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Bangor and Pen Argyl Go Head To Head for 106th Annual Rivalry Football Game



Bangor and Pen Argyl went head to head on October 24th for the 106th Annual Rivalry football game. This year, Pen Argyl won 32 to 21. Lineman of the game award went to Pen Argyl's Xavier Ragusa. Bangor's MVP was Jacob Hillis and Pen Argyl's MVP was Caiden Faust. More photos from the game can be found on pages 6 & 7. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Blairstown Township Officers Use Tourniquet To Save Man After Knife Accident



By Jay Edwards (wrn-
radio.com)

Two Blairstown Township police officers are being credited with saving a man's life after he suffered a severe arm injury from a hunting knife accident earlier this week, authorities said.

According to police, on Oct. 22, Sergeant Bee

and Officer Lisboa responded to a residence on Walnut Valley Road for a report of a man who had accidentally cut his arm while using a hunting knife to open boxes.

When officers arrived, they found the man had experienced significant blood loss and was still actively bleeding. The officers immediately applied a tourniquet, successfully stopping the bleeding before emergency medical personnel arrived.

The victim was transported to a nearby hospital, where medical staff credited the officers' quick action with saving his life.

Season of Hope Toy Drive to Benefit Children in Northwestern New Jersey

The annual Season of Hope Toy Drive was launched by Project Self-Sufficiency and a consortium of businesses, schools, and social service agencies today. The massive undertaking aims to provide gift cards and new, unwrapped toys to parents and caregivers of more than 2,000 children and teens in the New Jersey counties of Sussex and Northern Warren. The toy drive is a joint effort which is driven and coordinated by Project Self-Sufficiency, along with its community partners, to benefit local families in need. Donations are needed immediately and can be made in-person at the Newton agency. Additional toy drop-off sites



throughout the area will be added shortly. Monetary donations are also accepted online.

The annual Season of Hope Toy Drive has served thousands of children and teens in northwestern New Jersey for many years. The initiative solicits donations from individuals,

businesses, civic organizations, schools, youth groups, athletic teams, and other groups through mid-December.

"We are inviting individuals, businesses, and organizations to coordinate drives for gift cards and toys on behalf of the low-income families in our area," noted Debo-

rah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. "The Season of Hope Toy Drive directly benefits Sussex and Northern Warren County families in need. The items collected here stay right here. It truly is a way for neighbors to help each other during a time

which can be stressful for many families."

"The Season of Hope Toy Drive is a testament to the strength and generosity within our communities," said Senator Parker Space. "This initiative brings families in Sussex County together to ensure children and their families experience the joy and magic of the holiday season, regardless of their circumstances. I am grateful for the dedication of Project Self-Sufficiency and our community partners, who work tirelessly to spread goodwill and remind families that they are valued and loved."

Michael Inganamort, New Jersey State Assembly, noted, "Throughout
TOYS cont'd on pg 5



New in the Bangor Public Library

Adult Fiction:
End Game by Jeffrey Archer; The Haunting of Paynes Hollow by Kelley Armstrong; Sugar and Spite by M. C. Beaton; Girl Dinner: A Novel by Olivie Blake; The Widow by John Grisham; Princess of Blood by Sarah Hawley; The Land of Sweet Forever: Stories and Essays by Harper Lee; A Ferry Merry Christmas: A Novel by Debbie Macomber; The Secret Book Society: A Novel by Madeline Martin; Merry Christmas, You Filthy Animal by Meghan Quinn; And to All a Good Bite by David Rosenfelt

Adult Non Fiction:
Vagabond: A Memoir by Tim Curry; Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleecing Frauds by John Fugelsang; Finding My Way: A Memoir by Malala Yousafzai

Large Print Adult Fiction:
Twice: A Novel by Mitch Albom; The Secret of Secrets: A Novel by Dan Brown; Sharp Force by Patricia Daniels Cornwell; The Academy: A Novel by Elin Hilderbrand; A Ferry Merry Christmas: A Novel by Debbie Macomber; The Intruder by Freida McFadden; Billion-Dollar Ransom: A Thriller by James Patterson; Framed in Dearth by J. D. Robb

Easy Fiction:
If We Were Dogs by Sophie Black; Aggie and the Ghost by Matthew Forsythe; The Bakery Dragon and the Fairy Cake by Devin Elle Kurtz; Besties for Eternity by Jane O'Connor; The Monster in the Lake by Leo Timmers

Junior Fiction
The Haunted Mask by Maddi Gonzalez; Minecraft: The Manga Vol. 1 by Kazuyoshi Seto; Minecraft: The Manga Vol. 2 by Kazuyoshi Seto; Minecraft: The Manga Vol. 3 by Kazuyoshi Seto; Goosebumps: The Graphic Novel Monster Blood by R. L. Stine

Young Adult Fiction:
If You'll Have Me by Eunnie (Graphic Novel Author); Death of a Pop Star by Violet Chan Karim; Angelica and the Bear Prince by Trung Le Nguyen

Senator Brown's Bill Supporting Mothers and Midwives Passes Senate

This week the Senate passed my legislation, the Midwifery Modernization Act. This legislation is a critical step toward strengthening maternal health care in Pennsylvania. It updates the Medical Practice Act of 1985 by modernizing licensure requirements for certified midwives, improving collaboration between midwives and physicians, and updating prescription authority – particularly when it comes to treating substance use disorders.

This proposal will improve health outcomes for mothers and babies, expand the number of qualified providers, and give women across the commonwealth more options for safe, high-quality care – especially in rural and underserved areas. Licensed midwives play a vital role in the continuum of care throughout pregnancy, childbirth,



and postpartum recovery. Many also offer routine reproductive health services like prenatal care, screenings, and patient education. I'm grateful for the strong bipartisan support this bill received in the Senate and for the more than 30 stakeholder organizations that have backed it – including the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and the Association of Physician Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Senate Bill 507 now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration

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Blairstown Enhancement Committee's Fall Festival



Photos by Bob Halberstadt/The Free Weekly Press

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Freylinghuysen Elementary School Trunk or Treat



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TOYS

Continued from page 1

the year, Project Self Sufficiency fills a critical void for families. Now it's our turn to add our support. I'm truly grateful for Project Self Sufficiency's life-changing work on behalf of families in New Jersey and proud to be part of the Season of Hope Toy Drive."

"Each year during the holidays, the Season of Hope campaign helps bring joy and happiness to thousands of disadvantaged children. I am always pleased to take part in such an enriching and joyful event," said former New Jersey State Senator Steve Oroho. "The Season of Hope is always a shining example of how the people of our community look to help their neighbors. I hope those who are able can contribute again this year to bring much good cheer and smiles to many needy children and their families."

"The Season of Hope Toy Drive reflects the very best of Sussex and Warren Counties — neighbors helping neighbors and a community coming together to ensure every child experiences the joy of the holidays," commented Sussex County Commissioner Jack De

Groot. "Each toy collected is more than a gift; it's a message of compassion and connection that reminds us no one in our community stands alone."

"Every Christmas Season Project Self Sufficiency's Season of Hope Toy Drive fills our community with a spirit of wonder and excitement," concurred former Sussex County Commissioner Sylvia Petillo. "It embodies the beautiful act of showing love thorough kindness and giving. Every donation delivers a promise of a magical Christmas holiday and demonstrates to families in need that they are not forgotten, but are instead valued, loved and cared for."

"The Season of Hope toy drive is more than just a collection of gifts," added Helen Le Frois, Mayor, Town of Newton. "It is a powerful reminder that when we come together, we can create joy, restore dignity, and offer hope to families who need it most."

Area elementary schools, middle schools and high schools have been invited to participate in a competitive "Stuff the Stocking" campaign. Toys are picked up and counted in early December; 45 schools are registered in this year's contest. "Every year I look forward to participating in The Sea-

son of Hope Campaign," remarked Denise Current, owner of Stocker Bus Company which supplies buses and drivers free of charge to pick up toys at every school during December. "This event provides so much joy and happiness to so many families and to those who participate. It truly epitomizes The Season of Hope."

"The Sussex County Superintendents' Roundtable Association is proud to support the Season of Hope Toy Drive again this year," commented Dr. Joseph Piccirillo, Newton School District Superintendent and President of the Sussex County Superintendents' Roundtable Association. "As superintendents, we interact with countless families each day and we know firsthand how many are struggling to make ends meet. We are grateful for the work that Project Self-Sufficiency does in our schools throughout the year and particularly thankful for the joy the Season of Hope Toy Drive brings our less fortunate families this time of year."

"The Season of Hope Toy Shop relies on the contributions of countless individuals, businesses, and organizations every year," explained Berry-Toon. "We are particularly grateful to Sus-

sex County Community College for providing the resources which enable us to serve thousands of families, including the culinary arts students who bake thousands of cookies for distribution to the patrons of the toy shop."

"Sussex County Community College is deeply honored to support the Season of Hope Toy Drive in partnership with Project Self-Sufficiency," commented Sussex County Community College President, Dr. Cory Homer. "This initiative embodies the spirit of community, caring, and generosity that defines our County. We believe every child deserves to experience joy and warmth during the holiday season, and by coming together to donate, volunteer, and uplift one another, we help ensure that hope and happiness reach every household. Our campus stands ready to partner, contribute, and inspire others to join in making this a memorable season for families across Sussex County."

"Selective is proud to support Project Self-Sufficiency's Season of Hope Toy Drive through our 20th annual Build a Bike event," said Cate Terwilliger, Senior Communications Manager. "It's a privilege to contribute to this incredible initiative

and help bring joy to families in our community."

In addition to the hundreds of volunteers who sort toys and assist patrons, the Season of Hope Toy Shop benefits from the talents of numerous musicians who donate their time each year; music for the kick-off press conference was provided by a capella group Harmony in Motion. Individuals and ensembles perform holiday tunes in multiple locations on the Project Self-Sufficiency campus throughout the duration of the two-day toy shop in December.

"We welcome the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, law enforcement personnel, and musicians as we help thousands of parents select toys for their children," added Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon. "Given the volume of children we will be serving, we are hoping that donations of funds, gift cards, and toys can be received by early December."

Project Self-Sufficiency Leadership Council member Tim Parker donned a Santa suit and was accompanied by his wife, Project Self-Sufficiency Board member and retired jurist Lorraine Parker, at the kickoff event. "The compassion demonstrated by this community is

overwhelming and we are looking forward to bringing these toys to local children in December."

Donated items can be dropped off Monday – Friday at Project Self-Sufficiency, 127 Mill Street in Newton. For information about the Season of Hope Holiday Toy Drive, call Project Self-Sufficiency at 973-940-3500 or visit www.projectsellsufficiency.org.

Project Self-Sufficiency is a non-profit organization located in semi-rural northwestern New Jersey which has assisted low-income families along the path to economic self-sufficiency since 1986. The agency is dedicated to empowering individuals and families to achieve economic independence and self-reliance, providing a safe and inclusive environment that fosters growth, learning, and opportunity. Services include career guidance and assessment, computer classes, high school diploma instruction, parenting workshops, childcare, legal assistance and education, help with emergency basic needs such as clothing and food, health education, support groups, life skills classes, family activities, home visitation, and more. For more information, visit www.projectsellsufficiency.org or call 973-940-3500.



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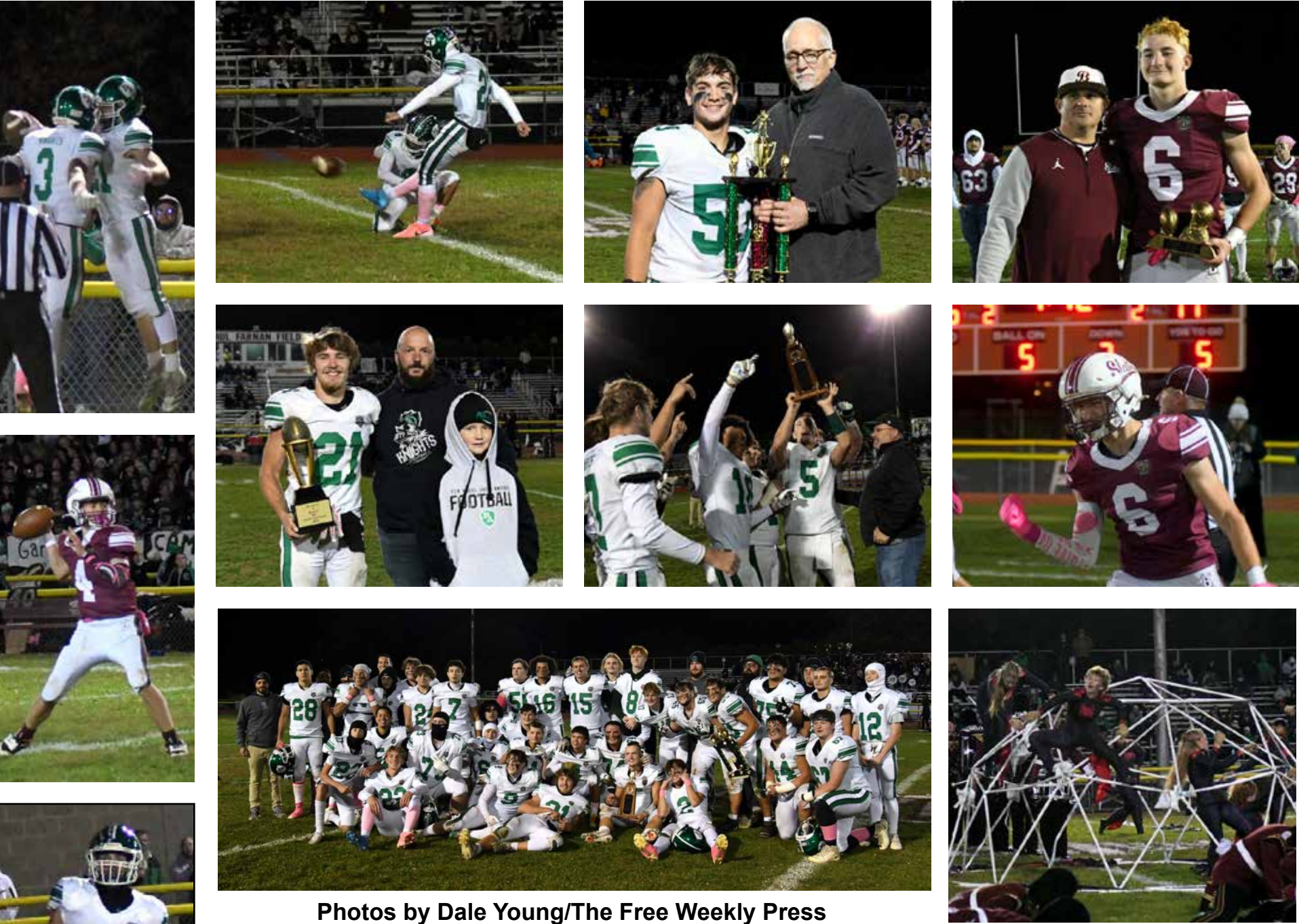
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Join the Celebration at the 15th Annual Warren County Hall of Fame Induction

Warren County Community College Foundation invites the community to join us in celebrating the achievements, leadership, and service of this year's Warren County Hall of Fame inductees at the 15th Annual Hall of Fame Reception and Dinner.

The event will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at Panther Valley Golf Club in Allamuchy.

This year's honorees represent a remarkable range of accomplishments across education, business, public service, and community leadership:

Ronald G. Garriques - A seventh-generation Warren County native and accomplished technology executive whose career includes leadership roles at AT&T, Lucent, Motorola, and Dell Inc. Garriques led Motorola's \$30 billion Mobile Devices division, overseeing the launch of the iconic RAZR phone, and later spearheaded global innovation at Dell. A dedicated supporter of education,

he serves on Centenary University's Board of Trustees and delivered the 2025 Commencement Address at Warren County Community College.

Dan Hirshberg - Founder of Inside Warren, Hirshberg has shaped the county's cultural identity through storytelling that celebrates local events, businesses, and nonprofits. A former sportswriter and author, he has been instrumental in promoting the arts and live music, organizing Blues Fests at Centenary University and launching the Festival in the Borough. His efforts have brought national acts to local stages and strengthened community pride.

Andy Mark - A beloved educator and leader who spent nearly 40 years in the Belvidere School District, serving as teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent. A U.S. Army veteran and lifelong Belvidere resident, Mark is a 70-year member of the Belvidere Lions Club and has served as treasurer for 56 years.



In 2016, Belvidere High School named its gymnasium in his honor. Now 97, he continues to embody a lifetime of service to students and community.

Patti Sue Rossi - Founder of the Rossi Festival of Trees, Rossi has raised nearly \$500,000 for local nonprofits, including Abilities of North-

west Jersey and Warren County Habitat for Humanity. With all event costs covered by Rossi Auto Group, every dollar raised goes directly to the organizations. A Villanova graduate and business leader, Rossi's vision, generosity, and leadership have made the Festival of Trees a beloved tradition and a major force for good in

Warren County.

James Swick - A dedicated public servant, Swick has spent more than four decades serving Warren County as an attorney, judge, elected official, and civic leader. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Villanova Law School, he practiced law in Phillipsburg for over 40 years, served twice as Municipal Court Judge, and was a Warren County Freeholder. His extensive community involvement includes leadership with the Phillipsburg Rotary Club, United Way, Warren Hospital board, Warren County Community College Foundation, and Legal Services.

Matthew Wallace "Sonny" Pinkman III (1932-2023) - A pioneering educator and the first African American adminis-

trator in Warren County and surrounding areas, Pinkman served Hackensack Middle School for 36 years, retiring as principal. Known for his commitment to equity, mentorship, and service, he and his family also welcomed foster children and were deeply active in their church and community. His legacy continues to inspire future generations.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductees, the Alumni Success Award will be presented to Lori Knerr, and a Special Recognition Award will honor the Warren County Bicentennial Planning Committee for its contributions to preserving and celebrating the county's history.

The Hall of Fame is not only a celebration of achievement but also an important fundraiser supporting the Warren County Community College Foundation and its mission to expand educational opportunities for students.

Reserve your seat visit: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ts66gmu/lp/5b854dbe-ce79-4d2c-9fa6-20e143b9aca8>

To learn more about the Foundation or to support its work, please visit www.warren.edu/wccc-foundation.

For media inquiries or more information about the Hall of Fame dinner, please contact: Samir Elbassoumy Email: wchalhof-fame@warren.edu or Samir@warren.edu Phone: 908-835-2334

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Safety Warning: Deer Crossing Roads More Frequently

With deer becoming increasingly active, and daylight-saving time soon to put more vehicles on the road during the hours when deer move most, the Pennsylvania Game Commission is advising motorists to slow down and stay alert.

Deer become more active in autumn with the lead-up to their fall breeding season, commonly referred to as the “rut.” Around this time, many yearling bucks disperse from the areas they were born, traveling considerable distances to find new ranges. Meanwhile, adult bucks more often are cruising their home ranges in search of does, and might chase the does they encounter.

When daylight-saving time ends Nov. 2, there also will be increased vehicular traffic around dusk and dawn – the peak hours for deer activity.

All make deer encounters more likely for motorists.

“The months of October, November, and December are when deer are moving around the most, and for longer durations during the day,” said Game Commission Executive Director Steve Smith. “We encourage all drivers to practice safe behaviors and be especially mindful of intensified deer movement at this time of year.”

Data from around the country indicates Pennsylvania drivers face some of the highest risks of a vehicle collision with a deer or other large animal. A recent report shows Pennsylvania, once again, led the nation in animal-collision insurance claims in the fiscal year 2024-25.

Pennsylvania drivers also face some of the highest chances of a collision with a big-game



animal. While the national average for animal collisions is 1-in-139, Pennsylvania drivers, according to the report, more than double that with a 1-in-62 chance. Drivers in only West Virginia, Montana, Wisconsin and Michigan strike big-game animals with greater frequency.

Drivers can reduce their chances of collisions with deer by staying alert and better understanding deer behavior. Just paying close attention while driving on stretches marked with “Deer Crossing” signs can make a difference.

Deer often travel in groups and walk single file. So even if one deer successfully crosses the road in front of a driver, it doesn’t mean the threat is over. Another could be right behind it.

A driver who hits a deer with a vehicle is not required to report the accident to the Game Commission. If the deer dies, only Pennsylvania residents may claim the carcass. To do so, they can call the Game Commission at 1-833-PGC-HUNT or 1-833-PGC-WILD and an agency dispatcher will collect the information needed to provide a free permit number, which the caller should write down.

A resident must call within 24 hours of taking possession of the deer. A passing Pennsylvania motorist also may claim the deer, if the person whose vehicle hit it doesn’t want it.

Those taking possession of road-killed deer also are advised of rules related to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) that prohibit the removal of high-risk deer parts – essentially the head and backbone – from any Disease Management Area (DMA) or Established Area (EA). Those parts must be removed before the deer is transported outside a DMA or EA. For maps of these areas, the complete list of high-risk parts and other information on CWD, visit www.pgc.pa.gov.

If a deer is struck by a vehicle, but not killed, drivers are urged to maintain their distance because some deer might recover and move on. However, if a deer does not move on, or poses a public safety risk, drivers are encouraged to report the incident to the Game Commission or another law-enforcement agency. If the deer must be put down, the Game Commission will direct the proper person to do so.

To report a dead deer for removal from state roads, motorists can call the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at 1-800-FIX-ROAD.

Ex-Commercial Fishing Boat Deployed on the Manasquan Inlet Reef



Earlier this month, NJ-DEP Fish & Wildlife’s Artificial Reef Program staff deployed a new addition to the Manasquan Inlet Reef site.

The C. ANN, a 55-foot former steel commercial fishing boat was prepared and sunk off the coast.

This deployment was made possible by donations from the Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association, Bill Cleary of Brielle, NJ and Depth Charge Marine.

This deployment is the ninth deployment on the relatively new reef, and will provide habitat for over 150 species of marine organisms including black sea bass, tautog, summer flounder, lobsters, crabs and mussels.

Coordinates for this deployment are 40°04’23.4”N and 73°58’51.8”W.



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October Proclaimed Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Warren County Board of County Commissioners celebrated and recognized the capabilities and contributions of persons with a disability as it proclaimed October as “Disability Employment Awareness Month.”

“I want to thank our Commissioners and our wonderful county, and its businesses. Our theme this year focuses on value and talent, both of which are abundant in the individuals we serve,” said Cynthia B. Wildermuth, CEO of Abilities of Northwest New Jersey, who accepted the proclamation.

Abilities’ mission is to inspire those with disabilities to achieve their life goals by providing individual support and acknowledges the mutual effect it has on all those involved in a dis-



abled person’s life. “Thank you to our Department of Human Services and the folks on our disability awareness team, that do so much work with our disabled residents,” Commissioner Director Jason J. Sarnoski said, while also praising Abilities of Northwest New Jersey for its efforts. “This proclamation is

not just about awareness, but also about understanding and helping Warren County be a community where everyone can thrive,” commented Commissioner James R. Kern III. By marking a nationally recognized month for those employed with disabilities, the proclamation highlights an individual’s capability to

make personal choices, contribute to society and experience all aspects of mainstream American society.

“This important proclamation makes a big difference to those with disabilities. I appreciate our Division of Aging and Disabilities and the county businesses that employ those with disabilities,” said Commissioner Lori Ciesla.

Along with Warren County’s Division of Aging & Disability Services and its Advisory Council on Disabilities, these organizations strive to create awareness and opportunities for residents with disabilities and their caregivers, giving them access to the support services needed to exercise their full rights as citizens in every component of society.

Early Detection Leads to Unexpected Breast Cancer Journey



Val Lewis, 57, of Danielsville, remembers the relief she felt last December when her genetic testing results came back. Offered at no cost through St. Luke’s University Health Network (SLUHN), the test showed no inherited mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes – mutations that can significantly increase the risk of breast and other cancers. It was a moment of reassurance.

But just a month later, during her routine yearly screening mammogram, that sense of relief gave way to concern. Something didn’t look right. Follow-up imaging confirmed what she feared: breast cancer.

Val credits her gynecologist for encouraging her to stay on top of screenings due to her dense breast tissue, which can make cancer harder to detect. She had been alternating between ultrasounds and mammograms every six months – a proactive approach that made all the difference.

With the guidance of Dr. Trisha Kelly, her St. Luke’s surgical oncologist, Val chose to undergo a lumpectomy in April, followed by radiation in June. Eleanor Harris, MD, St. Luke’s Associate Cancer Director & Chief of Radiation Oncology, recommended a targeted treatment – accelerated partial breast radiation – which would reduce treatment time and protect healthy

tissue.

“One of the most important facts about breast cancer is that early detection is lifesaving,” Dr. Harris said. “Breast cancer is highly curable when caught in early stages. Val’s story inspires other women to be proactive by having regular screening mammograms.”

Throughout Val’s journey, she found strength in the support she received – from her care team at St. Luke’s to a nurse navigator provided through her employer. That navigator helped her understand each step of her diagnosis and treatment, offering what Val described as “incredible care.”

She says she wasn’t always the easiest patient. “I ask a lot of questions, probably more than they bargained for,” she said with a laugh. “But the St. Luke’s doctors’ and nurses’ expertise, compassion and dedication have made this unimaginable journey feel a little more manageable. I truly feel I’m in the best hands.”

Now on a five-year course of hormone-blocking medication, Val is also planning follow-up reconstructive surgery after meeting with Dr. Alyson Melin, her St. Luke’s reconstructive surgeon. Val’s prognosis is excellent – something she attributes to early detection.

That’s why Val is passionate about sharing her story.

“Preventative breast screenings aren’t just routine checkups, they are a lifesaving tool,” she said. “The early detection of my breast cancer dramatically increased my treatment options. ... Whether you feel perfectly fine or have no family history, screenings can catch what you can’t feel. Prioritize yourself. Schedule your mammogram.”

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Murphy Administration Honors Recycling Leaders In Annual Awards Program

The Murphy Administration today honored individuals, businesses, schools and organizations whose dedication to recycling inspires others to improve their own recycling practices and advance New Jersey's sustainability goals.

During a ceremony at Jumping Brook Country Club in Neptune, nine recipients of the Department of Environmental Protection's Recycling Awards Program were honored for their remarkable recycling and sustainability achievements. The awards ceremony was held in conjunction with the annual recycling symposium hosted by the Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR).

Award recipients include a central New Jersey township with a highly successful curbside recycling program, a university that operates a meal recovery program to help those in need, a non-profit organization that diverts bicycles from the waste stream, and a company that processes recyclables from more than 60 municipalities.

"Recycling is a long-standing environmental and economic success story – and a way of life in New Jersey, which paved the way for recycling for the nation," said Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette. "We applaud the winners for their efforts to keep New Jersey at the forefront of recycling through their outstanding work to advance waste reduction and sustainability in communities across the state."

In 1987, New Jersey became the first state to enact legislation requiring recycling. Today, the DEP administers sever-

al grant and educational programs to support recycling efforts by communities, businesses and schools. The most recent recycling data from 2022 shows the state achieved an overall recycling rate of 54 percent.

As part of its ongoing commitment to a sustainable environment, the Murphy Administration has advanced initiatives to reduce single-use plastics and food waste, advance recycling industry research and recycling education, promote the sustainable management of electric vehicle batteries, and establish recycled content requirements.

"We are confident that the accomplishments of the award winners will serve to inspire others to reduce waste, recycle more and purchase recycled content products at home and on the job," said Paul Baldauf, DEP's Assistant Commissioner for Air, Energy and Materials Sustainability. "The DEP is proud of our longstanding partnership with the Association of New Jersey Recyclers to promote sustainability through the conservation of precious resources."

The DEP urges all residents to recycle plastic and glass containers, metal cans and paper items, and to not place any items they are uncertain about into their collection bin – when in doubt, leave it out. Those who are unsure about whether an item should be put into their recycling bucket should check with their local recycling program to avoid unknowingly "contaminating" their recyclables with unacceptable materials. Such contamination creates serious quality control issues, negatively affects the economics

of recycling, and is one of the biggest challenges facing recycling today.

To further public knowledge and prevent contamination of recycled materials, the DEP-funded Recycle Coach information system provides a 'What Goes Where' tool where the public can search for how to recycle specific items according to local collection requirements.

The 2025 Recycling Award winners, organized by category, include:

Institution
Saint Peter's University (Hudson County)
Saint Peter's University, through its Campus Kitchen program, recovers food donations from hospitals, restaurants and other partners to deliver meals to charitable organizations, families and individuals in need. In addition, the university operates a food pantry and used clothing donation center.

Business
Garden Communities (Union County)
The Garden Communities real estate firm worked closely with the Union County Bureau of Recycling and Planning and a hauler to improve collection service and distribute recycling educational materials to residents of their apartment complexes. This led to a 30 percent increase in the number of recyclables collected from 2023 to 2024.

Government
Township of Monroe (Middlesex County)
The Township of Monroe achieved a 65 percent recycling rate thanks in part to its successful curbside recycling program and new Center for Hard to Recycle Material. The Center was constructed in 2024 and accepts plastic film, books, batteries, eyeglasses, cell phones, light bulbs and more. Monroe also provides drop-off bins for old clothing and textiles, holds quarterly paper shredding events and recycles polystyrene using a densifier.

Leadership
Fanwood Green Team (Union County)
The Fanwood Green Team community volunteer group launched Fanwood Cares in 2024, a new collection program for non-traditional recyclable materials including used crayons, gently used or new shoes and used Lego blocks. The items are then donated to various charities. In its first year of operation, the program collected 235 pounds of Legos, 420 pairs of shoes and 111 pounds of crayons.

Rising Star - Green Good Guardians (Middlesex County)
Green Good Guardians is a youth-led organization that implemented an innovative reuse program called the SecondVerse Initiative. Volunteers in

the program collect partially used notebooks to rebind reclaimed paper into newly fashioned notebooks, which are then donated to underprivileged students. The initiative began in East Brunswick and can now be found in 65 locations across New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. To date, the program has collected more than 6,000 notebooks, saved almost 156,000 clean pages and donated more than 3,500 notebooks.

Outstanding Educator/Educational Program - Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (Sussex County)
The Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) provides robust recycling education through a redesigned website that features improved recycling graphics and new content including a Recycling in Your Town section, food waste reduction guidance and recycling guidance for businesses. In addition, SCMUA offers recycling center tours and educational events, exhibitions, and presentations.

Recycling Industry - Atlantic Coast Recycling (Passaic County)
In early 2024, Atlantic Coast Recycling opened a new recycling processing center in Passaic equipped with the most advanced processing technology available today. The facility now serves more than 60 New Jersey municipalities and processes between 16,000 and 20,000 tons of recyclable bottles, cans and paper per month.

Waste Reduction, Resource Management/Sustainability
Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County Bike Exchange (Mercer County)
The Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County Bike Exchange is a non-profit organization run by approximately 50 volunteers who collect, repair, and sell used bicycles in the Trenton area. The Bike Exchange keeps old bicycles out of the waste stream and donates proceeds to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County for afterschool and educational programs. In 2024, the Bike Exchange sold 1,857 refurbished bicycles.

Volunteer Citizen - Mimi Zukoff (Union County)
Mimi Zukoff, Chair of the City of Summit's Recycling Advisory Committee, developed and implemented waste reduction initiatives, including a partnership with BookSmiles to keep used books out of the waste stream. In 2024, this initiative provided 21,000 pounds of books to teachers and students in need.

To learn more about the state's recycling and waste reduction efforts, visit recycle.nj.gov

Visit the Association of New Jersey Recyclers at anjr.com

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Clean Team Workforce Honors Employee of the Month from September

The Clean Team Workforce announces its Employee of the Month for September, Joshua L. After graduating from the Allentown Rescue Mission's Transformation Program in 2023, Joshua L. worked for the Clean Team Workforce for a few months before leaving the Mission for a life of independence. His story was an early success. Josh worked for a sanitation company and lived with his sister. However, while on the

job, he suffered a seizure that prevented him from continuing with the company due to his medical condition. Soon after his diagnosis, Josh's apartment building was condemned, forcing him and his sister to move out. Faced with these challenges, Josh returned to the Allentown Rescue Mission the next day to be reinstated on the Clean Team Workforce. The Clean Team Workforce rehires and provides housing to



good-standing, former employees who need assistance after living

independently. In Josh's case, he immediately began street cleaning, and before long, a position became available in the Allentown Rescue Mission's kitchen. Josh interviewed for the new job, proved to be a good fit, and was hired. He showed promise from the start, learning kitchen duties and new cooking skills quickly. "Josh is really stepping up and is learning a lot about cooking. He really cares about his job and

is excited to learn something new every day," said Harry Wilson, Food Service Manager at the Allentown Rescue Mission. Although Josh's prior restaurant experience was limited to dishwashing, his determination is helping him quickly gain new skills. Under the guidance of his supervisor, Chef Harry, he is working toward qualifying as a cook in the restaurant industry and is excited for his future career. Josh commented, "I really like serving food to the men, and they tell me how good it is afterwards." The Allentown Rescue Mission and the Clean Team Workforce congratulate Josh on being selected Employee of the Month and for his desire to learn new skills. The Allentown Rescue Mission, a 501c3, 145

bed non-profit homeless shelter has been providing shelter to men in crisis since 1900. In addition to emergency shelter services (365 days a year), the Allentown Rescue Mission offers a faith-based 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 need. To refer someone to the Allentown Rescue Mission for services or to learn ways you can help make a difference please visit www.allentownrescuemission.org

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Hello, fellow readers,
As you may know, you can subscribe to my free newsletter at Ask-MaryStone.com, which arrives in your inbox every week or two. Since the beginning—when I launched the website version of our weekly chats—my dear friend and garden design colleague Marty Carson has been a faithful subscriber.
On Sunday, while sending the latest newsletter, I noticed Marty had unsubscribed. My heart sank. Clearly, her family is helping her tidy things up.
Marty broke her hip in February, and though she breezed through surgery, it marked the beginning of her decline. In spring, she moved near her son in Florida. A few weeks ago, she entered hospice care, lovingly tended to in her home.
My last visit, via FaceTime, was on her birthday, September 19. I stopped on the way home from a client. Behind me stretched the sunny faces of Liberty Farm’s Sunflower Maze, which brightened her day and mine—a mo-

ment I’ll always cherish.
Speaking of hospice, the Karen Ann Quinlan Home for Hospice in Fredon, NJ, will have its last day of operations on November 14, 2025. The news, though sad, wasn’t surprising. A few months ago, they began using only six of the ten rooms to reduce costs while maintaining their exceptional care.
I’ve witnessed that care firsthand as a Music Therapy volunteer alongside my friend Ken Roberts for nearly nine years. Ken began the day the doors opened eleven years ago. Recently, John Quinlan, the Foundation’s Director, thanked us for our service—though honestly, it’s been a gift to us. He explained that since the pandemic, nursing shortages and the cost of agency staff have strained budgets. Once patient numbers exceed seven, staffing must double to ensure proper care.
The nurses and caregivers at Karen Ann Quinlan are extraordinary—angels on earth. This end-of-life residence shows what genuine compassion looks like. To know such care is unsustainable is heartbreaking, especially after seeing the inadequate conditions my mother endured years ago in Virginia, and hearing of others’ similar experiences.
Closer to home, many recall the tragic headlines surrounding the former Andover Subacute II, later renamed Woodland Behavioral and Nursing Center, where neglect



shocked the nation.
Thankfully, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, the nonprofit agency, will continue serving patients in their homes and at nursing facilities. Their statement assured the community:
“While the inpatient residence will close, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice and Quinlan Palliative Care will continue without interruption. Our team will remain by your side, offering the same excellence and empathy that have defined our care for nearly half a century.”
The beautiful building overlooking farmland will remain in use for offices, a Bereavement Center, volunteer training, and events. Perhaps someday, with new funding, the Home for Hospice will reopen—continuing its legacy of exceptional care.
Last week, we spoke of the sequence of falling leaves and how they nourish the earth for the next season of growth.

Their role doesn’t end; it transforms. The same is true for us—and for the good work of agencies like the Karen Ann Quinlan Home for Hospice.
The gifts my friend Marty has shared through her plant wisdom and design talents over our 25 years together will continue to grow in my work—beautifying landscapes organically to nurture a healthier world. Our love and friendship, like the seasons, will never

truly end.
Ken Roberts and I are working on a project, “The Songs of Hospice,” a collection celebrating life’s final chapter through the healing gift of music, to raise awareness and help raise funds.
At the recent High Tea Fundraiser, Julia Quinlan, now 97, attended with her signature grace. As the event wound down, Ken and I sat beside her and sang Over the Rainbow, her daughter Karen Ann’s

favorite song. When we finished, Julia took my hand and said, “Promise me that when I am gone, you will continue to sing.”
We will, I promised her—we will keep singing for all whose love continues to grow beyond the seasons of life.
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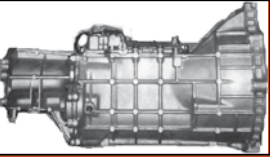
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21st Annual Party for Poppa K Golf Tournament Raises Critical Funds for Bloom for Women

Bloom, an organization dedicated to providing sanctuary and a continuum of care to heal, empower and employ survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, is proud to announce that the 21st Annual Party for Poppa K Golf Tournament, held on Friday, September 26, 2025, at Olde Homestead Golf Club, raised over \$50,000 in critical funding to support survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Lehigh Valley. The event brought together golfers, community leaders, and longtime supporters in a powerful display of generosity and hope.

Founded by Pete Kareha to honor the memory of his father, Party for Poppa K (PFPK) has grown into a cherished annual tradition. What began as a gathering to “make lemonade out of lemons” has evolved into a movement of positivity – bringing people together to celebrate life while giving back to those in need.

“We were introduced to Bloom through one of our friends and steering committee members,” explains Pete Kareha, founder of Party for Poppa K. “Bloom’s core mission, regional impact footprint, small-yet-mighty organizational size and passionate leadership made it the perfect fit for our 2025 Party for Poppa

K non-profit beneficiary. In 2025, we raised \$54,500 thanks to over 100 sponsors, donors, golfers, and supporters from around the country. This raises Party for Poppa K’s life-time fundraising total to over \$375,000 since 2004, and over half of that amount has been raised in the last four years, which is a testament to the growth in generosity of our community of supporters.”

Funds raised through this year’s event will directly support Bloom’s comprehensive continuum of care, which includes emergency response, long-term residential care, outreach services, and workforce development.



“Partnerships like Party for Poppa K make a tangible difference,” said Bloom CEO Carol Andersen. “The generosity of this community ensures survivors have a safe place to heal, the resources to rebuild, and the opportunity to flourish.”

About Party for Poppa K

Created as a tribute to Pete Kareha’s father, Party for Poppa K embodies the spirit of resilience—reminding participants each year of our capacity to celebrate life and turn lemons into lemonade even in the face of adversity. Now, in its 21st year, the event continues to uplift causes that champion positivity and the endurance of the human spirit.

About Bloom for Women

Bloom for Women, Inc. is a faith-based non-profit organization with the mission of providing sanctuary and a continuum of care to heal, empower and employ survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. As part of its mission, Bloom offers emergency response, a two-year residential program, pregnant and parenting survivor services, and an independent living program in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania. Bloom follows the model and is a sister community of the remarkably successful Thistle Farms Nashville program. Additionally, Bloom offers direct-to-survivor outreach, community education and prevention services, including serving male, children and youth survivors. Furthermore, the Bloom Creative Studio, located in Bangor, Pa., is a social enterprise to leverage art as a healing tool and provide employment opportunities for survivors. Bloom also has a women’s charity boutique, My Sister’s Closet, based in Bethlehem, Pa., offering curated, pre-loved clothing and accessories; and providing employment for survivors, community volunteer opportunities, and financial support for the organization. To learn more about Bloom, visit: www.bloomforwomen.org.



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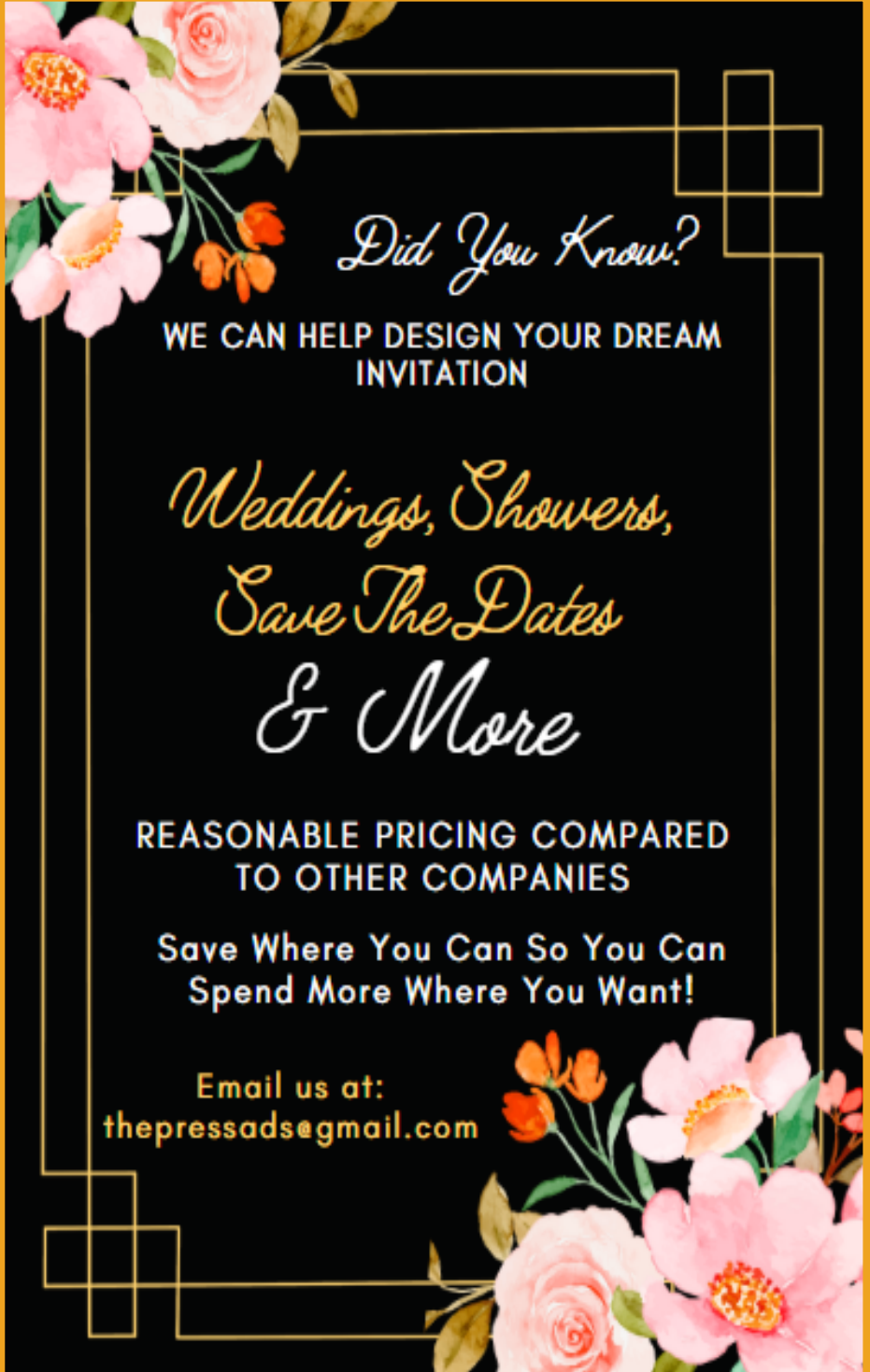
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BENEFIT PORTLAND
HOOK & LADDER CO. #1
VOL. FIRE DEPT.



FMI contact Jim Steele at
610-216-4191 or email
info@portlandhookandladder.com



Next Show Date: March 15th, 2026

'Tis The Season

The Holidays are right around the corner get your advertising space reserved today!

Full Page Ads 10in w x 15.5in h Only \$300	Half Page Ads 10in w x 8in h Only \$200	Quarter Page Ads 4.95in w x 8in h Only \$150	Front Page Banner Ads 10in w x 2in h Only \$225 *First Come First Serve*
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Holiday Greetings Ad Special:
2x2 - \$25, 2x3 - \$35, 3x3 - \$50
For Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Years Editions

Email Melissa at: thepressads@gmail.com or call 484-988-0969