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Take One!

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PRESS



February 22, 2024

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Vol. 51: No. 31



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North Warren Takes On Notre Dame East Stroudsburg in Boys Basketball



North Warren went head to head against Notre Dame East Stroudsburg in Boys Basketball on February 12th. Pen Argyl was defeated, 49 to 47. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Senator Boscola Announces \$456,776.06 In State Funding For Local PA Fire Departments And EMS Providers

State Senator Lisa M. Boscola announced today that twenty-nine fire departments and emergency medical services (EMS) providers in the 18th Senatorial District will be awarded \$456,776.06 through the 2023-24 Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services (FCEMS) Grant Program, which is administered by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner (OSFC). "I am pleased to announce these state grants that provide critical financial assistance to the most vital organizations in our local communities: our fire and emergency medical services providers," Boscola said. "Our fire departments and EMS provide essential services throughout our local communities that protect our citizens



who are in need of their services." In accordance with program guidelines for 2023-24 program, eligible projects for funding include facility construction or renovation, equipment, debt reduction, training, education, recruitment and retention, construction savings account (fire companies only), and overtime costs associated with backfilling positions while firefighters are attending

training (career departments only). Grants approved in Senator Boscola's District are as follows:
- City of Bethlehem - Fire - \$16,951.99
- City of Bethlehem - EMS - \$14,949
- Blue Valley Rescue Squad - \$13,061.55
- City of Easton Fire Department - \$16,951.99
- Columbia Fire Company - \$13,061.55
FUNDING
Continued on page 2

Grants Available for Supporting School Safety and Mental Health

Grants are available through a few different state programs to support the physical security and behavioral health needs of students in the commonwealth. All grant applications must be received by Feb. 29th. School Mental Health Grants make \$90 million available for school districts, intermediate units, area career and technical schools, charter schools, regional char-

ter schools, and cyber charter schools. Approximately \$32 million is available through Competitive School Safety Grants for school resource officers, security-related technology and violence prevention programs that address safety and security. As part of Senate Republican efforts to ensure safe schools and communities, a budget measure passed in December included pro-

visions to consolidate and streamline school safety and security programs and operations under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The School District Meritorious Grant Program is specifically for school districts and approximately \$18.6 million is available. Individual awards to address physical safety and security range from \$30,000 to \$45,000.

Pen Argyl's Ellie Wallbillich, Named Colonial League Girls Basketball MVP



Pen Argyl's Ellie Wallbillich, was named the Colonial League girls basketball MVP. Ellie averaged 18.8 points per game and became the top scorer in Pen Argyl history, when she surpassed the 1,137 point mark on January 29th. Pen Argyl lost 51 to 43 to Notre Dame Green Pond on February 14th, but are focusing on getting ready for the upcoming District 11 playoffs. Best of Luck Ladies! Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Free Family Fun Nights Focus on March Holidays



Parents who are looking for affordable ways to entertain the kids are invited to check out the free Family Fun Nights hosted by Project Self-Sufficiency on Thursday evenings in March, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., 127 Mill Street, Newton. Families are invited to enjoy games, activities, and crafts with a focus on March holidays, including St. Patrick's Day, March 7th, 14th and

28th. A special event to highlight the coming of spring will be held on March 21st. Dinner will be provided for all participants. Advance registration is encouraged by calling Project Self-Sufficiency, 973-940-3500. Family Fun Nights are a program of the Journey Family Success Center at Project Self-Sufficiency. "These weekly Family Fun Nights offer parents **FAMILY cont'd on pg 3**



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FUNDING

Continued from page 1

- Dewey Fire Company No 1 - \$16,562.94
- East Bangor Vol Fire Co - \$13,256.07
- Easton Emergency Squad - \$10,000
- Freemansburg Fire Company No 1 - \$14,617.72
- Hecktown Volunteer Fire Company No 1 - \$15,000
- Liberty Fire CPNY - \$13,061.55
- Lookout Fire Company No 1 - \$13,061.55
- Lower Mount Bethel/Sandts Eddy Fire Co - \$13,061.55
- Lower Saucon Fire Rescue - \$55,951.99
- Mount Bethel Vol Fire Company, Inc - \$14,034.16
- North Bangor Fire Company - \$13,450.59
- Palmer Municipal Fire Department - \$16,951.99
- Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Co - \$15,979.38
- Portland Hook & Ladder Co #1 - \$13,061.55

- Rescue Fire Company #1 - \$13,450.59
 - Second Ward Fire Company - \$13,450.59
 - Suburban EMS Inc. - \$14,725.00
 - Tatamy Fire Company - \$13,061.55
 - Upper Nazareth Fire Department - \$15,000
 - Washington Township Volunteer Fire Company - \$14,617.72
 - West Easton Volunteer Fire Company No 1 - \$13,839.63
 - Williams Township Fire Company #1 - \$14,812.24
 - Wilson Borough Fire Department - \$116,951.99
 - Wind Gap Fire Company - \$13,839.63
- Companies have until July 1, 2024, to submit their 2023-24 FCEMS Grant Agreements. More information on the Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grants program can be found online: at <https://www.osfc.pa.gov/> or by contacting Senator Boscola's office at (610) 868-8667.

Northampton County Area Agency on Aging Hosts Free PA Property Tax / Rent Rebate Program Filing Assistance

The Northampton County Area Agency on Aging is partnering with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue to offer free assistance to Northampton County residents filing PA Property Tax / Rent Rebate (PTRR) program applications.

Thursday, March 7th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Park Plaza Senior Community Center (1800 Sullivan Trail, Easton, PA 18020 | 610-829-3201)

Wednesday, March 13th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Cheryville Senior Center (4131 Lehigh Dr., Cheryville, PA 18035 | 610-767-2977)

Friday, March 22nd from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the Slate Belt Senior Citizen Center (707 American Bangor Rd, Bangor, PA 18013 | 18013 610-588-1224).

Monday, March 25th from 9:30-11:30 may be added if there are enough RSVPs.

Thursday, March 28th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am at the Northampton



Senior Center (902 Lincoln Ave., Northampton, PA 18067 | 610-262-4977)

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians aged 65 and older, widows and widowers aged 50 and older, and people with disabilities aged 18 and older.

Applicants who need assistance with the PTRR Program application (PA-1000) should check the eligibility

guidelines on the PTRR Program. The recent expansion of the PTRR program took effect on January 16, 2024, when the new claim season opened. Qualified homeowners and renters in Pennsylvania can now receive a rebate of up to \$1,000. In addition to age requirements, the expansion household income limit will increase to \$45,000 annually.

This expansion will allow 3,700 more seniors

in Northampton County to qualify for the program for much needed property tax relief.

Applications for 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebates are due by June 30, 2024. Under Pennsylvania law, the Department of Revenue evaluates the program before the June 30th deadline every year. If extra funds are available, the deadline will be extended to December 31, 2024.

FIREFIIGHTERS WANTED

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



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

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Free Workshops Address Common Parenting Challenges, Anger Management - Offered at Project Self-Sufficiency and Community Sites

Parents and caregivers are invited to attend free workshops designed to offer practical strategies for common parenting challenges, including anger management, positive discipline, handling disobedience, and promoting resiliency. Workshops will be offered at Project Self-Sufficiency and at locations throughout Sussex County, as well as online. Pizza and childcare will be available to attendees at all in-person sessions. Those who attend two of the in-person workshops will receive a \$25 gift card; attendees at three events will receive a \$50 gift card.

“The Power of Positive Parenting” will be held Wednesday, March 6th, 5:30 p.m., at Project Self-Sufficiency, and Tuesday, April 16th, 5:00 p.m., at the Garden Grove Preschool in Sparta, and Wednesday, April 17th, 7:00 p.m., at Hardyston Middle School.

“Raising Resilient Children” will be offered Wednesday, March 13th, 5:30 p.m., at Project Self-Sufficiency.

“Raising Confident, Competent Children” will take place on Monday, March 18th, 5:00 p.m., at Montague Township School, Wednesday, March 20th, 5:30 p.m., at Project Self-Sufficiency, and Tuesday, March 26th, 6:00 p.m., at the Durban Avenue School in Hopatcong.



A weekly parenting discussion class will be held at Project Self-Sufficiency at 5:30 p.m., April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 23rd.

For those unable to attend in-person workshops, “Raising Safe Kids” will be offered via Zoom on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., beginning April 9th. A certificate of completion is available for the virtual series.

The in-person workshops will help participants identify their parenting goals, address behavioral problems, and promote healthy child development by using the Triple P Positive Parenting Program, a comprehensive education initiative targeted to parents, healthcare professionals, educators, and caregivers of infants, toddlers, and

school-aged children. The virtual series uses the ACT Parents Raising Safe Kids curriculum developed by the American Psychological Association to develop effective parenting skills and prevent behavioral issues and violence.

“These workshops will give parents, caregivers, and educators simple and practical strategies to help build strong, healthy relationships, confidently manage children’s behavior, manage their own anger, and ultimately prevent problems from developing,” explains Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon.

Interested participants are invited to call Project Self-Sufficiency, 973-940-3500, or regis-

ter online, www.projectselfsufficiency.org.

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

FAMILY

Continued from page 1

and children a place to relax and have a good time together in a safe and supportive environment,” explains Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon. “The focus on spring holidays invites children to express themselves creatively through fun crafts and activities while having fun with their family.”

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The Journey Family Success Center at Project Self-Sufficiency is a program of support which includes parenting skills training, economic self-sufficiency services, family activities, legal education services, information about health and nutrition, referrals, advocacy, and other services. All activities are free and open to the public. Family Success Centers offer services to children, youth, families, individuals, and communities. Funding is provided by the New Jersey Department of Children & Families.

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NORTH WARREN (47) VS NOTRE DAME EAST STROUDSBURG (49) BOYS BASKETBALL



Photo by Dale Young/
The Free Weekly Press

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New State Game Wardens Join Ranks In Pennsylvania



Their training now complete, Pennsylvania's newest State Game Wardens are working in their newly assigned districts.

The 35th Class of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Ross Leffler School of Conservation graduated Feb. 3, adding 12 more officers to the ranks.

Members of the 35th Class, their hometowns and their assigned districts are: Justin J. Bel-towski, of Dysart (Somerset County); Kolton R. Boyer, of New Castle (Allegheny County); Tyler R. Castronova, of Rochester, N.Y. (Allegheny County); Patrick R. DeRojas, of Dallas (Luzerne County); Trevor A. Faust, of Bethlehem (Lehigh County); Benjamin P. Fromm, of Denver, (Lycoming County); Blake H. McNew, of Bangor (Delaware County); Alexander R. Purdy, of Downingtown (Westmoreland County); Joshua K. Ross, of Lock Haven (Centre County); Benjamin M. Sawina, of Newark, Del. (Berks County); Samuel D.T. Terwilliger, of Lucinda (Venango County); and Nelson E. Yocum Jr., of Honey Brook (Chester County).

Graduate Kolten Boyer received the class award for academics, with a score of 96.03%.

Graduate Trevor Faust was honored with the marksmanship award, achieving the highest overall proficiency in a series of courses firing the handgun, rifle, and shotgun. Faust also was selected as the fitness award winner for maintaining the highest standard of physical fitness during the training program.

Graduate Nelson Yocum Jr. captured the EVOIC driving award for exhibiting safe and exceptional police driving skills during the training program. Graduate Justin Bel-towski earned the academy torch award for maintaining the highest professional standard of conduct, values, ideals, and demonstrated abilities as judged by his fellow classmates.

Graduate Tyler Castronova received a Life Saving Award for rendering aid in an emergency while training in the field with Game Warden Stephen Wingenbach.

Graduation of new game wardens follows 44 weeks of intensive training, including 10 weeks of field training.

Training School Director Kyle Jury praised graduates for their dedication and demonstrated commitment to our natural resources.

"These 12 new grad-

uates now embark on their careers as state game wardens by serving in geographical districts across the Commonwealth," Jury said. By pursuing this career path, they fulfill an instrumental part of the agency's continued and dedicated effort to wildlife conservation. Having these individuals join the ranks of game wardens will strengthen the agency's efforts to safeguard the hunting heritage the Game Commission was founded on so that it can be passed on to future generations."

In 1930, Ross Leffler, then president of the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners, proposed the establishment of a training school for game protectors, as game wardens then were called. When the training school opened its doors in 1932, in Brockway, Jefferson County, it was the first such conservation officer training school in the world and served as a model for other states.

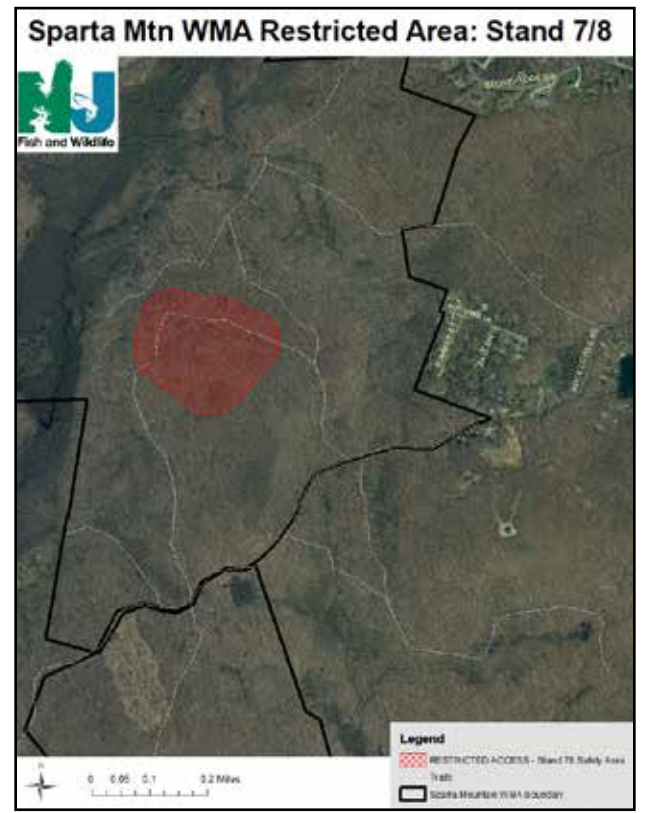
From 1932 until 1935, the Ross Leffler School of Conservation offered in-service training for game protectors. The school became a permanent facility until 1986, when it was moved to the agency's Harrisburg headquarters.

Sparta Mountain Trail and Site Closure February Through March 2024

A 25-acre area that includes just over 1/4 mile of trail on the eastern side of Sparta Mountain WMA will be temporarily closed to the public on or about February 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024 (see map).

Please remove any tree stands, blinds, or other items remaining in this area before work begins, pay attention to the posted signs in this area, and do not enter the posted area.

The purpose of the temporary closure is for a habitat restoration project that will open the forest canopy to allow for the growth of young oak and hickory trees, blackberries, sedges, and a variety of other native shrub and sapling plants. This habitat will become breeding and/or foraging habitat for numerous wildlife, including the 80 different bird species that have been observed using other sites of restored open-canopy for-



est on Sparta Mountain WMA.

NJ Fish & Wildlife regrets having to close the area. However, during previous management activities, spectators

entering the work area and disregarding posted signs created significant safety concerns that result in the current closure during the entire work period.

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Commissioners Award \$500,477 in Preservation Grants - Local Nonprofits and Municipalities Receive Grants for Open Space and Historic Preservation Projects



Six grants totaling \$500,477 to local nonprofits and municipalities for open space and historic preservation projects received unanimous approval from the Warren County Board of County Commissioners. Recommended by the 12-member Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee (MCCT-FC), these grants will be financed through the County's Open Space Trust, which is funded by a voter-approved dedicated tax. Since the program's inception more than 25 years ago, 168 grants have assisted local historic and open space projects in each of Warren County's 22 municipalities.

"I want to thank the County Commissioners for continuing to support this wonderful program. Warren County boasts so many great natural and historic treasures - it's exciting to see our community preserving these sites," said Corey Tierney, Director of Land Preservation. "I also want to thank the applicants for all of their hard work and the Committee members for generously volunteering their time to review the applications and visit

each site," he added. "These projects represent some of the county's most special places," Commissioner Director James R. Kern III said. "Thank you to the dedicated volunteers and organizations who help keep these sites operational and open to the public. I encourage everyone to explore Warren County and see them in person," Kern added.

Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski also thanked Tierney and the county Land Preservation Department staff for their efforts with the grant program, explaining, "If it wasn't for him and his staff, this wouldn't be possible." "It is with great pleasure we approve these projects," Commissioner Lori Ciesla remarked. "Preserving our heritage, culture and history is so very important and these projects will do that while also providing for the residents of today," she added.

This year the County awarded \$375,477 to four historic preservation projects and \$125,000 to two open space preservation projects.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS:



1. Blirstown Township - Footbridge Restoration Plan: \$70,189 to prepare a professional restoration plan for the pedestrian bridge at Footbridge Park.

John I. Blair installed the steel footbridge in 1893 and the property was purchased by the Township in 1959. In honor of the Nation's Bicentennial, the Township established Footbridge Park in 1976. The footbridge now serves as an important connector between the Paulinskill Valley Trail and Footbridge Park to the Blirstown Historic District and local businesses. While structurally safe, the three overwater spans were deemed to be in poor condition by a professional engineer. Other bridge elements are also in need of repair. Restoration of the historic footbridge will ultimately be a multi-phase project as guided by the professional restoration plan.

2. Friends of N.J. Transportation Heritage

Center - Union Station Restoration: \$172,099 for the continued restoration of the building's interior, including the lower level waiting room and finishes throughout, as well as some exterior restoration including refinishing the front facade.

Designed by Frank J. Nies and constructed by the Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railroad (DL&W), the Union Station was opened in 1914 and shared with the Central Railroad of New Jersey (CNJ). The station is now owned by the Friends group and open to the public on a regular basis with exhibits from their archive collections.

3. Mansfield Township - Mount Bethel Community Center: \$95,199 for the installation of a septic and generator so that the structure can be used as a heating and cooling center by residents, in addition to being used as a year-round community center.



Constructed in 1844, the former church sits on land that was purchased on January 16, 1788 by Dr. Robert Cummins, a Methodist and surgeon in the First Sussex Regiment during the Revolution, who is buried in the adjacent cemetery along with other Revolutionary and Civil War veterans. In 1809 the village and church received the name of Mount Bethel, given by Reverend Francis Asbury, the first Methodist bishop in the United States. The form of the church is a traditional meeting house; the style is a restrained and stocic Greek Revival with Federal undertones. The fine construction of the building is still evident today in its elegant millwork and crisp, cut limestone masonry.

4. Phillipsburg Area Historical Society - Roseberry House Restoration: \$37,990 for the removal of the existing 20-year-old asphalt shingle roof and installation a new cedar shingle roof typical of such homes during its historical period of significance.

Likely built by Loyalist John Tabor Kempe sometime during the Revolutionary War, this 18th Century Georgian style manor house was seized by the colonial government and sold to John Roseberry, remaining in the Roseberry family for nearly 100 years. Originally Johannes Rosenberger,

John Roseberry was a German immigrant who was likely part of an influx of German settlers to New Jersey in the Colonial and Revolutionary eras. He went on to establish a farm at the property as well as an inn nearby. Believed to be the oldest standing structure in the Town of Phillipsburg, the Roseberry House would have been an exceptionally large and grand building for its time.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROJECTS

5. Alpha Borough - Alpha Rails to Trails: \$75,000 toward the purchase of approximately 17 acres of land currently owned and controlled by the New Jersey Transit Corporation for the creation of an approximately 1.3 mile multi-use recreational trail for the public. The Borough envisions this trail will connect to the future Phillipsburg Rails to Trails segment that would utilize the same railroad corridor.

6. Town of Phillipsburg - Phillipsburg Rails to Trails: \$50,000 toward the purchase of approximately 29 acres of land currently owned and controlled by the New Jersey Transit Corporation for the creation of an approximately 3-mile multi-use recreational trail for the public. The Town envisions this trail will connect to the future Alpha Rails to Trails segment that would utilize the same railroad corridor.

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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



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sizes or grow quickly. I grew six inches in less than a year as a teen. Gratefully, stretch marks fade.

The desirable ‘Medullary Rays,’ also known as pith rays or tiger stripes, are the white marks sometimes curved, especially prominent on fine oak furniture. And have you noticed what looks like skin folds at the base of branches? Outcomes of growth can be attractive. It’s a matter of how you look at things.

Hello, fellow readers, Bruce Crawford, Manager of Horticulture of the Morris County Park Commission (NJ), gave a talk on Bark Basics at a recent trade event that turned out to be a fascinating lesson on the array and anatomy of beautiful bark, along with an assortment of trees he admires.

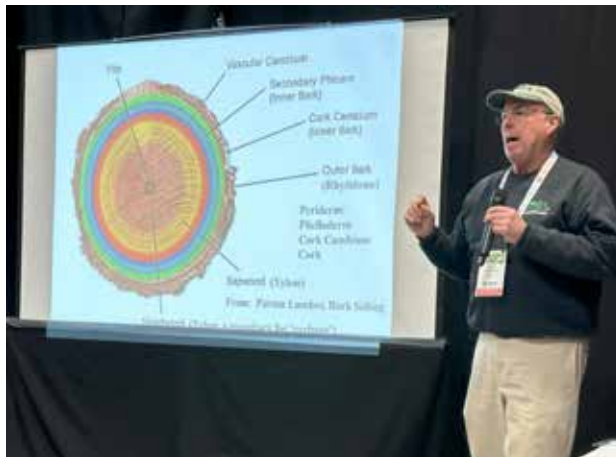
Bark works like our skin, keeping innards intact and protected from the elements. It helps maintain water, expands as we grow, and exfoliates, making room for new skin. Metaphorically, we grow thicker skin as we age. We toughen up after life challenges us. Thankfully, we can forgive and let go.

Like people, tree bark can develop stretch marks when they change

Some trees, like Beech, shed their skin quickly while others, like Pine, do so slowly, causing the outer layer of their skin, their bark, to grow thick and crack. But the inner layer of the bark is smooth, fitting the trunk’s width. But American Beech bark begins to wrinkle, too, starting from the bottom when it reaches middle age. The older the tree, the deeper the cracks. Sound familiar (smile)?

Each tree species developed a unique bark. There’s Persimmon, which has alligator-like bark. White Ash has lovely diamond-shaped patterns.

Some trees have bark that photosynthesizes, like River and Paper Birch, that photosynthesize through



their exfoliating bark, even on warm late winter days, giving them a jumpstart to other deciduous trees, hence why they grow so quickly.

Birch trees, like Cherry Trees, also have prominent lenticels. Lenticels work much like tiny windows, allowing trees to breathe. All plants have them, and they are on fruit surfaces as well. They look like dots or narrow etched lines.

There’s the gorgeous patchy bark of Kousa Dogwood and American Sycamore, as well as Stewartia. The stunning exfoliating bark of Paperbark Maple and Three-flowered Maple

are other beauties to add to your garden.

Shagbark Hickory and our much loved White Oak have plated bark, as does the Kentucky Coffee Tree. And because Kentucky Coffee Tree leaves are so large, the wood structure in winter is especially dramatic because it doesn’t have small twigs. “You will love it without the leaves. And if you don’t like the pods, grow a male tree,” Bruce said.

Then there are trees with peeling bark, some with long strips, such as Seven-son Flower and Eastern Red Cedar. Bald Cypress is an underused tree with lovely peeling

bark that does well in wet and dry conditions and tolerates salt.

Some smooth-bark trees are the Japanese Maple and American Hornbeam. Hackberry, another underused native tree, has striking pebbled bark.

Ginkgo biloba has ridge and furrowed bark, as does Sourwood, which blooms in July. Then there’s colorful bark, such as Red Maple. Its stems or redder in the winter. Red Twig Dogwood has greener stems in the summer.

It’s fascinating how trees have adapted through millions of years. In recent years, we all know the sad de-

mise of the Ash Trees from the emerald ash borer and Beech leaf disease is spreading. We wonder why these things are happening. Perhaps Mother Nature’s way of checks and balances.

When trees die and fall, sprouts of new branches from surrounding trees emerge from the dormant latent buds tucked in their trunks that wake up with the increasing light. Just as when we shed the wounds from our past, by forgiving, we begin to flourish.

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The Slate Belt Heritage Center will hold their monthly, historic program on Sunday, March 10th at 2pm. Speaker for the afternoon will be Marc Blau who will present, "Achieving Peace: The Conflict Over Palestine". Mr. Blau will review the key Middle East events that led to the conflict and complete the program showing how peace could be reached. This presentation is perfect for the adult who want to learn more, as well as the students interested in current affairs. Mr. Blau is a retired World Cultures teacher from Bangor High School. The program is free and open to the public. The Heritage Center is located at 30 North 1st Street, Bangor, PA. For additional information contact: Karen Brewer at 484-894-5661.

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DEP To Host Public Hearing on Proposed Warehouse Project in Monroe County

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public hearing for the proposed Warner Road Warehouse Project in Pocono Township, Monroe County. The hearing will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM at the Pocono Mountain School District Swiftwater Elementary Center located at 135 Academic Dr, Swiftwater, PA 18370. Core5 Industrial Partners of Harrisburg (Core5) has applied for a National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a discharge of stormwater from construction activities. Representatives from DEP's Waterways & Wetlands Program, the Monroe County Conservation District, and Core5 Industrial Partners, LLC will be in attendance for the hearing.

Core5 plans to construct a 702,000 square-foot warehouse building along Warner Road. The

project also includes the construction of car parking lots, truck loading docks, trailer parking areas, access drives, stormwater basins, and on- and off-site utilities. The NPDES permit is for the discharge of stormwater to Pocono Creek, which is a High Quality-Cold Water Fishes and Migratory Fishes stream, and to Exceptional Value wetlands.

DEP received the NPDES application in July of 2023. The application was deemed administratively complete on August 11, 2023. Written public comments were received during the public comment period.

DEP requests that individuals wishing to testify at the hearing submit a written notice of intent to Colleen Connolly, Community Relations Coordinator at: coconnolly@pa.gov. DEP will accept requests up to the day of the hearing. DEP requests that individuals limit their testimony to 5 minutes so that all have

the opportunity to testify. DEP can only review comments made with regard to the NPDES application. All comments, whether delivered orally during the hearing or submitted in writing, will carry equal weight and consideration with DEP. Individuals attending the hearing will have the opportunity to testify if they so desire; however, individuals who preregister to testify will be given priority on the agenda.

Persons with a disability who wish to testify and require an auxiliary aid, service, or other accommodation should contact Colleen Connolly at: coconnolly@pa.gov or the Pennsylvania Hamilton Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TDD) to discuss

how the Department can meet their needs.

The NPDES permit application documentation is available for review at the Monroe County Conservation District, located at 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. It is also available on the DEP Northeast Regional Office Community Information Webpage at: CORE 5 Monroe County Warehouse or at the DEP Northeast Regional Office, located at 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 (570) 826-2511.

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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Northampton County Seeks Poll Workers

Northampton County Elections Office reminds registered voters who live in Northampton County that they are seeking workers for poll worker positions for the upcoming Primary Election on Tuesday, April 23rd, and General Election on Tuesday, November 5th.

Every year, elections in Northampton County are made possible by citizens who serve as poll workers. These people do the important work of checking in voters at polling

places and setting them up with a ballot. At the end of the night, poll workers deliver the returns to county election officials. We depend on these workers to ensure fair, accurate, and legal elections.

Poll workers must attend mandatory training prior to the Primary Election and are also paid for their training time and work on Election Day. Northampton County poll workers may earn between \$175 and \$200 for serving all of Election Day, depending on the poll

worker's assignments and training. Typical Election Day hours are from 6:30 a.m. until after the polls close at 8 p.m. Individuals who bring supplies back to the Government Center receive additional compensation and mileage.

Registered voters interested in becoming poll workers in your community, email the Northampton County Elections Office at election@norcopa.gov or call 610-829-6260.

Our democracy increases in strength the more we all participate.

Student Art Contest Raises Lyme Disease Awareness



Pennsylvania has one of the highest counts of Lyme disease cases in the nation. Symptoms often initially include fever, headache, and extreme tiredness. If the disease is untreated, the infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system.

As you may know, I have worked extremely

hard to build education and prevention in the state with Lyme disease and other Tick Borne Illnesses, I helped establish Pennsylvania's FREE Tick Testing for Pennsylvania residents. If you find a tick on yourself or a loved one, you may send in the tick for testing of the most common diseases. This

is a tool meant to be used in conjunction with your primary care physician.

First- through sixth-graders can help spread the word about preventing this tick-borne illness by entering the Pennsylvania Department of Health Lyme Art Contest. They are encouraged to submit a poster or video showing how to avoid exposure to ticks, check for ticks and/or remove ticks safely by March 15 at 5 p.m.

Find more information, including how to apply at: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Vectorborne%20Diseases/Pages/Tick%20Diseases.aspx>

A Life Restored Thanks To Help From The Allentown Rescue Mission



Two years clean and nearly two years employed, the Allentown Rescue Mission is proud to celebrate AJ's transformation from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

AJ arrived at the Allentown Rescue Mission for the first time in 2009. He struggled with living a productive life while maintaining a drug and alcohol habit. He believed he could do both, which brought him back to the Mission multiple times. "I was on a rollercoaster that most people might have been inclined to give up, but I didn't, and luckily the Allentown Rescue Mission didn't give up on me," stated AJ.

The last time AJ checked into the Emergency Shelter; he decided his life needed to change. "I was sick and tired of being sick and tired." In March of 2022, AJ completed the Mission's Transformation Program, where he learned life skills, grew in his faith, and excelled in art therapy classes. He was then hired by the Clean Team Workforce. He began working for HYDAC

Technology Corporation as a Clean Team Workforce employee. Within six months, HYDAC hired AJ as a permanent employee, and he continues to work there today.

AJ owns a car, lives independently in Allentown, and has reconnected with family in the area. He is especially proud of the relationship he has rebuilt with his daughter. "It makes me feel so good to be able to do things for her. I really wasn't there for her in the past," he admitted. "My life is the total opposite of what it used to be, I'm clean and sober and employed. I have so many positive opportunities and supportive people around me, I can't imagine living any other way. The Allentown Rescue Mission and HYDAC together have changed my life."

About HYDAC: HYDAC provides fluid power solutions to OEM's, manufacturers and end users of a variety of heavy duty mobile and industrial equipment. These solutions increase the efficiency, longevity and safety of fluid power systems.

HYDAC is commit-

ted to employing disadvantaged individuals and partners with the Allentown Rescue Mission's Clean Team Workforce to meet hiring needs.

The Allentown Rescue Mission, a 501c3, 123 bed non-profit homeless shelter has been providing shelter for homeless men since 1900. In addition to emergency shelter services (365 days a year), the Allentown Rescue Mission offers a 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 over 946 men per year, and serves over 42,000 meals a year 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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Classified Ad Order Form

Non-commercial classified ads (Misc., Vehicles, Recreation, Wanted, Pets, Yard Sales) are \$5 per week, per inch (1.8" W x 1" H). There is no charge for Free items. Services, Rentals, Real Estate, Homes For Sale and Help Wanted ads are \$15 per week, per inch. Please specify the category in which your ad should appear, the size your ad should be (boxes on right), and how many weeks your ad will run. Please PRINT ad information.

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One inch (actual size shown here)

Two inches (actual size shown here)

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CATEGORY: _____

WEEKS RUNNING: _____ AMOUNT PAID: _____

Please PRINT Your Ad Information Below

CLASSIFIEDS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOON ON FRIDAY IN ORDER TO BE PRINTED IN THE UPCOMING EDITION.

All classified ads must be paid in full, in advance. Credit cards are NOT accepted for charges less than \$25. Classifieds may be submitted by mail **PO BOX 606, Bangor, PA 18013** email: thepressads@gmail.com or fax: 610-599-1185. Classifieds are NOT accepted by phone. Help Wanted ads are free for current advertisers.

Make Checks Payable to: The Free Weekly Press, LLC

MILLER'S EGG RANCH

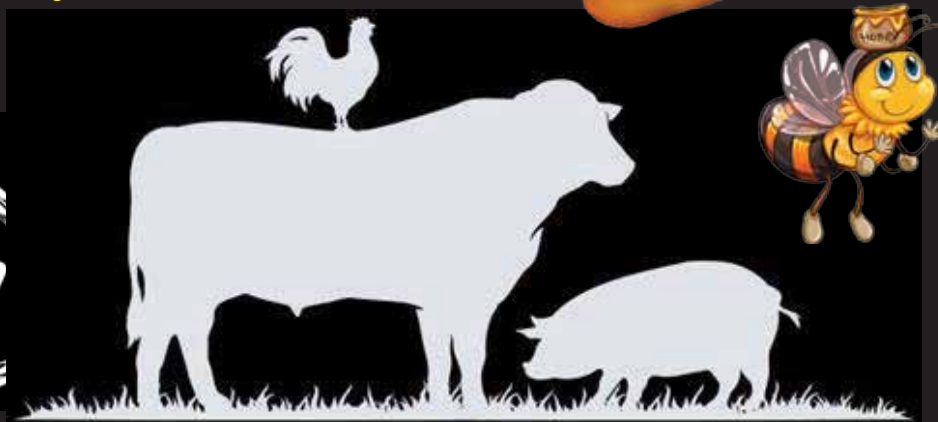
AT: APPLE BLOSSOM VILLAGE
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