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Bangor and Slate Belt Regional Police Departments Interact With Their Communities During National Night Out



The Bangor Police Department (pictured above left) and the Slate Belt Regional Police Department (pictured above right) participated in National Night Out on August 4th. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign whic focuses on strengthening positive interactions between local residents, law enforcement, and first responders, especially among the younger generation. Mark you calender for Tuesday, August 3, 2027 for the next National Night Out. Videos from these events and additional photo can be found on our Facebook Page. Photos by Dale Young/The Free Weekly Press

Sussex County, NJ, Man Honored for Community Volunteer Work



Sussex County resident Michael McNamara was among the 23 local North Jersey residents recently honored by United States Congressman Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5) for their dedication to improving the lives of their neighbors, families, and communities. The Fifth District Hometown Heroes acknowledged contributions by first responders, veterans, volunteers, community leaders, and residents. For nearly four decades, McNamara has volunteered with local non-profit agency Project Self-Sufficiency. Known fondly at the social service organization as “the guy who always says ‘yes’”, McNamara has ripped up carpeting, salvaged flooded basements, carted mulch, *SUSSEX Cont’d on pg 2*

Slate Belt Heritage Center Announce Their September Program

The Slate Belt Heritage Center will hold their monthly historic program on Thursday, September 10, at 7:00 PM. Join Conductor, Researcher, Teacher and Technician , Joshua E. Long, PHD of Art and Music Emporium, Inc. for his program “The Golden Age of Bands (1880-1930) in the Slate Belt”. Explore significant performances that occurred during a time in America when military, community and institutional bands were evolving, admired and captivated many. This hype caused a surge of performance tours like the John Philip Sousa Band that sparked local ensembles to exist such as the Bangor Yellow Jackets, Roseto Chieftains, Blue Eagles Drum and Bugle Corps, Roseto Cornet Band, Slate Belt Boys Band, Bethlehem Steel Company Band, East Ban-



gor Cornet Band, Bernie Parsons Orchestra and The Bangor Band along with many religious and institutional bands. The Golden Age of Bands was an era in which genuine enthusiasm for music and community involvement was clearly evident and when towns sought to fund local civic music programs. The discussion will provide an overview of that time through the repertoire performed, historical musical engagement and musical groups that existed and flourished. The program is free and open to the public. For additional information please contact: Karen Brewer at 484-894-5661

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SUSSEX

Continued from page 1

impersonated Santa Claus at holiday parties for children, and once drove all the way to Maryland for a truckload of donated books. When pulmonary fibrosis slowed him down, he strapped on a portable oxygen tank and continued to volunteer. A successful 2023 lung transplant rejuvenated his spirit, and he returned to Project Self-Sufficiency with a spring in his step. When he is not at Project Self-Sufficiency, he enjoys hiking and is particularly proud of traversing both the beginning and end of the Appalachian Trail — just not the middle.

“Today, we are here to focus on our neighbors, who, even in all the noise, look for ways to put others above themselves,” said Congressman Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5) at a festive ceremony at the Hackensack Performing Arts Center. “Each day, our friends, family, and neighbors quietly go out and change lives through their service to others. They do it all without expecting any special recognition. They do it simply because it’s the right thing to do. They all come from different walks of life, but they all embody our Jersey Values and make our community such a special place to live, work, and raise a family. They help us build that more perfect union of our

dreams. We all should work to live up to their example.” “Michael McNamara has been by our side since the inception of the agency 40 years ago,” commented Project Self-Sufficiency Chief Executive Officer Deborah Berry-Toon. “From entertaining children, to carting hundreds of frozen turkeys for hungry families, to just quietly doing what needs to be done, Michael has proven that no action is too small to make a powerful difference in the life of a child, a family, and a community. We are proud to call him a true friend, and we look forward to many more years of working together to make our community a better place.”

SBA Disaster Loans Available for Pennsylvania Businesses Impacted by July Storms

Many businesses across our area are still recovering from the severe storms that impacted Monroe County on July 4th. To help with recovery, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to eligible small businesses and private nonprofit organizations.

Eligible applicants may qualify for loans of up to \$2 million, with interest rates as low as 4% for small businesses and 3.625% for private nonprofits. Funds may be used for working capital, payroll, fixed debts, accounts payable, and other operating expenses. Businesses do not need to have suffered physical damage to qualify, and loan payments are deferred for the first 12 months following disbursement. The application deadline is April 30, 2027. To assist applicants, the SBA has opened a Business Recovery Center at the Schoonover Municipal Building (Middle

WHAT IS AN ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN (EIDL)?



Substantial economic injury means the business is unable to meet its financial obligations and pay its regular and necessary operating expenses.



Loss of expected profits or a decline in sales is not considered substantial economic injury.



EIDL provides the necessary working capital to help small businesses impacted by a disaster survive until normal operations resume.



EIDL is available only to small businesses, private nonprofits, and small agricultural cooperatives when SBA determines they are unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

SBA

DISASTER RECOVERY

Smithfield Township), 147 Municipal Drive, East Stroudsburg. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through August 21. SBA representatives are available to answer questions and assist with applications. If your business or nonprofit was impacted by the July storms, I encourage you to explore this opportunity and take advantage of the resources available to support your recovery.



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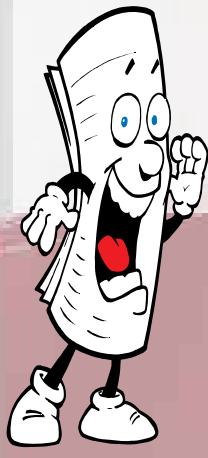
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Community Breakfast Program Marks New Beginning in Newton, New Jersey

The New Beginnings Community Breakfast hosted by Christ Episcopal Church in Newton started in October 2025 as a means of addressing the needs of the growing population of unhoused and underprivileged individuals in the town center. The initiative combines a hot breakfast with the opportunity for participants to engage with on-site representatives from local social service organizations with the goal of assisting them with housing, addiction services, employment goals, and other needs. Since October, the program has welcomed approximately 40 local men and women to the weekly gathering; attendance is growing and services such as monthly haircuts were recently added. After breakfast is served, attendees are welcome to linger and enjoy board games followed by Bible Study in an adjacent room. The group is staffed entirely by volunteers who are parishioners at Christ Church, including a kitchen crew spearheaded by Nick



The Reverend Chris Streeter and the Reverend Patricia Lyons converse with Emily Jergler, Project Self-Sufficiency, and attendees at the New Beginnings Community Breakfast at Christ Church Newton.

Pachnos who saw a need in the community and developed the concept for the initiative and recruited local social service organizations to join the effort. Pachnos is joined by a phalanx of men and women who take food orders on specially designed menus and help set up and clean up every Thursday. All volunteers make a point of sitting with the patrons with the aim of building relationships that extend beyond the food which is served steam-

ing hot straight from the griddle. Overseeing the entire group are the Reverends Chris Streeter and Patricia Lyons who stop at every table to converse with each guest. Interspersed with the patrons are representatives from local social service organizations who conduct intakes for services on the spot. Several of the attendees have become regular participants in the parish's Sunday worship services and one was even baptized in March. "From its inception, our hope for this program was to provide more than breakfast. We believe that community is the core component of our faith lives, and we designed our mornings as a way for relationships to develop with both individuals and local agencies," remarked the Reverend Chris Streeter, Rector of Christ Church Newton. "It is a blessing to

see all the connections our New Beginnings Breakfast is helping foster. I am so grateful to all who have made this program come alive and provide this loving remedy to the isolation and loneliness felt by so many." Christ Church is the oldest church in Newton and the second oldest in the Diocese of Newark. The parish traces its origin to December 29, 1769, when a Congregation in Communion with the Church of England was organized in what was then called New Town. The parish was incorporated by royal charter on August 15, 1774. The sheepskin charter currently hangs under glass on the west wall of the nave. Today, Christ Church Newton is renowned for its beautiful architecture, breathtaking music program, lively children's activities, and its outreach to the community. The congregation at Christ Church Newton is a uniquely harmonious blend of people from a broad spectrum of political beliefs, gender identities, ethnic groups, and socioeconomic backgrounds who work together to be Christ's presence in our community. The congregation is growing every day. For more information about the New Beginnings Community Breakfast, or to find out more about Christ Church Newton, call 973-383-2245 or visit www.christchurch-newton.org.

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Kean Assists in Reopening New Jersey Senior Care Facility



Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07) visited the newly reopened Complete Care at Willow Creek, the only long-term care facility for seniors with traumatic brain injuries in New Jersey. He was joined by leadership from Complete Care and staff at the new facility. In September of 2021, during Hurricane Ida, Complete Care Willow Creek was flooded. This caused a mass evacuation of patients and severe structural damage to the facility. During reconstruction, a fire occurred, causing further damage and delay. As Complete Care was finishing construction in February of 2025, it learned that its Medicare Provider Number had been terminated. Applying for a new number involved demonstrating that its facility was meeting a different set of construction standards

than what existed at the time the original Provider Number was approved, which would have delayed the opening for at least another two years and incurred significant additional costs. Congressman Kean's office was contacted regarding this issue. Working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the NJ Department of Health, his office arranged multiple joint conference calls with the parties, and Congressman Kean sent a letter of support for Complete Care at Willow Creek. In part due to his interventions, the reopened facility welcomed its first patient on August 3rd. "It was incredible to see the tangible result that came from years of hard work by Complete Care, and to know my team helped this facility reopen," said Congress-

man Kean. "New Jersey's seniors deserve access to the care they need, especially those with ailments such as a traumatic brain injury. I am pleased to see this facility open its doors to the public and wish them all the best as they continue their critical work." "We are excited to welcome Congressman Tom Kean Complete Care at Willow Creek today. Congressman Kean's unwavering support and dedicated advocacy were instrumental in bringing us to today, which coincidentally marks the first day in our opening process for Willow Creek," said Vice President of Operations Wanda Mercado. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Congressman for his interest in Willow Creek's traumatic brain injury program for older adults, and for his vital contributions that helped to make this milestone possible." If you or your organization need help with a federal agency, contact Congressman Kean's district office in Lebanon Borough at (908) 547-3307 or visit the "Help with a Federal Agency" page of his website at: kean.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency

Pennsylvania Has New Tools to Solve Violent Crimes

Law enforcement agencies will now be able to access new tools to boost clearance rates for homicide and other violent crime cases through a new state law, helped pass by Senator Rosemary Brown. The Violent Incident Clearance and Technological Investigative Methods (VICTIM) Act was enacted with the new state budget. The law establishes a grant program administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to help police hire and retain detectives and investigators, and upgrade technology used to ana-



lyze evidence. Solving more violent crimes will help make communities safer by getting offenders off the streets while also serving as a deterrent to would-be criminals who know their crimes will not go unanswered.

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DEP Adds Historic 22-Acre Property To Monmouth Battlefield State Park In Celebration Of Nation's 250th Anniversary

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has acquired and preserved a historically important 22-acre property as an addition to Monmouth Battlefield State Park, Acting Commissioner Ed Potosnak announced recently.

The DEP's Green Acres Program purchased the property along Highway 33 in Manalapan, Monmouth County, and adjacent to the Revolutionary War battlefield from Monmouth Battlefield Flex, LLC for \$15 million.

Formerly a strawberry farm, the property features open fields and wooded trails and will be managed by New Jersey State Parks for future opportunities for public recreation, interpretation, education and research.

The expansion to Monmouth Battlefield State Park is a fitting way to honor the birth of our nation and the ideals that unite us: democracy, freedom, and compassion," said Acting Commissioner Potosnak. "This acquisition ensures that future generations will be able to walk the same fields that witnessed the courage and sacrifice of Revolutionary War soldiers during the Battle of Monmouth."

The purchase was made possible through Green Acres State Land Acquisition funding and Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

monies, demonstrating a strong partnership between state and federal resources to preserve New Jersey's historical and natural heritage. The Monmouth Conservation Foundation assisted with early discussions with the property owner and supported the submission of the offer application to the Green Acres program.

In recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary this year, Acting Commissioner Potosnak in June highlighted more than \$130 million in ongoing restoration and visitor improvement projects at state-owned historic sites that have had pivotal roles in New Jersey and American history, spanning from the American Revolution through the Industrial Revolution and beyond. Statewide, more than 30 projects are in various stages of work, from initial design to construction and final completion.

The land has historical significance for its ties to the crucial 1778 Battle of Monmouth. Based on surveys and historical considerations, the property may have been used or traversed by troops during this important engagement. Aerial photo of Monmouth Battlefield State Park

"New Jersey was the crossroads of the American Revolution, and we have a responsibility to preserve the places that

tell the story of our nation's founding," said Senator Vin Gopal of New Jersey's 11th Legislative District. "The Battle of Monmouth was a defining moment in the American Revolution, and adding these 22 acres to Monmouth Battlefield State Park will help preserve this important landscape and ensure future generations can experience, learn about and connect with history."

"It's always a good thing when we figure out how to add historically significant public lands to our already outstanding parks systems," said State Senator Declan O'Scanlon of the 13th Legislative District. "This acquisition will only enhance the preservation of a historic area in Monmouth County where so many Americans gave their lives fighting for our country."

"As part of the MonmouthNJ 250 celebration, my fellow Commissioners and the Monmouth-NJ 250 Committee have highlighted the many significant historical events that took place throughout Monmouth County, including the Battle of Monmouth," said Monmouth County Commissioner Director Thomas A. Arnone. "This land addition is an exciting opportunity to preserve an important piece of our County's Revolutionary War history, showcase the significance of the Battle of Monmouth, and



ensure future generations can learn about Monmouth County's vital role in the American Revolution."

"The Friends of Monmouth Battlefield are delighted to learn that this parcel will be added to Monmouth Battlefield State Park and that the farmland will be saved," said Friends of Monmouth Battlefield President Dr. David Martin. "This important acquisition will help preserve for posterity the viewshed and environs of the park."

With this acquisition, Monmouth Battlefield State Park now encompasses 2,764 acres of land and preserves the site of one of the most significant battles of the American Revolution. On June 28, 1778, General George Washington's Continental Army clashed with British forces under General Sir Henry Clinton in a pivotal engagement that

demonstrated the growing strength and professionalism of American forces.

The battle, fought in scorching heat, was among the longest single-day engagements of the war and included the actions of Molly Pitcher, who legend holds helped crew an artillery piece after her husband fell in battle.

Today, the park encompasses historic farmlands and battlefield terrain, offering visitors hiking trails, a visitor center with interpretive exhibits, and regular historical programs and reenactments. The park serves as an outdoor classroom for understanding Revolutionary War history and preserving the landscape where American independence was forged.

To learn more about New Jersey's State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites, visit stateparks.nj.gov

The Green Acres Program is New Jersey's primary funding source for land acquisition and outdoor recreation development. Since 1961, Green Acres has preserved more than 750,000 acres of open space, including forests, fields, wetlands, and shorelines, providing recreational opportunities and protecting critical wildlife habitat and drinking water resources.

The program provides matching grants to local governments and non-profit organizations for park development and land conservation, while also acquiring strategically important lands for the state park system. Green Acres is funded through voter-approved bonds and dedicated funding sources, reflecting New Jersey residents' commitment to preserving the state's natural and historical resources for future generations.



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Garden Dilemmas? Ask Mary!



Mary E. Stone
Stone Associates
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Hello fellow readers,
Life has a way of testing the very lessons we've grown to believe. This past week brought another challenge in a chapter of my life that I thought was finding its way toward a peaceful ending. I won't go into the details because they really aren't important here. What matters is this: even when we trust life's unfolding, our hearts still hurt. We feel sadness and disappointment. Sometimes we wonder how someone we've known so well can suddenly seem like a stranger.
One thing I've learned is that our emotions aren't the problem. They're part of being human. The struggle begins when we resist what is happening or exhaust ourselves trying to change something beyond our control.
When that happens, I do what many of you probably do: I call a dear friend or wander into the garden, tending to a few weeds— weeding the undesirables, I like to say —and it helps. Then I walk amongst the trees, remembering that Mother Nature has been practicing acceptance for far longer than we have.
Last week I listened to Panache Desai's Call to Calm morning meditation. One image brought a smile. He described a single leaf floating wherever the wind carried it.

It wasn't struggling. It wasn't trying to direct its own path. It surrendered to something larger than itself, just like a leaf in the water—my brother Bill's "Lesson of the Leaf," the title of my book underway.
That image kept returning to me because, if I'm honest, I've been struggling. Trying to make sense of things; to understand someone's actions. Trying to make something so painful feel less so.
Maybe that's where so much of our suffering begins—not because we have feelings, but because we keep trying to make reality something other than what it is.
Acceptance isn't giving up. It allows us to stop wrestling with what we cannot change so we have the strength to tend to what we can. That doesn't mean we don't have feelings—quite the opposite. But if we embrace them honestly and allow them to move through us, it frees us.
Another thought from the meditation touched my heart deeply. Help is on its way. Maybe not when and how we expected, but think about the tough transitions in your life and how things work out. Help arrives. God provides, or a higher power, if you prefer. We are never as alone as we think.
According to Jolee's adoption papers, she's turning six. Whether August 18 is her true birthday or someone's best guess, I celebrate her—my faithful companion. Dog is God spelled backward.
Some relationships remain forever. Others last for a season, and when they're gone, they are still very much part of our lives in our memories. The tapestry of our garden of life. Some, like leaves, linger for many seasons, but eventu-



ally drift downstream. And while they may get stuck beneath a rock for a while, eventually the current carries them where they need to go.
Speaking of leaves letting go, another one floated away last week. Hay House decided not to move forward with my book proposal. I felt disappointed, but after sitting with it for a while, I realized something. Since submitting the pro-

posal, life has continued writing new chapters. What we've discovered these past months doesn't depend upon one publisher saying yes. Together we've explored growing a sense of belonging beyond loneliness, the wisdom of crooked trees, treasures in others' gardens, mysteries beneath the surface, and how doing nothing often allows something deeper to hap-



pen.
So rather than seeing this as an ending, I've come to see it as another beginning. It's time to publish The Lesson of the Leaf myself.
The book—and I— are growing because of the conversations we've shared each week, and I'm so grateful. Help is on its way, and as it turns out, it was.
Garden Dilemmas? AskMaryStone.com or tune in on your favorite Podcast App.

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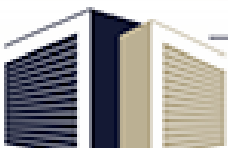
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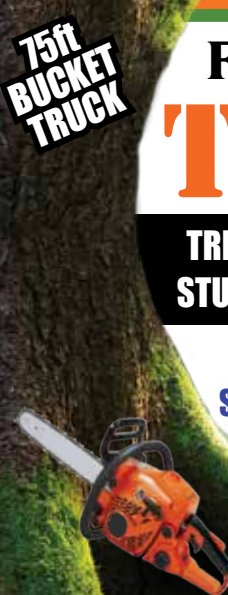
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SPRING VALLEY HOUNDS PRESENTS

ULTIMATE ALL-AROUND Equestrian FIELD CHALLENGE



SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026



RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026



BLACKHOUND STABLES
141 HOPE ROAD
BLAIRSTOWN, NJ



GATES OPEN: 8:00 AM

Come see how handy you and your horse really are with an event that blends equitation, games, obstacle navigation, and traditional horsemanship.

➔➔➔ ★ ALL DISCIPLINES WELCOME ★ ➔➔➔

ENTRY FEES

-  **\$100 PER RIDER FOR THE DAY**
Includes lunch and participation in the day's mounted classes and activities.
-  **\$50 LEAD LINE ENTRY (6 & UNDER)**
Includes one parent.
-  **\$50 SPECTATOR / FESTIVITIES PASS**
Come watch the festivities, join us for lunch at the All American Hound Dog Bar, and enjoy unmounted activities.
-  **UNDER 6 EAT FREE**
Lunch is included with all entries.

LIVE MUSIC BY SIDE PIECE

- ICE CREAM TRUCK
- ALL AMERICAN HOUND DOG BAR
- UNMOUNTED ACTIVITIES
- FAMILY-FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

RULES & REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ All disciplines welcome
- ✓ Helmet and negative Coggins required
- ✓ Riders must wear appropriate riding attire and footwear
- ✓ Lead line riders must be accompanied by an adult
- ✓ Horses should be suitable for a busy and active event atmosphere
- ✓ Good horsemanship and sportsmanship are expected at all times

Spring Valley Hounds reserves the right to combine, split, cancel, or adjust classes as needed.

FIELD CHALLENGES

1 **LEAD LINE FIELD CHALLENGE**
A fun introductory field challenge for lead line riders.

2 **TROT FIELD CHALLENGE**
Designed for riders competing at the trot.

3 **ADVANCED FIELD CHALLENGE**
To be scored by obstacle and ideal time. Course may contain a small log or crossrail.

4 **TRADITIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE**
2' not to exceed 2'6". Obstacles will consist of things you would find in the wilderness in the hunt field. To be judged on obstacles and ideal time.



PRIZES AWARDED FOR 1ST-3RD PLACE IN EACH CLASS!

GAMES

5 Mimosa Race

6 Rope Pairs

7 Lead Line Simon Says

8 Lead Line Egg and Spoon

9 Lead Line Musical Stalls

10 Ride a 50" Winner takes all!

11 Red Light, Green Light

12 Dead Man

13 A Race to Collect Your Partner

14 Surprise Games



RSVP / CONTACT

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NJDEP Highlights Shark River Access in WMA for The Month of August



The Shark River Access Wildlife Management Area in Avon by the Sea, Monmouth County, is about one acre of Green Acres funded access for anglers along the north side of Shark River Inlet and under the Shark River/Neptune Bridge.

Fishing - Both spearfish and hook and line anglers routinely catch winter flounder, blowfish, tau-tog, bluefish, summer flounder, and striped bass from the WMA site. Anglers frequently cast nets for menhaden to use for bait. Jetty anglers can venture to the tip of the inlet jetty with the use of studded footwear as the rocks are slippery.

Access - From the Garden State Parkway, take exit 105 and follow signs for Route 18 South. Take exit 8A from NJ-18 South onto West Sylvania Avenue. Turn right onto Main Street, then left onto Washington Avenue. Make a right onto First Avenue in Avon-by-the-Sea and follow it to the water. Ample parking leads to the Shark River Access WMA.



Owned by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Fish & Wildlife, the Wildlife Management Area System is comprised of more than 360,000 acres in 122 areas throughout the state, which is more than 44% of New Jer-

sey's state-owned public open space. WMAs are maintained and supported with funding from hunting and fishing license sales, the Federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and the Wildlife Habitat Sup-



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Shapiro Administration Invests Nearly \$3.5 Million to Help Small Businesses Cut Energy Costs and Reduce Air Pollution Across Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Jessica Shirley announced nearly \$3.5 million in grants to 15 small businesses across Pennsylvania at Tröegs Independent Brewing in Dauphin County through the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) Small-scale Award Track (SAT), helping businesses cut energy costs, improve energy efficiency, and reduce air pollution.

Collectively, the projects are expected to save businesses more than \$470,000 in energy costs and reduce approximately 2,500 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in their first year. The greenhouse gas reductions are equivalent to removing 575 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles from the road for one year, recycling 209,447 trash bags of waste instead of sending them to a landfill, or growing 40,741 tree seedlings for 10 years.

Tröegs, one of the grant recipients, will use its \$204,284 award to help offset the cost of installing a carbon dioxide reclamation system at its facility. The system will capture carbon dioxide (CO2) from the fermentation process and reuse it in later stages of beverage production, reducing the amount of CO2 the company needs to purchase for its production process.

“Pennsylvania has a long industrial history, and these RISE PA grants are helping manufacturers build their business with lower energy costs, create more energy focused jobs, and reduce air pollution for surrounding communities,” said DEP Secretary Shirley. “This program offers tailored grants to increase energy efficiency, use renewable energy, and help reduce



or eliminate pollution, while also continuing to support our economy and position Pennsylvania as an energy and industrial leader.”

The RISE PA grant program is a \$396 million statewide industrial decarbonization grant program (opens in a new tab) funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. The \$40 million Small-scale Award Track is administered by the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) (opens in a new tab) at Penn State and supports small businesses across Pennsylvania.

RISE PA offers grants for small-, medium-, and large-scale projects at in-

dustrial facilities that reduce emissions through investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification, and other pollution-reduction technologies. PennTAP also provides participating small businesses with no-cost energy assessments to help identify opportunities to lower operating costs and reduce environmental impacts.

“On-site visits to Round 1 awardees, our team is learning more about RISE PA’s broader impact. In addition to helping manufacturers improve air quality in their local communities, these funded SAT projects will yield significant cost savings that is earmarked for re-investment in furthering energy efficiency initiatives, adding jobs, and expanding production,” said PennTAP Director Tanna Pugh. “Funding is also driving corporate investment in these Pennsylvania facilities, growing local operations and the state’s manufacturing economy. We look forward to hearing similar outcomes from Round 2 awardees.”

This is the second round of SAT grants being awarded; the first round was announced on April 1, 2026. Additional funding rounds are planned through 2029. Round three has been closed and awardees are expected to be announced later this year. In addition, PennTAP is now accepting applications for the fourth round through August 17, 2026.

The following small businesses have been awarded the second round of RISE PA SAT grants:

Energy Efficiency Infrastructure Projects

Allegheny County: Bearing Service Company — \$179,280: Replace aging roof top units (RTUs), wall-mounted AC, and overhead natural gas heating system with new roof top units and updated HVAC ducting. Four new cooling-only RTUs will have variable air volume kits installed. Also, install a new building control system to optimize HVAC use within the facility. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$4,325; Schroeder Industries — \$179,280: Replace two ground-level air handling units and a RTU with a single, more efficient air handling unit. Install HVAC

ARTICLE Cont'd on pg 13

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Shapiro Administration Invests Nearly \$3.5 Million to Help Small Businesses Cut Energy Costs and Reduce Air Pollution Across Pennsylvania...CONTINUED

controls and a new lighting control system. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$14,421

Blair County: Blair Image Elements — \$65,761: Replace three existing RTUs with three new, efficient RTUs. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$9,880; Curry Rail Services — \$149,930: Replacing an outdated air compressor and dryer with a new variable speed air compressor and dryer. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$111,491

Bucks County: Dunmore International — \$233,484: Replace remaining lighting to high-efficiency LED lighting, replace outdated HVAC unit with updated, high-efficiency HVAC system. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$9,936

Butler County: Standard Bent Glass — \$347,490: Replace two existing kilns with a new kiln that enables parallel processing, improved heating efficiency, and significant-

ly shorter production cycles. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$39,264

Montgomery County: Accupac — \$149,303: Replace existing indoor lighting with highly efficient LED lighting and fixtures. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$19,058

Lebanon County: Plain and Fancy Custom Cabinetry — \$63,465: Replace all remaining indoor fluorescent lights with LED lights and fixtures. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$11,806

Luzerne County: Ball Corporation — \$365,268: Install equipment to capture waste heat, allowing that heat to preheat hot water used in production. Will reduce production boilers' operations. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$75,697

Somerset County: West Salisbury Foundry — \$32,424: Replace all plant lighting with LED lighting and upgrade HVAC to three

wall-mounted split HVAC units. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$5,969

Renewable Energy Projects

Allegheny County: DMI Companies — \$216,945: Install a renewable energy microgrid system that will include six wind turbines. Power will be stored and managed through a battery system to ensure consistent availability. Will offset 2.7 percent of the facility's annual electricity use. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$3,784

Lancaster County: Fox Meadows Creamery — \$281,755: Install a rooftop-mounted solar system to offset nearly all (99.6 percent) of the facility's annual electricity use. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$35,238

Luzerne County: A Rifken Company — \$495,000: Replace an existing, aging rooftop solar system with a new, three times larger rooftop system at the

facility to offset 30.4 percent of the facility's annual electricity use. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$30,654

Electrification Project

Berk County: The New Enterprise Stone & Lime — \$496,383: Electrify processes at the crushing plant by replacing two diesel generators with line power. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$45,383

Carbon Capture Project

Dauphin County: Tröegs Brewing Company — \$204,284: Install a Carbon dioxide reclamation system within their existing facility to capture CO2 from the fermentation process and reuse in later stages of beverage production. This will reduce the amount of CO2 that the facility purchases for their production process. Annual Estimated Energy Savings: \$53,416

To learn more about RISE PA's SAT program, please visit the DEP and the PennTAP websites.

Input Wanted: Angler Data May Inform Future Regulations in New Jersey



NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the NJ Marine Fisheries Council have partnered to explore potential future summer flounder and black sea bass measures. Despite public interest, we were previously unable to explore regulation changes due to data limitations. We have now developed tools to expand data collection to make those explorations a reality!

As the summer flounder and black sea bass seasons progress, please continue utilizing the Summer Flounder & Black Sea Bass Tally Form, a tool specifically

designed for rapid entry of your catch and release information for these two important species.

While this effort is focused on summer flounder and black sea bass, it is still important to report catches for all species.

We have a variety of forms to help you record those data, such as electronic forms optimized for computers and mobile devices.

Learn more about the Recreational Saltwater Volunteer Angler Survey at: dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/volunteer-angler-survey/

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New to the Blue Mountain Community Library

216 S. Robinson Ave. in Pen Argyl.
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am-12pm and Monday and Thursday 6-8pm. Questions?
Call 610-863-3029 or email info@bmcl.org.

A message from our fish Bubbles: Look for my photo at the Blue Valley Farm Show! And please vote for me! Pet photos will be on display for voting Aug. 11-15 at the fair. Voting ends Saturday evening, the last day of the fair, at 7pm. The pet that receives the most votes will be the winner!

Our America on Wheels museum pass is ready for checkout! Stop in today for this wonderful resource, courtesy of a sponsorship from Deerfoot Auto Parts. The pass is for FREE museum entrance for two adults and their children. For a family of five, that's a savings of \$76! The pass checks out for a three-day circulation period.

It's not too late to participate in the BMCL Summer Fun with Reading Program (SFRP) 2026: Words and Wonders! ALL AGES are invited to stop in for reading challenges with exciting prizes, a readers' raffle, and programs!

On Wed., Aug. 19 at 10:30am at WEONA PARK, learn all about goats and parasites! Children ages 3-6 are also invited to "Two Stories and Craft" storytime on Thurs., Aug. 13 at 10am at the library. Call 610-863-3029 or email info@bmcl.org with program date/s, child's name and birthdate, parent/guardian's name, and phone number to register. See www.bmcl.org/services for additional program listings.

Children ages 3-6 are also invited to "Books and Bedtime" storytimes on Thurs., Aug. 27 at 7pm. No registration is required. Children are encouraged to wear their coziest pajamas and bring a stuffed animal.

STOP IN TO SEE WHAT NEW IN OUR CIRCULATION!

Weather It Better: Prepare Before Summer Storms Strike

(NAPSI)—Summer storm season is here, but having the right outdoor power equipment on hand can help you weather storms better, says the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

"If you think ahead, you can mitigate damage from high winds, flooding, wildfires, and other storm surprises," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI, an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of outdoor power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars.

To get ready for inclement weather, homeowners should assess their property in advance, identify what equipment is needed, and focus on limiting potential storm damage.

"Get out your equipment now and check it over," adds Kiser. "Make sure it's serviced and working well so you'll be ready when the storm hits. And remember to buy extension cords for generators and fuel in advance."

Depending on type and size of your landscape,



there is equipment for every need including:

- Chainsaws and pole saws that can trim dead or dying limbs and cut shrubs away from windows and doors ahead of damaging storm winds.
- String trimmers and pruners that remove combustible material from around your home, making it less vulnerable to wildfires.
- A portable generator to power key appliances and charge cell phones or home medical equipment during power outages. Important note: Before an outage, plan where the generator will be set up. NEVER place a generator in a home,

- garage, carport, or near an open window or door. Use outdoor-rated extension cords long enough to carry power into your home from a safe distance and rated to handle the power drawn.
- Water pumps get water and muck out of basements and homes. Never pump substances that your equipment is not designed to cope with. Pay attention to avoid overheating and follow all safety precautions.
- A utility type vehicle transports people and supplies quickly in an emergency. Remember to keep the vehicle

stable, drive slowly, and do not turn mid-slope or while on a hill. Kiser also adds to follow manufacturers' guidance. "It sounds basic, but it's important," he says. "Never disable, modify or remove safety devices." OPEI also advises equipment users to pay attention to energy levels and health. Storm preparation and cleanup can be taxing. Do not operate power equipment when tired or overly fatigued, and always use safety equipment like chaps, gloves, eye protection or hearing protection. For more tips, go to WeatherItBetter.com.

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