

Serving the Slate Belt in Pennsylvania and Warren,
Sussex and Hunterdon Counties in New Jersey

The
Free
Weekly
Take One!

PRESS



www.thepressnewsonline.com | www.facebook.com/ThePRESSNewsOnline

October 14, 2026

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Vol. 53, No. 12



We are Moving!

On October 31st, 2026
We will be moving to our **NEW** location

670 Allegheny Road, Mt. Bethel, PA

Keep an Eye Out for Updates!

Same Great Service, Just a New Location!

www.hhoutdoorps.com | 610-588-6614 | info@hornsooutdoor.com





This Banner
Could Be
Yours!
Contact
Melissa at

thepressads@
gmail.com



**OUR
MAILING
ADDRESS IS**

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

FIND THIS PAPER ON
FACEBOOK & Online at
www.thepressnewsonline.com



Bangor Wins 5-0 In Field Hockey Game Against Wilson



Bangor went head to head against Wilson High School during their Breast Cancer Night, Field Hockey Game on October 8th. Bangor won, 5 to 0. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Residents Urged to Properly Store Garbage and Remove Food Sources to Avoid Attracting Bears as Fall Foraging Season Begins

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife is calling on the public to avoid attracting bears to properties by properly storing garbage and eliminating access to other sources of food around their yards or while outdoors. Fall brings a period of heightened black bear activity, and these important steps help reduce the likelihood for encounters with black bears.

"Black bears are preparing to den up for the winter and need to consume large amounts of food in the fall," said NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Assistant Commissioner David Golden. "Bears have an incredible sense of smell and can home in on potential food sources at long distances. This can bring bears into neighborhoods and camps if food sources such as household garbage and camping supplies are



not properly secured and bear proofed."

It is also extremely important for people to never feed black bears. Intentionally feeding bears is illegal in New Jersey and carries a fine of up to \$1,000. After learning to associate people with food, these animals can become nuisance bears that cause property damage and become danger-

ous. Reduce Potential for Bear Conflicts

To minimize potential conflicts, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife recommends: Secure trash and eliminate obvious sources of food such as pet food bowls, easy-to-reach bird feeders, or food residue left on barbecue grills. Use certified bear-

BEARS cont'd on pg 2

Pen Argyl Crowns 2026-2027 Homecoming King and Queen



Pen Argyl took on Catasauqua in their Homecoming Football game on October 10th. Pen Argyl was defeated, 31 to 13. Pictured above is this year's Homecoming King, Reid Kotulka and Homecoming Queen, Kayla Gloth. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Kean, and Colleagues Introduce Legislation to Address Fentanyl Crisis in New Jersey



Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07), Congressman Jeff Van Drew (NJ-02), Congressman Andrew Garbarino (NY-02), and Congressman Mike Lawler (NY-17) introduced the Fight Against Fentanyl Act, a bill to permit the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to be used for the purchase of fentanyl testing kits and opioid reversal agents by law enforce-

ment agencies. The Byrne JAG grant program is the leading source of federal funding to state and local police jurisdictions. The Fight Against Fentanyl Act would amend the Byrne JAG program to allow for state and local police agencies to purchase fentanyl test kits and opioid reversal agents using federal funds. "Access to fentanyl **CRISIS cont'd on pg 2**

BEARS

Continued from pg 1

resistant garbage containers if possible. Otherwise, store all garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids and place them along the inside walls of your garage, or in the basement, a sturdy shed or other secure area.

Wash garbage containers frequently with a disinfectant solution to remove odors. Put out garbage on collection day, not the night before.

Avoid feeding birds when bears are active. If you choose to feed birds, do so during daylight hours only and bring feeders indoors at night. Suspend birdfeeders from a free-hanging wire, making sure they are at least 10 feet off the ground. Clean up spilled seeds and shells daily.

Immediately remove all uneaten food and food bowls used by pets fed outdoors.

Clean outdoor grills and utensils to remove food and grease residue. Store grills securely.

Do not place meat, dairy or any sweet foods in compost piles.

Remove fruit or nuts that fall from trees in

your yard.

Properly install electric fencing as an effective way to protect crops, beehives and livestock.

Motorists are reminded to drive with caution and watch out for bears that may be near or on roadways.

Black Bear Safety Tips

If you encounter a black bear in your neighborhood or outdoors while hiking or camping, follow these safety tips:

Remain calm. Never run from a bear, as this may trigger its predatory instinct. Instead, slowly back away. Avoid direct eye contact, which may be perceived by a bear as a challenge. Make sure the bear has an escape route.

To scare the bear away, make loud noises by yelling, using a whistle, banging pots and pans, or blowing an air horn. Make yourself look as big as possible by waving your arms. If you are with someone else, stand close together with your arms raised above your head.

Make bears aware of your presence by speaking in an assertive voice, singing, clapping your hands, or making other noises. If hiking through bear country, always make your presence known through

loud talking or clapping of hands.

If a bear utters a series of huffs, makes popping jaw sounds by snapping its jaws or swats the ground, these are warning signs that you are too close. Slowly back away and avoid direct eye contact. Do not run.

If a bear stands on its hind legs or moves closer, it may be trying to get a better view or detect scents in the air. This is usually non-threatening behavior.

Black bears will sometimes “bluff charge” when cornered, threatened, or attempting to steal food. Stand your ground, avoid direct eye contact, slowly back away and do not run.

If the bear does not leave, move to a secure area, such as a vehicle or a building.

Families who live in areas frequented by black bears should have a “Bear Plan” in place for children, with an escape route and planned use of whistles and air horns.

Black bear attacks are extremely rare. If a black bear does attack, fight back.

Report black bear damage or aggressive bears to your local police department or to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife by call-



ing 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337)

Black Bears and Food Sources

Black bears are mainly found in the northwestern portion of the state, particularly Morris, Sussex, Warren and northern Passaic counties, as well as portions of Hunterdon, Somerset, and Bergen counties. However, black bears have been reported in all 21 counties.

Their natural diet is comprised of plants, berries, fruit, nuts, insects, bird eggs, small mammals, and carrion. However, black bears are opportunistic feeders and will take advantage of any food source available to them. Carefully controlling sources of food around homes and campsites, such as improperly stored trash,

can help prevent black bears from coming into backyards and campgrounds, and associating people with food.

Black Bear Educational Resources

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife continues to carry out its Know the Bear Facts black bear safety multimedia outreach campaign to share bear safety tips and public service announcements on social media, TV streaming services, programmatic display, and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife bear safety webpages and email blasts. The campaign provides messaging in English and Spanish.

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife also offers bear safety brochures and other information about living with black bears to the public, including

ready-made black bear lesson plans for educators to download free of charge from the agency’s website. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife’s Bear Outreach Specialist also offers free black bear education seminars to schools and civic groups statewide.

For more information about black bears in New Jersey, and to obtain bear safety publications or schedule a free bear education seminar, visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears/

Like NJDEP Fish & Wildlife’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NewJerseyFishandWildlife

Follow NJDEP Fish & Wildlife on Instagram @newjerseyfishandwildlife

DEP News Release: https://dep.nj.gov/news-rel/26_0045/

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

The PRESS

We Welcome Your News!

Please send your news articles, photographs, announcements and other information to us!

Email: thepressmail@gmail.com

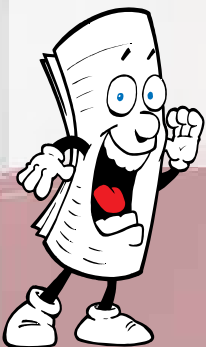
Mailing Address:
PO Box 606, Bangor, PA 18013

Deadline for submissions is noon on **FRIDAY** prior to publication date.

Advertising inquiries can be sent to thepressads@gmail.com

Call Us 484-988-0969
www.thepressnewsonline.com

Like us on Facebook!
The PRESS News Online



Please take the time to support the businesses who advertise in this newspaper. Shop Local!

Visit our website for a list of drop-off locations!



You and ME

FREE Amplifit hearing test, Only at Miracle-Ear.

Miracle Ear
1343 Blue Valley Drive,
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
610-588-3383

Miracle Ear Center
Stroud Commons (Rear of Building)
1619 N. Ninth Street,
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-476-9949



FALL AD SALE

Full Page Ads Only \$300	1/2 Page Ads Only \$200	1/4 Page Ads Only \$100	3x3 Ads Only \$65
-----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------

Offer valid on new ads, or any ads that are larger than your current contracted ad, valid now through October 28th, 2026.

Lock in Your Fall Fest & Halloween Ads TODAY!
Contact Us at 484-894-0969 or email thepressads@gmail.com

CRISIS

Continued from pg 1

testing kits and opioid reversal agents is essential to prevent overdoses and deaths,” said Congressman Kean. “It is essential that we get first responders the tools they need to combat this deadly epidemic. I am pleased to work with Represen-

tatives Van Drew, Garbarino, and Lawler to introduce this legislation to take steps towards safeguarding communities from the devastating impact of fentanyl.”

“Fentanyl is different from anything we have dealt with before because such a small amount can be deadly,” said Congressman Van Drew. “We have to attack this prob-

lem from every direction. The Fight Against Fentanyl Act is one piece of that by helping local law enforcement use existing federal grant dollars for fentanyl testing kits and overdose reversal drugs. If there is something we can put in the hands of our police officers that can help catch fentanyl or save somebody’s life, they should have it.”

Habitat for Humanity Women Build 2026 Considered a Huge Success



Habitat for Humanity NWNJ teamed up with The Arc of Warren County for a Women Build day to repair and paint the front porches of the cabins at The Arc Camp Warren in Columbia, NJ. The camp is owned by The Arc of Warren County and serves children and adults with developmental disabilities. 53 volunteers from various corporations in Warren and Sussex Counties along with Habitat for Humanity and Arc of Warren County volunteers came together to make the day a huge success. Not only did the cabin decks receive a much-needed coat of paint; benches, swings, and picnic tables were also painted. Since 1991, Habitat’s Women Build volunteers have come together from all walks of life to build stronger, safer commu-

nities. Women Build opportunities are available across the U.S., and any woman or person who wants to learn how to build or repair a home is invited to join. Women and children are the most likely to be affected by poor living conditions, and these events provide the opportunity for women to take a proactive step in serving their communities. Women Build is also a terrific way to involve your friends and family of all ages in crucial work with a lasting impact. You can also come alone and make new friends; the atmosphere is collaborative and friendly! Thank you to the sponsors that sent crews of volunteers; Franklin Mutual Insurance, Fulton Bank, Valley Bank, First Hope Bank, KPM

Exceptional LLC, JDC Power Systems, Muheisen Bagel & Deli, the Arc of Warren County, Blue Ridge Lumber. Habitat for Humanity Northwest New Jersey is a merged affiliate of Habitat for Humanity, International, combining the efforts of the Warren and Sussex County Habitat for Humanity affiliates. Having merged officially in 2025, they have served Sussex County since 1993 and Warren County since 1999. An accredited 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, Habitat’s mission is: Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. You can learn more about Habitat NWNJ at [habitatnwnj.org](#). #911#Habitat#HabitatforHumanityNWNJ

“Fentanyl continues to devastate families and communities on Long Island and across the country. I’m proud to join Congressman Kean in leading the Fight Against Fentanyl Act to ensure law enforcement has access to the tools they need to combat this deadly drug and save lives,” said Congressman Garbarino. “Substance use disorder and fentanyl are destroying families across the country, and we must work together at every level to combat this crisis. This legislation gives law enforcement the resources they need by allowing Byrne JAG grants to fund fentanyl testing kits and lifesaving opioid reversal agents that

can mean the difference between life and death. I was proud to support this legislation last Congress, and I will continue working to give our communities the tools they need to fight back,” said Congressman Lawler. Congressman Kean has been a leader in the fight against fentanyl. Earlier this year, he introduced the American Cooperation with Our Neighbors Act with Congressman Greg Stanton (AZ-04) that would direct the State Department to create a strategy for cooperation between the United States and Mexico to stop illicit fentanyl trafficking. Watch Congressman Kean speak in support of the American Coopera-

tion with Our Neighbors Act at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e47rQw-zK7s&feature=youtu.be In January 2025, Congressman Kean voted in favor of the HALT Fentanyl Act, which was signed into law later that year to reclassify fentanyl-related substances as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act. Since taking office, Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. has secured nearly \$22 million for law enforcement across New Jersey’s Seventh Congressional District through the Community Project Funding process, demonstrating a consistent, tangible commitment to backing the blue with real resources.

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.

Fall Preschool Storytime will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10:30am: Oct. 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.

Participate in our fall silent auction Oct. 12-Nov. 7. We will have many fabulous items on which to bid!
Dine at The Slate Pub on Tues., Oct. 27, and a portion of your bill will go to the library.

Order shirts and sweatshirts with the BMCL logo and get them in time for Christmas! Sizes adult S-XXXL are available in light gray or medium blue, with the BMCL logo in dark blue on the left chest. Order forms are available at the library now through Nov. 20 at noon. Samples will be available soon.

New to the circulating collection:
Adult fiction:
***This Changes Everything* (Lisa Scottoline); *Agrippa* (Robert Harris); *The Great Wherever* (Shannon Sanders); *The Most Dangerous Games* (MrBeast and James Patterson); *The Birthing Tree* (Amanda Peters); *Exit Party* (Emily St. John Mandel); *The Pirate Queen* (Ariel Lawhon); *Close Knit* (Jenny Colgan)**
Adult nonfiction:
***Are They Dead Yet?* (Sam Roberts); *Never Say Die* (Ke Huy Quan); *Famesick* (Lena Dunham); *Confronting America* (Bill O’Reilly)**
Large print:
***Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel* (Lucy Foley)**

Juvenile fiction:
- *Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman* (Dav Pilkey); *The Pug Who Wanted to Be a Pumpkin* (Bella Swift); *A Monster of a Mystery* (Franklin W. Dixon); *Miss Banks Pulls Lots of Pranks!* (Dan Gutman); *The Scarecrow* (Edgar J. Hyde); *I Survived Hurricane Katrina, 2005* (Lauren Tarshis); *The Last Kids on Earth* (Max Brallier); *Good Morning, Crayons* (Drew Daywalt); *No One Likes a Fart* (Zoe Foster Blake); *This Book Is Boring!* (Ron Keres); *Creepy Pair of Underwear!* (Aaron Reynolds)
Juvenile nonfiction:
- *Who Was Sally Ride?* (Megan Stine); *Who Was Amelia Earhart?* (Kate Boehm Jerome); *Who Was Jane Goodall?* (Roberta Edwards); *Adorable Animals* (Mary Quattlebaum); *Bats* (Elizabeth Carney); *There’s No Place Like Space!* (Tish Rabe); *The Presidents Visual Encyclopedia*; *America’s National Parks* (Alexa Ward); *Lizzie Demands a Seat!* (Beth Anderson); *The Story of Buildings* (Patrick Dillon); *Bet You Didn’t Know! 2* (National Geographic); *5,000 Awesome Facts* (National Geographic)

610-863-6670
510 E. Main St., Pen Argyl

Monday-Thursday
2 Large Plain Pizza
\$26.95*

Pick-Up or Delivery ONLY. Toppings Extra.

\$5 OFF
\$30*

*Cannot combine with any other offers. Must present coupons.

Dine-In • Take-Out • Delivery • Catering Available
Open Daily: 11am-10pm (95¢ Delivery Fee) Call for Delivery Range

PEN ARGYL SENIOR NIGHT FOR FOOTBALL, BAND, GOLF AND CROSS COUNTRY



Lily and Sophia Markopoulos with their parents, George and Chelsea



Taylor Rose with her parents, Marianne and Ted



Michael Stein with his parents, Scott and Sarah



Sophia Fitch with her parents, Lori and Alfred



Joslyn Greenwood with her parents, Melissa and Craig



Brody Hannick with his parents, Rich and Sarah



Andie Lenig with her parents, Andrew and Tamara



Liam Ramautar with his parents, Alex and Seema



James Accatino with his parents, Caitlin and Corey Harding and James Accatino



SENIOR NIGHT
PHOTOS TAKEN
BY DALE YOUNG/
THE FREE
WEEKLY PRESS

Barry Lobb
Free Estimates

LOBB'S ROOFING & SIDING
Low Cost Roofing System

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
SLATE • METAL • SHINGLES
GOODYEAR RUBBER ROOFS
5" & 6" ALUMINUM
SEAMLESS GUTTERS

P: 610-588-7452 C: 610-533-9454 F: 610-588-9192



Reid Kotulka with his mother, Julie



Ryan Kujawa with his mother, Kimberly



Madison Dietz with her mother, Lori

WE WANT YOU...TO SEND US YOUR LOCAL NEWS!
LOCAL NEWS IS OUR MOST TRUSTED SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND US. IT PROVIDES A SHARED UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR TOWN HALLS, SCHOOLS, & BUSINESSES.
→ **BUT LOCAL NEWS SEEMS TO BE DISAPPEARING!**
A Decline In Original Reporting Leads To A Less Informed Public. A Less Informed Public Equals Voter & Civic Engagement Decline, Which Leads To Government Waste Increase, & Public Polarization Increases.
HELP KEEP LOCAL NEWS ALIVE
Local News Connects Us To Our Community & Our Neighbors. It Uplifts Voices That Would Otherwise Go Unheard! Local news demands accountability of community businesses & local governmental bodies, and it forces decision making structures to operate within the publics view.
Email us your news today at thepressmail@gmail.com

PEN ARGYL SENIOR NIGHT FOR FOOTBALL, BAND, GOLF AND CROSS COUNTRY



Anthony Beltran is the son of Tommy and Heather Mertz



Christopher Crespo is the son of Christopher Crespo Sr., and Kelly Donahue



Nicholas Giordano is the son of Joe and Sandra



Nathan Grube is the son of Mary and Matt



Alex Harper with his parents, Eric and Jess, and his grandmother Connie



Rocky Smith with his parents, Melinda Puccio and Rocky Smith Sr.

SENIOR NIGHT PHOTOS TAKEN BY DALE YOUNG/THE FREE WEEKLY PRESS

Get Ready For Fall!

Advertise your upcoming fall events in our publication at prices starting **as low as** **\$25!**

Email Melissa at thepressads@gmail.com

The Fountain House Pub & Dining

973-317-8802 610-888-6613

439 RT 94, Fredon, NJ

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME & MORE!

FEATURING: LED DANCE FLOOR, MUSIC & DRINKS!

JOIN US FOR MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

ON 10FT X 8FT LED SCREEN

Like us on Facebook

Hours: Tues: 2-10pm; Wed: 4-11pm; Thurs: 4-11pm; Fri: 4pm-2am; Sat: 12pm-2am; Sun: 1pm-11pm; CLOSED MONDAY

Live Music

This Sat., October 17th

The Treblemakers - 8pm

PEN ARGYL (13) VS CATASAUQUA (31) FOOTBALL SENIOR NIGHT & HOMECOMING



610-863-3938

Visit our acebook page and website www.speersmeats.com.
You can place orders in person, or by phone!

Thursday & Friday 10-6, Saturday 8-2

Looking To Make Quick & Easy Back To School Crock Pot Meals? Stews, Chili, Roasts & More! Stop In!

DIRECTIONS: From Bangor: Delabole Rd., Make Left onto Heimer Rd., and Right onto Gum Rd.
From Wind Gap: 3rd St., make left onto Delabole Rd., Right onto Merwarth Rd., Left onto Gum Rd.

75ft BUCKET TRUCK

Free Estimates | Fully Insured

TREE WORK

**TRIMMING - REMOVAL - STORM DAMAGE - FIREWOOD
STUMP GRINDING - CHIPPING - WE DO SLATE REPAIRS!**

24 Hr. Emergency Storm Damage Service
Call for Discount

For Fast Service, Call:
H: 610-599-6882
C: 610-442-2996
Craig Wickett
CraigWickettTreeWork.com

PROUDLY SERVING ALL OF WARREN, SUSSEX, MONROE, AND NORTHHAMPTON COUNTIES.

CUSTOM DESIGNED FUNERALS AND CREMATIONS

908-362-6341

PREMIER AND PERSONALIZED SERVICES AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

ERIK J. SCHNEIDER, OWNER/MANAGER, NJ LIC 4928

200 RT. 94 BLAIRSTOWN

PEN ARGYL (13) VS CATASAUQUA (31) FOOTBALL SENIOR NIGHT & HOMECOMING



This year's Homecoming Court consisted of: Addisyn Sutton, escorted by Michael Stein; Jaelyn Smith escorted by Liam Ross; Veda Santo escorted by Nick Shenk; Sophia Miller escorted by Xavier Ragusa, Lily Markopoulos escorted by Reid Kotulka; and Ella Garcias escorted by Wesson Bredidinger.

Tom Ahearn Electric
& Home Improvement

Electric Generator Installation

Residential/Commercial Electric
Light Carpentry | Painting | Home Repairs

FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

PA REG. #PA058650

610-588-6790
C: 484-515-1134

BROOK HOLLOW
WINERY & EVENT FACILITY

Discover Brook Hollow Winery:
Great Wine, Breathtaking Views & Unforgettable Events



Heart of the Winery:
Approachable, farm-to-glass wines from New Jersey grapes.





Tucked away in beautiful Columbia, NJ. Relax, reconnect, and make memories.



Come for the Wine—Stay for the View: Overlooking the spectacular Delaware Water Gap



Incredible Event Facility for Up to 200 Guests: Weddings, celebrations, corporate events, and more.

Brook Hollow Winery & Event Facility - 594 Rt. 94, Columbia, NJ
908-496-8200 | brookhollowwinery@gmail.com | brookhollowwinery.com
Hours: M-Thur, Noon - 5pm, Fri, Noon - 9pm, Sat & Sun, Noon - 6pm

State Senate Passes Senator Boscola’s Genetic Testing Access Bills

The Pennsylvania Senate today unanimously approved legislation sponsored by Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Northampton), Senate Bills 535 and 536, which would allow licensed genetic counselors in Pennsylvania to directly order genetic tests.

The two-bill package updates both the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act and the Medical Practice Act, removing outdated restrictions that currently delay patient care and increase costs.

Pennsylvania is the only state with genetic counselor licensure that explicitly prohibits these highly trained professionals from ordering genetic tests,” Boscola said. “We already trust genetic counselors to assess genetic risk, determine what testing may be appropriate and guide patients through the process. It simply makes sense to allow them to order the tests they are specifically trained to evaluate.”

Pennsylvania remains one of the few states that explicitly prohibits licensed genetic counselors from ordering genetic tests, despite their advanced education and clinical training.

“For patients and families looking for answers, an unnecessary extra step can mean more waiting, more appointments and more frustration,” Boscola added. “This is a simple, commonsense change that removes that barrier and allows qualified genetic counselors to fully use their expertise to better serve their patients.”

The legislation has received broad support from the medical community, including the Pennsylvania Medical Society, the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, St. Luke’s University Health Network, Penn State Health, and patient advocacy groups like the PA Breast Cancer Coalition.

The bills now move to the State House for its consideration.

YOUR AD HERE!

You can get your **2x5 ad** (actual size shown) for as little as **\$45** per week!

Want to hear more?
Email us at thepressads@gmail.com or call **484-988-0969** for details!

Fall Shredding Event By Hackettstown Rotary Is Open To All

The eagerly awaited bi-annual Shredding Event will be held again this fall on Saturday, Oct 17 from 9am until noon (or until the truck is full) on the grounds of the Fulton Bank parking lot at 176 Mountain Ave, Hackettstown . (Please note, no “early birds” can be accommodated, due to traffic issues.) The cost will be \$5 per bag or box, with all proceeds going to the over 35 community organizations that the Rotary supports.

All communities are welcome to participate. Also on hand on that day will be the Abilities donation truck, accept-



ing a wide variety of small electronics free of charge, with the exception of a \$25 donation for large screen TVs.

Some of the over 35 local organizations that the Hackettstown Rotary Foundation supports include: Abilities, Alina Lodge addiction recovery, The ARC of Warren, CASA SHAW, DA-SACC (domestic abuse and sexual assault crises center), Gift of Life, Hackettstown Library, Scholarships for Hackettstown HS and Warren Cty Technical School

students, Hackettstown Medical Center Foundation, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, Trinity and local food pantries, and in the International Peace program—the Cure Blindness initiative of the Himalayan Cataract Project.

Rotary is an International global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Visit hackettstownrotary.org to find out more about how to join the fun.

FAMILY-OWNED BREWERY & RESTAURANT

570-897-5900 Mount Bethel PA
AlleghenyCreekBC.com

THURSDAY-SATURDAY 12-9
SUNDAY BRUNCH 11-5

16 CRAFT BEERS ON TAP

FAMOUS BLOODY MARY MENU

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIKES & BRUNCH

SUNDAY OCT 18

Pirates of the Caribbean Trivia

Thursday, October 15

DiMaio: No Governor Should Get to Pick Their Successor Alone

The person who could become New Jersey's next governor should face more scrutiny than an age and residency check.

Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio is proposing a constitutional amendment requiring any governor's nominee to fill a vacancy in the lieutenant governor's office to win approval from a majority of both houses of the Legislature before taking office. His proposed amendment, ACR157, will be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Doug Steinhardt.

“Right now, one person gets to choose someone who could become governor tomorrow, with no confirmation hearing, no legislative vote and no vote of the people,” DiMaio (R-Warren) said. “That is too much power concentrated in one person’s hands.”

The proposal comes after Lt. Gov. Dale Cald-

well resigned following the release of an investigation into his conduct. His departure marks the second time in three years that New Jersey has faced a vacancy in its second-highest office. Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver died in office in 2023.

“The lieutenant governor is elected by more than 6 million New Jerseyans. When that office becomes vacant, the governor should not have unilateral authority to choose the replacement, said Steinhart (R-Warren). “The Legislature, which represents the people of every corner of New Jersey, should have a meaningful role in filling the vacancy and providing a necessary check and balance.”

Under the New Jersey Constitution, the governor has 45 days to appoint a replacement lieutenant governor to serve the remainder of the term. The Consti-

tution does not require legislative confirmation. A nominee must meet the same basic eligibility requirements as the governor: be at least 30 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for at least 20 years and a New Jersey resident for seven years.

“Those qualifications tell us whether someone is legally eligible to hold the office. They tell us almost nothing about whether that person should be one heartbeat away from running the state,” DiMaio said.

DiMaio's amendment would model New Jersey's process on the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. When the vice presidency becomes vacant, the president nominates a replacement, but that nominee cannot take office until receiving a majority vote in both the U.S. House and Senate.

"If the president of the United States cannot

unilaterally choose a new vice president, why should a New Jersey governor have unilateral authority to choose the person next in line to become governor?" DiMaio said.

New Jersey's current system also creates an unusual disparity in the confirmation process.

When then-Gov. Phil Murphy appointed Tahsha Way lieutenant governor following Oliver's death, Way was already serving as secretary of state, a Cabinet position for which she had received Senate confirmation. The lieutenant governor's office itself carries no such requirement when a vacancy is filled.

Steinhardt, who plans to introduce the companion measure in the Senate, echoed that concern.

“At least Tahesha Way had been publicly vetted and confirmed by the Senate for her cab-

inet position,” DiMaio said. “A future appointee could walk into the lieutenant governor’s office without ever receiving a single vote from the Legislature or the public. That makes no sense.”

DiMaio said the amendment would preserve the governor's authority to choose a nominee while ensuring the public, through its elected representatives, has a voice in who assumes the state's second-highest office.

"This isn't about taking the choice away from the governor. The governor nominates. The Legislature confirms.

That is a basic check and balance for an office with enormous responsibility," DiMaio said. "New Jersey has now had to replace two lieutenant governors in three years. We don't need to wait for a third vacancy to recognize the flaw in the system."

A proposed constitutional amendment must receive three-fifths approval in both houses of the Legislature in a single legislative year, or a majority in both houses in two consecutive legislative years, before being submitted to voters for final approval.

New to the Bangor Public Library

39 S Main St, Bangor, PA 18013

Phone: (610) 588-4136

Adult Fiction:

Partita: A Novel by Barbara Kingsolver; American Hagwon by Min Jin Lee; Galinda: A Charmed Childhood by Gregory Maguire; Sophie, Standing There: A Novel by Meg Mason; The Witch by Freida McFadden; Threshing Day by Rebecca Yarros

Adult Non Fiction:

How Bright the Path Grows: The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the March on Washington by Marcia Chatelain; The Cursed Beautiful Land: A Russian-American Story by Evan Gershkovich; Eric Mintel Investigates Paranormal in the Poconos by Eric Mintel; The Steps: A Memoir by Sylvester Stallone

Easy Fiction:

The Magic Halloween Box: A Lift-The-Flap Book of Opposites! By Rachel Accurso; Monsters by Rae Minos; The Wise Owl by Conor Rawson; Peekaboo Pumpkin by Camilla Reid; How Many Howls Till Halloween? By Rosa Von Feder; Baby Triceratops Counts 1, 2, 3; Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas ABC; Big or Small!

Junior Non Fiction:

Volcanoes: Fire and Life by Jon Chad; Rockets: Defying Gravity by Anne Drozd; Sharks: Nature's Perfect Hunter by Joe Flood; Chinese Menu: The History, Myths, and Legends Behind Your Favorite Foods by Rae Minos

Young Adult Fiction:

The False Vow by Lydia Gregovic; The Sixth Faction by Veronica Roth; Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J. K. Potter; Lore Olympus: Volume Eleven by Rachel Smythe

DVDs:

Marty Supreme

Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary?



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

Hello, fellow readers,
Last week I shared the unexpected delight of meeting a Tree of Life, the magnificent baobab at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden near Miami, Florida, during a family reunion. It was a delightful outing on a drizzly day—perfect for exploring a tropical garden.
Along the pathways, leaves from tropical plants pressed into the concrete created lovely patterns. What a clever way to turn an ordinary path into something beautiful! We could do the same in our own gardens, using favorite leaves to make a pathway uniquely ours.
At forks in the road, rustic wooden signs invited guests to follow the tropical trail. So many beautiful plants

and treasures to discover. And an oddity, too. Or so I thought.
We came upon the Children’s Garden. Before spotting its sign, I assumed the area was under renovation. It consisted of weathered tree stumps, fallen trunks, and boulders scattered among wood mulch. Not very pretty compared with the enchanting children’s gardens at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx or Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.
Then I remembered the fun I had playing in the woods as a kid. Children growing up in cities don’t always have access to such natural playgrounds, where imagination is the only equipment needed.
Dad hung a tire swing in the woods behind our home in Baldwinsville, New York. He also secured a straight, six-inch-diameter tree trunk between two trees, creating a balance beam of sorts. I knew nothing about measuring trees then, but I adored them. I treasure a photo of my sister and me climbing a maple, and I remember dreaming of becoming a tree surgeon. Little did I know it was an actual profession!
Our woodpile became



another playground. My four siblings and I played among the logs, which became building blocks for makeshift couches, chairs, and



nature inviting children to invent their own adventures.
I thought of Longwood’s Indoor Children’s Garden, where whimsical fountains and fanciful creatures spark wonder, and the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden at the New York Botanical Garden, where interactive exhibits introduce youngsters to the marvels of plants. Both are extraordinary places that encourage exploration.
Yet there’s something equally extraordinary about a fallen tree, a pile of logs, or a collection of rocks. Children become designers, builders, and storytellers, transforming Mother Nature’s gifts into secret places to play. Each discovery becomes another possibility, with no instructions required.
That’s the gift of spending time in nature. It leaves room for imagination to grow, curiosity to flourish, and confidence to take root. The same is true for big kids like us.
As adults, we sometimes overlook that gift. But children remind us that wonder doesn’t require extravagance. All it takes is a tree to climb, a stone to balance on, or a sturdy branch to hold a swing—and the freedom to discover what comes next.
Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com or tune in on your favorite podcast app.

tables—a ground-level fort or living room. I wished we could move it all high into the trees. I may have built the furniture solo. It’s a fond but fuzzy memory of making play spaces from whatever nature provided. There was something magical about creating a place of my own from ordinary things.
Behind the woods was a small, old cemetery; its gravestones were so weathered that the names were hard to read, but I wondered who they were. On Halloween, it became a spooky place to explore by flashlight. Mom had told us never to step on graves. Navigating in the dark was tricky, but we did our best.
Those childhood adventures came rushing back as I stood among the weathered logs and boulders at Fairchild. What first looked like an unfinished garden suddenly seemed one of the most imaginative spaces of all. No elaborate equipment or carefully designed activities. Just

GRAY’S RECYCLING

MULCH • TOP SOIL • STONE • DYED MULCH

Pick Up Or Delivered To Your Location



Fall Hours:
Open Mon-Fri:
7am-4pm
Closed Saturdays & Sundays!

Commercial & Residential Sales!

MULCH AVAILABLE

Hardwood, Dyed, Black, Brown, Red,
& Cedar Mulches, Topsoil,
Clean Fill, & Wood Chips
We Now Sell Mushroom Soil!

WE ACCEPT YARD DEBRIS

Dumping for Brush, Logs, Wood Chips, & Bales of Straw!

STONE AVAILABLE

River Stone: 3/8”, 3/4”, 1” to 3”
Red Stone 3/4”
ALSO AVAILABLE:
3/4” Gravel, 3/8” Crushed
Gravel, QP Stone, & Stone Dust

We Also Offer
Heavy & Light
Land Clearing

908-475-3797   Gray’s Recycling Mulch

CASH & ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

TODD’S
AUTO BODY



610-588-4633

1025 Mt. Bethel Hwy.
Rt. 512, Mt. Bethel, PA

toddsauto@carcarepa.com

We work with all insurance companies!

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

BANGOR (5) VS WILSON (0) BREAST CANCER NIGHT FIELD HOCKEY



HUNTER'S LODGE RESTAURANT & MOTEL

64 Rt. 46, Columbia, NJ • 908-475-0060 • We Are Open 11am-11pm • 7 Days a Week



Motel Rooms: **\$110/Night;**
\$600/Week ; \$1,200/Mo.
Call 610-888-6613 For Motel Rooms!
Includes: A/C & Heat, WiFi, Dish Network,
Trash, Parking, Small Fridge & Microwave.

TRY OUR
LEGENDARY
STEAKS!
★★★★★



Martini Monday!
\$5 Wells



Taco Tuesday!
\$7.99



Serving Breakfast
at 11am



Steamed Clams

Like Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HuntersLodgeNJ

Shapiro Administration Launches New Tools to Help Pennsylvanians Navigate DEP Permits, Find Environmental Funding More Easily

The Shapiro Administration has launched new tools through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) designed to make it easier for Pennsylvanians to figure out what permits they may need for a project and find funding to support environmental improvements.

The new Permit Navigator(opens in a new tab) helps individuals, businesses, and organizations identify potential DEP permits based on the location and activities associated with a project. The new Funding Concierge connects people directly with DEP staff who can help identify funding opportunities that may fit their project.

The new tools are part of the Shapiro Administration’s broader effort to make Commonwealth services more

user-friendly and accessible, and to make state government move at the speed of business. Through a “no wrong door” approach to government services, the Administration is making it easier for Pennsylvanians, businesses, and organizations to find the information, services, and support they need — even if they don’t know where to start.

“Government should be easier to navigate, and Pennsylvanians should be able to get the information they need without having to figure out where to start,” said DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley. “These new tools make it easier to understand what permits may be needed and to connect directly with DEP staff who can help identify available funding. We’re continuing to use technology and customer service tools to

make DEP more accessible, responsive, and efficient.”

Under Governor Josh Shapiro’s leadership, DEP is modernizing permitting through new technology and more efficient processes to help businesses move projects forward while protecting the Commonwealth’s air, water, and environment. The Shapiro Administration launched SPEED to accelerate permit reviews, PAYback(opens in a new tab) to provide refunds when reviews are overdue, and a Permit Tracker to let applicants and residents monitor permit progress.

Find Out What Permits a Project May Need

The Permit Navigator helps users get started by answering three basic questions:

Where is the project located?

Is the project residential, agricultural, or industrial?

What activities will be part of the project?

Based on those answers,

the tool provides information about potential DEP permits and other requirements that may apply to the project.

The tool is designed to give potential permit applicants consistent, easy-to-understand information regardless of how they engage with DEP.

The Permit Navigator does not determine whether a permit is ultimately required and does not address local approvals that may be required by a municipality. Users should contact their local municipality to determine whether additional local approvals are needed.

“I did a few cursory runs for several different made-up scenarios, and the app seemed to work well,” said Stephanie Kern, Environmental Group Manager with Susquehanna Civil. “I like that you provided the FEMA link since a public user may not know where to find floodplain information. I also like that there are explana-

tions, lists of requirements, and fees for the permits. Overall, I think this is a good tool for the lay person to use.”

The Permit Navigator was co-developed by DEP and the Commonwealth Office of Digital Experience (CODE PA), which is a team of digital experience experts focused on making interactions with state government simpler, more seamless, and secure. Pennsylvania-based Jarvis Innovations also worked with DEP and CODE PA to develop the tool.

Users can submit feedback directly through the Permit Navigator by clicking the feedback bubble at the bottom of the tool.

Governor Shapiro’s 2026-27 budget(opens in a new tab) includes \$3.7 million for CODE PA to modernize permitting processes in coordination with DEP.

DEP reviews more than 45,000 permit applications each year, including

permits for construction and land clearing, air quality, drinking water system upgrades, and oil and gas wells.

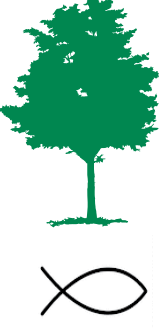
The Permit Navigator complements the DEP Permit Tracker(opens in a new tab), which allows users to check the status of DEP permit applications.

DEP also has reduced a permit backlog that exceeded 2,400 applications as of November 1, 2023, while continuing to process new applications.

The Permit Navigator was demonstrated at the Summer 2026 meeting of the Environmental Council of States, where it received a State Program Innovation Award in the Agency Management, Dashboards, and Permitting category.

Read the full article at: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/newsroom/2026-10-09-shapiro-administration-launches-new-tools-to-help-pennsylvanians-navigate-dep-permits>

GARY
EAGLE



TREE SERVICE, Inc.

•Tree Trimming

•Tree Removal

•Stump Grinding

•Bucket Truck Service

•Portable Saw Mill

•Crane Service

•Saw Sharpening

Commercial

Lawn Mowing & Mulching

garyeagle.com

FULLY INSURED

610-588-1034

WERNER TRANSMISSION

“Full Service Shop - Transmissions and more”

RACING AND DOMESTIC

★ PA STATE INSPECTIONS / EMISSIONS ★

BRAKES • OIL CHANGES • EXHAUST • MUCH MORE

Open Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm

259 E. Central Ave., E. Bangor, PA

610-599-1605

Henry Yeska & Son Inc.

821 Georgetown Road, Nazareth, PA

610-759-3290 • www.yeskasepticservice.com

In Business for Over 100 Years!

Industrial, Commercial, & Residential

Cleaning • Pumping • Repairs • Installations

•Septic Tanks

•Swimming Pools

•Aerators

•Grease Traps

•Sand Mounds

•Drain Field Restoration

•Cesspools

•Sewer Pumps

•Septic Tank Repair

•Fish Ponds

•Sewer Alarms

•Tank Replacement



RECEIVE

\$10 OFF

Your Next

Septic Pumping

Project Self-Sufficiency will Host Innovative Career Fair & Health Fair



Area residents are invited to boost their careers and their health by attending an innovative Career & Health Fair hosted by Project Self-Sufficiency, Wednesday, October 21st, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Local employers and educational institutions will be on hand to promote job openings and scholastic opportunities. In addition, representatives from area healthcare organizations will offer the latest information about the health and well-being of children and families. Further job search guidance, such as mock interviews, will be offered to attendees by Project Self-Sufficiency Career Center staff. A gift card will be awarded to a lucky Career & Health Fair attendee. The event is free and open to the public. “We encourage anyone who is interested in advancing their career and improving their health to attend this unique event,”

commented Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon. “Attendees can get tips for better health and wellness, learn about employment opportunities and options for furthering their education, and explore the resources they need to move forward with their job searching process.” Project Self-Sufficiency will be joined by employers, educational institutions, and healthcare experts to promote job openings and health and wellness resources, including Abilities of Northwest Jersey; American Red Cross; Avenues in Motion; Bayada Home Health Care; Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services; Center for Family Service; Child Mind Institute; Cutting Edge Academy; Employment Horizons; Express Employment Professionals; FedEx Freight; Health Village; IBEW Local

102 JATC (Electrical Apprenticeship); Mary Kay Cosmetics; Mountain Creek Resort; NJ4S Mental Health Association; New Jersey Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired; New Jersey Department of Children & Families, Division of Child Protection & Permanency; New Jersey Department of Corrections; New Jersey Department of Health, Biomonitoring Program; New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; New Jersey Judiciary; New Jersey Sharing Network; Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern New Jersey; Preferred Care at Home of Northwest New Jersey; Primerica; Provident Protection Plus; Sevia Health; Shop Rite RoNetco; Sussex County Educational Services Commission Project SEARCH; Techflex; Thorlabs; United States Army; United States Marine Corps; Visiting Angels; Winter4Kids; YMCA Fairview Lake Camps; Zufall Health; and others. For more information about the free Career & Health Fair, or to find out more about the programs and services offered by Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500 or visit www.projectselvesufficiency.org.

BENEFIT BINGO

Sat., November 7th, 2026

Door Open 11:30am | Bingo Begins at 12:30pm

PRIZES INCLUDE: DESIGNER PURSES, GIFT CARDS, MENS TOOLS, & BASKETS!

Sponsored By Trinity UCC Church
632 S. Delaware Dr., Mt. Bethel, PA
FMI or Tickets Call: Trinity UCC at 610-588-1989

Tickets Cost: \$20 in Advance, \$25 at the Door
(Buys 20 Games of Bingo)
175 Tickets Available; First Come - First Serve
(NO Refunds After Purchase!)

Additional Cards \$5/Packet

GRAND & SPECIAL PRIZES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT AN ADDITIONAL COST

Lunch & Dessert For Sale
(No Outside Food Permitted)

ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT TO PLAY!

Proceeds Benefit The Trinity General Fund

WANTED

Local Miracle-Ear Centers are looking for qualified people to test their latest product, **The Miracle-Ear® GENIUS™ RIC for FREE!**

Here's the catch: You must have slight or moderate hearing loss and must have difficulty understanding speech in background noise situations. People who are selected will evaluate Miracle-Ear's latest advanced digital hearing solution, the **Miracle-Ear GENIUS RIC.**

You will be able to walk into our office and try on Miracle-Ears that are customized just for you. Candidates will be asked to evaluate the instruments for 30 days to prove the manufacturer's claims of up to 25% better speech recognition in challenging listening environments than people with normal hearing.**

At the end of the 30 days, if you are satisfied with the results and wish to keep the instruments, you may do so at tremendous savings. But this is only for a limited time!

You must schedule your appointment before OCTOBER 30TH, 2026! DON'T WAIT!

MIRACLE-EAR CENTERS ARE NOW OFFERING HEARING AIDS AT NO COST TO FEDERAL WORKERS AND RETIREES

That's Right! No Co-Pay! No Exam Fee! No Adjustment Fee!

BCBS federal insurance pays the total cost of Miracle-Ear Audiotone Pro series aids. Most federal government employees and retirees are eligible. You may even be covered if you have other non-federal insurance coverage. Special factory pricing is available for non-qualifiers. See store for details & accurate coverage.

Miracle-Ear® Introduces our SMALLEST Hearing Aid EVER!

100% INVISIBLE

Don't be fooled by the small size. The Miracle-Ear Mirage features amazingly advanced and powerful micro-technology, all wrapped up in our tiniest hearing aid ever!

2 for \$995

Receive 2 Audiotone® Pro Full-Shell ITE Hearing Aids at \$995 for a limited time only

Limit one coupon per patient at the promotional price during event dates only. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apply to prior purchases. Fits up to 35 db loss. Expires 10/30/26

Miracle Ear

1343 Blue Valley Drive, Pen Argyl, PA 18072
610-588-3383

OR VISIT ONE OF OUR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Miracle Ear Center 1619 N. Ninth Street Stroud Commons (Rear of building) Stroudsburg, PA 18360 570-476-9949 Miracle Ear	at Brodheads Chiropractic 134 Pilgrim Way Brodheads, PA 18322 570-476-9949 Miracle Ear Center Strykers Crossing	Shopping Center 201 Strykers Rd., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 908-954-7997
---	--	---

Most Insurance Plans Accepted

*No other offers or discounts applies. Offer can not be combined and does not apply to prior sales. Risk free offer, the aids must be returned within 30 days of delivery if not completely satisfied and 100% of purchase price will be refunded. Supplies may vary per office. Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit and ability to adapt to amplification. Blue Cross Blue Shield is a registered trademark of Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Blue Cross Blue Shield is not affiliated with, nor does it endorse or sponsor, the contents of this advertisement. Trademarks referring to specific providers are used by Miracle-Ear for nominative purposes only; to truthfully identify the source of the services about which information is provided. Such trademarks are solely the property of their respective owners. **Studies conducted at the University of Northern Colorado (2014) and Oldenburg Horzentrum (2013) showed that Speech Reception Thresholds (SRT) in cocktail-party situations improved up to 2.9 dB for wearers with mild to moderate hearing loss using GENIUS with Directional Focus, compared to people with normal hearing. This corresponds to over 25% improvement in speech understanding. ©2020 Hearing Services, LLC

Dr. Albert Shrive, NJ Dispenser # 662, Supervising Licensee

What’s Fueling the Price at the Pump?

Article by Senator Rosemary Brown:

We are all feeling the impact of high gasoline prices at the pump. Understanding what determines those prices requires a closer look at the role of government policies and market conditions. I frequently hear from residents who are frustrated by the cost of filling up their vehicles, so I wanted to provide an explanation of the factors that influence gasoline prices.

Gasoline is a product which is produced from crude oil, that is transported to refineries where it undergoes a series of processes to create petroleum products, including gasoline. As you can imagine, the price of crude oil plays a significant role in determining what we ultimately pay at the pump. In fact, crude oil accounts for nearly 50 percent of the retail price of gasoline.

Crude oil prices are largely determined by supply and demand. When demand exceeds available supply, prices generally rise. Several factors can influence this balance, including global political conflicts, disruptions to major shipping routes, production restrictions and increased demand during periods of economic growth. Because oil is traded in a global market, events happening thousands of miles away can directly impact what we pay at the pump here in Pennsylvania.

Federal and state taxes typically account for ap-



proximately 12% to 17% of the final price. The federal gasoline tax is 18.4 cents per gallon, while Pennsylvania’s gasoline tax is approximately 74 cents per gallon, the third highest in the nation.

As your state senator, I support policies that reduce Pennsylvania’s gasoline tax and increase the supply of oil to help lower costs for consumers. During my time in the House of Representatives, I voted against Act 89 of 2013, which increased Pennsylvania’s gasoline tax. I also voted in favor of Senate Bill 35, which would have prevented the automatic gas tax increase that took effect in 2023. Unfortunately, despite passing the Senate, the legislation was never considered by the House of Representatives and was not enacted into law.

As you can see, gasoline prices are influenced by a combination of government policies and market factors. I will continue supporting policies that increase supply, reduce the tax burden on Pennsylvania residents and help make filling up at the pump more affordable.

Designer Handbag Bingo & Tricky Tray

Sunday, October 18th

Doors open at 12pm | Games Begin 1:00PM

Proceeds support our local Veterans,
VA Hospital & VALOR

Location: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 346
126 East 5th Street, East Stroudsburg, PA

Lunch, Beverages & Snacks Available for Purchase

"Early Bird Tickets" \$30, must be purchased by September 30th, \$35 After the 30th or at the Door. Includes 15 Regular Games and 1 Jackpot Game *Super Jackpot is Extra*

ONLY 130 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Pull Tabs/Snap Tickets | 50/50s

NO ONE UNDER 18 PERMITTED

NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGES

Any Questions, Or To Purchase Tickets Contact:
Holly Burch at 570-656-7523

Lot# 2216

Get Your Fall/Halloween Ads in Today!

Get an ad this size (4.95in x 2.75in) for only \$60!

Ad must be paid for in full at time of approval.

Call 484-988-0969 or email thepressads@gmail.com for details or more sizing options!

Local Business Directory

Promote your business in our local Business Directory for ONLY \$228 for 12 Weeks! Thats Only \$19/Week

CARPET CLEANING

N.E.P.A CARPET CARE

\$30 PER ROOM!

Est. 2021 Insured!

Includes Shampoo, Deodorizer, Sanitizer & Oxil

570.591.6414

Serving Northeast PA

HANDY MAN

TIM VICARIO'S Handy Man Service

GENERAL HOME REPAIRS

Painting · Carpentry
Minor Plumbing · Decks
Bathroom & Kitchen Remodeling

INSURED FREE ESTIMATES

PA016576

Call Tim Vicario
610-588-1620

LANDSCAPE MAKEOVERS

Gardens Need TLC?

Ask Mary!

Stone Associates

Landscape Design & Consulting

908-362-6617

SEPTIC SERVICE

YESKA SEPTIC SERVICE

484-764-6351

Call Henry Today!

Septic Tank Pumping & Repairs

YOUR AD HERE!

Easy Advertising without the hassle!

ONLY \$19/week

Call Us at 484-988-0969 or Email us at: thepressads@gmail.com for more details Today!

TREE WORK

Jim's Tree Service

NJ License: NJTC 784049

Professional Tree Care
Stump Grinding
Articulating Tractor
Removes Grindings
Both Fit Through a 36in Gate

40 Years In Business!

610-588-5761
908-763-5709
1-800-793-0465

Jim Goucher, Jr. & Karen Goucher
GOUCHERTREESERVICE.COM

Classifieds

Rentals

OFFICE SUITE
WITH PRIVATE
BATHROOM.
2ND FLOOR,
INCLUDES HEAT
AND ELECTRIC. IN
UPPER MT. BETHEL,
\$575/MO. CALL:
570-977-7495 FOR
AN APPOINTMENT

Help Wanted

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

Position for oil
burner service
tech! Must have
experience in oil
burner cleanings,
service, and air
conditioning.
Blairstown &
Belvidere areas.
Call: 908-362-8910

**CDL DRIVERS
& LABORERS
WANTED**
Henry Yeska &
Son Septic
Service Is Now
Hiring CDL
Drivers Class
A & B and
Laborers. Full
Time & Part Time
positions available.
Experience
preferred but not
required. Will
train on the job.

**Please call
the office at
610-759-3290**

**Full time/
Part time
HVAC
technician
IMMEDIATE
OPENING!**
salary based on
experience
**Please email
resume to:
ashplumbing17
@gmail.com**

Part Time Tree Helper
Wanted! Must Have
Valid DL. Call
610-588-1034

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

**NOW HIRING
SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**
CDL Class B
P & S Endorsments
Will Train.
Call 973-383-2786
stockerbus@gmail.com

**NEED RIDES
TO LOCAL
SHOPPING,
BANGOR.
DOCTOR IN
WIND GAP.
WILL PAY
\$10/HR.
484-957-6095**

WANTED:
CDL Driver for
Tri-Axel Dump
Trucks. Hourly
Pay, Local Work.
Mainly Day
Work, Nights on
Occasion. Must
Have Clean
Driving Record
and Drug Free.
Trucks parked
in Belvidere, NJ.
Call or Text Mike
at 201-841-3864

**Bus Person
Wanted!**
Mt. Bethel
Diner, Apply In
Person. 2600
North Delaware
Dr., Mt. Bethel

Experienced Waitress Wanted!

**Weekends Mandatory
Apply in Person at
Mt. Bethel Diner**

2600 N Delaware Dr.
Mt. Bethel, PA
570-897-6409



LET'S TALK ADVERTISING!

A BUDGET FRIENDLY WAY TO
PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS WITH US
**WE ARE NOW OFFERING
ONLINE ONLY ADVERTISING!**
Run your business on our website
only, in our featured ads section,
for as little as \$15/week
Larger ads are \$25/week
Contact Melissa to get started!
thepressads@gmail.com



Classified Ad Order Form

All Classified ads are \$15 per week, per inch, with the exception of Yard
Sale ads, which are \$5. There is no charge for items being listed as
FREE. Please specify the category in which you would like you ad to
appear (ex: Help Wanted, Real Estate, Rentals, Vehicle...Etc.)
Please specify which size ad, and how many weeks you wish to run.
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CATEGORY: _____

WEEKS RUNNING: _____ AMOUNT PAID: _____

Please PRINT Your Ad Information Below

**Ads with
Photos!
\$20**

**One inch
(actual size shown here)**

**Two inches
(actual size shown here)**

**CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOON ON
FRIDAY IN ORDER TO BE PRINTED IN THE UPCOMING EDITION.**
All classified ads must be paid in full, in advance. Credit cards are NOT accepted for charges less than \$25
**CLASSIFIED ADS CAN BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO: THEPRESSADS@GMAIL.COM OR BY
MAIL TO: THE FREE WEEKLY PRESS, PO BOX 606, BANGOR, PA 18013**
Help Wanted ads are free for current advertisers. Classifieds are NOT accepted by phone
Make Checks Payable to: The Free Weekly Press, LLC



**SECURE PRIVATE
LOCATION**

**"FAMILY OWNED
& OPERATED"**



STORAGE DISCOVERIES

FINDER'S COLLECTION & STORAGE DISCOVERIES



WE ARE CURRENTLY BUYING:

GOLD & SILVER BULLION • COINS
CURRENCY • ESTATES • ANTIQUES
COLLECTIBLES • SPORTS CARDS
ONE ITEM OR ENTIRE ESTATES

**HONEST & TRANSPARENT
PRICING YOU CAN TRUST!**

**CONVENIENTLY LOCATED AT
128 RT. 94, BLAIRSTOWN, NJ**
NEXT TO THE TRACTOR SUPPLY!
EXPERTS@FINDERSCOLLECTION.COM
908-535-4064

PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
We Do House Clean Outs!

BLAIRSTOWN FALL FESTIVAL AT FOOTBRIDGE PARK

October 17th, 2026

Sponsorship Opportunities

FESTIVAL SPONSOR \$1300

- FEATURED LOGO PLACEMENT ON ALL MARKETING MATERIALS
- FEATURED RECOGNITION FROM BEC COMMUNICATIONS
- ANNOUNCED RECOGNITION ON FESTIVAL DAY
- LOGO ON SIGNAGE THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL
- 1 ENTRY IN THE BED RACE
- 1 VENDOR SPACE

HARVEST PARTY SPONSOR \$450

- FEATURED RECOGNITION FROM BEC COMMUNICATIONS
- FEATURED LOGO PLACEMENT NEAR THE FOOD/BANDSTAND AREA
- 1 BED RACE ENTRY OR 1 VENDOR SPACE

FAMILY FUN SPONSOR \$300

- FEATURED RECOGNITION FROM BEC COMMUNICATIONS
- FEATURED LOGO PLACEMENT NEAR PUMPKIN PAVILION
- COMPLIMENTARY BRBN MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026
- 1 BED RACE ENTRY OR 1 VENDOR SPACE

BED RACE SPONSOR \$750

- FEATURED LOGO PLACEMENT ON BED RACE MARKETING MATERIALS
- FEATURED RECOGNITION FROM BEC COMMUNICATIONS
- ANNOUNCED RECOGNITION AT START OF BED RACES
- LOGO ON SIGNAGE NEAR THE RACE TRACK
- 1 VENDOR SPACE.



AUTUMN LEAF SPONSOR \$150

- FEATURED RECOGNITION FROM BEC COMMUNICATIONS
- 1 BED RACE ENTRY OR 1 VENDOR SPACE

Be Part of the Festival - JOIN THE FUN!

VENDOR & SPONSOR
REGISTRATION

SECURE YOUR SPOT IN THE FALL FESTIVAL
SCAN TO REGISTER AND GET ALL EVENT DETAILS.



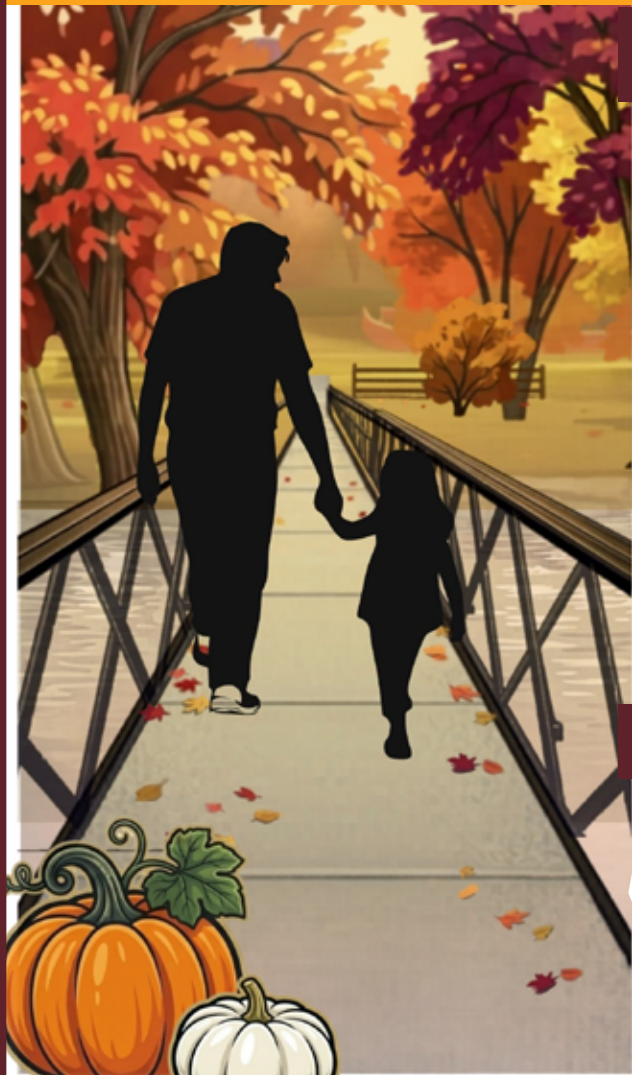
BED RACE REGISTRATION

SCAN HERE TO ENTER
THE LEGENDARY BEDLAM BED RACES!



DONATE OR VOLUNTEER

SUPPORT THE EVENT OR GET INVOLVED.
SCAN TO DONATE OR SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY

BLAIRSTOWN ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 17TH
2026

BLAIRSTOWN FALL FESTIVAL
FOOTBRIDGE PARK

CELEBRATE AUTUMN IN BLAIRSTOWN WITH A DAY OF FAMILY FUN!

JOIN FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AT FOOTBRIDGE PARK FOR **BLAIRSTOWN'S BELOVED ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** FEATURING LOCAL VENDORS, DELICIOUS FOOD, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, AND **THE FAMOUS BEDLAM BED RACES.**

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- BEDLAM IN BLAIRSTOWN BED RACES**
A PLAYFUL, HISTORIC TRADITION FILLED WITH LAUGHTER, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT.
- LOCAL CRAFT & FOOD VENDORS**
SHOP HANDMADE TREASURES AND ENJOY DELICIOUS OFFERINGS FROM LOCAL ARTISANS, MAKERS, AND FOOD VENDORS.
- FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES**
FUN FOR ALL AGES WITH CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, GAMES, AND PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE LASTING MEMORIES.

EVENT DETAILS:

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17TH, 2026

FOOTBRIDGE PARK,
BLAIRSTOWN NJ, 07825
10:00AM - 5:00PM

CRAFT VENDORS
LIVE MUSIC
FAMILY ACTIVITIES
FOOD TRUCKS
BED RACES

FREE ADMISSION



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:



BED RACES
START AT 11:00AM

COME WATCH THE FUN
REGISTER OR SPONSOR



MAGICIAN



CHAINSAW CARVING



FACE PAINTING



BLACKSMITH
DEMONSTRATIONS



PUMPKIN PAINTING



PUMPKIN RELAY
RACE



BLAIRSTOWN FALL FESTIVAL
ON MAIN STREET

WALK OVER FROM THE FALL FESTIVAL AT FOOTBRIDGE PARK AND **KEEP THE FUN** GOING ON MAIN STREET WITH LOCAL SHOPS, EATERIES, AND SPECIAL FESTIVAL-DAY OFFERS.



THE ONE & ONLY
Fall flavors, festive drinks & a true Blairstown favorite.

LOBSTER FEST
A Taste of the Coast
on Main Street



ARTIST COVE
Discover Local Art & Creativity

FALL COCKTAILS
Pumpkin Spice Martini
& Appletini



FALL SPECIALS
A Little Fall Magic Awaits
\$15 for 15 Minute Tarot Reading

FALL DRINK & FOOD SPECIALS
Seasonal Sips & Bites



NATURE'S HARVEST
NEW OWNERSHIP
One of a kind Healthy
Seasonal Foods & Products

FRIENDLY WALK OVER
FOOTBRIDGE PARK + MAIN STREET

WWW.BLAIRSTOWNBEC.COM