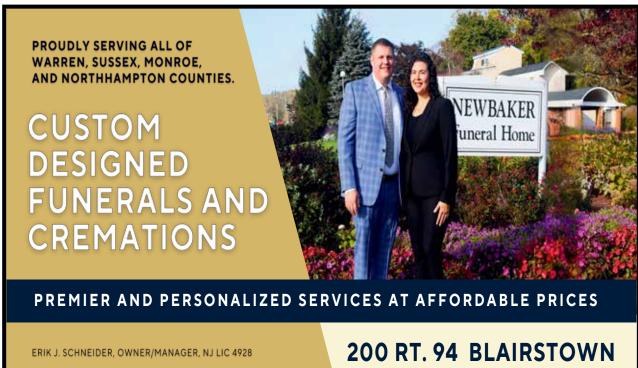
















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making structures to operate within the publics view.

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## BANGOR VS PEN ARGYL SENIOR NIGHT BASEBALL



Tyler Balok with his parents, Joe and Vanessa



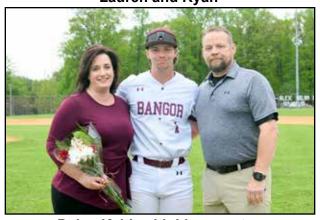
Cayden Brown with his parents, Lauren and Ryan



Alex Farensbach with his parents, **Cassie and Pete** 



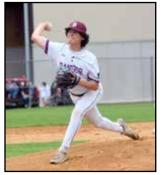
Gianni Goodrich with his parents, Alicia and Matthew



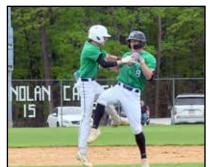
Dylan Keith with his parents, Lisa and Matthew



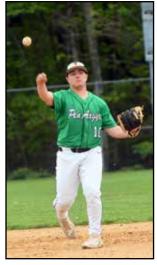
Nolan Koza with his mother, Lisa

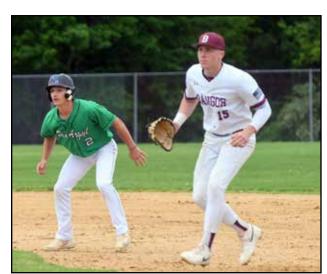












Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

# **\*** \* \* \* \* \*

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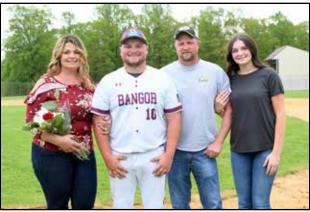


EACH MESSAGE WILL PLAY TWO STUDENTS FROM THE SPECIFIC HOMEROOM. MESSAGES WILL BE CHANGED EVERY FOUR TO FIVE DAYS.

#### BANGOR VS PEN ARGYL SENIOR NIGHT BASEBALL CONTINUED



Jacob Labarre with his parents, Laura and Michael



Luke Rinaldi with his parents, Becky and Tony and his sister

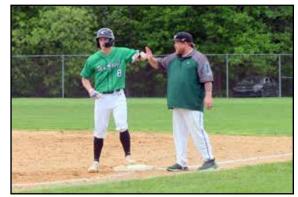


Kurtis Snyder with his parents, Michelle and Jeff



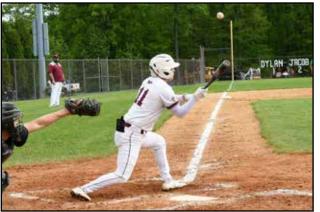
Aiden McNulty with his parents, Brian and Frances





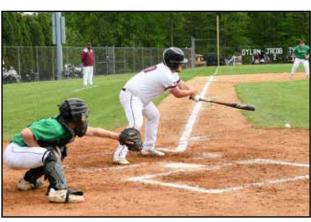








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### NORTH WARREN VS MORRIS HILLS GIRLS LACROSSE





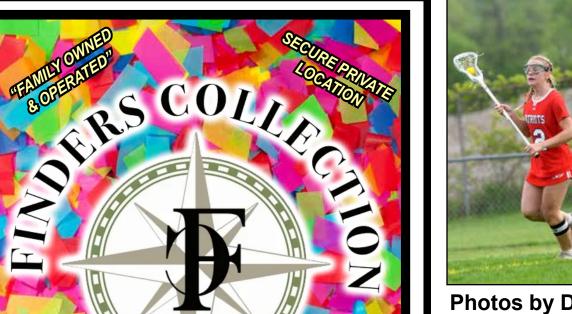














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#### Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



Mary E. Stone **Stone Associates** Landscape Design & Consulting, **Blairstown** 

Hello fellow readers,

I found a few hours to tackle the vegetable garden on Mother's Day. I gingerly removed the chickweed and ground ivy that scrambled upon my no-till garden because I never planted the cover crop in the fall. Nor did I spread the straw as a last-minute remedy. Darn. Finding time for my garden is hard, but it brings me joy when I do. Thankfully, gardens are forgiving.

I carefully removed the plants, trying not to disturb the soil as we learned about in our No-Till Gardening coaching from PatFarm, a cut flower farm in Blairstown, NJ, I shared a few years ago (archived on AskMaryStone.com).

Also known as nodig gardening, it's the practice of not disturbing the soil by turning it over. Soil is a living thing with microorganisms, nematodes, fungi, protozoa, and earthworms, which work together to decompose organic matter that nourishes the soil and adds aeration, improving drainage and moisture retention. As a result, not only will plants grow better and produce more, but they-'ll also be more resistant to pests and diseases and more tolerant of periods of drought.

I giggled as I worked, as chickweed (Stellaria media) and ground ivy (Glechoma hederacea), also known as Creeping Charlie, are edible. So maybe I was meant to feed on those rather than tomatoes, zucchini, green beans, and cucumbers I have planned. Humm, best to research and learn more before I forage.

I'll plant Nastur-



edible colorful flowering plant we discussed last week that sports the lotus effect and attracts pests like aphids, keeping them from attacking the veggies. It also deters squash bugs and attracts pollinators, including butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

A bit of a save on my delinquency, I planted snap peas a few weeks ago following the protocol when peepers peep it's time to plant peas. Well, after the 10-day anticipated germination period, only about a third sprouted. Likely due to the soil temperatures not being warm enough. Taking

more accurate than following the folklore, as fun as following nature

Planting at the right time is as essential as water and nutrients. Following a calendar to determine the right time to plant isn't always accurate because temperatures vary, as we experienced this year. By the time this column gets to you, we are likely good-to-go on transplanting starter plants and sowing some seeds directly in the ground, but always best to be sure. Taking your soil's temperature is the most accurate way.

Many seed packets and plant labels provi-



perature for planting. High-tech thermometers provide digital readings that beep when ready, but an analog soil thermometer for less than ten bucks is just as effective. They work much like the human kind, which would be the in-the-bottom variety, Mom, and RN Nurse, always touted to be the most accurate. Simply stick the soil thermometer probe into your soil about 6 inches for a minute or until Mr. High-tech beeps. You can even use an instant-read thermometer made for cooking.

Check the temperatures where you intend to plant each crop. Seed germination temps range from 40 degrees or warmer for lettuce,

kale, peas, and spinach, 50 for onions, turnips, Swiss chard, 60 for broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, beans, and beets, and 70 for tomatoes, squash, corn, cucumbers, melons, and peppers. Once established, many veggies can handle cooler air temperatures if the soil is warm enough, which is why starter plants can give us a jump start.

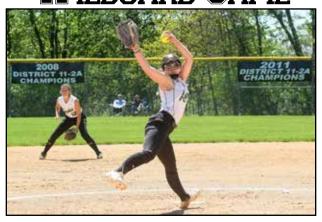
Be sure to check vour soil temperature at midday for at least three days—average the readings by dividing the total by the number of days taken. And no faking a fever to avoid going to school.

Garden Dilem-AskMaryStone. mas? com and your favorite Podcast App.



# PEN ARGYL VS NORTHERN LEHIGH COLONIAL LEAGUE SOFTBALL WILDCARD GAME

























Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press



#### Summer Fun starts at the 'Worlds Greatest' Amusement' Park; Land of Make Believe Gets Set for Memorial Day Weekend Opener

Summer Fun gets an early start at Land of Make Believe in Hope, recognized as the 'Worlds Greatest' Amusement Park,." on Memorial Day Weekend.

NJ's #1 Funcation offers families an affordable day of unlimited rides for one price, free parking, free picnicking, and non-stop memories, an amazing opportunity for families keeping an eye on their pocketbooks and seek options closer to home this year.

family-owned The Land of Make in beautiful Northwest Jersey continues to thrive having expanded its park to include numerous thrill rides, attractions, Safari, and an expansive water park with the world's largest wading pool, water slides and a river tubing ride. There are rides and attractions for children, teens, parents - something for



everyone in the family. Within the past year, Land of Make Believe has hit a trifecta of attention. The park, which has been honored by federal and state legislators, county and local officials, and industry organizations, has now been recognized with three huge designations that have given Land of Make Believe attention across the United States - and the world.

The trifecta started



with Land of Make Believe being named the Most Iconic Amusement Park in the New Jersey, then was declared the No. 1 Amusement Park in New Jersey, and most recently was declared the World's Greatest.

"We are super proud of these designations," said Christopher Maier, whose family has owned the park since its inception. "My mother and father had a vision of providing wholesome fun for the entire family that has stood the test of time. It's always been the intention to offer a safe and an afordable experience for those who come here."

In today's economy, there is no better deal than a day at Land of Make Believe.

For ticket information and generally more about Land of Make Believe visit www. lomb.com or its very active Facebook page.



The GFWC Women's Club of Pen Argyl held their May meeting at the Phoebe Home in Wind Gap, Pennsylvania. The theme for the meeting was "Blue Bears" Hostesses were Donna Gaffney, Mary Ceraul, Pat Grape and Gail Pfeiffer. Members of the club worked on stuffing the "Blue Bears" (comfort stuffed animal) that will be given to the Pen Argyl Police Department who will distribute them to children in need. There will be 30 bears made in total. In the photograph, Ruth Daly, a member of the women's club, is holding one of the "Blue Bears." Interested in joining the club? The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 1 pm at the Phoebe Home 665 Alpha Road, Wind Gap, Pennsylvania. Drop by we would love to see you.



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#### Commissioners Cut Ribbon for Rebuilt Library Branch



The newly rebuilt Catherine Dickson Hofman Branch of the Warren County Library opened this past Saturday, May 10, 2025, after the Warren County Board of County Commissioners held a symbolic ribbon-cutting last week to mark the end of the reconstruction project

Construction to rebuild and enhance the county-'s northernmost library branch began in December 2023, with library service provided in the interim at a temporary location in Hope.

"The northern section of Warren County deserves a library like this," Commissioner Director Jason J. Sarnoski said, adding it's been a great branch with great people, but the building needed a lot of work.

The project marks the end of a complete renovation of all four branches in the county library system during his time in office, Sarnoski noted, pointing out it was done without incurring debt. The county's long-standing "pay as you go" philosophy will result in Warren County being completely debt-free once the last payment on previous borrowing from years ago is made this July.

Sarnoski said the project would not have happened without the help of a lot of people, crediting his fellow commissioners, past commissioners and free-holders, the library staff and library commission, and the project team.

The work was completed without delays and through a team effort, Commissioner Lori Ciesla remarked.

Sarnoski, Ciesla and Commissioner James R. Kern III singled out county Public Works Director Emily A Hammer for leading the project, with Kern quipping, "She has lived up to her last name – she is always getting jobs done for this county."

"I believe you're going to be really impressed when you go inside," county Library Director Jill Butcher said the state, county and local officials gathered for the ribbon-cutting.

Located at 4 Lambert Road, Blairstown, the Catherine Dickson Hoffman Branch will offer 13,000 square feet of space including the renovated areas and the newly constructed addition. Featuring stateof-the-art technology and security, the branch has a renovated Adults area featuring new shelving, reading areas and public access computers; a Teens area outfitted with furnishings encouraging both quiet study and collaboration; a Children's area featuring a nautical-themed reading nook; an outside access book drop; and expanded parking.

It also features a "Makerspace" for library patrons to use for hands-on, creative projects, complete with 3D design capable computers and a 3D printer, as well as an Audio/ Visual Studio complete with green screen and recording capability. The newly renovated Community Room includes a kitchenette, and the Meeting Room suite features two small group rooms and a 12-seat conference room. An outdoor community space includes a gazebo.

"It's always been a cornerstone of the community, and I know it will continue to be," Butcher said. For Butcher, the project was particularly meaningful, as the Catherine Dickson Hofman branch was the library she grew up in and where she gained her love of books and reading. Her mother for more than 50 years has been a trustee of the library – which was a private library run by volunteers for years before it became part of the county system and Butcher recalled going to the original location, in a former grist mill in the center of Blairstown's village area.

For more information visit www.warrenlib.org.



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Each May, the fields of North Warren Regional look a little different than normal. What usually appear as empty fields of green are transformed overnight to an area full of livestock, tractors, and cheering kids. This is all a result of North Warren FFA's annual Barnyard day, where students from local daycares and the surrounding districts have the opportunity to visit the high school and learn a little more about where students from local daycares and the surrounding districts have the opportunity to visit the high school and learn a little more about agriculture. Each North Warren student chooses to run their own station, whether it's handling one of their animals, farm machinery, or doing some sort of agriculture related craft or game with kids. "Barnyard Day is a lot of work," says Kinsley Kise, FFA Sentinel, "but it is one of the big events at our school that I look forward to each year! It's the one place where we each get to show what we all work so hard for". Owen Donnelly, North Warren Regional's Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor, shares a similar sentiment, adding that Barnyard Day is more than just "a day out on the farm" and serves a strong educational purpose for everyone involved. "It's important for people to have a connection to production agriculture at a young age." Donnelly claims, "Barnyard Day gives kids a close up view of what that looks like in Warren County. The hope is to get them talking about it so they can explore that interest as they get older. At the same time, the day also allows older students to take it upon themselves in sharing their passion for agriculture. Everyone wins!" allows older students to take it upon themselves in sharing their passion for agriculture. Everyone wins!"

This year's Barnyard Day hosted over 200 guests and had over 40 student staff members from North Warren. Next year they hope to expand and have continued success. Photos by Bob Halberstadt/The Free Weekly Press





Project Self-Sufficiency will host a free, online Family Law seminar on Thursday, May 22nd, 7:00 p.m. featuring attorney Mariann Murphy. Participants will discuss child support, grounds for divorce, court procedures, alimony, parenting time, equitable distribution of assets, and other topics related to divorce. The presentation, which will be offered through Zoom, is free and open to the public; interested attendees should call Project Self-Sufficiency, 973-940-3500, for log-in details.

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#### NJ Assembly GOP Energy Task Force Blasts Murphy's Late Nuclear Shift

Members of the New Jersey Assembly Republican Energy Task Force criticized Gov. Phil Murphy on Wednesday for what they called a late and politically motivated shift in support of nuclear energy.

The task force, created earlier this week, includes Assemblymen Alex Sauickie, Paul Kanitra, Christian Barranco, Michael Torrissi, and Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia. It was formed to provide an alternative to the Murphy administration's Energy Master Plan, which Republicans argue has contributed to rising utility costs and diminished energy reliability.

Murphy Wednesday voiced support for nuclear energy for the first time since taking office in 2018. His administration's earlier policies have focused heavily on offshore wind and other renewable energy sources.

"For seven years, the governor has vilified reliable energy sources like nuclear and natural gas, while pushing a reckless and unrealistic plan based on fantasy and political ideology," Sauickie (R-Ocean) said. "Now, as elections approach and voters are fed up with sky-



rocketing energy costs, he suddenly wants to pretend he supports nuclear? The damage is already done." Fantasia (R-Sussex) said

the administration "ignored repeated warnings about energy reliability, affordability, and feasibility," and accused Murphy and legislative Democrats of "trying to rewrite history."

Republicans argue that Murphy's Energy Master Plan contributed to the retirement of baseload energy sources, including the 2018 closure of the Oyster Creek nuclear plant. They cite a more than 20% decline in energy supply, increased pressure on the power grid, and rising electricity rates as consequences of the administration's energy policies.

"This is not leadership. It's an obvious attempt at political survival," Kanitra (R-Ocean) said. "The president of the BPU and Governor Murphy are throwing out buzzwords and sound bites in a desperate attempt to protect vulnerable Democrats and even influence the choice for the next governor."

The state Board of Public Utilities also issued a "request for information" Wednesday seeking input on the future role of nuclear power, which includes no formal proposals or plans and underscores how little groundwork has been laid for serious nuclear development.

"This looks more like a homework assignment than a strategy plan," said Barranco (R-Morris) about the board announcement. "They fast-tracked massive subsidies for offshore wind with far less homework. We need expertise, not questionnaires."

(R-Atlantic) Torrissi added that Republicans are focused on lowering utility bills and restoring energy independence, while "Democrats are just trying to change the narrative."

"Our priority is simple: cut utility bills, restore energy independence, and protect New Jersey's future," he said.



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# Marijuana Bill, Topper Says

Pennsylvania House Republican Leader Jesse Topper (R-Bedford/ Fulton) said the flawed process leading to House Bill 1200, legislation legalizing marijuana for recreational use in Pennsylvania, resulted in a flawed bill that demanded opposition.

The legislation passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Wednesday on a party-line vote of 102-101.

"The bill to legalize marijuana in Pennsylvania was introduced at the end of the day Sunday and then rushed through a committee vote on Monday afternoon, a move that stifled debate and potential amendments," Topper said.
"That flawed process
led to a seriously flawed piece of legislation that creates an unnecessary government monopoly over the sale of marijuana, contains significant constitutional concerns, and fails to deliver on promised state revenue by cannibalizing the sales of legalized marijuana into new programs and state giveaways."

House Bill 1200 massively expands government by creating a government monopoly



over the sale of marijuana by vesting sale and regulatory authority with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, which estimated \$260 million in costs to ramp up sales of marijuana. In addition, during the amendment process, Democrats unanimously rejected a Republican proposal that would have allowed municipalities to opt-out of having marijuana sales take place

within their borders.

"If Democrats were serious about getting this legislation done, the process they used would have reflected that," Topper said. "Unfortunately, this product was too rushed, too deeply flawed, and too far-ranging to garner any support from the House Republican Caucus."

House Bill 1200 now heads to the Pennsylvania Senate.

#### Flawed Process Created Flawed Legal | Steinhardt Calls For Action On Bill To **Protect Communities From Sex Offenders**

Following reports that a paroled sex offender is again facing child pornography charges after federal investigators reportedly found more than 800 child sex abuse files stored on a memory card, Senator Doug Steinhardt (R-23) released the following statement calling for the passage of his bill, S-3859, which would allow towns more say in where sex offenders can live:

"This case is a tragic reminder of the real dangers posed by repeat sex offenders and the urgent need for stronger local protections. Communities deserve a say in where convicted sex offenders can reside, especially when it comes to protecting our children," said Sen. Steinhardt. "My bill would give municipalities the authority to enact common-sense residency restrictions to help safeguard neighborhoods and schools. We cannot sit back while known offenders continue to endanger our residents and put our most vulnerable at risk. I urge the Legislature to act immediately and pass this legislation before another child is harmed."

"Governor Murphy and every Democrat legislator in NJ continue to aid and abet child pornographers, human traffickers, gun traffickers, drug traffickers, domestic violence abusers, and other violent criminals through laws that release violent criminals into your neighborhood with no supervision, no consequences, and no regard for the victims and families they abused, exploited, trafficked, raped or killed. In the coming weeks, these same Democrats will introduce new legislation to let more violent criminals loose in your community. I will fight that too." Steinhardt concluded.

Sen. Steinhardt also introduced S-3073, which would permit a municipality to enact an ordinance establishing areas in or around elementary or secondary schools, playgrounds, or child care centers where certain registered sex offenders may be prohibited from residing.









#### Expansion to Add Beds to Emergency Shelter Completed | Bill Strengthening PA's Sexual

The Allentown Rescue Mission announced today that it will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. to celebrate the completion of its Emergency Shelter expansion. The event will include a tribute to the late Mr. Albert Granger, former owner of the Glasbern Inn in Fogelsville, who funded the project in its entirety.

Because of Granger's generosity, the Mission's Emergency Shelter added 22 beds, increasing access to emergency services for men experiencing homelessness by 24%. The Mission now offers 94 beds in the Emergency Shelter and 145 total beds to accommodate guests in all three of its programs: Emergency Shelter, Transformation, and Clean Team Workforce.

For over 30 years, Granger believed in the work



of the Allentown Rescue Mission. Aside from yearly donations, he financed the Mission's elevator in its 30,000 ft. building and sponsored an education fund for men to become more employable.

"Mr. Granger believed in giving our guests the skills they needed to hold jobs to support themselves and their families. His compassion and generosity gave many men the opportunity for a better life, and his last gift allows us to expand our capacity to

meet the acute need of rescuing more men off the streets," explained Skip Smith, Allentown Rescue Mission CEO.

Granger passed away in June 2024 before the commencement of the expansion, but the Allentown Rescue Mission will remember him for his life-changing contributions that benefited countless men in crisis.

The Allentown Rescue Mission, a 501c3, 123 bed non-profit homeless shelter has been provi-

ding shelter to men experiencing homelessness 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 nearly 1,000 men and serves more than 60,000 meals to men in

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

### Offender Registry Approved by Senate



The Senate unanimously approved legislation this week to better protect children in Pennsylvania against sexual predators. Senate Bill 255 would require a sports official, volunteer or employee of a nonprofit association who is convicted of sexual assault to register as a sexual offender under the Sexual Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). Under current law, a conviction for this offense does not require registration as a sex offender. Closing this loophole will strengthen SORNA and ensure potentially violent sex offenders can be properly monitored. The bill, which now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration, is part of a larger Senate priority of making commonwealth communities safer.

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