

Email Melissa at thepressads@gmail.com

On September 15th Bangor, Pen Argyl, Catasauqua, Wilson, Salisbury, Northwestern and Southern Lehigh competed against each other in a 7 team Cross Country Meet. This was also Bangor's Senior Night. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

PEN ARGYL (7) VS. NOTRE DAME GREEN POND (55) FOOTBALL
& HALL OF FAME NIGHT



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press



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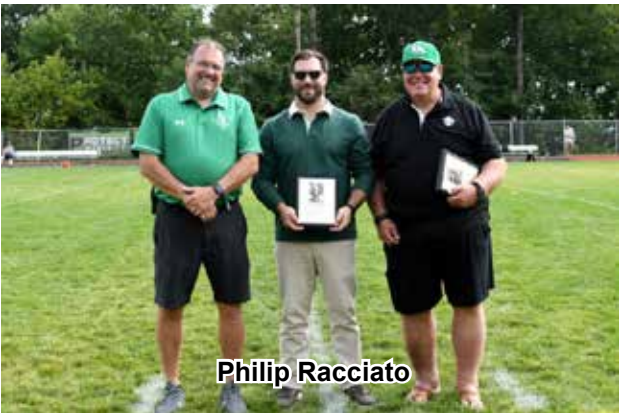
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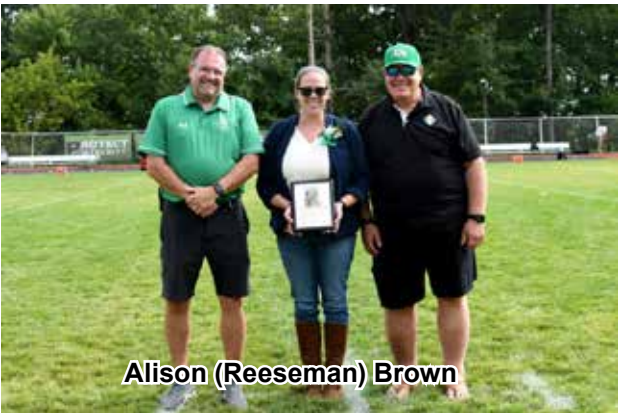
PEN ARGYL (7) VS. NOTRE DAME GREEN POND (55) FOOTBALL & HALL OF FAME NIGHT CONTINUED



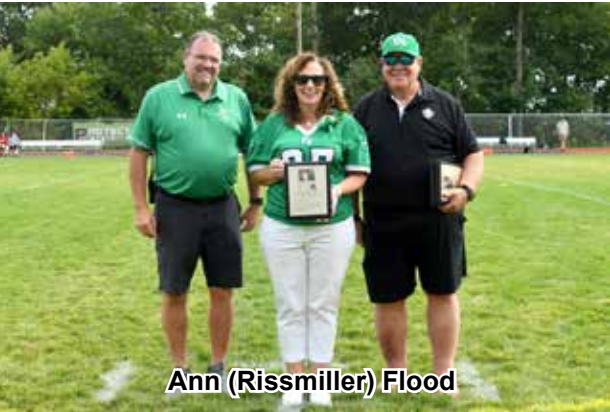
Alison Jones and Leslie Carrescia presenting for their brother Eric Doney



Philip Racciato



Alison (Reese) Brown



Ann (Rissmiller) Flood



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

New to the Bangor Public Library

39 S Main St, Bangor, PA 18013
Phone: (610) 588-4136

Adult Fiction:

Tempest by Victoria Aveyard; *Midnight Curfew* by Penelope Douglas; *Fallen Stars* by Imani Erriu; *The Thoroughbreds* by Elin Hilderbrand; *The Witches of Cambridge: A Novel* by Alice Hoffman; *Exit Party: A Novel* by Emily St. John Mandel; *Love Felt Like This* by Julie Olivia; *Fury in Death* by J. D. Robb; *Reckoning* by Sharon Sala; *The Gates of Midnight* by Helene Wecker

Adult Non Fiction:

Plot Twist: Life, Craft, and the Messy First Draft by Harlan Coben; *Training for Your Old Lady Body: A Guide to Building Muscle and Mobility at Any Age* by Elizabeth Davies; *The Home-school Bible: Everything You Need to Build a Thriving Home Education* by Mandy Davis; *The Complete Language of Herbs: A Definitive and Illustrated History* by S. Theresa Dietz; *Protocols: An Operating Manual for the Human Body* by Andrew Huberman; *The Rise and Fall of the Artificial State* by Jill Lepore; *I, Julius Caesar: A Graphic History of an Extraordinary Destiny* by Alfred de Montesquiou; *A Neighbors Primer to Organizing, Advocacy, and the Urgency of Community* by Armando Moritz-Chapelliquen; *Up on Cove Mountain: Adventure, Tragedy, and a Quest for Meaning on the Appalachian Trail* by Earl Swift; *Jane Austen's Garden: A Botanical Tour of the Classic Novels* by Molly Williams

Easy Fiction:

Heads and Tails by John Canty; *Fall: A Seasons Story* by Kelsey E. Gross; *The Bear Out There* by Jess Hannigan; *Vlad is Mad!* By Su Moon; *Frankenkitty* by Maudie Powell-Tuck; *Pumpkin Smash* by Michelle Schaub; *The Skeleton and the Cat* by Brandon James Scott; *Dr. Seuss's Spooky Things* by Dr. Suess; *All Kinds of Things*; *A First Book About Sorting* by Frances Stickley; *A Happy Place* by Britta Teckentrup; *The Chairs: A Story About the Power of Community* by Britta Teckentrup

Easy Non Fiction:

A Riddle of Eels by Nicholas Day

Junior Fiction:

Dobby by J. K. Rowling; *Minecraft: The Manga 7* by Kazuyoshi Seto; *Baby –Sitters on Board!* By Raina Teigemeier

Young Adult Fiction:

Teen Titans: Together by Kami Garcia; *Akira Failing in Love: 4* by Shinta Harekawa

DVDs:

Minions & Monsters; *The Sheep Detectives*; *Supergirl*

New to the Blue Mountain Community Library

Blue Mountain Community Library News:

The library is located at 216 S. Robinson Ave. in Pen Argyl. Open hours are Monday-Saturday 10am-12pm and Monday and Thursday 6-8pm. Questions? Call 610-863-3029 or email info@bmcl.org.

Our new stairlift has been installed, thanks to grant funding from both the Green Knight Economic Development Corporation and Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities via the American Library Association. It will be inspected and ready for use soon.

Stop by to see our beautiful new siding, lighting, and lettering on our building, via Wagner's Wood Specialties, thanks to a generous grant from the Green Knight Economic Development Corporation.

Get your ticket now for a special luncheon with author Lee Upton on Thurs., Oct. 8 at 12pm at Grace United Methodist Church, 404 E. Mountain Ave., Pen Argyl. Tickets are \$15 and available at the library through Sept. 26. Cash or check. Visit www.leeupton.com and check out one of her books!

Fall Preschool Storytime will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10:30am: Oct. 7 and 21, Nov. 4 and 18, and Dec. 2 and 16. Participants are required to register for each storytime they plan to attend; send child's name, birthdate, parent/guardian's name, and phone number to info@bmcl.org, or provide this info at the library or via 610-863-3029. Deadline is Monday two days prior to each storytime. Spots are limited.

Our Readers' Raffle will continue through September! Every time you use your library card, get a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Zanette's Nazareth Grill!

The adult book discussion group next meets on Tues., Sept. 8 at 6:30pm to discuss "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters. Email info@bmcl.org to RSVP.

Thanks to donors, we have new wooden puzzles and a cute new table and chairs in the children's room! Come check them out - and try our school-themed scavenger hunt for September.

New to the circulating collection:

Adult fiction:

The Unicorn Hunters (Katherine Arden); *Seek the Traitor's Son* (Veronica Roth); *Project Hail Mary* (Andy Weir); *Want to Know a Secret?* (Freida McFadden); *The Intruder* (Freida McFadden)

Large print:

Ghost to the Rescue (Carolyn Hart); *An Island Wedding* (Jenny Colgan); *Jacqueline in Paris* (Ann Mah)

YA fiction:

Amethyst: Princess of Gemworld (Shannon Hale and Dean Hale); *The Okay Witch* (Emma Steinkellner); *Table Titans Club* (Scott Kurtz); *Crown of Midnight* (Sarah J. Maas); *Frank Herbert's Dune* [graphic novel] (Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson); *George Washington* (Jeffrey Finegan)

YA nonfiction:

Lafayette! [graphic novel] (Nathan Hale); *Total Olympics* (Jeremy Fuchs); *The King of Sting* (Coyote Peterson)

Juvenile fiction:

Poppleton (Cynthia Rylant); *Call of the Sound Dragon* (Tracey West); *Amy the Amethyst Fairy* (Daisy Meadows); *Prism's Paint* (Emily Bliss); *Vacation Dreams* (Sue Bentley); *Dory and the Real True Friend* (Abby Hanlon); *Intergalactic Gas* (Aaron Blabey); *Peanut Butter and Jelly* (Ben Clanton); *Narwhal's Otter Friend* (Ben Clanton); *InvestiGATORS Heist and Seek* (John Patrick Green); *The Seals on the Bus* (Lenny Hort); *This Book Is Perfect!* (Ron Keres); *Pete the Cat and the New Guy* (Kimberly and James Dean); *The World Needs More Purple People* (Kristen Bell and Benjamin Hart); *5-Minute Pinkalicious Stories* (Victoria Kann); *Trollbella Throws a Party* (Chris Colfer)

Juvenile nonfiction:

Who Would Win? (Jerry Pallotta); *Lions* (Amy Sky Koster); *Weird Sea Creatures* (Laura Marsh); *What Was the Gold Rush?* (Joan Holub); *What Was the Titanic?* (Stephanie Sabol); *What Was Woodstock?* (Joan Holub); *The Everything Kids' Science Experiments Book* (Tom Robinson); *Explorers: Triumphs and Troubles* (Paul Mason); *100,000 Whys* (Ryan Hale); *The Marvelous Thing That Came from a Spring* (Gilbert Ford)

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SEPTEMBER 26

Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



Mary E. Stone
Stone Associates
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Hello fellow readers,
To weed or not to weed knotweed? That was the question—or should I say controversy—after working in my dear client Karen’s garden last Saturday.

Japanese knotweed and I go back a ways. In a September 2018 column about roadside beauties, I admired its showy white, lacy flowers while acknowledging its aggressive ways. Japanese knotweed (Reynoutria japonica), also called Asian knotweed, tells its origin. Though shrublike, it isn’t woody but a hefty herbaceous perennial in the buckwheat family. Its hollow stems look bamboo-like and grow ten to thirteen feet tall.

Some call it Fleece Flower, Monkey Weed, or Donkey Rhubarb. They say it tastes like very sour rhubarb, and you’d have to be dumb as a donkey to eat it. The thing is, donkeys aren’t dumb. They are pretty smart but indeed stubborn. But we can’t blame an animal for digging in its heels to protect itself.

Showy sprays of white flowers cover the colonizing plants from late summer into fall. Pollinators adore the plethora of plumes when not much else is blooming—the buzz catching the attention of passersby.

Beautiful, yes. But I’ve learned much more about this beauty since then.

Four years later, I came upon my new neighbor Susan fervently

pulling knotweed from the construction site of the home she and her husband were building. Jolee and I often stopped to visit. Susan pulled and pulled, determined to rid the property of the colony I once admired along the roadside.

And she got rid of the knotweed completely, which brings me back to Karen’s garden.

Knotweed had taken hold along one side of her lake property. Like me, Karen prefers avoiding chemicals when possible, but she’d hired a company to cut and treat the knotweed with glyphosate. The treatment knocked it back dramatically, though new plants eventually emerged.

Toward the end of our gardening day Saturday, I started pulling them. They came surprisingly easily, many with long stretches of root attached.

Karen was delighted. Then she went online. Uh-oh!

Soon came worried emails explaining that pulling knotweed can stimulate regrowth and that even tiny pieces of rhizome can produce new plants. Worse yet, Karen had read that knotweed could damage foundations and even cause insurance problems. Some truth is tangled in the fear.

Japanese knotweed’s extensive rhizomes make established colonies notoriously difficult to eradicate. Merely chopping off the tops won’t do it. But non-chemical management is possible. University of Maryland Extension advises repeatedly removing every new shoot before it can replenish the underground rhizomes; over time can exhaust the plant, though it may take years. Digging rhizomes and long-term smothering are other strategies.

And those frightening stories about houses? Much of the notoriety comes from the United Kingdom, where knot-



weed once caused some mortgage lenders to reject affected properties. More recent research found the risk to substantial buildings was overstated. Current British surveying guidelines focus on actual damage and interference with the property’s use, rather than knotweed’s presence alone.

In other words, knotweed needs attention—but not panic.

Susan’s property has become my favorite case study. Her approach wasn’t a casual yank now and then. She was relentless, removing new growth again and again until the colony surrendered.

Karen’s situation is different because her knotweed was already professionally treated, and what I pulled was the greatly diminished regrowth. We’ll keep watching and researching before deciding the next step.



One thing I’ve learned since admiring those September roadside beauties eight years ago: Nature rarely fits neatly into categories of good and bad. Knotweed feeds pollinators when not much else is blooming. And gardeners can make use of the invader’s hollow stems by bundling them as nesting habitat for solitary, tunnel-nesting native bees.

Yes, it behaves badly underground, much like



mugwort (Artemisia vulgaris) and other invaders that are difficult to eradicate.

But the answer to a garden dilemma isn’t fear. It’s paying attention, learning more, and patiently pulling the undesirables. The same is true in our Garden of Life.

Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com or tune in on your favorite Podcast App.



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Former Trenton Water Works Employee Sentenced to Three Years in Prison for Failing to Collect Samples and Submitting False Test Data



Attorney General Jennifer Davenport and the Division of Criminal Justice today announced that a former Trenton Water Works (TWW) sample collector was sentenced to three years in prison for allegedly failing to collect water samples and falsifying water quality reports.

Cesar Lugo, 38, of Trenton, previously pleaded guilty to third-degree tampering with public records and violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As part of the plea agreement, the State agreed to recommend a three-year prison sentence for both crimes of conviction to run concurrently, with a two-year parole ineligibility term.

“Safe drinking water is a fundamental need, and it is critical that the people charged with keeping our water supplies safe and clean do their jobs with diligence and professionalism,” said Attorney General Davenport. “This defendant chose to break the law, without regard for New Jersey’s residents. Today’s sentence demonstrates that there are serious consequences for such a choice.”

“Falsifying water sampling reports goes beyond putting people’s health at risk, it damages public trust in an essential public service,” said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Ed Potosnak.

“Clean drinking water is a human right and the bedrock underpinning strong communities. Today’s sentencing reaffirms public trust in government systems by delivering accountability.”

“This defendant’s actions were a serious breach of the responsibility entrusted to him as a public employee,” said DCJ Interim Director Martha Nye. “Today’s sentence holds him accountable for those actions and underscores that those who abuse positions of public trust will be held responsible.”

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court, between October 1, 2023 and November 13, 2023, Lugo was employed as a water sample collector for TWW. During this time, he knowingly submitted fraudulent or falsified water testing results and fraudulent or falsified chain of custody forms to TWW, in violation of the SDWA, which mandates accurate water testing and reporting. On numerous occasions, Lugo failed to conduct the required water collections altogether, yet continued to submit timesheets falsely certifying that he had performed his work and was entitled to payment.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Dom Stockton-Rossini from DCJ’s Regulatory Unit.

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As students settle in for the new school year, they should know about a resource available if they’re concerned about the wellbeing of themselves or others.

Authorized by the General Assembly, Safe2Say Something is a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. The program teaches youth and adults how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and to “say something” before it is too late.

Students can report concerns by phone at 844-723-2729, by emailing info@safe2saypa.org or on the Safe2Say website, where they can also download the Safe-2Say Something app.

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Vererans Appreciation Breakfast & Mini Expo



Photo by Dale Young/
The Free Weekly Press



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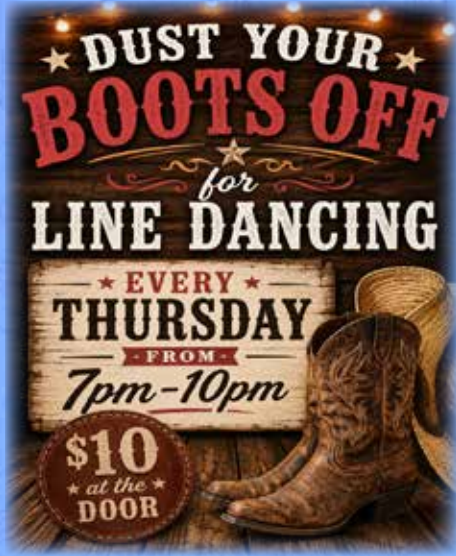


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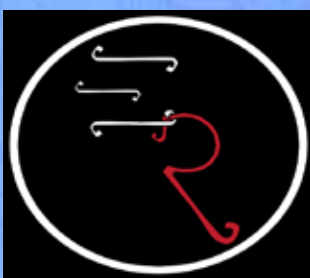
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BANGOR CROSS COUNTRY SENIORS



Bangor Honored the following Cross Country Seniors on September 15th: Emma Chaney, Bella Harvey, Leah Hoffer, Anna Koehler, Hayden Kline and Sabrina Poltorak. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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BANGOR (5) VS SALISBURY (0) SENIOR NIGHT GIRLS TENNIS



Grace Apgar with her mother, Stephanie and Stepfather, Cory



Grace Apgar with her father, Scott and Stepmother, Jessica



Lauren Belo with her parents, Carmen and Michael



Carly Nugent with her parents, Michael and Tina



Abby and Sophie Romeo with their parents, Cathy and Mike



Maura Scarfaro with her parents, Audrey and Peter



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BANGOR (5) VS SALISBURY (0) SENIOR NIGHT GIRLS TENNIS CONTINUED



Evelyn Hendershot with her parents, Braden and Christine



Alexia Ludwig with her parents, Krista and Jeffery



Maddi Lehman with her parents, Robert and Ashley



Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press



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Veterans Assistance

AT THE MONROE COUNTY OFFICE

State Senator Rosemary Brown and the American Legion Department of Pennsylvania are partnering to offer assistance to veterans of the 40th Senatorial District in her Scotrun office.

Second Tuesday of Each Month

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

★ 2398 Route 611, Suite 201 Scotrun, PA 18355

A Department Service Officer with the Pennsylvania American Legion will be on site to assist veterans with issues including:

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- ★ EDUCATION BENEFITS
- ★ ENROLLMENT IN THE VA HEALTH SYSTEM
- ★ BURIAL AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS
- ★ STATE BENEFITS
- ★ OBTAINING MILITARY PERSONNEL & MEDICAL RECORDS

Contact Senator Brown's office at (570) 620-4326 to schedule an appointment.

Senator Rosemary M. Brown

Veterans do not need to be a member of the American Legion to receive these services.

Visit SenatorBrown40.com for additional information.

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Grant To Support Drone Training For Local Police And Educators Awarded

A new grant from FirstEnergy Foundation to the Warren County Community College Foundation is helping to provide training to technology educators and police officers from throughout the region at the college's nationally known drone program, leading toward certification to fly unmanned systems.

The FirstEnergy Foundation is donating \$55,000 to New Jersey educational programs focused on electrical trades and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programming. The grants are part of more than \$5.5 million in community support distributed across FirstEnergy's service area to date in 2025 and are going to five vocational school and community college programs.

The company says its commitment to customers "extends beyond delivering safe, reliable electricity to engaging meaningfully and investing in the communities we serve.

Doug Mokoid, FirstEnergy's president of New Jersey, said, "We need to prepare the next generation to meet those de-



mands, whether they are working on electrical systems, flying drones or engineering the next great device. STEM is a vital part of the future. New Jersey has been at the center of innovation since the invention of the light bulb, and we're proud to help continue that great tradition in the communities we serve."

The \$15,000 grant to Warren is helping defray the cost of Part 107, FAA Remote Pilot Certificate exam prep training for 20 high school STEM teachers and 10 police officers at WarrenUAS, the college's unmanned systems program.

"With ongoing tight budgets for both school districts and local police departments, high-tech training is not always accessible for these community heroes," said

Pete Miller, chief pilot at WarrenUAS. "We believe more training in unmanned systems is critical in many sectors and this is one way WarrenUAS can make it easier for these professionals to gain it."

The next and final class will be held this fall and the college is taking applications from school districts for their STEM teachers.

"Drone technology is the future of many industries as well as critical now for public safety. Pilot training and acquiring an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate is essential for law enforcement and first responders in today's world."

He noted that police are using drones in many beneficial ways such as search and rescue, reconnaissance of dangerous

locations, and suspect tracking.

Delaware Township Police Chief Robert Illes said he participated to understand the technology today and prepare for the future.

"Use of drones is, and will be, incorporated into law enforcement operations for years to come. From search and rescue, crime scene investigations, to serious and fatal traffic accidents, drone usage will become the norm as departments incorporate their use," he said.

He said the understanding he gained about the complex FAA regulations that surround using drones was very valuable, along with the hands-on experience the participants had using some of the extensive unmanned systems at WarrenUAS.

He noted, for example, that his township has an aging population and is fairly rural and his department receives calls about elderly residents with dementia becoming lost. Drones, he noted can

search over a vast area without having to call in a New Jersey State Police helicopter.

"Having been a flight simulator enthusiast since my younger days, I've also had an interest for the past 5 to 10 years to get into the field of drone flying but never had the opportunity," he said.

He said his department is actively searching for a cost effective drone in the next budget year, which will allow the department to gain an understanding of the technology and begin putting it to work

"Our obligation as a community college is to serve the community. Making this important training more accessible to our community partners helps fulfill our mission," Miller said.

Through a robust STEM program at high schools, students can be exposed to these new expanding technologies giving them the opportunity to broaden their options for chosen career paths.

The classes conducted at Warren's state-of-the-art UAS labs were limited to ten students at a time and span four days which include live flight time for the participants.

Participating school districts: Allentown School District (PA); Delaware Valley Regional High School (NJ); Hillsborough Township Public Schools (NJ); Hunterdon Central Regional High

School (NJ); Manville School District (NJ); Mountain Lakes School District (NJ); North Warren Regional School District (NJ); Pequannock Township School District (NJ); Randolph High School (NJ); Roxbury High School (NJ); Warren Hills Regional High School (NJ)

Participating police departments: Sparta (NJ); Washington Township (NJ); Nazareth Borough (NJ); Delaware Township (NJ); Mount Olive (NJ); Mansfield Township (NJ); Franklin Borough (NJ); Hopatcong (NJ); Clinton (NJ); Newton (NJ)

WarrenUAS is accepting 10 teacher nominations from any local school district not having already participated in the unique program. The next course will be held November 11– 20, 2026, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Deadline for submissions is Friday October 9, 2026.

Interested teachers and school administrators should contact Dawn Smith at 908-835-4029 or dsmith@warren.edu for nomination information for this grant-funded program, sponsored by the FirstEnergy Foundation.

WarrenUAS draws students from around northern New Jersey as well as the greater Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania. WarrenUAS also trains law enforcement from around the United States.



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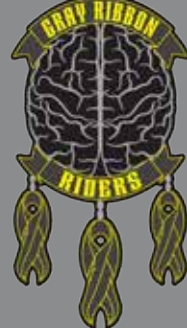
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Flood Announces \$2 Million in Grant Funding Secured for Local Projects

Rep. Ann Flood (R-Northampton) today announced more than \$2 million in Local Share Account (LSA) funding for 17 projects across the 138th Legislative District. The funding will support public safety, emergency response, infrastructure and essential community services throughout Northampton County.

“Our communities have important needs that directly affect the safety and quality of life of our residents,” said Flood. “I’m pleased to see funding going toward projects that will strengthen emergency response, improve infrastructure and help our local governments and organizations continue providing essential services.”

The funding will support the following projects:

Bushkill Township: \$90,738 for a new police K-9 vehicle.

Forks Township: \$56,442 to modernize its police body-worn camera system and \$200,000 toward updated police and fire radios.

Moore Township: \$66,000 for a new police vehicle; \$125,000 toward a public works excavator; and \$42,490 for a digital sign to provide emergency alerts, public safety information, community announcements and other municipal updates.

Pen Argyl Borough: \$127,640 for 14 updated mobile radios for the Slate Belt Regional Police Department.

Plainfield Township: \$200,000 toward an upgraded radio system for its volunteer fire company.

Upper Mount Bethel Township: \$200,000 toward new P25-compliant radios for the North Bangor Fire Company and \$165,000 to rehabilitate the Shady Lane Bridge following inspections that identified structural issues and scour damage.

Washington Township: \$100,000 toward a new dump truck with a snowplow attachment, \$100,000 toward a new tanker for the Washington Township Volunteer Fire Company and \$100,000 for road-maintenance equipment.

Roseto Borough: \$75,000 to replace its aging leaf vacuum used to maintain borough streets and sidewalks.

Wind Gap Municipal Authority: \$100,000 toward replacement of deteriorated sewer mains along Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington streets and \$185,000 toward rehabilitation of the Wood Alley sewer mains.

Roseto Borough Sewer Authority: \$100,000 for sanitary sewer improvements, including pipe cleaning, inspections and structural lining to reduce wet-weather flow and improve system reliability.

Northampton County: \$110,000 on behalf of Bloom for Women Inc. to renovate the Jasmine House in Bangor Borough, a safe house for survivors of sex trafficking. The project will renovate the home’s kitchen, bathrooms and multipurpose room and increase its residential capacity from six to 10 residents.

The Local Share Account program is funded by gaming revenues under Pennsylvania’s Race Horse Development and Gaming Act and administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. It supports projects that improve the quality of life for residents, including public safety, infrastructure and community development initiatives.

Hundreds Flock to Polo Match to Support Project Self-Sufficiency - Second Annual Event Supports Services for Low-Income Families

Hundreds of individuals and families recently came out to support local non-profit agency Project Self-Sufficiency at the second annual Polo Classic, a friendly competition featuring players from teams sponsored by First Hope Bank and Lakeside Construction, at the stunning Grayfields Polo Club in Allamuchy.

In addition to the exciting sporting event which ended in a tie, the festive afternoon featured tailgates, vendors, live music, a silent auction, gourmet food and beverages, children’s activities, and other attractions. Presenting sponsor Mercedes-Benz of Newton displayed several automobiles on site. Proceeds from the friendly competition benefited the agency’s services for low-income individuals and families in northwest New Jersey.

Following a champagne reception for major donors, the event kicked off with the national anthem performed by Senior Airman Gianna Perez, United States Air Force. With the match underway, VIP ticketholders were treated to hors d’oeuvres, fine cuisine, and signature drinks catered by Andre’s Lakeside Dining. Tailgate sponsors enjoyed a catered lunch from Krave.

“We are delighted with the turnout and the creativity displayed by so many of our friends and neighbors, and we are honored by the commitment from presenting sponsor Mercedes-Benz of Newton, as well as First Hope Bank and Lakeside Construction for their sponsorship of the two teams again this year,” noted Project Self-Sufficiency Chief Executive Officer Deborah Berry-Toon.

“We are indebted to the Grayfields Polo Club for their dedication to raising funds for the programs and services which are essential to the struggling families in our area.”

During half-time, spectators were encouraged to take part in the treasured tradition of divot stomping, smoothing the field for the second half of the polo match while accompanied by a spirited musical performance from the Mike Lawlor Band. Throughout the event, other activities included competitions for best hat and best tailgate, a silent auction, and naming of the match MVP and Best Playing Polo.



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Allentown Rescue Mission Announces This Year’s Christmas Card Winner

The Allentown Rescue Mission is excited to announce the winner of its Christmas in July holiday card contest, Anthony M. In a narrow one-vote victory, Anthony’s The Little Christmas Tree painting edged out the additional nine entries. As the winner, Anthony’s painting will be featured on the Allentown Rescue Mission’s 2026 Christmas card, and his story will be highlighted inside.

All the paintings were created in the Mission’s Therapeutic Art Class by guests residing at the Mission.

Anthony, a first-time painter, channeled his lifelong creativity into his featured piece. His passion for music began at age seven, and he still plays the guitar at the Mission in his spare



time. When asked about his victory, Anthony declared, “I’m shocked that I won! Thank you to everyone who voted and to the donors who are the lifeblood of this organization. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Prosperous New Year to all.”

Anthony came to the Allentown Rescue Mission’s Emergency Shelter because of financial



difficulties.

After his father passed away, Anthony returned to his childhood home and found the house in extreme disrepair. Determined to save it, he poured his savings into renovations; however, his father had neglected to pay his property taxes, and the house was sold before the restorations could be finished.

At the Mission, An-

thony joined the Transformation Program, an eight-week faith-based program designed to change the trajectory of the participant’s life. After graduating from the program, he began working for the Clean Team Workforce as a staff member in the Mission’s Emergency Shelter. Today, he helps rescue men experiencing homelessness, just



as he was supported not so long ago.

The Allentown Rescue Mission would like to thank all the guests who participated in the contest. The contest and Christmas card would not be possible without their willingness to take a risk and put their talents in the public eye.

The Allentown Rescue Mission, a 501c3, 145 bed non-profit home-

less 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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