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Pen Argyl Wins 37-20 Over Catasauqua



Pen Argyl took on Catasauqua High School on October 18th, defeating them 37 to 20. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

North Warren Shuts Out Hopatcong During Senior Night Soccer Game



North Warren went head to head against Hopatcong in their Senior Night Boys Soccer on October 16. North Warren won with a 5 to 0 shut-out. Photo by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Warren County Plans Veterans Recognition Ceremony - Application Deadline is October 24th

A combined Veterans Day and Warren County Veterans Recognition Ceremony will be held Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the Warren County War Memorial in Belvidere, NJ.

The Warren County Board of County Commissioners is joining with the Warren County War Memorial Corporation to celebrate all veterans – those currently serving our country and those who served our nation during war or peacetime.

This year's combined program will feature the presentation of the Warren County Distinguished Military Service medal to veterans who served during wartime. County Commissioner Director Jason J. Sarnoski and Commissioners Lori Ciesla and James R. Kern III will present a medal, certificate and pin to veterans who have been approved and invited to attend.

Applications are being accepted through Oct.



24, 2025 and information about the award as well as a link to download the application are available at www.warrencountynjveterans.com/about-the-award.

The tentative program will include the following:

- A brief ceremony celebrating all veterans, highlighting the 250th anniversaries this year of the establishment of the United States Army, Marines and Navy.
- A proclamation from the County Commissioners acknowledging National Veterans and Military Families Month.
- Presentation of the Distinguished Military Service award.
- Playing of the service

songs for each branch of the military.

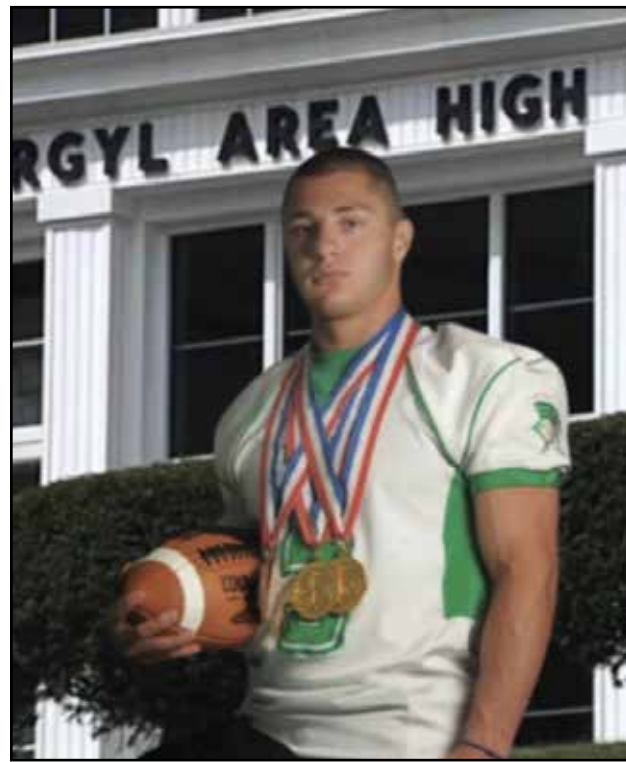
• Presentation of a Quilt of Valor made by members of the Evening Star Quilting Guild to veteran Ernie Maso.

• Musician Doug Grunn playing the Band of Brothers theme song and sounding Taps.

Veterans receiving the Warren County Distinguished Military Service award will be provided with a seat for them and one person accompanying them. All others are invited to bring lawn chairs.

The Warren County War Memorial is located next to the Warren County Courthouse at the corner of Second and Mansfield Streets in Belvidere, NJ.

The Late Mikey Racciato Inducted in 56th PWCA Hall of Fame



The PWCA HALL of Fame chairman, Gene Waas, and PWCA President, Pat Berzonski that there will be 11 new members inducted into the 56th Annual Coaches Hall of Fame (Class of 2025). Among the 11 new members is the late Mikey Racciato, from Pen Argyl. It brings our community joy to see his legacy live on. Photo and general info sent by Scott Simpson

New in the Bangor Public Library

Adult Fiction:
Twice: A Novel by Mitch Albom; Pitcher Perfect: A Novel by Tessa Bailey; The Elements: A Novel by John Boyne; Cry Havoc by Jack Carr; The Mad Wife by Meagan Church; The Killing Stones by Ann Cleevey; The Secret Christmas Library: A Novel by Jenny Colgan; Sharp Force by Patricia Daniels Cornwell; Alchemy of Secrets: A Novel by Stephanie Garber; Before Dorothy by Hazel Gaynor; Boleyn Traitor by Philippa Gregory; The Last Wizards' Ball by Charlaine Harris; My Beloved: A Mitford Novel by Jan Karon; Other People's Houses by Clare Mackintosh; Burning Daylight by Emily McIntire; The Picasso Heist by James Patterson; Sawyer (Deluxe Edition) by Jessica Peterson; Crossroads of Ravens by Andrzej Sapkowski; Alchemised by SenLin Yu; Wild Card by Elsie Silver; Remain: A Supernatural Love Story by Nicholas Sparks; Gone Before Goodbye by Reese Witherspoon

Adult Non Fiction:
Last Rites by Ozzy Osbourne

Junior Fiction:
Jessi Ramsey, Pet-Sitter by Ellen T. Crenshaw; K-Pop Demon Hunters by Mona Horton

Young Adult Fiction:
Make Me a Monster by Kalynn Bayron; The Weaver Bride by Lydia Gregovic; We Could Be Magic by Marissa Meyer; Arcana: The Lost Heirs by Sam Prentice-Jones; The House of Quiet by Kiersten White

Young Adult Non Fiction:
The Novel Life of Jane Austen: A Graphic Biography by Janine Bar-chas

DVDs:
Bluey Seasons 1-3; F1: The Movie

Project Self-Sufficiency Hosts Unique Event for Expectant and New Parents

Pediatrician Dr. Christian Canzoniero will headline a special Pregnancy & Infancy Summit at Project Self-Sufficiency, Saturday, November 15th, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This unique event will spotlight critical issues faced by expectant and new parents during pregnancy and through a child's early years; free baby items, prizes and giveaways will also be offered to attendees.

Participants at Project Self-Sufficiency's Pregnancy & Infancy Summit can get up-to-date information about lead prevention, breastfeeding, safe sleeping, establishing healthy relationships, and more. Photographer Rebecca Ferrier will take professional photos of parents and children.

"The Pregnancy & Infancy Summit invites expectant parents and mothers and fathers of young children to gain valuable information about pregnancy and child development, along with expert advice about health and wellness," explains Deborah Berry-Toon, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency. "We are excited to be able to offer an opportunity for these families to gain the information and resources they need to become successful parents."

In addition to pediatrician Dr. Christian Canzoniero, representatives from several organizations will be in attendance including Project Self-Sufficiency's Nurse Family Partnership team; Central Jersey Family Health Consortium; Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Services, Inc. (DASI); Milkface Breastfeeding; Partnership for Maternal Child Health; Zufall Health, and others.

Free and reduced cost activities for families and other topics related to early childhood health, safety and education will also be explored. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. The Pregnancy & Infancy Summit supplements Project Self-Sufficiency's robust programs for pregnant women and parents of young children, including home visitation programs, Baby Beginnings events, Mommy Parties, and Parent Cafes. To register for the Pregnancy & Infancy Summit, to discuss your parenting needs, or to find out more about other programs and services available at Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-940-3500.



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SCAN ME

PEN ARGYL (37) VS CATASAUQUA (20) FOOTBALL



Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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NORTH WARREN (5) VS HOPATCONG (0) SENIOR NIGHT



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Hello fellow readers,

I have another exchange to add to last week’s readers’ comments about Shagbark Hickory that just arrived. James wrote: We have a few shag bark hickories. The biggest one has a diameter of 20 inches. I harvested some of the shredded bark to make hickory syrup.

I had never heard of hickory syrup. So, I dug in to learn how. After you forage bark from Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata) you clean, roast, and boil it to create tea. Then add sugar, boiling down to the consistency of syrup. (There’s a recipe from on ForageChef.com.)

Yesterday I tended to Shagbark Hickory nut and leaf cleanup in my own yard. Jolee put on quite a show amongst the leaves noshed on a few nuts. Then her boyfriend Boohickles showed up. My neighbor Bill was on his quad with his younger daughter, then Boo joined the ride. Jolee was thrilled! I adore watching them wrestle and chase. As they frolicked, Bill commented about my maple trees. They are

in their dark red stage before they shift to their bright red blaze.

“I remember those trees being this high when I moved here 13 years ago.” He pointed to about 8 feet. Now they are well above the roof line and creating a canopy over the walkway to the back patio, which was my intention. My beloved Umbrella Pine graces the left side of the archway opposing the Seiryu Japanese Maple on the right. Behind her, a Coral Bark Japanese Maple I planted to mirror the vivid red fall color.

You may have noticed it’s been a lackluster fall. The ideal conditions for stunning fall color are a moist growing season (we were very dry) followed by a dry fall (it too was overly so) with sunny, warm days and cool nights. So, we had only one out of three ideal conditions.

Bridget of Forks Township PA asked, why do some trees turn red while others stay orange and yellow?

During the growing season, leaves produce chlorophyll, which uses the sun’s energy to combine carbon dioxide and water to make food for the tree. This process is called photosynthesis. While there are multiple forms of chlorophyll, most reflect green light; hence, why most leaves are green.

As the growing season ends, shortened daylight and cooler air signal the tree to hunker down for winter. The tree cuts off the leaves’ link to water and minerals, and they begin to die as chlorop-



hyll production ends. Then, the sunlight breaks down the chlorophyll in the leaves, which uncovers the carotenoid pigments (yellow, orange, or red) previously masked by green. The foliage of some tree species turns brown and never shows bright colors. This year many trees turned brown that usually don’t. It was the third-driest September on record for much of the area, poor leaves.

The remaining chlorophyll produces an abundance of sugar, which is not used up by the tree. Red pigments, called anthocyanin, are created through this excess sugar and intense sunlight. These pigments primarily serve as sunscreen to protect the leaves from

too much high-intensity light. That’s why leaves in direct sun may turn red, while those on the shady side of the same tree may be yellow. Sunny days and cool nights provide the best weather for anthocyanin production, and this year, the drought impacted the metabolism of plants, which added to the red pigments.

There is a sequence of colors that shows up in the fall. First, yellow, followed by orange and ending with red leaves. It’s during the mid-fall season, when all the colors overlap, that we usually enjoy the peak color performance.

This year worn, tired, browned leaves hindered the display. But there’s beauty in



the brown leaves. They did their job absorbing nutrients to nourish roots for the next growing season ahead. A beautiful thing. Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com and your favorite Podcast App.

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A photograph of a man and a woman standing in front of a sign for New Baker Funeral Home. The man is wearing a blue suit and the woman is wearing a black suit. The sign is white with black text. There are flowers and trees in the background.

BANGOR VS JIM THORPE SENIOR NIGHT FOOTBALL, CHEERLEADING & BAND



Hailey Howell with her parents, Julie and Chris



Brianna Morris with her parents, Heather and Charlie



Jocelynn Werner with her parents, Jenn and Jake, and her sister, Reagan



Aiden Bright with his parents, Cassie and Robert, and brother, Carter



Tyler Campbell with his parents, Erica and Eric



Kamal Crockett, with his parents Latoria and Demetrius, and grandmother, Nerissa



Ayden Fassl with his parents, Christa and Dan



Jacob Hillis with his parents, Jennifer and Michael



Elijah Luckadoo with his parents, Khristine and Raymond

Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

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Elijah Luckadoo with his parents, Khristine and Raymond



Tyler Scholato with his mother, Heather
Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press



Riley Waldron with his parents, Heather and Hutch, and his sister

Getting Permitting Done: Under the Shapiro Administration, DEP Eliminates Historic Permit Backlog

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has eliminated the historic permit backlog and reviewed and acted on 30,430 permit applications since the beginning of the year. All 2,402 permits that were overdue and on the clock on November 1, 2023, have been processed.

“DEP is moving at the speed of business, providing certainty for applicants, and protecting Pennsylvania’s air, land, and water. Eliminating the permit backlog has been a top priority, and it is thanks to the hard work and dedication of DEP staff we are able to celebrate this accomplishment,” said DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley. “We are working with partners in our communities, in the legislature, and in the business community to find ways to better serve the people, economy, and environment of Pennsylvania.”

During the first nine months of 2025, DEP also reviewed and acted on 30,430 permit applications and conducted 88,799 inspections of

regulated facilities to ensure compliance with environmental laws. DEP inspections include both scheduled and unscheduled on-site visits to permitted facilities, as well as document reviews to verify compliance with environmental laws and regulations. These inspections – whether on-site or operational – ensure air emissions stay within air quality standards, drinking water remains safe, and rivers and streams are protected from pollution.

DEP launched the SPEED program on June 30 for Chp. 102 stormwater management permit applications, and for certain Air Quality Plan Approvals, earth disturbance, dam safety, and individual water obstruction and encroachment permits in August. There are five permits currently under review in the SPEED program.

DEP is modernizing its permitting process by investing in new technology and reviewing processes to identify and eliminate bottlenecks. In January, DEP launched



a Permit Tracker (opens in a new tab) to allow applicants and residents to monitor the progress of permits as they move through the review process. Since 2023, DEP has also added 225 employees to carry out critical functions like

public health and safety inspections and permit application reviews. DEP reviews more than 45,000 permit applications every year. These include permits for land clearing activities for construction projects, air quality permits for factories and power plants, permits to upgrade drinking water systems to remove chemicals like PFAS, mining activity, and permits for oil and gas wells. With more efficient permit review from DEP, businesses in Pennsylvania can put shovels in the ground

more quickly while still ensuring their projects meet standards to protect clean air and clean water. DEP has also implemented the PAYback program, which went into effect in November 2023 that assures a moneyback guarantee for permit applicants if their application is overdue for review by DEP. Since the PAYback program was implemented, DEP has evaluated and decided on more than 76,000 permits without having to refund a single application fee.

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BANGOR VS JIM THORPE SENIOR NIGHT FOOTBALL, CHEERLEADING & BAND

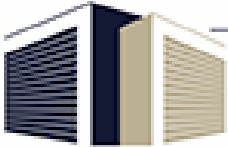


The Bangor Marching Band Seniors with their Parents were unfortunately not given to us in order, Names are listed below: Brooklyn Docherty with her parents, Danielle and Patrick; Julieanne Smith with her father Jonryan Smith; Caitlin Melazzo with parents Cerena and Nick; Nick Janneck with his parents, Holly and Chris; Dylan Azanedo with his parents, Yakenis Roa and Sylvano; Alexander Hobson-Garcia with his parents, Mario and Jennifer; Juliette Kio with her parents, Andrea and Brandon; Gabe Laclair with his parents, Katie and Michael; Lauren Conerly with her parents, John and Allison; Nathan Deeney with his parents Bruno and Laura; Mckayla Angus with her parents Judy and Scott; Robert Thompson with his mother, Christine.



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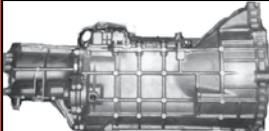
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Senior Night Photos on Pages 8 and 9 were taken by:
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NORTH WARREN FIELD HOCKEY SENIOR NIGHT



Alicia Garis, team captain, escorted by her mother Janell and her sister Amelia.



Olivia Noguerol, escorted by her Grandparents, Joanne and Chris Calcagne, and her siblings Ayden, Ashlyn, Madelyn and Kensi.



Brionna Richards, escorted by her parents, Tammy and Shaun and her siblings, Shaun, Tatiyana and Lance.



Isabelle Zellers, team captain, escorted by her parents, Lisa and Jim.

Photos by Bob Halberstadt/The Free Weekly Press

Pennsylvania Makes Improvements to Public Safety

Public safety is one of my top priorities, and the Senate has taken many important steps this year. We passed new laws closing a legal loophole to require sports officials and non-profit volunteers and employees convicted of sexual assault to register as sexual offenders, and improving the enforcement of Protection from Abuse petitions.

To boost fire protection, we enacted measures targeting Penn-



sylvania's firefighter volunteer shortage, fixing issues with emergency services funding

and making it less cumbersome for firefighters to obtain their certification.

Legislation passed by the Senate and awaiting action in the House of Representatives includes a bill prohibiting non-monetary bail for the most dangerous individuals and cracking down on thieves using new technology to steal vehicles by spoofing key fobs.

I'll keep working hard to make our communities safe. You can review other measures we passed to increase public safety and address other subjects at: www.pasenategop.com/strengtheningpa/

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Kean and Moskowitz Introduce Bipartisan Bill Honoring American Hostages and Wrongful Detainees Abroad

Representatives Tom Kean, Jr. (R-NJ) and Jared Moskowitz (D-FL) announced the recent introduction of the Remembering American Hostages Act (H.R.5772), bipartisan legislation that ensures the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag is prominently displayed at federal buildings on key dates in recognition of Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained overseas.

The recently introduced legislation would amend federal law to require the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag to be flown alongside the American flag at federal buildings, including U.S. embassies and consulates, State Department offices, Justice Department buildings, and passport locations across the United States.

Key dates for display

under the bill include:

November 4 and January 20: Marking the beginning and the end of the Iranian hostage crisis.

August 19: Commemorating the life and legacy of journalist James Foley, who was kidnapped during the Syrian Civil War and murdered by ISIS in 2014.

October 7: Honoring the victims of Hamas' unprovoked terrorist attack on Israel in 2023, where more than 240 individuals were taken hostage, including 12 Americans.

Additionally, the Remembering American Hostages Act expresses the sense of Congress that state and local governments, as well as airports across the United States, should be encouraged to fly the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag on the

dates specified above, as well as whenever an American hostage returns home or is recognized to have died in captivity.

Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. said, "At its heart, this legislation is about remembrance, unity, and our unwavering support for Americans unjustly held abroad. For the families of American hostages, like my constituent Sarah Moriarty, who have endured unimaginable hardship and loss of their loved ones, we stand with you. Flying the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag is a powerful symbol of our nation's commitment to bring every American home and to never forget those who have suffered in captivity."

Congressman Moskowitz said, "Each day we fly this flag is a reminder of those who

have been unjustly taken hostage and a reminder to the world that America doesn't forget its own. This bipartisan effort will ensure that the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag remains a visible symbol of our nation's commitment to bring Americans home and to honor those who never made it back."

"Flying the U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag is an important way to raise awareness of the horrible epidemic Americans face of state and non-state hostage-taking when traveling abroad," said Sarah (Levinson) Moriarty, a fellow with New America Future Security Program. "Thanks to Representatives Kean and Moskowitz, this expanded legislation will help ensure that more people see the flag flying across the country, see

it more often, and take pause by checking the State Department's travel advisories available online when traveling overseas."

Moriarty continued, "Additionally, [the bill] is a key and welcome message of support and care for those who have come home from captivity, for those whose loved ones are still being held and those hostages currently experiencing this nightmare. You are seen and not forgotten by our great country."

Background:

The bill was inspired by Sarah (Levinson) Moriarty, resident of Chester, New Jersey and daughter of Robert (Bob) Levinson, the longest-held American hostage in history. Bob Levinson was taken captive in Iran on March 9, 2007, and was presumed to have died in captivity as informed by

U.S. officials in March 2020.

Sarah has been a tireless advocate for families of American hostages and those who have been wrongfully detained overseas. She has championed legislation to designate March 9th as National Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day and to establish the official Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag, both of which were enacted into law. That flag now flies above the White House, U.S. Capitol, and State Department each year on March 9th, Flag Day, Independence Day, and whenever an American hostage returns home to the United States.

The full text of the bill is available at: kean.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/kean.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/remembering-american-hostages-act.pdf



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Public Reminded to Secure Trash and Other Potential Food Sources as Bear Activity Increases Prior to Winter Denning

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife reminds the public to reduce the potential for encounters with black bears this fall by taking measures to properly store garbage and eliminate access to other sources of food around their yards or while outdoors. Fall brings a period of heightened black bear activity as the animals must consume large amounts of food in preparation for the winter denning season.

“Black bears are opportunistic feeders and will consume whatever food is available,” said NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Assistant Commissioner David Golden. “They have a keen sense of smell and will investigate all potential food sources – natural or unnatural, including garbage. Property owners, hikers and campers can reduce the likelihood of unwanted encounters with bears by removing or properly securing any potential food sources.”

It is important for people to never feed black bears. Bears attracted to neighborhoods may learn to associate people with food. These ani-

mals may then become nuisance bears that cause property damage, seek handouts from people or become dangerous. Intentionally feeding bears is illegal in New Jersey and carries a fine of up to \$1,000.

Black Bears and Food Sources

Most of New Jersey’s black bears are found in the northwestern portion of the state, particularly Morris, Sussex, Warren and northern Passaic counties, as well as portions of Hunterdon, Somerset, and Bergen counties. However, black bears have been reported in all 21 counties.

Throughout the fall, black bears need to eat more than 20,000 calories worth of food a day to bolster their fat reserves in preparation for the winter denning season. Their natural diet is comprised of plants, berries, fruit, nuts, insects, bird eggs, small mammals, and carrion.

However, black bears are opportunistic feeders with an extremely keen sense of smell and are attracted by odors from potential food sources created by people from long distances. Care-

fully controlling these sources of food, such as improperly stored trash, can help prevent black bears from being attracted to homes and into backyards and campgrounds, and associating people with food.

Tips for Minimizing Potential Bear Conflicts

To minimize potential conflicts, NJDEP Fish & Wildlife recommends:

Secure trash and eliminate obvious sources of food such as pet food bowls, easy-to-reach bird feeders, or food residue left on barbecue grills. Use certified bear-resistant garbage containers if possible. Otherwise, store all garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids and place them along the inside walls of your garage, or in the basement, a sturdy shed or other secure area.

Wash garbage containers frequently with a disinfectant solution to remove odors. Put out garbage on collection day, not the night before. Avoid feeding birds when bears are active. If you choose to feed birds, do so during daylight hours only and bring feeders indoors at night. Suspend birdfee-



ders from a free-hanging wire, making sure they are at least 10 feet off the ground. Clean up spilled seeds and shells daily. Immediately remove all uneaten food and food bowls used by pets fed outdoors.

Clean outdoor grills and utensils to remove food and grease residue. Store grills securely.

Do not place meat, dairy or any sweet foods in compost piles.

Remove fruit or nuts that fall from trees in your yard.

Properly install electric fencing as an effective way to protect crops, beehives and livestock.

Motorists are reminded to drive with caution and watch out for bears that may be near or on roadways.

Safety Tips When Encountering a Black Bear

If you encounter a black bear in your neighborhood or outdoors while hiking or camping, follow these safety tips:

Remain calm. Never run from a bear, as this may trigger its predatory instinct. Instead, slowly back away. Avoid direct eye contact, which may be perceived by a bear as a challenge. Make sure the bear has an escape route.

To scare the bear away, make loud noises by yelling, using a whistle, banging pots and pans, or blowing an air horn. Make yourself look as big as possible by waving your arms. If you are with someone else, stand close together with your arms raised above your head.

Make bears aware of your presence by speaking in an assertive voice, singing, clapping your hands, or making other noises. If hiking through bear country, always make your presence known through loud talking or clapping of hands.

If a bear utters a series of huffs, makes popping jaw sounds by snapping its jaws or swats the ground, these are warning signs that you are too close. Slowly back away and avoid direct eye contact. Do not run.

If a bear stands on its hind legs or moves closer, it may be trying to get a better view or detect scents in the air. This is usually non-threatening behavior.

Black bears will sometimes “bluff charge” when cornered, threatened, or attempting to steal food. Stand your ground, avoid direct eye

contact, slowly back away and do not run.

If the bear does not leave, move to a secure area, such as a vehicle or a building.

Families who live in areas frequented by black bears should have a “Bear Plan” in place for children, with an escape route and planned use of whistles and air horns.

Black bear attacks are extremely rare. If a black bear does attack, fight back.

Report black bear damage or aggressive bears to your local police department or to NJDEP Fish & Wildlife by calling 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337).

Black Bear Educational Resources

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife continues to implement the highly successful Know the Bear Facts black bear safety multimedia outreach campaign. Including messages in English and Spanish, the campaign provides bear safety tips and public service announcements on social media, TV streaming services, radio broadcasts, and NJDEP Fish & Wildlife bear safety webpages and email blasts.

NJDEP Fish & Wildlife also offers bear safety brochures and other information about living with black bears to the public. NJDEP Fish & Wildlife’s Bear Outreach Specialist also offers free black bear education seminars to schools and civic groups statewide. For more information about black bears in New Jersey, and to obtain bear safety publications or schedule a free bear education seminar, visit dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears/



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Project Self-Sufficiency’s Earth Angels Initiative Seeks Holiday Donations for Local Seniors

Project Self-Sufficiency is currently seeking monetary donations and gift cards to local stores to be distributed to senior citizens as part of the agency’s Earth Angels initiative. During mid-December, students in the New Jersey Youth Corps high school diploma program at Project Self-Sufficiency will stuff festive bags with the cards and gifts; the items will be delivered by volunteers and Project Self-Sufficiency staff to seniors during the week leading up to Christmas. Along with monetary contributions, the agency is seeking the donation of gift cards from local retailers, including Kohl’s, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, Wal-Mart, and Weis. Note cards, postage stamps, pet food, coffee, tea, candy, and packaged cookies are also welcome.

Newton attorney Elenora L. Benz, Esquire, originated the Earth Angels program in 1999 by

enlisting the support of her staff member Mary Jones, along with clients, business colleagues, and community volunteers. The initiative was taken over by Project Self-Sufficiency in 2017. Although many Earth Angels recipients reside in Newton’s Liberty Towers and Frankford’s Homestead, senior citizens in other parts of the county have been added every year as the program expanded.

“The Earth Angels program invites all of us to demonstrate compassion for those in our community who may feel overlooked or forgotten during the busy rush of the holiday season,” comments Project Self-Sufficiency Executive Director Deborah Berry-Toon. “Our vulnerable seniors need our support, and we are extremely gratified by the outpouring of concern shown by those who donate to this valuable service year after year.”

“This year we expect



to bring holiday cheer to more than 100 senior citizens in our area,” remarked Earth Angels Project Coordinator Alice Prendergast. “This program also gives us the opportunity to meet with our older neighbors, find out what they need, and introduce them to the services we offer throughout the year.”

Monetary donations can be made online at www.projectsselfsufficiency.org or by making out a check to “Project Self-Sufficiency” and indicating “Earth Angels” on the

memo line. Donations of checks and gift cards can be dropped off Monday – Friday at Project Self-Sufficiency, 127 Mill Street, Newton, through November 21st. To register to receive gifts from the Earth Angels program, or to find out more information, call Alice Prendergast at Project Self-Sufficiency, 973-940-3500.

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.projectsselfsufficiency.org or call 973-940-3500.

Blue Mountain Community Library Hosted Lunch with an Author



The Blue Mountain Community Library hosted a luncheon at Grace Church in Pen Argyl on October 9, where guest author, Kate Brandes, spoke about her life and the writing of her latest novel, “Stone Creek.” She read a portion of the story, and held a question-and-answer session for the attendees. She also provided signed books for those who desired to purchase her novel.



Local Trick or Treat Dates & Times:

Sat. Oct. 25,
Portland - 4-6pm

Sun. Oct. 26,
Bangor - 2-5pm
Roseto - 2-4pm
Mt. Bethel 4-6pm
Martin’s Creek - 4-6pm

Friday October 31st, 6-8pm:
Bath, Bushkill Twp., East Bangor, Forks,
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No Early Ticket Sales



Letter To The Editor: Scams

By Norman Halls

Scams are deceptive schemes designed to trick individuals or organizations out of money, sensitive information, or property. They take many forms across digital, phone, mail, and physical interactions.

There are several Scams that you should be aware of. Fraudsters pretend to be from the IRS, police, banks, or even relatives. Government impersonation and “authority” scams frighten targets into paying fake fines or sharing sensitive data. Older adults are especially targeted.

Your local police department has a detective who can assist you if someone scammed you and took your funds.

Yes, scams are deceptive schemes, often illegal, designed to trick people into giving up money or personal information. Scammers use a variety of tactics, such as impersonating trusted individuals or organizations, creating a sense of urgency, or preying on emotions like fear or a desire to help, to achieve their goals.

Examples of common



scams:

- Pressuring victims to act immediately by claiming a limited-time offer, a crisis, or that they must pay a back-taxes bill immediately.
- Offering “too good to be true” deals, with tempting offers for prizes, investments, or employment to lure victims into providing personal information or upfront payments.
- Pretending to be someone they’re not, like a government official, a tech support representative, a bank employee, or even a friend or family member.

Note: The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will not initiate contact with you by text message, email, or social media to request personal or financial information. These are classic signs of a scam. The IRS primarily uses regular mail via the U.S. Postal Service to initiate contact with taxpayers.

Before sharing your bank account or credit card number, verify the identity of the person or company by using a trusted source, as scammers can impersonate legitimate entities. Be skeptical of unsolicited calls, emails, or texts asking for personal information or money, and never act under pressure to respond immediately. Instead, hang up or close the message and contact the company directly using a phone number from their official website or a recent bill to confirm any request.

Scams evolve constantly, so staying informed about the latest tactics and remaining vigilant is essential for your protection.

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