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PRESS



March 7, 2024

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Vol. 51: No. 33



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Bangor Battles Whitehall in District 11, 5A Girls Basketball Semifinals



Bangor and Whitehall went head to head on the District 11, 5A Semifinals for girls basketball on February 28th. Bangor lost, 46 to 44. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Bangor Senior, Jaelyn Silfies, Signs Letter of Intent With West Chester University



Bangor's Jaelyn Silfies signed her letter of intent to play softball for West Chester University. Jaelyn is pictured above with her parents, Teddy & Heather Reed, and Ryon Silfies. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

New Jersey Holds Annual Trout Meeting

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife will be holding its annual trout stocking meeting virtually on Thursday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. This important meeting provides an excellent opportunity for anglers to ask questions, voice their opinions, and give suggestions regarding New Jersey's trout stocking program. This year's meeting will include the following topics:

- Fish & Wildlife Update
- Freshwater Fisheries Update
- 2024 Hatchery Production



- Trout Stocking Allocations
- Trout Stocking Program Discussion
The presentations will be followed by an open public question period. Register at: register.got-webinar.com/register/3093686408679678805, and join the virtual meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone, or by telephone. Anglers are also reminded that fishing is prohibited on trout stocked waters March 18 through April 6 at 8 a.m. for pre-season stocking. Catch and release for trout in all other waters.

Pen Argyl Takes On Notre Dame Green Pond in District 11, 3A Semifinals



Pen Argyl took on Notre Dame Green Pond in the District 11, 3A Semifinals for girls basketball on February 27. Pen Argyl lost, 40 to 21. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

"TUSK" Performs Exceptional Show in Jim Thorpe, PA



Tusk, who has been said to be the World's No. 1 Fleetwood Mac Tribute band, has been traveling the country since 2008. The group, which consists of five talented music professionals with the upmost respect and adoration for Fleetwood Mac, comes together flawlessly with chemistry, synergy, intuition, vocal similarities, physical traits, and amazing costumes to help put on an exceptional show. The relationship among the five founding members of Tusk has a rich history that goes back more than four decades. From childhood friends to classmates, all five have been playing music with one another over the years in various configurations of original bands, jam bands, singer-songwriter circles, and alternative rock groups, until finding their perfect musical family. "Tusk is more than a band; they are a family." The Group recently played an exceptional show at on March 2nd at Penn's Peak in Jim Thorpe, PA. The bandmates are more than just great musicians, they are great people as well. The whole experience was phenomenal. Special Thanks to Paul Palazzi, Road and Production Manager, for your hospitality.



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4-H Equine Garage Sale Open to the Public

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, the annual tack swap or "equine garage sale" will be held at the Northampton County 4-H Center, Nazareth, PA. The tack swap will be held from 11 AM - 2 PM. The public is invited to attend.

The Northampton County 4-H Center is located at 777 Bushkill Center Rd., 2.2 miles south of Rte. 512 from the traffic light for Bushkill Center Rd. or 3 miles north of Nazareth on Bushkill Center Rd.

There will be new and used items for sale for all horse interests and disciplines. Also there will be horse crafts, Breyer model horses, clothing and other horse related items. All sellers are pre-registered for a sale table or space inside, outside space is available the day of the swap; there are no consignments. No live ani-

mals are permitted. No dogs permitted.

Food, courtesy of Backtrackers 4-H Horse and Pony Club, will be available during the sale hours. This is a rain/shine event; being held inside non-heated buildings and outside.

The 4-H program is open to youths between the ages of 8-19 years. It offers over 150 hands-on projects, a wide variety of experiences, and builds life skills for the future. Volunteer leaders are always welcome.

Anyone wishing information concerning the tack swap is asked to call Janice Martin at 610-837-7294. Anyone wishing general information concerning the 4-H program in Northampton County is asked to call the Northampton County 4-H Offices, weekdays, 8 AM - 4 PM, at 610-746-1970, or your local Agricultural Extension Service in your county.

Northwest New Jersey Lawmakers Call On Murphy And Dems To Restore \$20 Million To Community Colleges

While touting increases in education funding, Gov. Phil Murphy and his administration have been notably silent on the \$20 million cut to community colleges in the state, say Sen. Parker Space, Assemblyman Michael Inganamort and Assemblywoman Dawn Fantasia. The Northwest New Jersey lawmakers are calling on the administration to reverse the cut and start fairly funding the county college sector to prevent potential tuition increases on students and negative impacts on workforce development.

"New Jersey simply cannot afford to continually underfund community colleges. They play a vital role in our state's workforce development efforts and provide affordable access to a diverse body of students who have a desire to earn a degree or certificate, including some who thought they'd never be able to get into college or have their unique educational needs met in a higher education setting," Space said. "The astounding lack of in-

vestment in our community colleges by the state is shortsighted and hurts educational opportunities."

According to Murphy's budget documents released this week, he plans to cut \$20 million from the operating support for the state's 18 community colleges, bringing the funding level down to FY23. The \$20 million increase in operating aid last year represented the first significant state investment for community colleges in more than a decade.

"We are very concerned about what this cut means for Sussex County Community College, the County College of Morris, and Warren County Community College, because they all drive partnerships with employers, county governments and high schools to create career pipelines in this region. From nursing to manufacturing and everything in between, there is a great need for specially trained residents with the skills and education to fill in-demand jobs and they are coming

from our county colleges," Inganamort said. "The governor's claim of significant investment in New Jersey's county colleges is simply false. New Jersey has one the worst state-funded county college systems in the country, even before this cut. It's time for the state to reverse course."

Aaron Fichtner, president of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, said in a statement that the proposed reduction jeopardizes the operation of New Jersey's 18 community colleges, which serve over 230,000 residents and power key industries. He said colleges will be forced to make difficult decisions, including raising tuition, cutting programs and student supports, and reducing staffing.

"Roughly 55% of community college funding comes from students paying tuition. Students go to community college so they can graduate without debt. We can't support a state budget that unfairly burdens our most economically disadvantaged

college students," Fantasia said. "Our county colleges serve both val- edictorians and adults earning their GEDs. They are able to respond to the needs of the community by acting as an information hub for local veterans, opening campus food banks, and holding workshops for senior citizens and high schoolers alike. We are committed to collectively working with our colleagues and stakeholders to prioritize funding for our community colleges, while highlighting their invaluable contributions to this state."

Only about 20% of funding for community colleges comes from the state, putting it among the top five most underfunded systems in the nation. County college officials, who did not expect the \$20 million increase last year to be a one-time state investment, are clamoring to understand the rationale behind the decrease, but have yet to be provided answers. They plan to attend the first public budget hearing on March 11 to make their case.

Scholarship Grants Available for EMS Professionals

To recruit and retain emergency medical services (EMS) professionals, a tuition assistance program offers up to \$5,000 for reimbursement of EMS state certification training for permanent Pennsylvania residents.

Up to \$300 is available for emergency medical



responders, up to \$800 for emergency medical technicians, up to \$1,000 for advanced emergency medical technicians and up to \$5,000 for paramedics. Pennsylvania-licensed EMS agencies are eligible to receive up

to \$1,250 of recruitment and retention expenses per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Reimbursement will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted. Learn more at: www.health.pa.gov/

topics/Documents/EMS/EMSIB%202024-02%20Provider%20Tuition%20Assistance%20and%20Agency%20Recruitment%20%26%20Retention%20Expense%20Reimbursement.pdf

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PEN ARGYL (21) VS NOTRE DAME GREEN POND (40) DISTRICT 11, 3A SEMIFINAL GIRLS BASKETBALL



Photo by Dale Young/
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BANGOR (44) VS WHITEHALL (46) DISTRICT 11, 5A SEMIFINALS GIRLS BASKETBALL



Photo 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.
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Photos by Doreen Rutherford/The Free Weekly Press

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THIS SATURDAY March 9th, 7pm Out of Shape



New Jersey State Parks Seeking Applicants To Fill At Least 800 Part-Time Jobs Ahead of Peak Spring And Summer Seasons



The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has begun accepting applications for more than 800 peak-season part-time jobs throughout state parks, forests and historic sites, Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announced recently.

Part-Time Jobs Available seasonal part-time job opportunities include lifeguards, naturalists, history educators, general maintenance workers, visitor service assistants and office staff. Peak season generally runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day, with select state parks extending positions from April to October based on operational needs. Applicants, such as students and teachers whose availability may be limited to weekends during specific periods of the year, are encouraged to apply as there may be flexibility for some work shifts. Salary rates for all positions have been increased for 2024.

"A seasonal position in a state park or forest is not your average summer job," Commissioner LaTourette said. "The diversity of positions offered gives applicants the opportunity to connect with nature, foster a

sense of stewardship and make a positive impact on some of New Jersey's natural treasures while also gaining invaluable knowledge and experiences that may build a foundation for a career in environmental protection and conservation."

Prospective candidates for all positions are encouraged to first contact the state park office of their preference by early March to inquire about specific roles, scheduling details and other job-related matters. Applications should be submitted at the earliest possible convenience via www.nj.gov/dep/workinparks.

"Spend your summer working outdoors in some of the most beautiful landscapes that New Jersey has to offer," said John Cecil, Assistant Commissioner for State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites. "Working alongside the state park's full-time staff is more than just a summer job; it offers a transformative experience that shapes character, instills a sense of pride in preserving our natural heritage, and cultivates a lifelong love for the great outdoors."

Lifeguard opportunities: Lifeguard Part-Time JobsLifeguards



are needed at swimming areas across the state, with salaries starting at \$18.50 per hour. The rate for oceanfront guards at Island Beach State Park starts at \$19.50 per hour. Prior experience is not necessary, but candidates must pass running and swimming tests prior to employment. The State Park Service will train lifeguards in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Automated External Defibrillator use, first aid and other safety skills. Each lifeguard will also receive a U.S. Lifesaving Association certification upon successful completion of training.

The DEP anticipates state park swimming areas to open in mid-June. Island Beach State Park swimming areas are expected to open Saturday, May 25.

Lifeguard opportunities are anticipated at High Point, Hopatcong, Swartswood and Wayanda state parks in the northern part of the state, Cheesequake State Park and Round Valley Recreation Area in the central region, and Island Beach and Parvin state parks, along with Atsion Recreation Area (Wharton State Forest), Bass River and Belleplain state forests in the south.

Additionally, the State Park Service will hire junior lifeguards who are at least 15 years old, at \$17 per hour. While junior lifeguards cannot perform lifeguard duties for the public until age 16, the position provides a head start on training

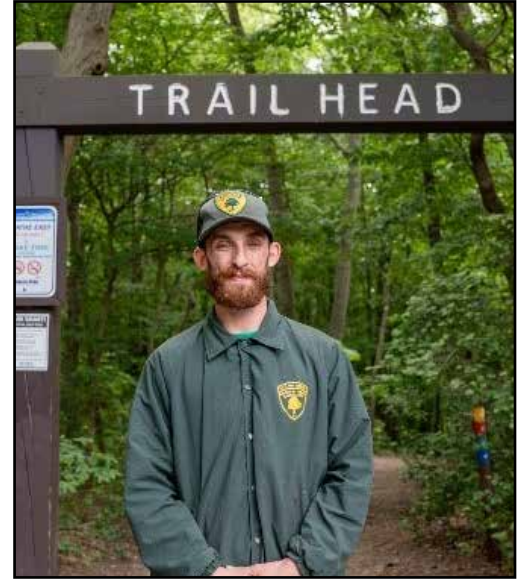
for when they can provide full lifeguard duties the following summer.

Other available positions - Maintenance personnel are vital to the State Park Service's summer operations. Applicants should expect to assist full-time staff in a variety of tasks that include mowing lawns, cleaning facilities and removing trash. Park improvement projects and other general maintenance functions are also required. Those with a unique skill, such as carpentry, are encouraged to apply for these positions. Salaries start at \$16 per hour.

Naturalists and history educators work with park naturalists and historians at interpretive centers and historic sites to educate visitors. Typical activities include leading or assisting with interpretive programs, teaching visiting camp groups, demonstrating a craft and preparing materials. These positions may also be assigned specific projects by their supervisor. Salaries start at \$16 per hour.

Naturalist Part-Time JobsNaturalist opportunities are available at Liberty State Park, High Point State Park and Stokes State Forest in the north, Leonardo State Marina, Cheesequake and Washington Crossing state parks in the central region, and Batsto Village Historic Site (Wharton State Forest) and Island Beach State Park in the south.

History educator positions are available at Ringwood State Park



and Waterloo Village Historic Site in the north, Twin Lights Historic Site and Washington Crossing State Park in the central region, and Batsto Village Historic Site (Wharton State Forest), Double Trouble and Island Beach state parks in the south.

Visitor service and office assistants help register campers, collect entrance fees, answer phone calls, provide recordkeeping and conduct other customer service duties as required. In some areas, visitor service assistants work as trail stewards whose responsibilities include brushing and blazing trails, installing signs and fences, and performing general trail maintenance. Applicants should be personable, assertive and professional as they may work with crowds and advise visitors about the Leave No Trace concept and

parks regulations. Salaries start at \$16 per hour.

The DEP's State Park Service manages more than 453,000 acres of land, including 40 state parks, 11 state forests, five recreation areas and more than 50 historic sites and districts.

For more about New Jersey's State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites, visit www.njparksandforests.org/

Like New Jersey's State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/newjerseystateparks

Follow New Jersey State Parks on Instagram @newjerseystateparks

Follow Commissioner LaTourette on Twitter and Instagram @shawnlatur and follow the DEP on Twitter @NewJerseyDEP, Facebook @newjerseydep, Instagram @nj.dep and LinkedIn @newjerseydep

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The public is invited to a discussion sponsored by the Delaware Water Gap Defense Fund on Saturday, March 9th at 11:30 AM; doors open at 11. The Sandyston Township Municipal Building located at 133 Rt. 645 in Sandyston will host the meeting. Topics include issues associated with the proposal to change the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to a national park and preserve. The public is encouraged to bring questions and concerns for discussion. More information can be found on: www.nonationalpark.org, Facebook - no national park - or email nonationalpark2030@gmail.com.

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Bangor High School Senior, Jaelyn Silfies, Signs Letter of Intent With West Chester University



PA DEP: Interim Report on a Full Year of Sampling Finds No Evidence of Contamination in Western Pennsylvania Related to the East Palestine Train Derailment

Analysis of a year of sampling conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and its independent contractor found no evidence of water or soil contamination related to the derailment in Pennsylvania's private water wells, surface water, and soil. The contractor also evaluated and verified sampling data, compared data to Pennsylvania's environmental standards, and made recommendations for additional sampling.

DEP's contractor also conducted, and continues to conduct, split sampling at three sentinel monitoring wells installed in Pennsylvania near the train derailment location. These wells were installed between the derailment site and private properties in

Pennsylvania and are used for early detection of groundwater contamination that could have migrated from the derailment site. Groundwater in this area has not been impacted by contamination from the derailment. Additionally, the monitoring well data evaluated by DEP indicates that groundwater around the monitoring wells on the Pennsylvania border is flowing towards Ohio and away from Pennsylvania residents in the area.

The full interim summary report can be found on DEP's webpage on the derailment along with an interactive mapping tool of sampling conducted to date. DEP's independent contractor is in the process of conducting the fourth round of private well sampling and has completed all soil and



surface water sampling. To date, samples have been taken at 85 individual private potable water sources, 97 surface soil locations, and 18 surface water locations within the Commonwealth, totaling hundreds of samples.

"DEP's response to the Norfolk Southern train derailment started just over a year ago, and we con-

tinue to be on the ground in Beaver and Lawrence counties supporting local communities," said DEP Interim Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley. "DEP will continue to work with local partners and its independent contractor to uphold Pennsylvanians' right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of natural resources.

Under the leadership of the Shapiro Administration, DEP will remain committed to addressing residents' concerns, following the science, and taking action when warranted."

Marking the one-year anniversary of the derailment, Governor Josh

Shapiro outlined Pennsylvania's response, including efforts he directed state agencies – including the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), State Police (PSP), Department of Agriculture (PDA), Department of Health (DOH), and DEP – to take immediately following the derailment and since. The Shapiro Administration is committed to serving Pennsylvanians impacted by the derailment, and will continue to work with local, state, and federal partners.

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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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



Mary E. Stone
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Hello, fellow readers,

While shopping in a nearby grocery I came upon cute little shamrocks on display for St. Patrick's Day, inspiring learning about the legend of shamrocks and the significance of the holiday. Of course, I love the green theme and the association with clover, another name for shamrocks. Clover is a favorable lawn alternative. It's a drought-tolerant nitrogen fixer requiring little or no mowing that pollinators love.

Four-leaf clovers seem to pop out of the crowd, and I tuck them into books to dry them. It's such fun to see them again when you open the pages. They say there's one four-leaf clover for every

ten thousand three-leaf clovers. So, finding one is indeed lucky – The luck of the Irish, as the legend goes. There are rare finds of five, six, or even more leaves. According to Guinness World Records, a clover stem with 56 leaves found in Japan holds the record on May 10th, 2009. Wowzah!

There's a gal I've met many times on the Paulinskill Valley Rail Trail gathering four-leaf clovers. The first time, I had Ellie, who was timid of Susan because of her walking stick until she spoke. Then Ellie happily sat for pets.

"This is a special spot," Susan said. "I've found many four-leaf clovers on the trail." I shared the story of saving clovers in books. Susan reached into her pocket and handed me a four-leaf clover laminated on a heart-shaped card. Others who hike the trail know about the good lucky lady and her gestures of kindness.

As the legend goes, Saint Patrick used the heart-shaped leaves of clovers to symbolize the Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The shamrock remains the national flower of Ireland. But how Patrick became a saint is a noteworthy part of the story.



Patrick was born into a wealthy family in Roman Britain in the fourth century. His Father was a deacon, and his grandfather was the priest of a Christian church there, but Patrick did not believe in God.

He was captured and enslaved as a shepherd in Gaelic Ireland at sixteen years old. During his six years of captivity, Patrick found God and became a believer. Perhaps the meditative time amongst the miracles in nature and

tending to animals was a source of finding his spiritual self. However, I read in the Declaration, presumably written by Patrick, that God told him to escape and find the ship waiting for him on the coast to take him home.

Upon his return to his homeland, Patrick became a priest. Then, he returned to Ireland in about 432 and spent many years converting others to Christianity, creating monasteries, churches, and schools. Saint Patrick died on

March 17th, 461. Saint Patrick's Day, also March 17th, became a day of religious services and feasts in celebrations of his life.

Of course, it's a nonspiritual holiday to most, with parades and toasts of green beer—even green bagels. Cities with high concentrations of folks of Irish descent have the most extravagant celebrations. The first St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston was in 1737. In New York City, it was 1762. Chicago has

Painted its river green on St. Patty's day since 1962.

There is something happy about the green theme, especially as winter comes to a gloomy close, which recalls the lyrics of When Irish Eyes Are Smiling – 'Sure, 'tis like the morn in Spring. In the lilt of Irish laughter, you can hear the angels sing.'

Happy St. Patrick's Day.

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PUBLIC NOTICE:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Warren has:

Cancelled the scheduled Regular Session Meeting of Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building, 165 Road 519S, Belvidere, NJ and rescheduled to Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at the Allamuchy Township Municipal Building, 292 Alphano Road, Allamuchy, NJ 07820 at 6:00 p.m

Moved the scheduled Regular Session Meeting of Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building, 165 Road 519S, Belvidere, NJ to the Washington Borough Municipal Building, 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882 at 6:00 p.m.

Moved the scheduled Regular Session Meeting of Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building, 165 Road 519S, Belvidere, NJ to the Pohatcong Township Municipal Building, 50 Municipal Drive, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 at 6:00 p.m.

Alex J. Lazorisak, County Administrator

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Save The Dates: May 19, Sept. 15, Nov. 17

Changing to Daylight Saving Time on Sunday should always be followed by a national holiday on Monday. ~ Author Unkown

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Northampton County Parks and Recreation Division Awards Louise W. Moore Park With Arboretum Accreditation

Northampton County Executive Lamont G. McClure and the Division of Parks & Recreation are pleased to announce that Louise W. Moore County Park, located in Bethlehem Township and Lower Nazareth Township, has been awarded Level I Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum, for achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens.

The 120-acre Louise W. Moore County Park has over 100 various species of trees and shrubs from around the world, mostly located within the 90-acre portion of the park on the west side of Country Club Road. Established in 1976, the park has over 3 miles of walking trails, rental pavilions, playgrounds, tennis, and pickleball courts.

Highlights of the park include:

The park arboretum was designed by the famous George E. Patton & Associates, the most prolific landscape architectural firm of twentieth-century Philadelphia, whose work includes the campuses of the University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, and both the main campus and the Ambler campus of Temple University.

George E. Patton & Associates revised arboretum plan for Louise Moore Park from 1979, which is in the park archives, included 300 major and minor tree species from North America, Asia, and Europe, as well as 26 acres of wildflower meadows to be planted at the park.

While as-built arboretum plans are not known to exist, many dozens of exemplary specimens of mature trees and shrubs from these three continents can be found thriving today in our Arboretum for public enjoyment and appreciation of this global diversity of plant life at Louise Moore Park.

To commemorate the 1987 bicentennial of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, seven eastern hemlocks – the state tree of Pennsylvania – are planted and commemorated with a bronze plaque mounted on a large native limestone boulder by the Northampton County U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Commission of 1987.

In 2019, a seven-acre stand of oak trees hundreds of years old and of enormous size are located in the far south end of the Louise Moore Park Arboretum. This stand of giant red and white oaks is called Matson's Woods and was inducted into the Old Growth Forest Network in 2019. This rare community of old-growth forest is a magnificent part of the Arboretum.

In 2021, 46 grafted nut trees from the historical John Hershey Nut & Edible Fruit Tree Nursery & Farm in Downingtown, PA, are part of the collection. In partnership with the North American Nut Growers Association for agriculturists, foresters, climate specialists, soil scientists, cultural resource professionals, and the public, they established the relocation of these trees to the park. John Russel Smith, the father of agroforestry and the author of the 1929 book, "Tree

Crops: A Permanent Agriculture" called the Hershey Nursery, "America's No. 1 Tree Crop Farm.

In 2024, Northampton County partnered with Bethlehem Area Vo-Technical School students to develop permanent tree guards surrounding the Hershey Nursery Trees.

Throughout the upcoming months and years, Northampton County will continue to partner with local, state, and federal agencies, non-profits, and educational establishments to promote education and research for public outreach and tours.

"The establishment of Louise W. Moore County Park as an arboretum solidifies the decades of individuals and groups to establish a unique public park encompassing such a variety of trees. From the initial development of the park to the preservation of the oak stand and the new repository of the agroforestry areas, this area becomes more than just a park but a place for future preservation, research, and public educational opportunities," said Bryan S. Cope, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation.

Northampton County's Parks, Trails, and Open Space system consists of 22 county-owned parks, trails, and conservation lands that highlight ridges, rivers, forests, and farmlands. The Parks & Recreation Division is responsible for the maintenance, management, improvement, and development of the County's 2,364-acre park system. Our parks offer active and passive recreation while combining conservation and wildlife management practices.

Public outreach is a priority in our steps to develop and deliver community outdoor recreation and environmental education programs to educate, develop, and implement conservation projects in our County Parks.

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta. ArbNet facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to

help arboreta meet their institutional goals and works to raise professional standards through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The accreditation program, sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, in cooperation with the American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, is the only global initiative to

officially recognize arboreta based on a set of professional standards. The program offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity, and professionalism. Standards include planning, governance, public access, programming and tree science, planting, and conservation. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.

American Pickers To Film in Pennsylvania



The American Pickers are excited to return to Pennsylvania! They plan to film episodes of The History Channel hit television series throughout your area in April 2024.

AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on The History Channel. The hit show follows skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find historically significant or rare items, in addition to unforgettable Characters and their collections.

As they hit the back

roads from coast to coast, the Pickers are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics.

Along the way, they want to meet characters with amazing stories and fun items. They hope to give historically significant objects a new lease on life while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way. The Pickers have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them.

The American Pickers TV Show is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a unique item, story to tell, and is ready to sell...

we would love to hear from you! Please note, the Pickers DO NOT pick stores, flea markets, malls, auction businesses, museums, or anything open to the public. If interested, please send us your name, phone number, location, and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@ineflix.com or call (646) 493-2184; facebook: @GotAPick

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County Commissioners to Hold Traveling Meetings - Three Sessions Scheduled at Municipal Buildings in 2024

The Warren County Board of County Commissioners are taking the show on the road, scheduling three of this year's meetings away from the usual meeting spot in the Wayne Dumont, Jr. Administration Building.

The first traveling meeting will be Tuesday, April 23 at the Allamuchy Township Municipal Building, 292 Alphano Road, followed by Wednesday, June 26

in Washington Borough and Wednesday, October 9, in Pohatcong Township. All three meetings will begin at 6 p.m.

"I am excited to announce that the Warren County Board of Commissioners will be taking our meetings on the road," Commissioner Director James R. Kern III said. "While we might not be the most populated county, our terrain and size make it

difficult for residents to attend our meetings in White Township," Kern noted, adding, "I hope that these meetings give our constituents a better opportunity to see their county government at work."

At 364.55 square miles, Warren ranks 9th in area of New Jersey's 21 counties.

Pohatcong Mayor David Slack remarked, "I'm thrilled that the

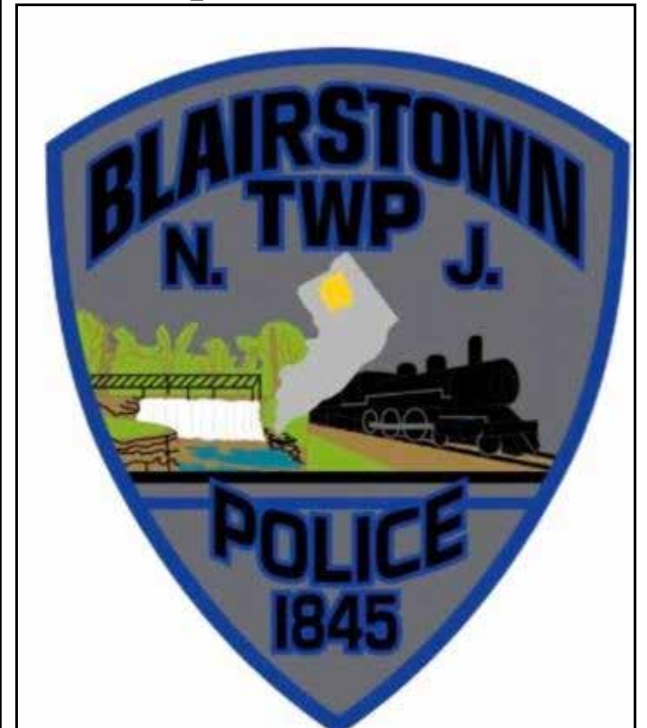
Warren County Commissioners will be taking their meetings on the road this year. This will give residents throughout the county a better opportunity to attend commissioner meetings."

The Commissioners typically meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Upcoming meeting dates and agendas are published on the official

County website, www.warrencountynj.gov, under the "Board of County Commissioners Meetings" section of the site (www.warrencountynj.gov/government/

board-of-county-commissioners-meetings). All meetings, including the traveling meetings, are open to the public and official action may be taken.

Blairstown Police Department Goes Above and Beyond To Help Local Resident



Officers Going above and beyond! On 2/3/2024, a resident came to headquarters for a identity theft complaint. The resident stated said that he had a pop up virus on his computer with a phone number to contact "Microsoft" on 2/2/2024. When calling the phone number, the party had advised him not to contact anyone or do anything with his computer. He received a phone call back from a "PNC" phone number advising him that he had a withdraw in the amount of \$45,000 dollars from his checking account. They advised him that he must go to the bank and get a cashier's check in the amount of \$45,000 dollars and send it to an address in California for the money to be back into his account.

The resident had sent the cashier's check by UPS overnight, after contacting UPS they had changed the order to return to sender. The resident was advised to freeze his bank account, contact Experian and call social security to advise them. Officer Tutka contacted Rialto Police Department who checked the address provided in California. Officer Tutka was able to assist in getting the UPS delivery stopped and the check was returned to the resident (victim).

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Officer Rizvani and Sergeant Bee were dispatched to Dale's Market for a public assist. Upon arrival they met with an individual that he ascertained was homeless, had not eaten in a few days, and had no money. Officer Rizvani and Sergeant Bee understanding that this individual was going through a hardship used their own money bought him food and hot coffee. They further provided information on services.

They further provided information on services.

Cutler to Introduce Legislation Expanding Access to Donated Prescription Drugs

House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) announced Wednesday he plans to introduce legislation to expand access to donated prescription drugs in Pennsylvania.

Currently, Pennsylvania's Cancer Drug Repository Program only allows health care facilities and physicians' offices to donate unused cancer medications to pharmacies participating in the repository program. The program is overseen by the State Board of Pharmacy and, currently, only two pharmacies are enrolled to receive donated prescription drugs as part

of the program.

The legislation, first introduced by Cutler in 2018, would expand the current Cancer Drug Repository Program to allow both health care facilities and individuals to donate prescription drugs (other than cancer drugs) to the program.

"Each year, billions of dollars of prescription medications are wasted because Pennsylvania's Cancer Drug Repository Program is unworkable, inaccessible and underutilized. My legislation would open the doors to increased donations of life-saving—but often costly—

medications that can be the difference between a struggling family getting the care they need for a loved one or not," Cutler said.

As of 2023, 44 other states have successfully implemented prescription drug donation programs that have saved lives, money and medical resources.

"With my background in health care, and having a family history of complicated medical diagnoses, I know first-hand how costly life-saving prescription medications can be. I have also experienced seeing many good people turned away from

donating unused prescription medications because of a failure in state law," Cutler said. "It is time for Pennsylvania to update its laws, rejuvenate the Cancer Drug Repository Program, and ensure a robust system of donated prescription medications exists for those who need this life-saving medication."

You can read more about the pending legislation in a co-sponsorship memorandum here: www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20230&cosponId=42196



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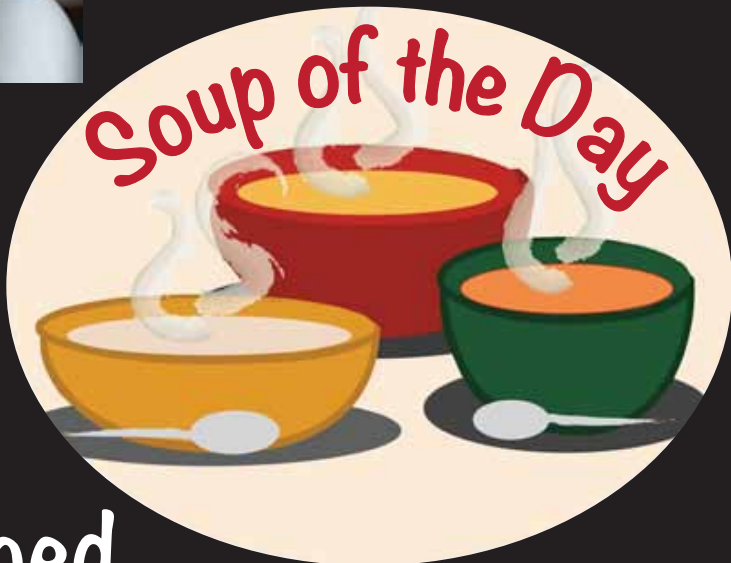
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