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Bangor and Pen Argyl Girls Take Slate Belt Rivalry to The Basketball Court



Pen Argyl took on Bangor in the girls basketball rivalry game on January 19th. Bangor won 23 to 13. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Congressman Kean Helps Restore Critical Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Grants in New Jersey

Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07) announced today that he successfully worked to restore federal funding for vital substance abuse and mental health treatment services after New Jersey organizations raised concerns about the potential loss of key grants. Following outreach from local nonprofits, Congressman Kean and his team engaged directly with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to seek clarification and advocate for continued support. Those efforts helped lead to the reversal of a decision that would have placed thousands of grants at risk.

“Here in New Jersey, our local nonprofits are on the front lines every day, providing vital support to those struggling with drug addiction and mental health challenges,” said Congressman

Kean. “After hearing directly from impacted organizations, my team immediately engaged with SAMHSA to elevate their concerns and seek clarity. I am pleased those efforts were successful and this critical funding will remain intact. As we continue to confront the real impacts of substance abuse and mental health conditions, I remain committed to protecting access to essential support services for those who need them in our community.”

“The unexpected termination of SAMHSA grant funding would have significantly disrupted prevention and mental health infrastructure that nonprofits have spent years building in our community,” said Lesley Gabel, Executive Director of One Voice of Hunterdon. “We are extremely grateful for the immediate support and effective advocacy provided by Congress-



man Kean’s office at a moment when critical programs that families depend on were being threatened overnight. Without this intervention, our community would have been left without essential support, placing an unmanageable strain on already limited local resources.”

“Thank you, Congressman Kean, for your role in restoring these critical services and for all you do each day on behalf of New Jerseyans and our nation. Your support has

GRANTS cont'd on pg 2

North Warren Wins 48 to 8 Over Dover



North Warren went head to head against Dover High School in Girls Basketball on January 21st. North Warren won 48 to 8. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Pen Argyl Wins Over Moravian Academy During Senior Night Boys Basketball Game



Pen Argyl took on Moravian Academy for their Senior Night game on January 22nd. Pen Argyl won 62 to 42. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

GRANTS

Continued from page 1

saved countless lives and will continue to do so. We are forever grateful!” said Debra Wentz, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies. “I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Congressman Kean for his swift and effective action in assisting OneVoice of Hunterdon with its advocacy efforts to restore critical Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant funding,” said Hunterdon County Commissioner Director John E. Lanza. “These funds are essential to ensuring that individuals and families in our community have access to the recovery and treatment services they need. Congressman Kean’s leadership and responsiveness demonstrate a strong com-

mitment to public health and the well-being of our residents.” “Federal resources are a crucial facet of One Voice’s mission to help those impacted by addiction in Hunterdon County,” said Clinton Town Councilman Ross Traphagen. “Congressman Kean’s quick actions to advocate for the immediate restoration of these grants ensures the successful continuation of One Voice’s lifesaving services including community education, evidence-based prevention resources, and youth and family programs. The preservation of this funding will benefit the Town of Clinton and surrounding communities.” The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is dedicated to strengthening behavioral health across the U.S. by providing resources for mental health support, substance use treatment, and community well-be-

ing. The agency is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The restored grants fund life-saving services, including suicide prevention, medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders, programs for pregnant and postpartum women in recovery, screening and referral initiatives, and overdose prevention education for youth. These investments also help individuals living with serious mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Kean co-introduced the Youth Mental Health Research Act (H.R.2587), bipartisan legislation that would establish a Youth Mental Health Research Initiative at the National Institutes of Health, accelerating research and treatment options tailored specifically to adolescents.

Allentown Rescue Mission Send Thanks For An Outpouring of Love and Support From The Community



The Allentown Rescue Mission would like to thank its faithful supporters for their steadfast commitment to its mission of rescuing, rehabilitating, and restoring men in crisis who are experiencing homelessness. Donations collected throughout the year allowed 877 guests to receive life-changing services in 2025. On the most basic level, the Allentown Rescue Mission provided 30,959 nights of safe shelter

and 59,756 nutritious meals to men in need of refuge. Patron support further aided 117 guests looking to change the trajectory of their lives by joining the Mission’s eight-week Transformation Program. Seventy-eight graduates of the program went on to be employed by the Clean Team Workforce, developing work skills and saving money to transition to independent living. Guests received shelter, meals, clothing, and free medical care

through the DeSales Free Medical Clinic for the duration of their stay. The Allentown Rescue Mission is 100% privately funded, relying on the generosity of individuals and local businesses. The guests served, and the successes achieved in 2025 were only possible with the community’s help. Thank you for all the love and resources that were bestowed on our most vulnerable neighbors, who relied on the Allentown Rescue Mission this year.

New in the Bangor Public Library

Adult Fiction:

An Arcane Inheritance: A Novel by Kamilah Cole; Divine Ruin by Margot Douaihy; Days You Were Mine: A novel by Clare Leslie Hall; The Phoebe Variations by Jane Hamilton; The Italian Secret: A Novel by Tara Moss; Dawn of the Firebird: A Novel by Sarah Mughal Rana

Adult Non Fiction:

Homeschooled: A Memoir by Stefan Merrill Block; Somewhere: A Boy and his Bear: A.A. Milne and the Creation of Winnie the Pooh by Gyles Daubeney Brandreth; Strangers: A Memoir of Marriage by Belle Burden; Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II by Elyse Graham; Dark History of Penn’s Woods: Murder, Madness, and Misadventure in Southeastern Pennsylvania by Jennifer L. Green; David Bowie and the Search for Life, Death and God by Peter Ormerod; The 30-Day Inflammatory Reset: A Complete Guide to Healing Your Immune System by Josh Redd; Firestorm: The Great Los Angeles Fires and America’s New Age of Disaster by Jacob Soboroff

Large Print Adult Fiction:

The Storm by Rachel Hawkins

Easy Fiction:

There’s a Dinosaur in your Book by Tom Fletcher; Snow Problem and Other Stories by Greg Pizzoli; Tiny T. Rex and the Itty-Bitty Bun-Bun: An Easter and Springtime Story by Jonathan Stutzman

Easy Non Fiction:

Over and Under the Wetland by Kate Messner; The Story Orchestra: Hansel and Gretel by Helen Mortimer; The Story Orchestra: A Midsummer Night’s Dream by Helen Mortimer

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BANGOR (41) VS NOTRE DAME GREEN POND (57) BOYS BASKETBALL



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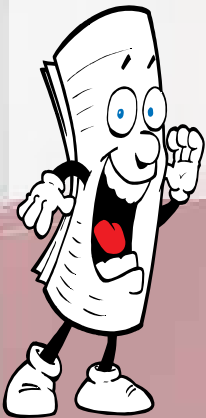
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Estate Of: William F. Gates | Date Of Death: February 9, 2025

TO ALL PERSONS, FIRMS, AND CORPORATIONS HAVING CLAIMS
AGAINST THE ESTATE OF THE ABOVE-NAMED DECEDENT:

Notice is hereby given that Taryn L. Gates and Shawn E. Gates, as
Executors, has been appointed to administer the estate of the late
William F. Gates, of Columbia, NJ.

All creditors of the deceased are hereby notified to present their claims,
in writing, to the undersigned Personal Representative or may file them
with the State of NJ, Warren County Surrogate's Court, Attn: Michael J.
Doherty, 323 Front Street, Belvidere, NJ 07823, within 90 days from the
date of the first publication of this notice, or within the time provided by
law, whichever is later.

Claims should be sent to:
Taryn L. Gates, 174 Polkville Road, Columbia, NJ 07832
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Failure to present your claim within the specified timeframe may result in
the claim being barred and unenforceable against the estate.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Personal
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Dated: January 1, 2026

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Boscola Joins Lt. Gov Davis & DCNR Secretary Dunn to Celebrate Conservation and Recreation Grants and Easton Highline Project

Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Northampton) today joined Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, and community leaders to celebrate \$82 million invested statewide in conservation and recreation, including a \$500,000 Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant award to the City of Easton. This grant will allow for the acquisition of approximately 17.5 acres in Easton and West Easton Borough for development of the Easton Highline trail.

“The trail system in the Lehigh Valley has become the envy of the Commonwealth,” Senator Boscola stated as she welcomed Lt. Governor Davis and Secretary Dunn back to the Lehigh Valley. “Whether it is the D and L (Delaware and Lehigh River) trail, the South Bethlehem Gre-

enway, the Palmer Bike Path, the Bushkill Creek Trail or the Saucon Rail trail, the Commonwealth and local governments have partnered up to create some special and unique outdoor trails.”

Since 2014 the State has invested nearly \$14 million just in trail construction and planning projects across the Lehigh Valley. About \$8.5 million was for D and L trail projects and planning alone. And, in the 18th Senatorial District the C2P2 program alone has invested over \$14 million in trails, parks and conservation projects in that time period.

“There is no doubt these investments have paid off and have made a huge difference in improving the quality of life here in the Lehigh Valley,” Boscola added. These trails connect communities, get people outdoors to bike, walk or run and take full advan-

tage of our natural resources. The High Line project is yet another example of using the great outdoors, turning an old railway trestle into a dynamic public park connecting neighborhoods with nature.”

In total seven grants through the C2P2 program were awarded to Northampton County projects:

-Bethlehem City, \$250,000, Development of the South Bethlehem Greenway in Bethlehem City, Northampton County. Work to include the construction of approximately 0.10 miles of trail from New Street to Third Street, amphitheater, rain garden and lighting; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements. This funding brings the Commonwealth’s partnership with the City of Bethlehem to over \$3 million on the South Bethlehem

Greenway.

-Easton City, \$500,000, Payment toward the acquisition of approximately 17.57 acres in Easton City and West Easton Borough, Northampton County, to provide approximately 1.14 miles of trail for the development of the Easton Highline.

-Hellertown Borough, \$280,000, Further development of Tumminello Park in Hellertown Borough, Northampton County. Work to include construction of a pedestrian bridge and pedestrian walkways; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.

-Nazareth Borough, \$350,000, Payment toward the acquisition of approximately 41 acres in Nazareth Borough and Upper Nazareth Township, Northampton County for passive recreation and open space.

-Wildlands Conservan-

cy, Inc., \$160,000, Restoration of 2,000 feet of three unnamed tributaries in the Lehigh River Watershed, Lehigh and Northampton counties. Work to include dam removal; streambank stabilization; installation of instream habitat structures and riparian forest buffer; landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.

-Wildlands Conservancy, Inc., \$120,300, Restoration of the Black River in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County. Work to include dam removal; streambank stabilization; installation of riparian forest buffer; landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.

-Wind Gap Borough, \$250,000, Rehabilitation of Wind Gap Park in Wind Gap Borough, Northampton County. Work to include construction of pavilion; installation of utilities;

ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.

The C2P2 program is administered by DCNR’s Bureau of Recreation and Conservation to provide financial and technical assistance to local governments, rail and trail organizations, land trusts and other non-profits for park, recreation, conservation and greenway projects. The grant program is funded with a variety of state and federal funding sources including the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key); the Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF); the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) subject to National Park Service approval; the federal Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program (PRT), and the Pennsylvania Heritage Area Program (HA).



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Living History is an interactive public program that demystifies the world of artifact conservation. While most people don't own 2,000-year-old pottery, nearly everyone has a "shoebox of history" fragile family photos, a grandmother's wedding veil, or a collection of vintage ticket stubs. This session translates professional museum protocols into **practical, low-cost strategies** for the everyday person. By the end of the program, attendees will walk away with the confidence to handle their most meaningful possessions like a pro, ensuring their personal legacy remains intact for years to come.

This educational program is open to the public and admission is free. We hope you will join us!

PEN ARGYL (62) VS MORAVIAN ACADEMY (42) BOYS BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT



Jaden Hunter with his parents, Donna and Brian Gold



Mason Soos with his parents, Amy and Steve Soos



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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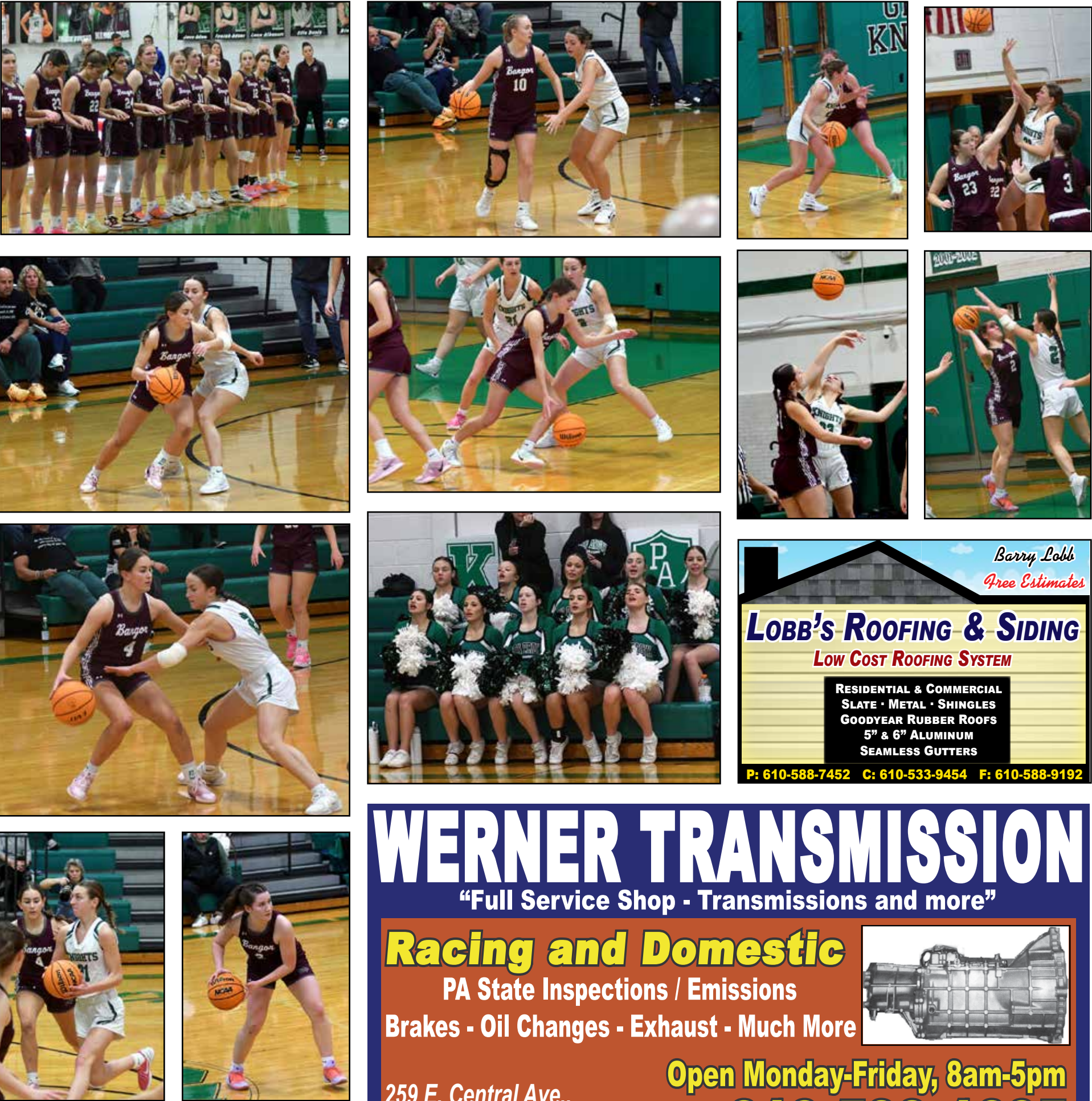
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PEN ARGYL (13) VS BANGOR (23) GIRLS BASKETBALL



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Free Job Training Program for Women Starts in March

Project Self-Sufficiency announces that the next session of its popular employment skills training program, Higher Opportunities for Women (HOW), will launch March 3rd. The 16-week “HOW” Program combines intensive computer skills training with classroom instruction and on-the-job experience. Curriculum prepares women who have been out of the work force or underemployed to seek entry-level office administrative positions.



Classes will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the agency’s campus, located at 127 Mill Street in Newton.

Open Houses about the Higher Opportunities for Women program will be held at 10:00 a.m., January 23rd, 30th, and February 20th, and at 4:00 p.m. February 18th and 25th. Interested participants are invited to call 973-940-3500 or visit <https://www.projectselfsufficiency.org/higher-opportunities-for-women> to enroll. Women who take part in the agency’s HOW program can expect 80 hours of computer skills training, including in-

struction in Microsoft Word, Excel, and other applications. The HOW program also includes 40 hours of classroom instruction and 120 hours of an unpaid externship at a community employment site, which further prepares participants to successfully venture into the job market. Additional coursework focuses on workplace navigation, life skills training, resume preparation, and interviewing strategies. Since the HOW program’s inception, more than 1,000 women have gained self-confidence and learned marketable skills which placed them on the path to economic self-sufficiency. Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency explains that the HOW program is more than just a job-skills program. “The job market is constantly evolving, and the Higher Opportunities for Women program gives participants the skills and confidence

they need for success.” Project Self-Sufficiency is a non-profit organization located in semi-rural northwestern New Jersey which has assisted low-income families along the path to economic self-sufficiency since 1986. The agency is dedicated to empowering individuals and families to achieve economic independence and self-reliance, providing a safe and inclusive environment that fosters growth, learning, and opportunity. Services include career guidance and assessment, computer classes, high school diploma instruction, parenting workshops, childcare, legal assistance and education, help with emergency basic needs such as clothing and food, health education, support groups, life skills classes, family activities, home visitation, and more. For more information, visit www.projectselfsufficiency.org or call 973-940-3500.

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Commissioner Thomas Kern to Lead NJAC in 2026

Warren County Commissioner James R. Kern III became the 85th President of the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) in a ceremony today at the Senate Chambers of the State House in Trenton. Kern is only the second Warren County resident to head the statewide group that advocates for counties and issues that affect them, after former Freeholder Richard D. Gardner headed the organization in 2012.

“I look forward to leading this exceptional organization as it continues to serve as a steadfast advocate and trusted resource for county governments across the State, with a unified, solution-driven, and nonpartisan approach to solving critical issues such as the diversion of 911 fees, homelessness, health benefits reform, and much more,” Commissioner Kern said.

State Senator Douglas Steinhardt administered the oath of office to Kern, while Somerset County Commissioner Shanel Y. Robinson, the outgoing NJAC President, swore in the board of directors and slate of executive officers, which include Union County Commissioner Alexander Mirabella as 1st Vice President, Monmouth County Commissioner Dominick DiRocco as 2nd Vice President, and Bergen County Commissioner Tracy Zur as Secretary Treasurer. Robinson continues to serve on the NJAC board as Immediate Past President.

“As Garden State residents continue to struggle with paying the



highest property taxes in the nation, county governments are uniquely positioned to deliver essential services to those in need in a more cost-effective manner, and I look forward to working with the Association’s outstanding executive team and board members to alleviate this overwhelming burden,” Kern said.

“NJAC represents the only true regional form of government in our state – and when counties speak with one voice, Trenton listens,” Kern remarked.

NJAC is committed to advocating for legislation, regulations, and policy directives that empower county governments to operate more efficiently and effectively. As a nonpartisan organization that represents the only true regional form of government in the State with a proactive and unified voice, NJAC is dedicated to enhancing the level of service provided and saving valuable taxpayer dollars.

Kern told the crowd assembled in the Senate

chambers that he was proud to be there representing Warren County, which he noted “is home to the Delaware Water Gap, New Jersey’s winningest high school football program, and M&Ms. It’s our state’s beautiful northwest pocket, filled with patriotic town names like Liberty, Independence, and Hope. That spirit of patriotism runs deep – and it’s fitting as our nation approaches its 250th anniversary. Out of all 21 counties in New Jersey, only two are named after Revolution-

ary War heroes: Mercer County, where we are today, named after Hugh Mercer who died at the battle of Princeton, and Warren County where I’m from— named for Dr. Joseph Warren, a patriot who gave his life at the Battle of Bunker Hill. It’s an interesting coincidence and a powerful reminder that public service and patriotism has always been part of New Jersey’s DNA.”

Learn more about NJAC and county government at www.njac.org.

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Returning Whole Milk to Schools in Pennsylvania



Last June, Senator Rosemary Brown joined the Pennsylvania Senate colleagues in voting to approve a resolution urging Congress to pass the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. Whole milk provides 13 essential vitamins to help build strong bones and maintain a healthy immune system. The evidence is overwhelming that both 2% and whole milk should be offered to our students in schools. The bill was in response

to enactment of federal legislation in 2010 that permitted only low-fat and fat-free milk options in public schools. Within the first two years of the law taking effect, 1.2 million fewer students drank milk with their lunches.

Pennsylvania ranks second in the number of dairy farms and eighth in total milk production, making this change great for children while supporting our dairy farmers!

The East Banger UMC Church welcomes you to a FREE "Pasta with Meat Sauce" Dinner on Sunday, February 1st, from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. This is TAKE-OUT only at 136 W. Central Ave. (Rt. 512), East Banger, PA (www.ebumc.org)

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Hello, fellow readers,
After last week’s story about Roofs to Roots and Reviving Houseplants with rainwater and snow-melt (archived on Ask-MaryStone.com), I heard from Jennifer in Bangor, Pennsylvania. Her fiddle-head fig tree had developed yellowing leaves. How delightful it is when one question leads back to a familiar story — and how often our plant dilemmas echo lessons we’ve already lived.
Fiddlehead fig trees (Ficus lyrata), also known as fiddle-leaf figs, grow in rainforests and are native to West Africa, where they can reach forty feet. As houseplants, they stay shorter, of course, and

rarely flower or fruit, but they still command attention. Their foot-long, leathery leaves with wavy edges and pronounced veins resemble a fiddle — hence the name—no wonder they’ve become a household favorite.
Jennifer’s dilemma took me back to a client in Sparta, New Jersey, who once wrote, “Remember that fiddlehead fig tree I loved? The leaves are turning yellow. I googled it. It said fertilizer might help. I ordered a bigger pot and fresh soil. It gets great light and hasn’t moved in two years. Any thoughts?”
Typically, I advise against fertilizing houseplants in winter, when they’re resting. But if a plant hasn’t been fed during the growing season, a gentle boost may help, but watering habits are usually the bigger issue. Yellowing leaves, by and large, are a sign of too much water. I suggested a simple moisture meter probe—an inexpensive tool that removes the guesswork from soil moisture monitoring.
Suz later explained that her fig was in a self-watering container — the kind that holds a reservoir



of water beneath the soil. These systems are helpful in summer or while away from home. They maintain consistent moisture without daily attention. But in winter, when plants slow their growth, constantly moist soil can become a problem. Many houseplants prefer their soil to dry slightly between waterings.
Fiddlehead figs are known for being a bit fickle. They dislike drafts, soil that stays too wet, sudden temperature changes, or dry indoor air. A nearby humidifier can make a surprising difference.
When I later visited Suz to review a garden design, her fiddlehead fig stood tall in its new pot.

Repotting in winter isn’t usually recommended, as plants are resting, but in this case, the roots were crowded and the soil sparse. Sometimes exceptions are necessary — in gardening and in life.
During that visit, Suz pointed to another houseplant — a split-leaf philodendron — with fuzzy white patches on its leaves. “I’ve been wiping it off,” she said, “but it keeps coming back.”
Those cottony clusters looked like mealybugs, though at first glance they can resemble whiteflies. Both are sap-sucking pests that cause leaves to curl and yellow. Both are masters of stealth, hitching rides indoors on

fresh-cut flowers, produce, or plants kept outside in summer. Sometimes they come home with a new plant.
The remedy for both dilemmas is straightforward, though it takes patience. Isolate the affected plant. Rinse it gently in a sink or shower if possible. Let the plant dry, then spray Neem Oil periodically until all signs of the invasion are gone. The whiteflies will fly when you spray them, but the treatment will kill eggs and nymphs. Be sure to spray the undersides of leaves where they lay their eggs — sneaky little buggers.
If the darn things keep coming back, remove the top two inches of

soil where they could be living. Clean the inside of the pot with rubbing alcohol, then top-dress with fresh potting soil. Patience and attentiveness are part of tending to plants.
Perhaps there’s a deeper lesson here. Plants remind us that care is an ongoing relationship. Too much or too little water, too much or too little attention — balance matters. In our homes, our gardens, and within ourselves, growth thrives when we listen closely to what’s needed and respond with steady, loving care.
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Preliminary 2026-27 Hunting Seasons And Bag Limits Approved for Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners today gave preliminary approval to the 2026-27 hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits.

All 2026-27 season proposals include the Sundays that fall within the listed start and end dates. Also, seasons that previously ended on Saturdays largely would end on Sundays, providing one additional day of opportunity.

Migratory game bird seasons are set later and not included on this list. It has not been determined at this time whether those seasons will include Sundays.

The Board thoroughly discussed a preliminary 2026-27 season proposal that would have moved the firearms deer season a week earlier, causing the firearms bear season and others to shift as a result. That proposal was part of the Board's prepared agenda. However, the Board voted 6-3 to reject that plan and move ahead with a proposal that largely mirrors last year's seasons.

The preliminarily approved 2026-27 seasons include several significant changes:

For wild turkeys, a bag limit of one spring gobbler is proposed to offset possible additional harvest due to the inclusion of Sundays and ensure that harvest rates remain within sustainable levels.

For white-tailed deer, minor adjustments to date structures of extended firearms, flintlock, and late archery seasons are proposed to reduce complexity and to ensure season lengths correspond to sporting arm efficiency and management objectives.

For black bears, in WMU 3D, a longer archery bear season (overlapping with the entire first segment of the archery deer season) is proposed to increase harvest in response to high levels of bear-human conflict in this area.

For elk, a new early October firearms season segment is proposed to limit crowding and maintain

hunter satisfaction under current and potential future increased license allocations. The late firearms elk season is proposed to be moved later in January to avoid conflicts with major holidays.

For small game, the squirrel, ruffed grouse, rabbit, pheasant, bobwhite quail and woodchuck seasons all are proposed to remain open during the firearms deer season.

For furbearers, WMU 5A is proposed to be opened to bobcat hunting and trapping, and WMUs 2G, 3A, and 4C are proposed to be opened to river otter trapping. Habitat and population data indicate that these units can support sustainable harvest for these species.

The public may offer comments on all proposed 2026-27 seasons and bag limits, as well as other board actions, between now and the board's April meeting, when 2026-27 seasons and bag limits will be finalized, and antlerless deer license allocations will be presented.

The board is scheduled to meet April 10 and 11 at the Game Commission's Harrisburg headquarters.

PROPOSED 2026-27 HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

SQUIRREL, Red, Gray, Black and Fox (Combined): Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license – Sept. 12-27 (6 daily, 18 in possession limit after second day).

SQUIRREL, Red, Gray, Black and Fox (Combined): Sept. 12-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-Feb. 28, 2027 (6 daily, 18 possession).

RUFFED GROUSE: Oct. 17-Dec. 24 (2 daily,

6 possession).

RABBIT (Cottontail): Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license, and Mentored Permit Holders age 16 and under – Oct. 3-18 (4 daily, 12 possession).

RABBIT (Cottontail): Oct. 17-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-Feb. 28, 2027 (4 daily, 12 possession).

PHEASANT: Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license, and all mentored hunters, regardless of age – Oct. 10-18 (2 daily, 6 in possession). Male and female pheasants may be taken in all WMUs. There is no open season for taking pheasants in Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas, except as authorized by executive order.

PHEASANT: Oct. 24-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-Feb. 28, 2027 (2 daily, 6 in possession). Male and female pheasants may be taken in all WMUs. There is no open season for taking pheasants in Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas, except as authorized by executive order.

BOBWHITE QUAIL: Sept. 1-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-March 31, 2027. No limit. There is no open season for the taking of bobwhite quail in the Letterkenny Army Depot Bobwhite Quail Recovery Area.

WOODCHUCK (GROUNDHOG): July 1-Dec. 24 and Dec. 26-June 30, 2027. No limit.

HARE (SNOWSHOE RABBIT) OR VARYING HARE: Dec. 26-Dec. 31, statewide (1 daily, 3 season).

CROW: Aug. 20-March 21, 2027, on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sun-

day only. No limit.

STARLING AND ENGLISH SPARROW: No closed season, except during the regular firearm deer season. No limit.

WILD TURKEY, FALL (Male or Female): WMUs 1A, 2G, 3A, 4A, 4B and 4D – Oct. 31-Nov. 15; WMUs 1B, 3D, 4C and 4E – Oct. 31-Nov. 8; WMUs 2A, 2F, 3B and 3C – Oct. 31-Nov. 15 and Nov. 25-27; WMUs 2B, 2C, 2D and 2E – Oct. 31-Nov. 20 and Nov. 25-27; WMUs 5A and 5B – Oct. 31-Nov. 3; WMUs 5C and 5D – **CLOSED TO FALL TURKEY HUNTING.**

SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only): Special season for eligible junior hunters, with required license, and mentored hunters 16 and under – April 24-25, 2027. Only 1 spring gobbler may be taken during this hunt.

SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only): May 1-31, 2027. Daily limit 1, season limit 1. From May 1-16, legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon; from May 17-31, legal hunting hours are one-half hour

before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

DEER, ARCHERY (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D: Sept. 19-Nov. 27 and Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2027. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license or permit. One antlered deer per hunting license year.

DEER, ARCHERY (Antlered and Antlerless) Statewide: Oct. 3 -Nov. 20 and Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2027. One antlered deer per hunting license year. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license or permit.

DEER, ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER (Statewide): Oct. 17-25. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license or permit.

DEER, ANTLERLESS SPECIAL FIREARMS (Statewide): Oct. 22-25. Junior and Senior License Holders, Mentored Permit Holders, Disabled Person Permit (to use a vehicle) Holders, and Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in U.S. Armed Services or in the U.S. Coast Guard only, with re-

quired antlerless license. Also included are persons who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for a license and hold a valid adult license or qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license or permit.

DEER, REGULAR FIREARMS (Antlered and Antlerless) Statewide: Nov. 28-Dec. 13. One antlered deer per hunting license year. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license or permit.

DEER, ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS FLINTLOCK (Statewide): Dec. 26-Jan. 24, 2027. One antlered deer per hunting license year. One antlerless deer may be taken with a general license antlered deer harvest tag, and an antlerless deer with each required antlerless license or permit.

To Read the full article visit: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pgc/newsroom/preliminary-2026-27-hunting-seasons-and-bag-limits-approved>



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Flood Secures \$640K for Northampton County Water and Sewer Upgrades

Rep. Ann Flood (R-Northampton) is pleased to announce \$640,000 in state grants have been awarded through the Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Program to support critical infrastructure improvements in Northampton County.

“These grants will help ensure safe, reliable water and sewer services for our communities,” Flood said. “Investing in these projects protects public health and supports the long-term sustainability of our local infrastructure.”

The funding breakdown is as follows:

- East Bangor Borough Municipal Authority: \$200,000 for wastewater treatment plant up-

- grades.
- Wind Gap Municipal Authority: \$250,000 for North Broadway sewer rehabilitation.
- Portland Borough Authority: \$40,000 for small water and sewer system improvements.
- Bangor Borough Authority: \$150,000 for Bangor 2026 sewer rehabilitation.

The Pennsylvania Small Water and Sewer Program, administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority, provides grants to municipalities and authorities for projects that improve drinking water and wastewater systems, ensuring compliance with environmental standards and enhancing service reliability.

Resolution Honoring American Hostages Signed Into Law

The governor on recently signed into law a resolution that designates March 9 as Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day in New Jersey, in honor of retired FBI special agent Robert A. Levinson.

“Along with Sarah Moriarty, Robert’s daughter and a constituent in my district, I’m pleased to see New Jersey leading the way in bringing attention to those Americans held abroad against their will, and their families here at home,” Assemblyman Michael Inganamort (R-Morris, Sussex, Warren) said. “Sarah has been a tireless advocate for families of American hostages and those who have been wrongfully detained overseas, so it’s wonderful to know her work has paid off in



Assemblyman Michael Inganamort meets with Sarah Levinson Moriarty on Oct. 3, 2025 to discuss a resolution naming March 9 the U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day in New Jersey in honor of her father, Robert A. Levinson. (Photo courtesy Legislative District 24)

honor of her father and all those wrongfully detained or held hostage.”

The federal government has maintained that Iran sanctioned the abduction of Levinson from Kish Island, Iran, on March 9, 2007. He was on an unofficial CIA

intelligence-gathering mission on that country’s nuclear program. Levinson, who would be 77 this year, is recognized as the longest-held hostage in the history of the United States.

As of October 2025, the federal government believes nearly 50 Americans are being held hostage or wrongfully detained in at least 13 countries; hard numbers are difficult to ascertain.

Inganamort’s resolution follows the federal proclamation championed by Rep. Tom Kean (R-NJ) in 2023 and highlighted by President Donald Trump this past March. New Jersey is the first state to recognize the day and fly its flag. Senator Parker Space sponsored the Senate version of the bill.

That flag, designed by these families, now flies above the White House, U.S. Capitol, and State Department each year on March 9, Flag Day, Independence Day, and whenever an American hostage returns home to the United States.

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DEP Encourages Pennsylvanians to Test Their Homes for Radon During National Radon Action Month

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is encouraging Pennsylvanians to test their homes for radon during Radon Action Month, bringing public awareness to a very serious health hazard.

“Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking in the United States, and is a serious concern within the Commonwealth, but it is also very easy to protect yourself and your family from this naturally occurring gas,” said DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley. “January is a great month to pick up a test kit from the local hardware store, put it on the lowest floor of your house, and find out if your home has radon. And if you do have elevated levels, DEP has a list of state-certified radon mitigation system installers that can work with you to address it.”

Radon is responsible for an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year in the U.S., according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and about 40 percent of Pennsylvania homes have radon levels above the EPA action level of 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter). While radon problems may be more common in some regions,



there is potential for any home to have high radon levels.

Due to its unique geology, Pennsylvania is particularly prone to elevated radon levels, and the only way homeowners can know for certain if they have a radon problem is to test their home. DEP recommends that all homes, schools, public and private buildings get tested. The best time to test is during the colder months, when homes and buildings are closed, and radon is most likely to be trapped and build up to higher levels.

Radon test kits are also available at many home improvement and hardware stores, as well as from Pennsylvania-certified radon laboratories.

pany to do the testing for them. Even homes that have mitigation systems installed should test their homes every two years.

The public is encouraged to call DEP’s Radon Division at 717-783-3594, or the Radon Hotline at 800-237-2366, for help with interpreting their test results and what follow-up action may be necessary.

Permanent radon mitigation systems typically cost between \$800 and \$1,200 and require minimal maintenance. A list of state-certified radon contractors, labs, and testers is available on DEP’s website. The list is also available by calling 1-800-23-RADON.

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St. Luke’s Cancer Patient Defies Odds

At 68 years old, Carole Kruslicky feels fantastic. Sure, she deals with the aches and pains many people encounter as they age. But given the diagnosis she received 7 1/2 years ago — stage IVB cervical cancer — Kruslicky considers each day a treasure.

Kruslicky credits Dr. Israel Zighelboim and the rest of the St. Luke’s University Health Network cancer team for giving her the life she has today. Reaching 2026 was far from certain given that stage IVB cervical cancer is considered incurable. The 5-year relative survival rate is 19%, per the National Cancer Institute website.

“I was just so well taken care of,” Kruslicky said. “They were just always, always there. And not only for me. For my daughter too — to explain things, to keep her in the loop. Because it actually is harder [the cancer diagnosis] on the family than on the person.”

“A lot of people don’t realize that, but the family goes through way, way more. Because they don’t know what’s going to happen tomorrow.”

Kruslicky lived with plenty of uncertainty leading up to and after her cervical cancer diagnosis. She endured pain



and bleeding in July 2018 that led her to seek emergency-room treatment. ER doctors ordered bloodwork and a CT scan. They discovered a tumor that required the expertise of a gynecology oncologist.

Kruslicky was taken by ambulance to St. Luke’s campus in Bethlehem, where she met Dr. Zighelboim. After a biopsy confirmed Kruslicky’s tumor was cancerous, Kruslicky asked Dr. Zighelboim how much time she had left to live.

“He said, ‘Well, Carole. I’m going to be honest with you,’” she recalled.

“Let’s try a couple rounds of chemotherapy. We’ll see how your body reacts, and then we’ll talk further.”

Kruslicky never needed to discuss her life expectancy again despite it being what she called “the elephant in the room.” She had a port installed for chemotherapy and began treatment within 2 weeks. After 3 rounds of aggressive chemotherapy, her tumor began to shrink.

“Carole’s case exemplifies the positive results that are possible through St. Luke’s sophisticated cancer care,” Dr. Zighel-

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