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PRESS



April 11, 2024

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Vol. 51, No. 38



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Solar Eclipse Peeks Through Cloudy Skies As Locals Flock To Catch A Glimpse of Historic Sight



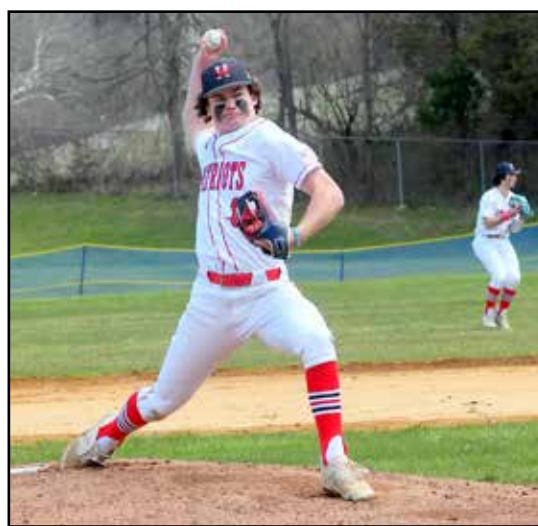
The Solar Eclipse which took place on April 8th, reached its totality for parts of PA & NJ around 3:23pm. The scientific sight was magnificent to see through cloudy skies. The next total solar eclipse visible from the United States should fall on August 23, 2044, but it will only touch three states. Photo Left by Melissa Lameo/The Free Weekly Press. Photo Right by Bob Halberstadt/The Free Weekly Press

Bangor and Pen Argyl Take Slate Belt Rivalry To The Dirt Diamond



Bangor and Pen Argyl went head to head on April 5th in their Slate Belt Rivalry Baseball Game. Pen Argyl won, 3 to 2. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

North Warren Wins Big Over Belvidere



North Warren took on Belvidere in baseball on April 6th. North Warren won, 14 to 1. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

North Warren Shuts Out Hopatcong in Softball



North Warren took on Hopatcong in Softball on April 6th. North Warren won, 10 to 0. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Project Self-Sufficiency Seeks Input from Parents About Needs and Services

Local parents are invited to attend an information session about the Journey Family Success Center Parent Advisory Board at Project Self-Sufficiency, Tuesday, April 23rd, 5:00 p.m. Organizers are seeking input from families regarding area services, parenting challenges and concerns, and ideas for upcoming events. Family Success Center staff will highlight ways the

agency can address issues facing local parents and incorporate feedback into future programs. Dinner and childcare will be provided for those in attendance. The gathering will also be available on Zoom; interested participants are invited to call 973-940-3500 to obtain log-in details. Advance registration for the in-person session is encouraged.

“Input from parents is crucial to the success of the Family Success Center and we are excited about offering residents the opportunity to meet area providers, express their concerns about gaps in services, and identify strategies for moving forward,” remarked Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. “The Family Success Cen-

ter has supported Sussex County parents and children for many years. Expanding the Parent Advisory Board will allow us to further respond to the needs of area families and incorporate their suggestions into existing and new programs for the community.”

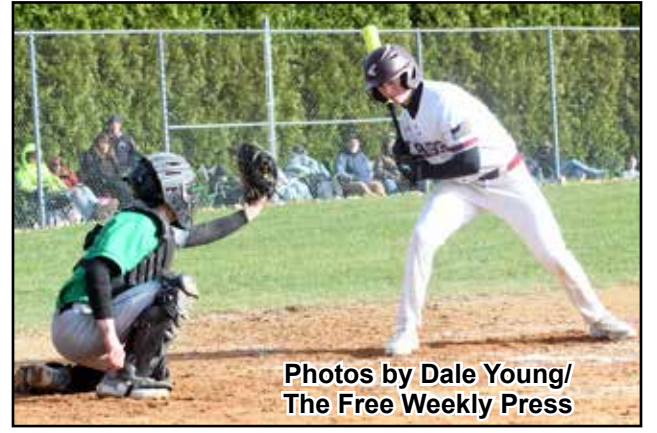
Project Self-Sufficiency is located at 127 Mill Street in Newton. For information about the

Parent Advisory Board, or to find out more about any of the programs sponsored by the Journey Family Success Center at Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500 or visit www.journeyfsc.org.

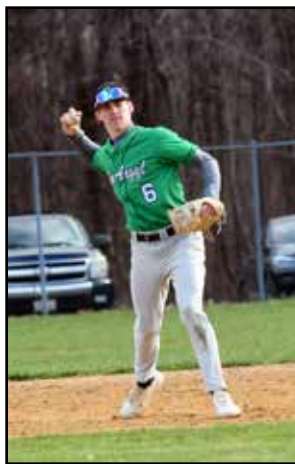
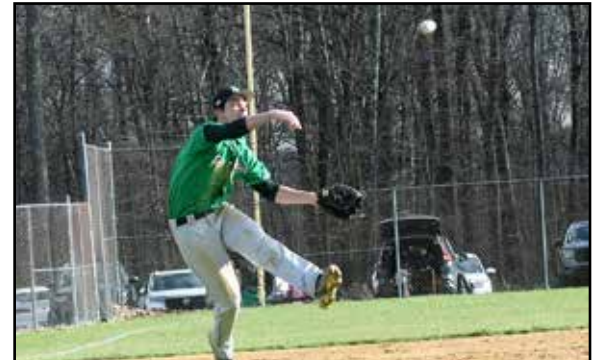
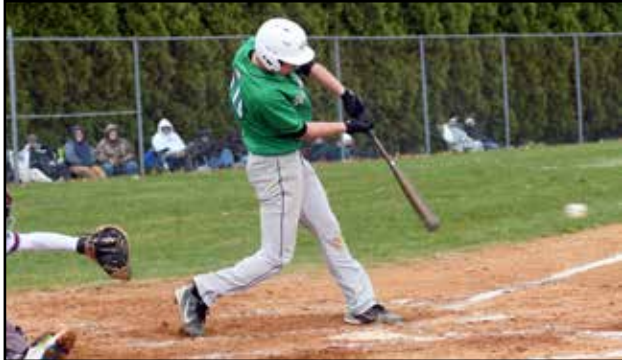
The Journey Family Success Center at Project Self-Sufficiency is a program of support which includes parenting skills training, economic self-sufficiency services,

family activities, legal education services, information about health and nutrition, referrals, advocacy, and other services. All activities are free and open to the public. Family Success Centers offer services to children, youth, families, individuals, and communities. Funding is provided by the New Jersey Department of Children & Families.

BANGOR (2) VS PEN ARGYL (3) BASEBALL - 4/5/2024



Photos by Dale Young/
The Free Weekly Press



Northampton County Conservation District Host Annual Envirothon Competition

On Thursday, April 18, 2024, the Northampton County Conservation District will hold its annual Envirothon competition. The Envirothon is an environmental competition for students in grades 9 through 12. A team consists of five students and an advisor. Each team is

given materials and objectives to study in advance. The teams will be tested in five areas at the competition: Wildlife, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, and a current environmental issue. This year's topic is Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future.

This year, seven schools will compete with a total of twelve teams. The competing teams are Bangor Area High School, Freedom High School, Nazareth Area High School, Northampton Area High School, Pen Argyl Area High School, Moravian Academy Upper, and Saucon Valley High School. At the competition, the teams will rotate through five stations taking written tests with hands-on applications. The team with the highest cumulative score is the winner.

The April 18th event will be held from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Louise W. Moore County Park, located in Bethlehem and Lower Nazareth Townships, and is sponsored this year by the Northampton County Conservation District; the Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation; The Pidcock Company; J.G. Petrucci Co. Inc.; Joe Correia; Commerce Construction Co., L.P.; Majestic Realty Co.; Ott Consulting, Inc.; Pennsylvania American Water Co.; Schlouch, Inc.; Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc.; Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc.; Grand Central Landfill (Waste Management);

Base Engineering, Inc; and Wegman's. The Conservation District receives help from the following agencies responsible for preparing, administering, and correcting the tests: PA Game Commission, PA DCNR – Bureau of Forestry, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and Penn State Extension. Assistance will also be provided by volunteers from the Conservation District, the Division of Parks & Recreation, and some of the sponsoring organizations.

Plaques, medallions, and gift cards will be awarded to the top three scoring teams, as well as prizes for the highest score achieved for each

station test. We will also be giving a prize in honor of Chrissy Buchman, our previous manager who passed away in 2016, to the highest-scoring team at the Current Issue Station. We also provide an honor award to the team scoring the highest in the Soils station in the name of the late Robert H. Jones, a previous board director of the Northampton County Conservation District. All participants will also receive event T-shirts and Certificates of Participation.

The County winner will advance to the state competition, which is scheduled to be held at Camp Mt. Luther, Mifflinburg, PA, on May 22, 2024.

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BANGOR (12) VS PEN ARGYL (6) SOFTBALL - 4/5/2024



Photos by Dale Young/
The Free Weekly Press

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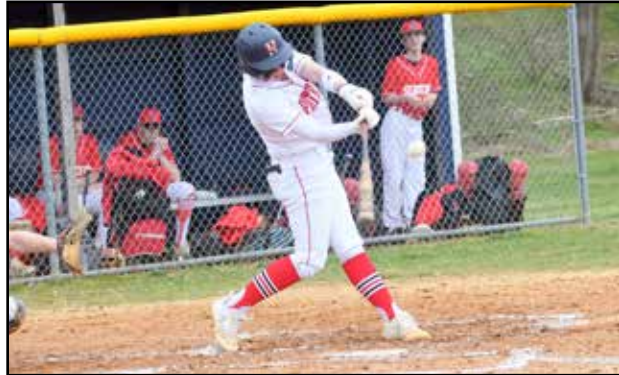
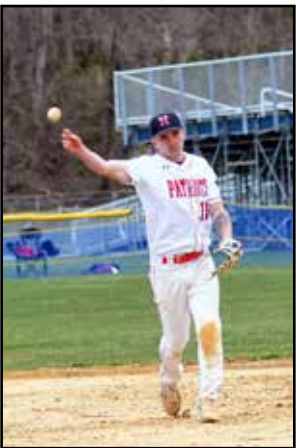
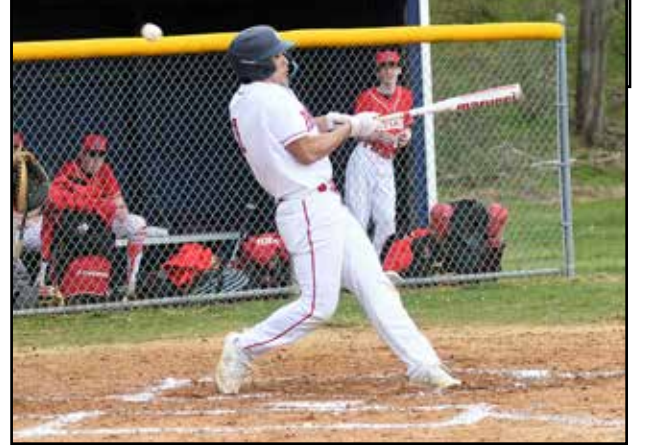
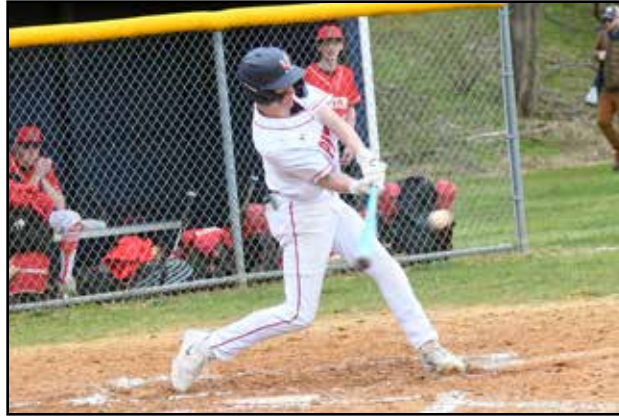
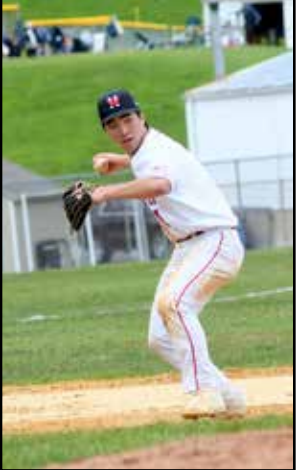
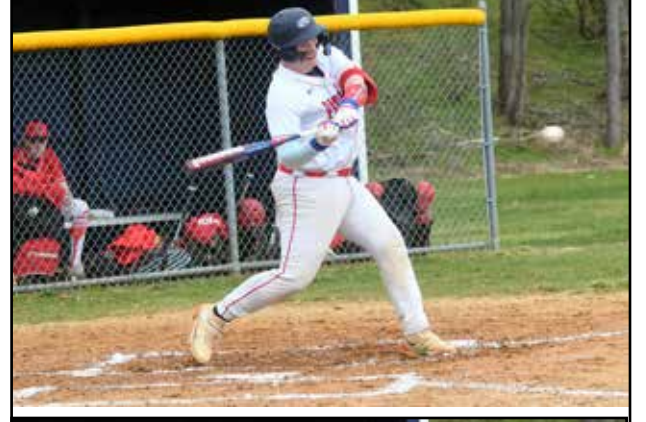
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NORTH WARREN (14) VS BELVIDERE (1) BASEBALL 4-6-2024



Photos by Dale Young/
The Free Weekly Press

FIREFIIGHTERS WANTED
 Second Ward Fire Company of the Bangor Fire Department is seeking new volunteers of good moral character to join the ranks. Training is provided both in-house and through classes provided by Northampton County Fire School. If you are interested in joining to help serve the community or have any questions please call or message Captain Tom Betzler at 610-393-0654.

You may also stop by the station during our weekly drills on Mondays at 7pm. Our station is located at 517 S. Northampton St. Bangor, PA.



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NORTH WARREN (10) VS HOPATCONG (0) SOFTBALL 4-6-2024



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Steinhardt Introduces Bill To Extend Closing Times Of Polling Places By One Hour

Senator Doug Steinhardt has introduced legislation that would extend the closing times of polling places on election day and during early voting periods by one hour.

“This legislation would provide voters with additional time to cast their ballots on election day and during early voting periods, resulting in more convenience and flexibility for evening voters,” said Senator Steinhardt (R-23).

S-2984 would require polling places for the primary and general elections to open at 6 a.m. and would extend the closing time from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Polling places for school elections would be open for an additional hour with voting hours from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. In the event a school board wishes to designate additional times for voting, the period of time in which the additional hours can be designated would also be extended from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

This legislation would also extend the closing times for early voting sites by one hour for the primary and general elections. Designated early voting locations would be open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To help facilitate the elections process, municipal clerks’ offices would be open an additional hour on election day to assist voters from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In addition to polling hours, the bill would extend the time for which minors between 16 and 18 years of age, serving as poll workers, would be required to stop working. The current law states that these individuals are permitted to serve until 9 p.m., which would be extended one hour to 10 p.m.

“The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and this legislation would help ensure that all voters can make their

voices heard in our elections,” said Sen. Steinhardt.

If signed into law, New Jersey would join New York in offering general election polling hours from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. statewide. Primary election polling places close at 9 p.m. in New York City and certain New York counties.

You can read the full text of the legislation online by visiting: www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/S2984

To speak with Sen. Steinhardt about this bill, please contact Jennifer Collins, SRO Associate Director of Digital Communications at jcollins@njleg.org.

Boscola to Introduce Legislation Phasing Out Toxic Additives in IV Bags and Medical Equipment and Requiring Medical Facilities to Notify Patients of Their Use

Senator Lisa Boscola announced today that she will be introducing legislation requiring licensed medical facilities in Pennsylvania that utilize IV bags and other medical devices made with Diethylhexyl Phthalate (DEHP) to formally notify patients of their use and the documented risks posed by this toxic additive. Her proposal would also require a phase out of DEHP IV-bags and tubing over time, starting with high-risk patients (NICUs, pediatrics, and cancer patients).



“My legislation is critical for patient safety as extensive research has indicated that exposure to DEHP can have serious health repercussions especially for high risk patients,” Boscola stated. “My proposal gives Pennsylvania the opportunity to become the national leader in reducing the use of toxic additives in medical devices. I am proud to have the support of health systems here in eastern Pennsylvania.”

“St. Luke’s does not use IV solution containers that contain PVC or DEHP and we support Senator Lisa Boscola’s efforts to make sure all patients across the Commonwealth are similarly protected from these harmful forever chemicals,” Dr. Jeffrey Jahre, Senior Vice President Medical and Academic Affairs, St. Luke’s Uni-

versity Health Network, said.

DEHP belongs to a family of chemicals called phthalates which are added to certain plastic products to increase their flexibility and reduce brittleness. Some medical products such as IV bags and tubing can contain up to 40 percent DEHP by weight. Those additives leach to varying degrees, proving problematic, as extensive research suggests exposures during critical periods of development can interfere with testosterone production and disrupt normal male reproductive development. Studies have also found that DEHP may contribute to increased drug resistance, in the treatment of breast cancer patients, interfering with breast cancer treatment and increasing the likelihood of relapse.

County Executive Lamont G. McClure and the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development Hosts Digital Navigator Training Opportunity

County Executive Lamont G. McClure and the Northampton County Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) recently announced an allocation of approximately \$10,000 of the County’s Broadband American Rescue Plan funds to support Digital Navigator Training.

Northampton County is partnering with the National Digital Inclu-

sion Alliance to offer a two-day Digital Navigator Training to bring digital equity to the citizens of Northampton County. The training will take place at Northampton Community College’s Bethlehem Campus on Tuesday, April 30, and Wednesday, May 1, from 9 am – 12 pm.

During training, Digital Navigators will learn:

- How to pair community members with appropriate devices and locate local free and low-cost options

- What resources are available for self-guided digital skills, and how to use resources to teach one-on-one or to small groups

- How a digital navigator program conducts its work, including data collection and client management

- How to identify internet options for low-income community members

Public-facing employees, healthcare, schools, and nonprofits are encouraged to participate. If your organization wants to train a digital navigator, please contact the Northampton County Department of Community & Economic Development at (610) 829-6306.

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Project Self-Sufficiency Will Host April Career Fair for Local Employers

Local businesses and organizations are gearing up to recruit new staff members at Project Self-Sufficiency's Career & Job Fair on Wednesday, April 17th, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Representatives from local employers and educational institutions will be on hand to promote job openings and scholastic opportunities. Additional job searching resources, such as mock interviews, will be offered to attendees by Project Self-Sufficiency Career Center staff. A Shop Rite gift card will be awarded to a lucky Career & Job Fair attendee. The event Fair is free and open to the public.



"We encourage anyone who is interested in advancing their career to attend this unique event," commented Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon. "In addition to learning about employment opportunities and opti-

ons for furthering their education, job seekers can get immediate feedback on their resume, fine-tune their interview skills, and get tips on enhancing their job search process."

Recent Project Self-Sufficiency Career & Job Fairs have hosted more than 50 area employers. In addition

to Project Self-Sufficiency, employers and educational institutions who have already signed on to promote job openings include Abilities of Northwest Jersey; Action Group Staffing; Atlantic Health System; Avenues in Motion; Bayada Home Health Care; Capitol Care; Cutting Edge Academy;

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health; Express Employment Professionals; First Student, Inc.; Fulton Bank; Heath Village; Home Depot; iHeartMedia; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 102 JATC; Iron Temple Training Center; Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice; Land

of Make Believe; Mary Kay Cosmetics; Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges; Morris County Vocational School District, Adult Continuing Education Program; Mountain Creek Resort; National Winter Activity Center; New Jersey Courts, Morris/Sussex Vicinage; New Jersey Department of Labor, Sussex County One Stop; New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; Planet Network; Preferred Care at Home; Premier Health Associates; Primerica Financial Services; RoNetco Supermarkets/Shop Rite; Rose House; SCARC, Inc.; Sevita Health; Sheet Metal Workers Union Local #25; Sussex County Community College; Thor Labs; United Methodist Communities Homeworks; United States Marine Corps; Willow Lake Day Camp; Workforce Development Board of Northwest New Jersey; and others.

For more informati-

on about the free Career & Job Fair, or to find out more about the programs and services offered by Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500 or visit www.projectsselfsufficiency.org.

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

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DEP Holds Keystone Sanitary Landfill Accountable for Odor Concerns, Reaches Settlement on Civil Penalty & Requires Keystone to Immediately Begin Mitigating Odors

DEP and the boroughs of Dunmore and Throop will split a \$575,000 civil penalty, this is the largest fine issued to Keystone Sanitary Landfill, DEP will continue monitoring and responding to complaints to ensure Keystone complies with the agreement and reduces odors at the landfill

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has entered a Consent Order and Agreement (COA) with Keystone Sanitary Landfill for odor violations, including creating malodors, at its facility in the boroughs of Dunmore and Throop between November 2022 and February 2024, and impacting residents

in several surrounding communities. The \$575,000 civil penalty is the largest penalty DEP has issued to Keystone Sanitary Landfill in the last decade.

Under the agreement, DEP has ordered Keystone to take corrective action to mitigate the potential for off-site odors from its leachate lagoons. Some of those measures include utilizing foam,

implementing a new intermediate cover system, and submitting to the department a permit modification for the installation of two 2,500,000-gallon leachate storage tank systems. DEP has also directed the landfill to re-evaluate the effectiveness of its Reverse Osmosis (RO) system for treating leachate and make any necessary modifications. Under the agreement, Keystone is also required to mitigate landfill gas odors from the site. Keystone must implement additional surface monitoring and follow an accelerated capping schedule of at least 30 acres to minimize areas of intermediate cover.

A \$575,000 civil penalty will be split between DEP and the boroughs of Dunmore and Throop. DEP will receive \$180,000 from the COA, plus \$35,000 for cost recovery. The \$180,000 will be deposited into the Solid Waste Abatement Fund, which is a statewide fund set up to eliminate potential hazards related to solid waste. DEP also

worked to ensure that the boroughs of Dunmore and Throop will each receive \$180,000, which Keystone Landfill is required to deposit into a separate bank account for both parties. This money will be used to fund projects which substantially improve, protect, restore, or remediate the environment, or improve, protect, or reduce risks to the public health or safety. Keystone must make those deposits within 30 days.

“The Department of Environmental Protection made a commitment to residents to respond swiftly to address these odors and hold the responsible party accountable,” said DEP Interim Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley. “That’s why DEP worked around the clock to investigate the odors and ordered Keystone Landfill to take corrective steps so a situation like this does not happen in the future. The Shapiro Administration will continue to protect every Pennsylvanian’s constitutional right to clean air, pure water, and a healthy environment.”

“The Department thanks impacted Pennsylvanians for working with DEP staff over the past few months,” said DEP Northeast Regional Director Joseph J. Buczynski, PE. “The

complaints we received were instrumental in helping to confirm the source of the odors and hold the landfill accountable.”

Following an increase of complaints about off-site odors from the Keystone Sanitary Landfill, DEP staff worked around the clock to actively address hundreds of odor complaints and conducted odor patrols on weekdays, early mornings, evenings, and weekends. During complaint investigations and regular and after-hours odor patrols, from November 2022 through February 2024, there were at least 70 occasions where representatives of the Department detected landfill gas and/or leachate odors offsite and were able to attribute them to Keystone. During complaint investigations, staff also determined that Keystone had created odors, including strong malodors, from its facility, impacting the community. A malodor is defined by DEP regulation as: “[A]n odor which causes annoyance or discomfort to the public and which the Department determines to be objectionable to the public.”

As part of its investigation into the odors, the Department determined that Keystone: Failed to implement

its Nuisance Minimization and Control Plan to minimize and control other conditions that are harmful to the environment or public health, or which create safety hazards, odors, dust, noise, unsightliness, and other public nuisances.

Permitted the emission of a malodorous air contaminant from the facility into the atmosphere in such a manner that the malodors were detectable outside the facility where the malodors were generated.

- Failed to prevent and control air pollution.

- Failed to implement the gas control and monitoring plan.

- Failed to maintain a uniform intermediate cover that prevents odors.

- Failed to properly conduct enhanced surface monitoring on intermediate slopes.

The failures described above are a violation of the Solid Waste Management Act, the Air Pollution Control Act, DEP’s regulations, and conditions in the landfill’s existing permits it has with the Department.

DEP will continue to monitor the landfill and to investigate complaints to ensure Keystone Sanitary Landfill is reducing odors, as is required by the COA. If Keystone Sanitary Landfill fails to comply with the terms of the COA, they could face further penalties.

A copy of the COA with Keystone can be found on the DEP website.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, please visit website, or follow DEP on Facebook, Twitter, or LinkedIn.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Cutler: New Poll Shows Why Voter ID Constitutional Amendment is Worthwhile Pursuit

Pennsylvania House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) said Thursday that a new poll released from Franklin & Marshall College showing 73% of Pennsylvanians support a requirement that voters show photo identification every time they vote underscores the importance of the discharge resolution petition started by House Republicans last week to get a voter ID constitutional amendment out of committee and before the House for a vote.

"The poll released today by F&M shows that 73% of Pennsylvanians support requiring a photo identification each time someone goes to vote. That has more bipartisan support than other proffered election reforms like pre-canvassing and automatic voter registration," Cutler said. "With such broad bipartisan support for the idea among Pennsylvanians, it is grossly out of touch for the so-called humble, one-seat Democratic majority to continue to bottle up the voter ID constitutional amendment in committee."



Since the discharge resolution petition was started last week, Cutler noted 78 House Republicans and one House Democrat have signed onto the petition to get the constitutional amendment out of committee.

"Under the old House rules, this discharge resolution would be in order now and we could potentially be voting on this constitutional amendment as soon as this month," Cutler said. "However, Democrats gerrymandered the House Rules to guarantee that their one-seat majority has a total veto over any proposal that does not meet their extreme, anti-freedom left-wing litmus test." Cutler again noted the

importance of getting the voter ID constitutional amendment voted on in the coming months.

"If this amendment gets approved by the General Assembly by early July, it would be in a position to be considered on the ballot during the November General Election - a high turnout election that would ensure maximum voter participation on this important question," Cutler said. "I call on Speaker Joanna McClinton, Majority Leader Matt Bradford, and Majority Chair Carol Hill-Evans to recognize the bipartisan support this proposal has and schedule it for a vote in committee when we return to session next week."

Brown, Struzzi, Smith Pen Letter to PIAA to Level the Playing Field in High School Sports Broadcasting

Following years of inaction by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) to fix a broken broadcasting policy, Reps. Marla Brown (R-Lawrence), Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana) and Brian Smith (R-Jefferson/Indiana) have sent a formal letter to PIAA demanding change.

The PIAA recently entered into an agreement with the National Federation of State High School (NFHS) Association, the body that writes the rules of competition for most high school sports and activities in the United States. NFHS can provide a streaming service, and often, schools will choose to exercise that capability in high-profile situations. What this does is eliminate the ability for local media outlets covering the away teams to do what they do best and requires anyone who wishes to stream the game to pay a subscription fee to access it.

Brown, Struzzi and Smith issued this sta-

tement after sending the letter, signed by 45 lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, to the PIAA:

"The PIAA's current broadcasting policy is unfair on many levels, and most importantly, to the families of the players on the fields and courts of Pennsylvania. Our athletes work for years to hone their skills in their respective sports, and a lucky few get the chance to show those skills in PIAA playoff matchups. However, those matchups can be several hours away from their local communities.

"Pennsylvania is blessed with many local media outlets who faithfully cover high school sports throughout the season. More often than not, those outlets are happy to travel whatever distance is required to cover their teams for their communities. But time and time again, they're blocked by the exclusivity contract between the PIAA and NFHS. These athletes finally reach their moment on

the big stage, and all too often their friends and family are blocked from watching them by an NFHS paywall.

"During a 2022 hearing the Department of Education assured lawmakers that the issue of exclusivity between PIAA and the NFHS Network would be resolved. On January 26th, 2023, legislation was introduced to allow visiting teams in high school athletic competitions, and their local broadcasters, the same rights to broadcast, stream, and provide play-by-play as the home team. As of today, House Bill 30, the Fair Play in Broadcasting Act, has strong bipartisan support and could move from the House Education Committee at any time.

"It has become clear that fair broadcasting is not a priority being addressed in the PIAA. We, and the 42 other lawmakers who signed our letter, believe this issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible for the sake of Pennsylvania's players, families and fans."

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How to Overcome Anxiety at the Dentist



(NAPSI)—If you experience anxiety and stress while visiting your dentist, you're not alone. For many people, the idea of going to the dentist stirs up anxiety; however, it's so important to combat those thoughts to keep your smile strong and healthy. To help, here are four tips so you can remain calm while your teeth receive care:

Talk to your dentist—Be open about your anxieties and stress before the appointment so the dentist can ease your mind. If you want to know what's happening during the appointment, they can explain the procedure

to you. If you would rather not know, your dentist can tell you when to close your eyes or distract yourself. Work on a signal with your dentist—for instance, if you raise your hand during your appointment, it could mean you need a break, or something hurts. Don't be afraid to communicate what you need for a successful trip to the dentist's chair.

Use tools to distract yourself—If the tools or sounds of the dental machines cause you anxiety, find ways to busy yourself. You can bring headphones to listen to your favorite music or podcast whi-

le you lounge in the dentist's chair. Objects such as stress balls or fidget spinners are also a great way to keep busy.

Practice mindfulness—To keep your mind off your dentist's appointment, you can practice mindfulness both before and during. Focus on breathing while you're in the waiting room or in the dentist's chair with slow, deep breaths. Relax all the muscles you can, one at a time, with a body scan. Start from your feet all the way up to your neck and shoulders while you're reclined for your appointment.

Bring a friend—Do not feel embarrassed or shy to ask for support! If you have a trusted friend or family member who makes you feel safe, see if they can help you in facing your fear of the dentist.

While these tips may not get rid of dental anxiety completely, they are a great place to start so any patient can conquer any dentist appointment.

For more information on your oral health, visit Delta Dental of Washington's blog at www.deltadentalwa.com.

Chamber Music Concert Offered at Christ Church in Newton




Christ Church Newton will present a Chamber Music Concert by Trio Giocososo, featuring violinist Nicholas Currie, cellist Adam Gonzalez and pianist Diana Greene, on Saturday, April 20th, at 7:00 p.m. Works by Schubert, Haydn, and Kreisler will be performed. A reception will follow the performance in the parish hall adjacent to the church. Formed in 2007, Trio Giocososo aims to share with audiences of all ages, in concert and educational venues, the playful musical conversation and delightful spirit that is the true nature of chamber music. This will be the trio's fourth performance for Concerts at Christ Church. Christ

Church is located at 62 Main Street, just off the square in downtown Newton.

The group has performed at a variety of venues throughout the Northeast. Appearances by the ensemble have included performances on the Music for a New Space series in Towson, Maryland, the Springfield Presbyterian Church Music Series, Sound on Sound II and Sound Connections for the Baltimore Composers Forum, and the recital series at Scott Center for Performing Arts in Westminster, Maryland. The Trio also presented the world premiere of Garth Baxter's "From the Headwaters" in 2010.

Nicholas Currie, violinist, is Associate Concertmaster of the Annapolis Symphony, Principal Second Violin of the Maryland Lyric Opera Orchestra, and an instructor at UMBC and McDaniel College. Adam Gonzalez, cellist, currently performs with the Azimuth String Quartet and Trio Giocososo, and is on the faculty of Frederick Community College. In addition to her role as the organist and pianist at Christ Church, Diana Greene, is an early childhood music and movement specialist.

A free will offering will be taken at the concert. For more information, contact Joe Mello at jmello435@gmail.com or at 862-268-4720.



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Slate Belt Heritage Center Celebrates 25 Years of Memories, Then and Now.



The Slate Belt Heritage Center celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding with exhibits, opening receptions, in-person programs in April and a gala banquet in May, 2024.

SBHC's founding is an amazing story of citizens coming together to preserve an iconic building and diverse community stories. To mark the occasion of the founding, Slate Belt Heritage Center will host the annual spring opening exhibit that highlights the energetic volunteers who created the Center. Visitors can follow the organization's development to collect, preserve and interpret histories and artifacts from all nine Slate Belt municipalities and many ethnic groups, and see the Center's current and future projects to share that history with

the public.

On April 11 at 7 pm, there will be a public program "Remember When...the Start of the Heritage Center" with a panel of founders and trustees remembering SBHC's early years.

Beginning April 13, the Center will open to the public every Saturday and Sunday, from 12 to 3 pm through October featuring the exhibit in the Council Chamber, "25 Years of Memories, Then and Now." Each of the nine rooms will also have a special display.

On April 13 at 1 pm, there will be a ceremony in front of Pen Argyl Town Hall to dedicate three outdoor display units about Pen Argyl History. The panels are funded by the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development Hotel Tax Grant and by the

Slate Belt Heritage Center. The units follow national park service standards and join three similar units that were placed in Bangor last year.

A gala banquet will take place on May 11, from 6-9 pm at the Elks Home in Bangor, PA.

See the Heritage Center Facebook page, [SlateBeltHeritageCenter](https://www.facebook.com/SlateBeltHeritageCenter) SBHC for details in the near future.

The Slate Belt Heritage Center is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization located at 30 North First Street, Bangor, PA, 18013, in the former Bangor Town Hall. Starting April 13, the Center will be open on Saturdays and Sundays, from 12-3 pm (except holidays).

Private tours, research time, and program speakers are available by contacting the Center at SBHC@frontier.org or (610) 599.4339.



Fun, interactive activities for parents and children will be available at a free Family Health Expo hosted by Project Self-Sufficiency on Wednesday, April 24th, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Representatives from local health organizations will be on hand to discuss resources for the health and well-being of children and families, and presentations will be offered about adverse childhood experiences, child abuse prevention, the stages of appropriate childhood development, breast health, and positive parenting techniques. The Newton Volunteer First Aid & Rescue Squad will offer ambulance tours for kids. Blood pressure checks will be administered by the Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing. One family in attendance will be randomly selected to receive a \$100 gift card towards the purchase of groceries. Pizza will be provided for all attendees. The Family Health Expo is free and open to the public. In addition to Project Self-Sufficiency, up-to-date health and wellness information will be available from Caring Partners of Morris & Sussex; Center for Family Services; DAWN Center for Independent Living; Elizabethtown Gas; Family Partners of Morris & Sussex; Family Promise of Sussex County; Journey Family Success Center Parent Advisory Council; Mental Health Association (NJ4S); New Jersey Department of Child Protection & Permanency; Newton Volunteer Rescue & First Aid Squad; Sussex County Library System; Sussex County Public Health Nursing, Sussex Warren Chronic Disease Coalition; Sussex County YMCA; Youth Advocate Program; Zufall Health; and others. For more information about the Family Health Expo, or any of the other programs and services offered at Project Self-Sufficiency, visit www.projectsselfsufficiency.org.

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(NAPSI)—Boating and RV use rank among the most popular forms of recreation in the U.S. Having attractive, well-designed storage facilities for your boat or RV is important in protecting and enhancing the enjoyment of these assets.

Brad Mrozinski, Morton Buildings product line manager, says upfront planning is essential so that storage facilities for boats, RVs and other recreational vehicles, such as motorcycles and ATVs, will meet owners' current as well as future lifestyle needs.

He offers the following recommendations:

Plan for growth—According to the RV Industry Association, roughly 70% of RV purchases are made by existing RV'ers. Avoid building a storage facility that is too small.

Take into consideration not only current storage needs, but also possible aspirations five or 10 years into the future when you may want a larger RV model or bigger boat, or to add other vehicles. "Many people downsize their home over time, but when is the last time you heard someone say 'I wish I had a smaller boat or less spacious RV,'" Mrozinski says.

Consider other building uses—Besides boat or RV storage, think about other possible uses for the building so those can be incorporated into the design. Other popular options include offices, kitchenettes, lounges, bathrooms and space for hobbies. "When a customer has a boat or RV storage need, we ask about their lifestyle, what other vehicles and hobbies



they have, and really design a building to fit those needs," Mrozinski notes. Aesthetics are important—Boat, RV and other recreational storage

buildings are typically located near the main residence. Homeowners want an attractive facility that will add aesthetic appeal and value to their property—not a large, unattractive box. "It's important to think through how the storage building will blend in with and complement the home," Mrozinski says. "Design elements such as exterior colors, roof pitch and a wainscot can result in a beautiful storage facility rather than just a shed. Accessories such as a porch or a cupola are other ways to personalize the building."

Ensure convenient access—An important part of the design process is determining the best positioning for the building on the property. Proper orientation of doors is necessary to provide convenient access. Window placement is also important so you can see what's going on outside without

having to leave the building. "The storage facility should be designed to fit the property and be convenient for owners to easily use and enjoy," he says.

Other recommendations include:

- Design the building layout for functionality and ease of use. For instance, for an RV storage building, placing the tall overhead door to one side reduces water hose and charging cord tripping hazards when the RV is serviced inside the building.
- Plan sufficient storage for occasionally used equipment as well as support materials to be kept in stock and easy to access when needed.
- Ensure adequate ventilation if you are working on boat or RV engines, as well as for cars, trucks, snowmobiles or four-wheel-drive vehicles.
- Include a floor

drain if you will be washing any equipment or pulling in vehicles covered with snow.

Hobby garages - Mrozinski notes that other types of recreational buildings are also experiencing growing demand, such as a hobby garage or workshop, pool house, garden shed, backyard office, or man cave/she shed. These structures involve many of the same planning and design considerations as for boats and RV storage.

"Vehicle storage, hobby shops and other accessory buildings are among the most requested projects we're now experiencing," Mrozinski says. "Regardless of the intended use, upfront planning is essential to ensure a high-quality, functional building that can be enjoyed for years to come."

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As a result, according to research from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, only about 30% of high school graduates

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IB may be less well-known than the Advanced Placement (AP) program, but that's primarily due to the AP's prevalence.

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Diploma Programme in grade six. Students enter into the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) which prepares students to develop critical thinking, inquiry, and research skills. Through the MYP, students become more internationally minded and are tasked with proposing solutions to current global issues, which prepares them to enter into the Diploma Programme in grades 11 and 12.

The Diploma Programme is internationally recognized with a growing number of colleges and universities exchanging IB course grades for college credit (as is done with AP). Students select from courses that not only prepare them for college but promote global thinking, such as Global Politics, Environmental Systems and Societies, and Theory of Knowledge.

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beyond, asking students to present their knowledge and thinking in multiple ways, rather than through just one exam.

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As Taylor, a 7th grader puts it: "All the teachers are really connected, and that helps students to be connected. It's like one big family."

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provides a solution.

"The Academy of International Studies really does help prepare you for life," says Meijin, class of 2022. "There are so many life skills you learn here."

True to its name, International sends its students on life-defining trips, with recent ventures to Brazil, Cuba, France, the Galapagos Islands, South Africa, and Spain.

What's more, 95% of our student body goes on to attend college—including some of the most prestigious schools in the world. After all, the hallmarks of an International education are right in line with what college admissions offices value most.

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For further facts, visit www.chooseinternational.org.

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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



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Hello, fellow readers,
Early spring is an ideal time to prune many evergreen shrubs like juniper and yews and deciduous shrubs not known for flowering, such as Red Twig Dogwood and Ninebark. Otherwise, the rule of thumb is to prune after shrubs flower. Boxwoods can be pruned anytime through summer (no meatball shapes, please). Sometimes, plants need to be revitalized. But it is of utmost importance not to prune plants late in summer or early fall, as this may encoura-

ge new growth that will not have time to harden off, causing winter damage. Also, late pruning stresses plants, as they put energy into their roots rather than new growth that time of year.

It felt therapeutic to tend to the rejuvenation pruning of the Smokebush and other shrubs. Rejuvenation pruning involves drastically cutting back overgrown plants to restore them to their intended shape or to manage their size, which was the case of my Smokebush (aka Smoke Tree) rising above the roof.

Cotinus coggygria is a fast-growing shrub that bursts into bloom in summer and resembles puffs of smoke, hence the name. It grows ten to fifteen feet tall and wide in Zones 5 to 8 and prefers full sun. It can tolerate a range of soil pH but prefers slightly acidic soil. But it fails in soggy soil, so good drainage is essential. Once established, it can tolerate drought.

I should mention that according to the North



Garden Design by Mary Stone, Stone Associates Landscape Design & Consulting



'Royal Purple' Smokebush (Cotinus coggygria)

Carolina State Extension Office, the plant has low-severity poison characteristics. For some, contact with the plant sap may cause contact dermatitis. So protect yourself with long sleeves and gloves if you are allergic.

Mine is a 'Royal Purple' Smokebush—one of the dark purple varieties. It lives in part-sun, so it doesn't purple up as much as it could. The leaves are greenish-purple, but it's still a lovely plant that turns reddish-purple in the fall. It's a standard, meaning trained to have a single trunk.

To rejuvenate Smokebush, randomly cut the branches to just above the next growth node (where new stems grow) to lessen the canopy by about one-third. Cleanly cut at a slight angle about a quarter inch from the branch collar to remove an entire limb. Make clean angular cuts to prevent insects or disease, being careful around the trunks of these beauties as their wood is tender.

You can also rejuvenate clump Smokebush to control its size. Cut it to six to eight inches above the ground, as we do But-

terfly Bush. Of course, don't prune a standard Smokebush close to the ground, as it will revert to its clumping natural shape.

The best time to rejuvenate prune is before budding begins in late winter or early spring. Young Smokebush can shoot up odd branches – growing tall before filling out. I suggest pruning the unusual shoots as they come along to encourage thicker branching.

Other plants I rejuvenate pruned, cutting it to half its size, are the Little Princess Japanese Spiraea

and Cinquefoil. Like Butterfly Bush, they bloom on new wood, so we won't miss out on the flower this season. Smokebush, on the other hand, flowers on old wood. Therefore, it will be a few seasons before the revitalized plant returns to its puffy glory of blooms.

Newly installed Smokebush may also take a few years to bloom. But there are miracles in new beginnings, just as in our lives. As we go through difficult times, please take comfort in knowing we can revitalize and restore ourselves. Have faith that the new beginnings occur after endings. It brings us hope.

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