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Roseto, PA, Hosts 4th Annual Veterans Day Program



The 4th Annual Roseto Veterans Day Program was held on November 8th at the new Catholic Cemetery in Roseto, PA and was followed by a free breakfast for Veterans at the Roseto Legion. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Bill Requiring Parental Notification of School Weapon Incidents Set to Become Law in Pennsylvania



Legislation requiring school districts to notify parents and school employees of any incidents involving possession of weapons on school property is set to become law.

Under current law, school districts are not required to inform parents or guardians about incidents when a weapon

is brought onto school grounds or to related activities. The changes in Senate Bill 246 apply to public, nonpublic and private schools.

The bill, which first passed the Senate in May, received strong bipartisan support from the General Assembly and now awaits the governor's signature.

The Swing Time Dolls Put On A Salute To Veterans Tribute Show



The Swing Time Dolls recently performed a Salute to Veterans, a tribute to Brian Perin, Mike Kovalevitch and Edmund (Chip) Turtzo, at the Bangor Area High School Theater. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

North Warren Wins Over Park Ridge in the NJSIAA Section 1, Group 1 First Rounds



North Warren went head to head against Park Ridge High School boys soccer team in the NJSIAA Section 1, Group 1, First Round on November 4th. North Warren won, 3 to 1. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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New in the Bangor Public Library

Adult Fiction:
Prowl by Colleen Coble; The tin men: a novel by Nelson DeMille; The Christmas stranger by Richard Paul Evans; Holiday ever after: a novel by Hannah Grace; The everlasting by Alix E. Harrow; The defender by Ana Huang; Coyote Hills: a novel by Jonathan Kellerman; The Hong Kong Widow by Kristen Loesch; A guardian and a thief by Megha Majumdar; Otherwise engaged by Susan Mallery; Blood of Hercules by Jasmine Mas; Bonds of Hercules by Jasmine Mas; Wreck: a novel by Catherine Newman 1968; Wrath of the Fallen by Amber V. Nicole; The black wolf by Louise Penny; The summer escape: a novel by Jill Shalvis; Better than friends: a novel by Jill Shalvis; Confirm: a novel by Ariel Sullivan; Snow kissed by RaeAnne Thayne; The lady on Esplanade by Karen White

Adult Non Fiction:
Letter from Japan by Marie Kondo; The Zorg: a tale of greed and murder that inspired the abolition of slavery by Siddharth Kara; The pioneer woman cooks: the essential recipes: 120 greatest hits, new twists, and perfected classics by Ree Drummond; Delivering the wow: culture as catalyst for lasting success by Richard Fain; Nobody's girl: a memoir of surviving abuse and fighting for justice by Virginia Roberts Giuffre

Large Print Adult Fiction:
The black wolf by Louise Penny

Easy Fiction:
Little Elliot, big city by Mike Curato; Once upon an alphabet by Oliver Jeffers; The lion, the witch and the wardrobe by Hiawyn Oram; Super heroes storybook collection; Pooh's snowy day by Lauren Cecil

Easy Non-Fiction:
Aesop's fables by Charles Santore

Junior Fiction:
The first cat in space ate pizza by Mac Barnett; Bluey. The sign; The last kids on Earth and the destructor's lair by Max Brallier; Sorceline Book 3 by Sylvia Douye; Partypooper by Jeff Kinney; Dragonborn by Struan Murray; The maze of bones by Ethan Young 1983; The 39 clues: one false note by Hannah Templer; Pocket peaches by Dora Wang; Pocket peaches at the fair by Dora Wang

Junior Fiction:
History Smashers: ancient Egypt by Kate Messner

Young Adult Fiction:
Love stories by Elizabeth Eulberg; Red Threads by Ila Nguyen-Hayama; The Rose Field: The Book of Dust Volume Three by Philip Pullman 1946; Sakura Saku. 6 by Io Sakisaka; Sakura Saku. 7 by Io Sakisaka; Sakura Saku. 8 by Io Sakisaka; Never, ever after by Sue Lynn Tan; My life as an internet novel Volume 1 by Han-Ryeo Tan

Young Adult Non- Fiction:
Facing feelings: inside the world of Raina Telgemeier by Raina Telgemeier

Test Your Hometown Knowledge as The Slate Belt Hertiage Center Gets Ready To Host The "Annual Great Slate Belt Trivia Contest"



The Slate Belt Heritage Center's "'Annual Great Slate Belt Trivia Contest" will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 2:00 PM. For this event bring a team of four or we can place you on a team. Be prepared to laugh while learning tidbits about the Slate Belt that you may or may not know. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served. The Slate Belt Heritage Center, your Slate Belt area museum, is located at 30 North 1st Street in Bangor.

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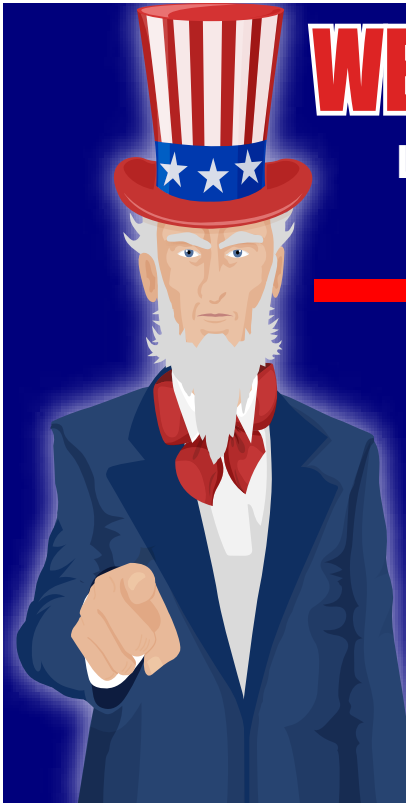
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NORTH WARREN (16) VS SUSSEX COUNTY TECH (34) PLAYOFF FOOTBALL



Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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(Please note due to certain holidays, supplies will be offered on the 3rd Saturday of the Month)

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Clean Team Workforce Proudly Announces Their Employee of the Month For October

The Clean Team Workforce announces its Employee of the Month for October, Richard G.

Richard grew up in an intact, Christian family, but began rebelling at the age of eleven. For four decades, he didn't take responsibility for his actions; he "chased the high." But after jail time and a drug overdose, Richard came to the Allentown Rescue Mission with a vision to do better. He said, "I came to get back on track with my life."

Richard studied Theology when he was younger and enjoyed learning the Gospel message when he joined the Allentown Rescue Mission's Transformation Program. "It brought me closer to God, and I got a chance to break bread with my new Brothers in Christ!" While in the program, Richard often



spread the Gospel and prayed with others.

After Richard graduated from the Transformation Program, he immediately started working for the Clean Team Workforce and has been a great asset to the team. He arrives promptly, ready to work

with a smile on his face, and offers to help with every job around the Mission.

The Clean Team Workforce transitioned to a new warehouse in September, and Richard played a big role in the move. He assisted with troubleshooting

non-working equipment and relocated and installed security cameras for the Allentown Rescue Mission.

Recently, Richard was assigned to work at a local valve manufacturer as a general laborer. The company instantly noticed that Richard possessed greater skills and elevated him to company trainee. Since his promotion, he has demonstrated that he pays attention to detail and can learn all aspects of the position, making him a potential permanent hire.

The Clean Team Workforce congratulates Richard on being selected as an outstanding employee and being an outstanding guest who continues to serve God and helps others in need.

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

shelter has been providing shelter to men in crisis since 1900. In addition to emergency shelter services (365 days a year), the Allentown Rescue Mission offers a faith-based residential life skills program, and transitional employment on the Clean Team Workforce that's available for hire to the community. The Clean Team Workforce pays the men above PA state minimum wage—

helping them save a nest egg to transition back into the community. In a typical year, the Allentown Rescue Mission provides shelter services for nearly 1,000 men and serves more than 60,000 meals to men in need.

To refer someone to the Allentown Rescue Mission for services or to learn ways you can help make a difference please visit www.allentownrescuemission.org



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Next Show Date: March 15th, 2026

Kean Honors Local Seniors with Annual Seniors of Distinction Event



Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07) hosted his third annual Seniors of Distinction event at the Bridgewater Township Senior Center to honor outstanding seniors in the community. This year, Congressman Kean recognized 33 seniors representing all six counties within New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District. Each honoree was nominated by their friends, families, or local officials in recognition of their exceptional service and dedication to others. The Seniors of Distinction were selected for their long history of giving back to their communities and for their ongoing commitment to

philanthropic, charitable, and spiritual activities locally and even, statewide. "Our 2025 Seniors of Distinction represent the very best of our communities," said Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. "Each honoree has dedicated their time, talents, and compassion to uplifting New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District. Whether through leadership, volunteerism, or simple acts of kindness, they all share the same spirit of generosity and an unwavering commitment to serve others. I am honored to recognize these remarkable individuals and thank them for all they do to keep

our communities strong, connected, and vibrant." "Bridgewater was proud to host Congressman Tom Kean's 'Seniors of Distinction' event right here at our Senior Center," said Bridgewater Mayor Matthew Moench. "It was an honor to welcome so many inspiring residents from across the district and to celebrate the remarkable contributions our seniors continue to make in their communities every day." "Thank you, Congressman Kean, for the honor of being considered as a Senior of Distinction," said Paul Corcoran of Sparta. "It is an honor to be able to represent

all the other seniors that are of distinction as well in our communities. I love the program, and I hope it continues and that others are inspired by the respective seniors that are here." "I am honored that the Borough thought I was a Senior of Distinction," said Patricia Serrano of Mendham Borough. "I have enjoyed everything I have done for the past 60 years living there. Today, I would like to thank Representative Kean for having this ceremony and honoring the seniors." The 2025 Seniors of Distinction Honorees: Hunterdon: Barbara Hencheck, David Hewitt, Kimberly Jaco-

bus, Jack MacConnell, Carolyn Swithers, and Constance Wygera Morris: Jim Daggon, Peter Maddi, Patricia Serrano, Greg Stewart, John "Jack" Sylvester,

Jr., and Evan "Buzzy" Thomas Somerset: Robert Baker, Donna Brooten, Michael Kerwin, Kathryn Mastice, Malcolm Plager, Diana Reinhardt, and Richard Reitman Sussex: Mary Comerford, Martin Connor, Paul Corcoran, Rosemarie Maio, Jonathan Taylor, Maureen Tsadilas, and Sandy Wray Union: Christine Bjornstad, Alice Cowell, and Susan Meyer Warren: John LaPadula, Nick Masino, Bob Wolff, and Mark Young

If the October days were a cordial like the sub-acids of fruit, these are a tonic like the wine of iron. Drink deep or be careful how you taste this December vintage. The first sip may chill, but a full draught warms and invigorates. ~John Burroughs, "Winter Sunshine"

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Safety Reminder: Pennsylvania’s Annual Cold Weather Life Jacket Requirement Began on November 1st

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) reminds boaters, anglers, and hunters that beginning Saturday, November 1, 2025, the annual cold weather life jacket requirement is in effect. From November 1 through April 30, boaters are required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or on any kayak, canoe, or paddleboard. The requirement applies to all Pennsylvania waters.

Even on warm, sunny days, from late fall through early spring, water temperatures can remain frigid on rivers, lakes, and streams across the Commonwealth. Sudden cold-water immersion, or cold-water shock, occurs when a person is unexpectedly plunged into cold water resulting in an involuntary gasp where water is often inhaled. This uncontrollable reaction causes panic, hyperventilation, inhalation of water, and inhibits the ability of a person to swim. By wearing a life jacket, victims can dramatically increase their

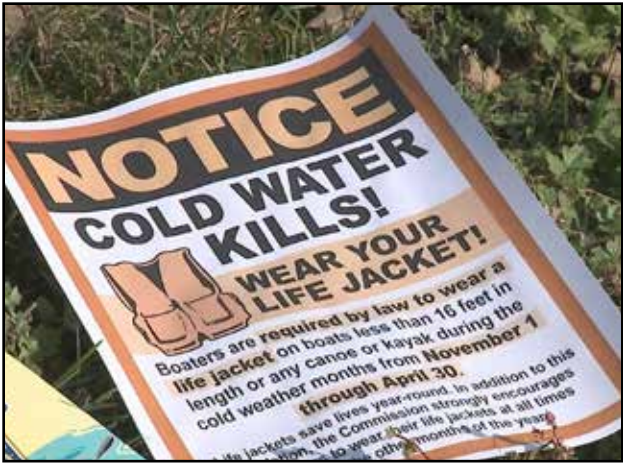
chances of keeping their heads above water until they can get out of danger or be rescued.

According to Pennsylvania boating accident reports, nearly 80% of all boating fatalities occurred because boaters were not wearing life jackets. Since the mandatory life jacket wear law was enacted in 2012, the PFBC has seen a significant drop (approximately 50%) in the percentage of boating incidents resulting in fatalities during the cold weather months.

The PFBC also recommends that anglers participating in ice fishing this winter always wear a life jacket to provide lifesaving protection in the event of a fall through the ice.

The law reads "a person shall wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) during the cold weather months (November 1st through April 30th) while underway or at anchor on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak."

Cold water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities when water temperatures are less than 70 degrees F. Cold



water shock causes an involuntary gasp (often resulting in aspiration of water), hyperventilation, breathlessness and a reduced ability to control breathing and swim. A life jacket greatly increases your chance for survival in cold water. It also increases the amount of time for you to be rescued.

A disproportionate number of boating fatalities occur during the months of November through April in Pennsylvania and cold water is one of the primary reasons.

Cold water survival safety tips

- Always wear a life jacket, even when not required. Many models

- offer insulation from cold air.
- Never boat alone.
- Leave a float plan and know the waters you plan to boat.
- Bring a fully-charged cell phone with you in case of emergency.
- Wear clothing that still insulates when wet such as fleece, polypropylene or other synthetics.
- If you are about to fall into cold water, cover your mouth and nose with your hands. This will reduce the likelihood of inhaling water.
- If possible, stay with the boat. Get back into or climb on top of the boat.
- While in cold water, do not remove your clothing.

- If you can't get out of the water, get into the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP).
- Once out of the water, get out of the wet clothes and warmed up as soon as possible.

Boating Accidents: Boating accidents must be reported in writing by the boat operator or owner to the PFBC when:

- A person dies or disappears.
- A person is injured and requires advanced medical treatment beyond first aid.
- Damage to the boat and other property totals more than \$2,000, or there is a complete loss of the vessel.

File a boating accident

report or contact one of our regional law enforcement office. Incidents must be reported within 48 hours.

Accidents involving aggregate property damage exceeding \$2,000. Must be reported within 10 days.

If the operator is unable, the owner of every vessel involved must report the accident.

*All reports are confidential and for the use of the Commission for boating safety purposes only.

File Reports with: Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Boating Accident Report P.O. Box 67000 Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000

Join Us at Mt. Bethel Diner, Thanksgiving Day:

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Congressman Kean Convenes Warren County Crime Prevention Roundtable Discussion

Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07) convened a roundtable at Warren County Community College to address the recent spike in violent crime throughout Warren County and discuss strategies for prevention and mitigation. The roundtable brought together law enforcement leaders and elected officials across Warren County.

“Prioritizing public safety is non-negotiable,” said Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07). “In Warren County, we have seen a troubling spike in violent crime that has shaken families’ sense of security and strained local police departments. That is why I brought together law enforcement and public officials at every level of government for this roundtable to collaborate, share ideas, and ensure our officers are properly supported, equipped, and empowered to keep our communities safe. Working together, we can strengthen our neighborhoods and protect the future of our children and

grandchildren.”

Local elected officials and law enforcement personnel from throughout Warren County shared their thoughts following the discussion:

“Thank you to Congressman Kean for bringing law enforcement, victims, and community leaders to the same table—because keeping New Jersey families safe isn’t a talking point, it’s a mission,” said New Jersey State Senator Doug Steinhardt (NJ-23). “We need tougher penalties for repeat offenders, an end to catch-and-release policies, and a full-court press on the fentanyl pushers and organized car-theft rings driving violence in our towns. I’ll keep working with the Congressman and our police to deliver the resources and laws they need to protect our neighborhoods and put criminals on notice.”

“Keeping our communities safe must be our top priority — because if we don’t have safety, we have nothing,” said New Jersey Assembly Republican

Leader John DiMaio (NJ-23). “From the local level to Trenton and Washington, we need to ensure law enforcement has the clarity, resources, and leadership they deserve to do their jobs effectively. It starts at the top. I want to thank Congressman Kean and Senator Steinhardt for bringing leaders together today to discuss how we can better protect our neighborhoods and support the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep Warren County safe.”

“Thank you, Congressman Kean, for bringing together such a strong group of stakeholders from every level of law enforcement and government,” said Warren County Commissioner James Kern. “Collaboration like this is exactly what public safety requires. Despite Trenton diverting funds away from first responders, Warren County has stepped up. Through partnerships like this, we can identify new opportunities to strengthen emergency response and keep our

communities safe.”

“Trust and collaboration are the foundation of successful law enforcement,” said Warren County Acting Prosecutor Jessica Cardone. “Our Warren County Roundtable brought members of government and law enforcement together for a shared vision; the preservation of safety in our communities. This meeting is a testament to the dedication and commitment for the citizens we serve.”

“Rising crime doesn’t stop at town lines, and neither should our response,” said Phillipsburg Mayor Randy S. Piazza, Jr. “When law enforcement agencies and elected officials work together, we strengthen our shared commitment to public safety. Well-trained and properly equipped police officers are not just valuable, they are essential. Investing in them is how we protect Phillipsburg, protect our county, and protect our future.”

“Thank you, Congressman Kean and your team, for showing up

and hearing our voices when it matters most,” said Phillipsburg Police Chief Anthony Goodell. “We’re a small town with big heart and grit. We recently have had big city challenges, but our officers and our community responded with love and strength. Our community, law enforcement partners, and our elected officials stand together united with our mission on making Phillipsburg and Warren County a safer place for everyone. It’s an honor to collaborate with your team and we are looking forward on working together in the future.”

“The Washington Township Police Department is committed to the safety and well-being of the residents of Washington Township, Washington Borough and Oxford Township, and we will work collaboratively with local, county and state law enforcement for ensuring their betterment,” said President of the Police Chiefs Association and Washington Township Police Chief Christopher Jones. “I would like to thank Congressman Kean for taking the time in listening to our concerns and I look forward to working with his office in the interest of our residents.”

Congressman Kean has supported numerous pieces of legislation in Congress to promote public safety and support law enforcement officers, including:

Co-sponsored the Protect and Serve Act (H.R.1551) and the Thin Blue Line Act (H.R.378), legislation that would strengthen criminal penalties for those who target law enforcement officers and other first responders, up to and including the death penalty.

Voted in favor of the POLICE Act (H.R. 2494), which would make assaulting a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or first responder a deportable offense for non-U.S. nationals.

Co-sponsored the Prosecutors Need to Prosecute Act (H.R.27), bringing greater accountability and transparency by requiring reporting on instances where prosecutors fail to charge criminals with committing violent acts.

Co-sponsored the Drone Research and Innovation for Law Enforcement Act (H.R.5879), which would establish a pilot research program for the use of non-lethal de-escalation unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV or Drones) for law enforcement officers, leading to safer outcomes for officers and the communities they serve.

The roundtable included New Jersey Senator Douglas Steinhardt, Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio, New Jersey State Parole Board Chief of the Division of Parole Kim Cavanaugh, Warren County Commissioner James Kern, Warren County Acting Prosecutor Jessica Cardone, Warren County Prosecutor’s Office Acting Chief of Detectives Brenton Warne, Warren County Sheriff’s Office Chief Warrant Officer William Wright, President of the Police Chiefs Association and Washington Township Chief Christopher Jones, Phillipsburg Mayor Randy Piazza, Phillipsburg Police Chief Anthony Goodell, Phillipsburg Council President Peter Marino, Washington Township Mayor Robert Klingel, Blairstown Police Chief Scott Johnsen, Greenwich Police Chief Richard Hummer, Hackensack Police Chief Aaron Perkins, Independence Police Chief Christopher Prell, Mansfield Police Chief J. Michael MacDonough, Pohatcong Chief Ryan Barsony, New Jersey State Police Capt. Foschetti - Troop B Region Commander, New Jersey State Police Lt. Di Lillio - Strategic Investigations Unit Head, and New Jersey State Police Lt. O’Brien - Washington Station Commander.

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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



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Hello, fellow readers. I harvested the last of my vegetables, late by most standards. It was November 2 when I gathered the remaining tomatoes, though many were still green, but their color shift showed they could finish ripening indoors.

Tomatoes are one of the few “vegetables” (technically a fruit) you can harvest before they fully ripen, which prevents skin cracks, green shoulders, and stretch marks (lucky tomatoes). Plus, it lets you control the ripening process.

Keep them out of direct sunlight, and they’ll reach peak ripeness in seven to ten days. Or, if you wish them to ripen faster, put them in a brown paper bag. And if more slowly, place them in a cool garage. There’s something magical about staging pounds and pounds of green tomatoes to ripen at different times when most gardens have gone to rest.

I also harvested the last of the peppers, chuckling over my earlier blunder. I bought starter plants at our local farm market, bell peppers, and a long green

variety, while deliberately avoiding hot peppers. Or so I thought. During the first harvest, one broke while picking, so into my mouth it went. One small bite and my lips were on fire! I grabbed a green tomato to cool the burn, biting it like an apple. Lessons learned: Label your peppers, carry water, and laugh at your gardening faux pas.

Mine is a no-till vegetable garden, a method I learned from Patti Doell of Little Big Farm in Blairstown a handful of years ago (how-to stories are archived on AskMaryStone.com). Soil is alive with microorganisms, nematodes, fungi, protozoa, and earthworms, all working together to decompose organic matter and help build soil structure. Not only will plants grow better and produce more, but they’ll also be resistant to pests and diseases and more tolerant of drought. Plus, you’ll have fewer weeds, since tilling a garden brings more weed seeds to the surface.

In the fall cleanup, rather than pulling plants up by the roots, I cut them down to the soil line. The decomposing roots feed microbes, worms, and fungi that naturally aerate and enrich the soil. Patti plants cover crops in the fall to improve fertility and suppress weeds. They die back over winter.

I confess I haven’t delved into cover cropping, as I’m still harvesting beyond the time to plant them. And so, 1-2 inches of organically grown straw does the



trick. Or I protect the soil with an inch or two of shredded leaves or leaf mold. They decompose naturally, feeding the living soil below.

As I tidied up, I saved seeds from the last beans and peas left on the vines. The easiest seeds to save are tomato, pepper, bean, and pea seeds. Once the tomato is fully ripe, scoop out the goey center with the seeds and swirl them in water for a few days to separate the gel. Then rinse and dry them on paper towels. Allow peppers to ripen and start to wither on the plant before harvesting the seeds.

For peas and beans, let them dry on the plant until brown, or cut and hang the whole plant if they aren’t dry before the risk of frost. You can wait until the following

spring to shell the pods and sow the seeds. Easy Peezy.

My late-to-plant vegetable garden taught me it’s never too late. We often think otherwise—that we’ve missed the window of opportunity. Yet the garden gently says, “No such thing.” Even in November, my tomatoes ripened, my beans yielded

seeds, and the soil is brimming with life.

As Lao Tzu wrote in the Tao Te Ching, which dates back 2500 years, “Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished,” reminding us that timing isn’t about calendars. When we follow the natural flow, the right timing reveals itself. The garden mirrors that truth.

What we’ve planted in our lives—even what we think are mistakes—feeds what comes next. Trust the timing. By letting go of rushing or forcing, we join the rhythm of the natural world—one that always finds its way back to life.

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Meaningful Gifts That Help Dogs and Kids

(NAPSI)—A heartwarming new picture book for children, “Andy: A Dog’s Tale” by John Kelly, follows the journey of a determined puppy who overcomes adversity to discover his purpose as a Canine Companions service dog. The book is adapted from the award-winning short film of the same name that has more than 16 million views on YouTube.

Named after the favorite pet of Peanuts creator Charles M. Schulz, Andy was brought to life by Ignite Animation Studios with the support of Executive Producer Jean Schulz, Charles’ widow and a Canine Companions board member.

“Andy’s journey reflects the heart of what service dogs do—providing independence, companionship, and love,” explained Schulz.

What The Book Can Do for A Child You Care About

Teaches Empathy & Awareness: Introduces kids to the important work of service dogs and how they help people with disabilities.

Celebrates Perseverance: A gentle story about overcoming challenges and discovering where you belong.

Visually Engaging: Features full-color art adapted from the viral short film.

Bonus Keepsake: The dust jacket unfolds into a ‘Be A Hero’ poster, excellent for bedroom walls or classrooms.

Andy’s story resonates with young readers, families, dog-lovers, and people of all abilities. This touching tale is a reminder that unlikely heroes often come from small beginnings—and that what matters most is the size of your heart.

Profits from the book help Canine Companions place service dogs free of charge with people who need them. “Andy: A Dog’s Tale” makes a great gift, especially when paired with a service dog puppy sponsorship.

What You Can Do for Dogs Who Care For People

Sponsors can follow the journey from puppy to service dog, creating lasting partnerships and fostering greater independence for people with disabilities. For just \$20 a month, or a one-time gift of \$240, you can help transform a puppy into a life-changing service dog.

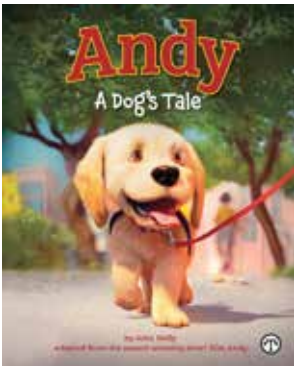
Step 1. Visit <https://canine.org/giftguide> and click on “Sponsor a Puppy.” Choose your puppy and complete the sponsorship form.

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For more gift ideas and to order the book, visit <https://canine.org/giftguide>.



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