

The Area's Largest Weekly Newspaper!

A DIRECT MAIL PUBLICATION - 29TH YEAR - NO. 1 Friday, January 2, 2026 MIDDLEBURG, PA 17842

Kids of the Kingdom Performed Holiday Concert

By Kay Poeth



The Angels proclaimed the Good News that the Savior is Born!



Kids of the Kingdom Day School performed "Say Cheese" a cute depiction of the story of birth of Baby Jesus. Cora and Brady portrayed Mary and Joseph.

On December 23, the Kids of the Kingdom Day School in Lewisburg hosted their Christmas program. Family members packed the hall, eager to see the annual program and watch their little loved ones perform. It was standing room only. Parents waved to their children and of course, the children waved back enthusiastically. The Kids of the Kingdom has several classes: Toddler Class, Preschool Class, Pre-K AM, Pre-K PM Classes and Extension.

As the program began, director Ann Murphy noted, "With 2-5-year-olds, you never know what to expect!"

The program, "Say Cheese" made the Bible story of Jesus's birth come to life for the young children as Mary and Joseph (Cora and Brady) took pictures on their journey. They saw tired travelers along the way. Angels brought the message that baby Jesus was born. Kinlee portrayed the Baby Jesus. Even the sheep were happy to hear the Good News.

The program concluded with each class singing a song. The Extension class performed Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. PreK sang Holly, Jolly Christmas for the audience. Preschool sang the Lights on the Tree while the Toddler class performed Jingle Bells as they rang their bells. The finale included two Christmas classics- We Wish You A Merry Christmas and Santa Claus Is Coming to Town.

Santa and the Grinch both visited the children and their families. Santa gave each child a candy cane. Kara and Josh Phelps arranged the spread of bagels, fruit, water, and coffee.

PA SPCA Rescues Abused and Neglected Animals from Union County Breeder



Dozens of animals rescued within 48 hours on December 18, 2025. The Pennsylvania SPCA Animal Law Enforcement team executed a search warrant in Mifflinburg, PA after receiving an urgent referral from the Bureau of Dog Law.

What they found was staggering - neglect on a massive scale, all on the property of a nationally recognized breeder.

According to the PSPCA media release, "That day, they removed

39 animals: 16 Great Danes, 5 French Bulldogs, 5 Mastiffs, 11 cats, and 2 goats. Many were severely underweight, suffering from untreated wounds, painful skin conditions, and chronic ear infections. These animals weren't forgotten - they were being bred and sold while living in suffering.

Then, just 24 hours later, the SPCA team responded to another urgent call, rescuing 3 Golden Retrievers, 2 Maltese, and 4 English Bulldogs, including a four-week-old puppy, from another property. Several dogs bore the painful injuries of embedded, infected electric prong collars, and signs of long-term, untreated illness."

Now, the animals are safe at their Philadelphia headquarters and Main Line Animal Rescue (MLAR), every one of these animals is receiving the critical medical care they need. The SPCA veterinary teams are treating wounds, addressing infections, and beginning their road to healing. Now, they are safe. They are healing. And, for the first time in who knows how long, they're learning what kindness feels like.

As these animals begin to recover and become available for adoption, our shelters are now critically full. These animals, and so many others, need loving, forever homes.

Will you help give them the second chance they're fighting for? Please consider making a gift today.

Under investigation are Giuseppe "Joey" Mazzamuto and his partner Jennifer Zerbe who run an illegal kennel, Bella Vita's Show Dog Kennel on Old Turnpike Road in Mifflinburg. All the animals removed from the property were signed over to the PSPCA. The kennel was issued a cease-and-desist order by the state. Giuseppe "Joey" Mazzamuto, owner of the Original Italian Pizza in Mifflinburg, had several bullmastiffs that have appeared in the Westminster Dog Show. The Bureau of Dog Law and local law

enforcement continue to monitor the property to ensure no other animals remain in danger.

The PSPCA is seeking donations to assist with the significant medical costs associated with the recovery of these rescued animals.

For cases involving animal cruelty, call the Pennsylvania SPCA's Cruelty Hotline at 866-601-SPCA. Tips can be left anonymously.

Gallery 255 Features Anna Maria Leitzel Oil Paintings



The Public Library for Union County is pleased to present Flowers, Weeds, and a Fungus, an exhibition of oil paintings by Anna Maria Leitzel, on display in Gallery 255 throughout the month of January.

This exhibit features a collection of large, original oil paintings inspired by the natural world and organic forms. Leitzel's work emphasizes rich color, texture, and detail, inviting viewers to slow down and engage more closely with the beauty often overlooked in everyday life. "Writing with the language of color is one of the great joys of my life," Leitzel

says. An artist reception with Anna Maria Leitzel will be held on Thursday, January 15, from 6-8 pm at the Public Library for Union County. The reception is free and open to the public. To learn more about Anna Maria Leitzel and her artwork, visit www.annamariaoilpainter.com

The Public Library for Union County is located at 255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Library hours are 9:30 AM to 8:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Artists and organizations are encouraged to apply to exhibit items of artistic, cultural, and intellectual interest in the library's gallery and/or display cases. For more information, visit unioncountylibraries.org/displays.

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Deeds & Courts

Deeds:
 Tanner Spaid, Mifflinburg to Logan & Hailey Lloyd, Milton property in Buffalo Township for the sum of 180,000.00.
 Neil C. & Shandra K. Bardo, Millmont to Theodore S. Martin & Caroline E. Bender Martin, Lewisburg property in Glen Iron, Hartley Township for the sum of 175,000.00.
 Walter D. Jr. & Carolyn E. Neitz, Lewisburg to Neitz living Trust property in White Deer Township for the sum of J. Aldape & Hannah C. Aldape, Lewisburg to Joseph A. Jaskula, Jenkinstown Pa. property in East Buffalo Township for the sum of 556,900.00.
 Spencer J. & Trudy A. Lehman, Mifflinburg to Amber M. Elias, Kew Gardens, NY property in Mifflinburg Borough for the sum of 315,000.00.
 Glen W. & Anna G. Weaver, Lewisburg to Vernon Jay & Shannah Lynn Weaver, Millmont property in Hartley Township for the sum of 1.00.
 Matthew H. & Lucille A. Zimmerman, Middleburg to Burnell W. Hoover, Mifflinburg property in Limestone Township for the sum of 290,000.00.
 Joseph L. Richard by Steven B. Richard & Kathy M. Richard, Lorida, Fl to Christian J. Herr & Lynn S. Martin & Daryl W. Weaver for Hartleton Mennonite Church, Millmont property in Hartleton Borough for the sum of 180,000.00.
 Mark Shultz & Wendy Bina man for Isabel Moyer, Mifflinburg to Joshua M. & Celia K. Hobbins, Mifflinburg property in Limestone Township for the sum of 99,000.00.
 Angela R. Kenton Bakte, New Berlin to Anjel L. Bakte, New Berlin property in New Berlin Borough for the sum of 1.00.
 David N. Groff, Lewisburg to Chad M. Groff, Lewisburg & Alan D. Groff, Williamsport property in Kelly Township & West Buffalo Townships for the sum of 1.00.
 Patricia Ann Shipe, Coal Township to Anthony T. & Michelle L. Hendrix, Mifflinburg property in Limestone Township for the sum of 300,000.00.
 Trisha Lyn Miller, Lewisburg & Rocky L. & Linda A. McLaughlin, New Columbia to Trisha Lyn Miller, Lewisburg property in Kelly Township for the sum of 1.00.
 Matthew J. & Nichole M. Valeyko, Chatham, NJ to Aron & Lauren A. Versak, Trappe, Pa. property in Hartley Township for the sum of 92,500.00.
 Jay J. & Angela J. Bringman, Lewisburg to Bringman Living Trust property in East Buffalo Township for the sum of 1.00.
 Gail P. & Wayne S. Miller, Lewisburg to Miller living Trust property in East Buffalo Township for the sum of 1.00.
 Edward G. Libhart, Mifflinburg to Libhart living Trust property in Mifflinburg Borough for the sum of 1.00.
 Gary D. & Connie Harter to Jon Allocca & Megan Adams, Selinsgrove 3 properties in East Buffalo Township for the sums of 600,000.00 & 175,000.00. & 175,000.00.
Divorce:
 Patricia Ann Bonner, Lewisburg from Guy William Bonner, Greensburg, Pa.
Marriages:
 Jean Carlos Santiago Oyola, Lewisburg to Rosalicer Milagros Mendez Rodriguez, Lewisburg
 Thomas Arthur Emmons IV, Mifflinburg to Erin Spencer Paschal, Mifflinburg
 Amilcar Castro, Lewisburg to Bellarleth Carrasco Ruiz, Lewisburg
 Analyn Dayanan Adriano, Lewisburg to Gerard Allen Wagner, Lewisburg

DISTRICT JUDGE JEFFREY L. MENSCH, MIFFLINBURG

Charged James G. Caruso, 78, of Millmont, with DUI/Schedule 1 controlled substance, DUI/Schedule 2 or Schedule 3 controlled substance, DUI/drug or combination of drugs with general impairment, and registration and certificate of title required on December 17. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for February 3, at 10 a.m.
Charged Antoni Jesus Garcia-Cordoba, 42, of Raleigh, NC, with two counts of corruption organizations-employee and theft by unlawful taking-immovable property on November 26. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for January 13, at 2:30 p.m.
Charged Akeem Jamaal Fleming, 41, of Bronx, NY, with three counts of identity theft, possess access device knowing counterfeit, altered, one count of criminal conspiracy/conduct, possess of a controlled substance by a person not registered, use/possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked on December 15. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for January 6, at 12:30 p.m.
Charged Gerald James Corso, 57, of Bronx, NY, with three counts of identity theft, possess access device knowing counterfeit, altered, and one count of criminal conspiracy/conduct on December 15. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for January 6, at 12:30 p.m.
Charged Walter Lee Tyson Jr., 75, of Millmont, with fail to register with PSP and fail to provide accurate registration info on December 15. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for January 20, at 11:30 a.m.

Charged Trent William Barger, 24, of Middleburg, with possession of a small amount of marijuana for personal use, possession/use of drug paraphernalia, DUI/alcohol with general impairment, DUI/drug or combination of drugs with general impairment, DUI/alcohol and a drug or combination of drugs with general impairment, require financial responsibility, registration and certificate of title required, operation following suspension of registration, and driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked on December 12. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for January 13, at 3 p.m.
Charged Mark Edward Tobey, 46, of Philadelphia, with terroristic threats with intent to terrorize another, simple assault, harassment-communicate lewd, threatening etc18 language, disorderly conduct engage in fighting, and public drunkenness and similar misconduct on December 18. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for January 13, at 1:30 p.m.
DISTRICT JUDGE JEFFREY ROWE, LEWISBURG
Charged Jean Erick Turber Ortiz, 29, of West Milton, with one count of DUI/alcohol with general impairment, maximum speed limits, turning movements and required signals, and two counts of duties at stop sign on December 22.
Charged Larry E. Bickel, 34, of Lewisburg, with simple assault on December 19.
Charged Jeffrey D. Coup, 68, of Brighton, CO, with indecent exposure and open lewdness on December 18.
Charged Lapeace Rashid Upshaw, 47, of Williamsport, with theft of leased property on December 16.
Charged Dominique Mathis Alford, 34, of Williamsport, with theft of leased property on December 16.

Community Calendar

Contra Dance
 January 10, 7-10pm, Donald Heiter Community Center, 100N. 5th St., Lewisburg
Centre Ballroom Dance
 January 11, 2-5pm, Lambert Hall, Bellefont
Suquehanna Valley Spinners and Weavers Guild Meeting
 January 11, social time 1:30pm, meeting 2pm, Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3rd St., Lewisburg
CONTINUOUS EVENTS
MJHS Class '64 Luncheon
 Third Thursday every month, Hotel Middleburger
SAHS Class '65
 2nd Tuesday every month, 12:15pm, Perkins
NOTICE TO READERS:

To place events in the calendar please send them at least three weeks before the event so that we can publish it at least twice before the event. **The deadline for events is Monday by Noon.** The calendar goes by space available. Send, fax or e-mail us your event. Address: P.O. Box 356, Middleburg, PA 17842. Fax: 570-837-0776. E-mail: scuc@ptd.net. All phone numbers must include area code.

Police

MILTON STATE POLICE
Harass Physical Contact 10:21 a.m. July 17, at 216 Union Avenue, in White Deer Township. PSP responded for the report of domestic violence. Charges have been filed against Daniel Engleman, 35, of White Deer, through District Court 17-3-02.



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Jeremy Goodling
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North Shore Railroad Unveiled America's 250th Semiquincentennial Locomotive

By Kay Poeth



PA Secretary of Transportation, Mike Carroll (left) and Rep. Ketty Benninghoff (right) greet one another during the North Shore Railroad Company & Affiliates unveiling of their America's 250th Locomotive.



State Officials stand in front of "Amber Waves of Grain" during the unveiling.

On December 22, 2025, the North Shore Railroad Company & Affiliates proudly unveiled their America's 250th Locomotive at the Home Office located on 356 Priestley Avenue in Northumberland. Local, county, and state dignitaries and community partners attended the event filled with speeches and many photo opportunities. Afterwards guests were invited to participate in train ride pulled by this historic locomotive from Northumberland to Danville and back. Saxman Ravi performed several patriotic numbers during the unveiling ceremony.

"North Shore's 250th locomotive is nothing like the other Semiquincentennial engines that have been presented in America so far," stated Loni Martz Briner. It was much more than red, white, and blue. North Shore employees Diana Williams and Loni Martz Briner had a vision for the theme for the Semiquincentennial locomotive. Local artist Pedro Reyes, of Sunbury, brought the vision to life. His hand-painting of the locomotive was a more beautiful masterpiece than they could have imagined.

"This locomotive is an impressive tribute to America's founding. It truly captures the spirit of America250—honoring the bold vision of our founding and 250 years of American freedom. It's a moving commemoration to our nation's history rolling right through central Pennsylvania," noted Union County Commissioner Jeff Reber.

Oneside depicts three scenes from the Revolutionary War. First, the impressive scene portrays George Washington crossing the Delaware River. This surprising maneuver turned the tide of the American Revolutionary War. The middle scene of The Declaration of Independence as penned by Thomas Jefferson, signed on July 4, 1776 was painstakingly recreated by Reyes. The final scene showcases The Liberty Bell believed to have been rung after the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

The other side of the locomotive incorporated images from the songs of America the Beautiful and God Bless America. A bald eagle is featured soaring over "amber waves of grain" by "purple mountains majesty". The middle section features an American flag waving proudly. Red symbolizes valor and majesty, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France during the Centennial Celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, is also featured. The final scene is from the song, God Bless America... "Oceans, white with foam."

And, there are even more images of American history highlighted on the locomotive on nooks and crannies. Viewers need to examine the locomotive carefully. On one of the stacks Paul Revere's lantern references his ride alerting the colonists that the British were coming. Another stack features a cloud of black gunpowder representing the hard fought war won by the American Colonists.

On the cab door, the Mayham Tower, a 30-foot tower built and utilized in Augusta, Georgia provided a turning point in Revolutionary War in the South after 2238 days into the war. On top of the cab, below the hood is the full inscription found on The Liberty Bell (Leviticus 25:10) "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all inhabitants thereof." On the cab, below the hood, is written, "In God We Trust." The back of the cab displays the patriotic red, white, and blue fireworks, a tradition inspired by John Adams from the inception of the Nation.

Loni Martz Briner donning her patriotic apparel and Diane Williams were the perfect hosts for the event. The chilly and brisk inaugural train ride with North Shore's America's 250th Locomotive from Northumberland to Danville and back was an historic moment for guests. The closed-car featured a Victorian-era theme with a tin ceiling and dainty wall scones. Comfortable seating allowed for visiting. Those in the open-air car enjoyed a unique experience. Propane heaters offered warmth for guests as Jack Frost nipped at the nose and toes. The Susquehanna River side featured ice laced river banks and pads of frozen ice, a view of the former Pennsylvania Canal, meandering creeks, wooded lots, deer scampering from the rattle on the tracks, and views of campgrounds. The other side offered a view of the highway, local businesses, and homes. What a way to celebrate the Unveiling of America's 250th Locomotive!

"In a day when corporate profits often outweigh community pride, it is rare to see a company invest in a way of life and recognition of service but that is what North Shore Railroad has done again," said Snyder County Commissioner Joe Kantz and Business and Development Manager at North Shore Railroad. "This company continues to impress me with their willingness to thank our veterans and make folks aware that we still have much for which to be thankful. 2026 will be a year of celebration and North Shore has kick-started the Happy 250th Birthday, America!

"North Shore Railroad's 'America's 250th' locomotive is a unique tribute to the ideals that shaped our nation and continue to unite our communities. I appreciated the opportunity to join the unveiling of NSHR 2238 and to recognize the local talent and teamwork behind this hand-painted design. As we approach America's 250th anniversary, projects like this help keep our history visible, meaningful, and accessible for the next generation," said Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver.

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Deadlines: Articles and Display advertisements must be submitted by 4 p.m. Tuesday to be considered for publication. Community Events must be submitted by 12 noon Monday. Legal Notices and Classifieds must be submitted by 12 p.m. Tuesday. There will be **no exceptions** to this rule.

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TESTAMENTARY

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2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show Theme: 'Growing a Nation'

The Farm Show will officially kick off a year of America250PA celebrations recognizing Pennsylvania's leading role in our nation's founding and future. Pennsylvania agriculture continues to be a national leader, supporting 600,000 jobs and generating \$132.5 billion for the Commonwealth's economy.

The 2026 Farm Show- Pennsylvania's State Fair™ will kick off a year of America250PA special events and celebrations bringing millions of visitors to the Commonwealth recognizing Pennsylvania's leading role in the founding of our American democracy.

"America was born in Pennsylvania, with its identity deeply rooted in agriculture," said Secretary Redding. "Two hundred and fifty years later, Pennsylvania agriculture is still leading our nation, supplying the economic power, ingenuity, and innovation that is growing our nation's future. Farm Show celebrates the outstanding products and people who make up our powerhouse agriculture and food industry, supporting 600,000 jobs pouring more than \$132.5 billion into our state economy, including exports of more than \$4 billion in agriculture and forest products — not only keeping our heritage alive, but supplying innovative solutions to our nation's greatest challenges.

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the Commonwealth in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. One of the original 13 colonies — and home to the signing of both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution — Pennsylvania holds a uniquely pivotal role in the nation's founding and future.

"America250PA is proud to partner with the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the nation," said America250PA Executive Director Cassandra Coleman. "While we look forward to January, it feels especially fitting to share this news in October. For generations, Pennsylvania farmers, whether under the summer sun or by the light of a harvest moon, have done the work that helped the American experiment grow and thrive for 250 years."

Every year, the PA Farm Show brings half a million visitors to the capitol city for eight days of competition, and family fun with an educational twist. The 2026 event will run from Saturday, January 10 through Saturday, January 17 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg.

The 2026 Farm Show will feature fan-favorites like the 1,000-pound butter sculpture, delicious Farm Show Food Court, thousands of competitive agricultural events, homegrown celebrity cooking demonstrations at the PA Preferred® Culinary Connection, and more than one million square-feet of hands-on agriculture education opportunities and chances to engage with the people who are growing Pennsylvania and our nation through agriculture.

To stay up to date on PA Farm Show news, visit farmshow.pa.gov or follow the Pennsylvania Farm Show on Facebook and Instagram.

Rowe Announces Over \$1.3 Million in LSA Grants for 85th District

State Rep. David H. Rowe (R-Snyder/Union/Mifflin/Juniata) recently announced more than \$1.3 million in Local Share Account (LSA) grants to fund key infrastructure, public safety, and community projects across the 85th District. Partnering with Sen. Lynda Schlegel-Culver (R-27), Rowe supported the grants to help local governments and organizations upgrade aging infrastructure, improve emergency services, and enhance recreational spaces.

"These investments save local governments money, strengthen our communities, and improve essential services," said Rowe. "From sewer upgrades to fire safety equipment and ballpark improvements, these projects will positively impact current and future residents' quality of life."

Rowe also emphasized that LSA grants are funded through state gaming revenue, not taxpayer dollars, and expressed gratitude for the support received.

"These investments will help communities address real needs while easing the financial burden on local taxpayers," Culver said. "From public safety equipment and wastewater improvements to childcare, historic preservation, and community facilities, this funding supports projects that improve quality of life across our region."

Approved Projects Include:

- Beaver Township, \$48,136 to purchase a new skid steer to maintain public roads, replacing aging equipment nearing the end of its useful life.
- Freeburg Borough, \$464,349 to televise, clean, and reline sewer mains along Market Street to address infiltration and inflow issues in a system over 75 years old.
- Hummels Wharf Municipal Authority, \$248,500 to repair five problematic sewer main areas in Monroe Township.
- McClure Borough, \$45,202 to purchase new communication radios and self-contained breathing apparatus to meet modern safety standards.
- Penn Township, \$103,000 to purchase a new truck with emergency lighting, plow, and salt spreader and enhance the township's emergency management capabilities.
- Perry Township Municipal Authority, \$385,000 to expand the sewer system and replace the outdated treatment plant to support growth and address failing on-lot systems.
- Spring Township, \$32,902 to make upgrades to the Little League field, including LED field lighting and a concrete pad for the batting cage area to meet Little League standards and reduce energy costs.
- Lewisburg Borough, \$61,625 to purchase gym equipment for Lewisburg Area Recreation Park, which serves residents of East Buffalo Township.

The funding for these projects was approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). This is an independent agency that holds fiduciary responsibility over the funding of programs and investments in Pennsylvania's economic growth.

Obituaries

Gary L. Keister, 83, Mifflinburg

Gary entered into rest at 10:39 p.m., Monday, December 22, 2025, at his home. He was born February 17, 1942, in Lewisburg, a son of the late Paul and Charlotte (Wetzel) Keister. On August 16, 2008, he married the former Pamela Mullin, who survives. They were together since 1989. A viewing was held December 28, 2025.

Russell L. Guffey, 85

Russell passed away peacefully in his sleep at Oak Glen, Lewisburg on December 16, 2025.

He was born on November 11, 1940 and was the son of the late Earl Jackson and Helen (Harpster) Guffey at the Guffey family homestead in Milton.

Russ was a proud United States Army Veteran, serving in Bremerhaven, Germany during the Vietnam Era.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. at the American Legion, Post 71.

Edwin L. Miller, 89, Watsonstown

Edwin died peacefully Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Lewisburg.

Born December 28, 1935 in Quakertown, he was a son of the late August and Frieda (Fisher) Miller. He married the former Jane M. Hamburger, who preceded him in death December 11, 1996. Together they celebrated 39 years of marriage. Services were held December 30, 2025.

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SPORTS NEWS

THE VIEW FROM HEAR

BY RON BOLT

The college football playoffs have a lot to live up to in order to match what the NFL games have given us the last couple weeks. The bowl games thus far have been very disappointing and I'm a guy that gets excited watching MACtion on a Tuesday night.

This weekend promises great NFL games to end the regular season and determine who makes the playoffs. The quarter finals of the CFP should give us at least two really good games and maybe three.

One opening remains for the final playoff spot in the AFC. The winner of the best rivalry in the NFL will determine that team. The Steelers will travel to Baltimore and the winner moves on and the loser goes home. Pittsburgh receiver DK Metcalf will be at fault if the Steelers miss the playoffs. Had he not gotten suspended for the last two games because of his careless interaction with a fan, Pittsburgh would have beaten the Browns last week and clinched a playoff berth.

There is also one spot available in the NFC and both of those teams play each other as well. The Carolina Panthers will visit the Buccaneers in Tampa. Win and they're in, lose and they are out and Tampa makes the playoffs.

There are other interesting games to determine playoff seeding and home field advantage. The Bills were already in the playoffs before playing the Eagles last week. Many of their fans and talking heads thought they should have kicked the extra point to go into OT instead of going for two and the win. Josh Allen threw a terrible pass to an open receiver and they lost. If they would have completed the pass everyone would have said it was a great decision to go for two..

The Chicago Bears are for real as coach Ben Johnson has turned QB Caleb Williams into a viable NFL player. Running the ball is their meal ticket but Williams can move around and has a rocket for an arm. It's amazing how a good coach can alter a QB's trajectory. Sam Darnold is another perfect example of this.

I was not a fan of Phillip Rivers when he played for the Chargers before retiring five years ago. I do have a lot of respect for him now, however, as he's come out of retirement to try and save the Colts season. They are the first team in thirty years to start 8-2 and not make the playoffs. Whoever thought Danny Dimes would be missed?

All of you Michigan fans that think your school is better than all the others in the Big Ten... you are not! Stealing signs and the Sherrone Moore saga are proof you are not as high and mighty as you pretended to be for decades. What is the definition of a 'Michigan Man' today?

Your new coaching hire might just be a Michigan Man. Kyle Whittingham is closer to what Bo Schembechler was and stood for than Rich Rodriguez and Brady Hoke ever were. There is not a better man or coach that Michigan needs right now. Discipline, defense and toughness are Whittingham's calling cards, much like Bo's were.

I've never been a fan of Notre Dame or USC but they have to renew their yearly rivalry. College football needs this game to be played every year. USC says they want to limit their travel since the mileage adds up pretty quick now that they are playing in the BIG. Notre Dame needs a game or two against a quality opponent since they don't play in a conference.

It's that time of year for a look back at the highlights of what happened the last twelve months in the sports world. I have always liked these because as I get older, the memory isn't quite as sharp as it once was.

There was nothing better than the Dodgers/Blue Jays World Series. This series had momentum shifts inside its momentum shifts. We didn't want games to end even if one lasted 18 innings. Both teams won because there were no losers.

The end of the KC Chiefs dynasty, which happened in February at the Super Bowl and not Christmas night a week ago. The Eagles resounding beatdown of the Chiefs showed us that KC was fallible and no longer dominant.

The sudden rise of Indiana to the top of college football. The Hoosiers went from the biggest loser to the coolest kid in class overnight. It's like watching your goldfish turn into a lobster. Indiana is no longer scheduled as the homecoming game for other schools.

The Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner budding rivalry. Has there ever been a better major championship than these two had at the French Open? What say you John Thomas? Rory McElroy winning the Masters in April to become only the sixth golfer to win the career grand slam in golf.

The 4-Nations tournament in lieu of the NHL All-Star game was electrifying. Lindsey Vonn qualifying for the Olympics. James Franklin getting fired. Bill Belichick attended a cheerleading competition to support his daughter... I mean his girlfriend. Torpedo bats?

Cal Raleigh taking over summer baseball and the All-Star game. The influx of Japanese baseball stars excelling in the Major League. Shohei Ohtani, the best player in baseball and World Series MVP Yashi Yamamoto came over from Japan. The Pirates are leading contenders to land this years biggest Japanese star. Yes, the Pirates! Kazuma Okamoto is a gold-glove, power hitting third baseman that will sign somewhere.

Lewisburg boys basketball is back to their winning ways after beating Nativity BVM 69-50. Four Dragons reached double digits in scoring led by Rebiria Jemama's 15. Cooper Mowry had 13, Cortland Michaels 12 and Nazir Meredith had 10 points in the win.

Mifflinburg boys (4-3) almost doubled up Shik in a 62-32 win. Selinsgrove (4-2) beat Bellefonte 65-51 behind Xavier Jackson's 23 points and help from Griffin Parker's 11 and 10 points from Noah Walter.

The Mid-West girls won their first game of the year 38-37 in a nail-biter over Newport. Emma Wagner led the Mustangs with 15 points. The Grove girls (1-7) lost to Shamokin 48-16 as points continue to be hard to get for the Seals.

The Mifflinburg Lady Cats couldn't finish against undefeated Lourdes Regional. They were tied 28=28 to start the fourth quarter and eventually lost 43-36. Avery Reibsome poured in 20 for Miff. They got to 5-3 by beating the Mifflin County Huskies 50-47. Freshmen twin towers, Mia and Avery Reibsome had 13 and 12 points for the Cats.

Grove wrestling finished 15th at the Turner Holiday classic at Conestoga Valley thanks to two second place finishes from Jack Peters at 285 and Alex Kadryna at 139.

Lewisburg's Landen Wagner placed third and Landon Michaels took fourth place. This helped the Dragons finish 24th at the MyHouse Trojan Wars wrestling tourney in Chambersburg.

Both the Mifflinburg girls and boys team won the Bob Rohm duals at Bloomsburg University. The boys team beat Loyalsock 56-14, Lake Lehman 60-9 and a tough Huntingdon team 45-21.

Well deserved honors continue as three Mifflinburg football players were named to the 3-A All-State team. QB Chad Martin, receiver Larry Murray and defensive back Cheeky Griffith were all named All-Staters.

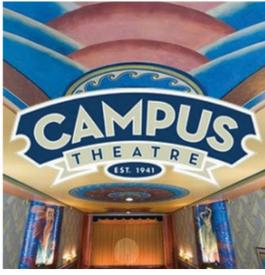
Three Lewisburg girls tennis players were named first team area All-Stars. Ella Markunas, Dayssi Weis and Christina Zheng earned this honor.

First team golf All-Stars include Grove's Mac DeFazio and Mifflinburg's Cub Deitrich and Kamdon Eicher. The Cats Wilson Abram was named the District 4 golfer of the year. Just playing golf right now with the weather we are having would be delightful. Have a safe and Happy New Year.

You can reach out to me with comments or questions at theviewfromhear74@gmail.com Ron Bolt

Campus Theatre's 85th Birthday Bash & Dance Party Fundraiser

By Kay Poeth



Time to Celebrate! The Campus Theatre in Lewisburg opened 85 years ago on January 17, 1941! Join the celebration of this beautiful historic theatre! Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to celebrate as The Campus Theatre turns 85!

The Campus Theatre's 85th Birthday Bash & Dance Party Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, January 17. From 5-6 pm there will be a free 85th Anniversary Birthday Celebration with cake, swing music, and dancing (courtesy of Into The Spin). Afterwards, the fun will continue from 7-10 pm that night with the Birthday Bash Dance Party with musical entertainment by Into The Spin. Festivities include birthday photo op, cash bar and more.

Admission tickets to the Birthday Dance Bash are \$25 online, \$30 at the door. Tickets are on sale now at www.campus theatre.org.



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Donald Heiter Hosted December Open House

By Kay Poeth



Michelle Reid, Branch Manager at M&T Bank, meets with Donald Heiter Community Center board members Cara Glazer and Benita Solomon during the Center's Holiday Open House.



Volunteer Betsy Hinkleman brings holiday cheer while helping collect donated gifts for the Donald Heiter Community Center's Holiday Help Program.

Donald Heiter Community Center recently hosted a December Open House. The Open House brought together community members, board leaders, volunteers, and local partners to tour the Center, connect, and learn more about DHCC's programs and recent updates.

For more than 30 years, the Donald Heiter Community Center (DHCC) has been a lifeline for working families, children, seniors, and community

partners across the Lewisburg region. It is a place where every person is welcome and every child has a safe place to learn and belong. Local organizations need shared space, collaboration, and community hubs, DHCC provides structure, accountability, and nonprofit oversight so donors know their contributions are handled responsibly. DHCC gives good ideas a trustworthy foundation and helps turn community effort into real impact.

In addition, DHCC provides a safe place for kids to go before and after school, an enriching, dependable summer option for families with limited childcare, social connection for seniors and adults, partnerships with schools, libraries, civic groups, and nonprofits, and a welcoming home for programs that strengthen our region.

In 2025, Donald Heiter Community Center provided many valuable resources and services to the community. Some of their achievements include: 148 days of Before & After School care - reliable, affordable support for working families, 58 days of Summer Camp - meals, field trips, enrichment, and social-emotional learning, 13,923 pounds of food distributed through their Feed America partnership, 5,672 holiday gifts placed into the hands of families who needed them most, 1,016 one-on-one support meetings with community members facing urgent challenges, and 14,962 volunteer hours invested by neighbors, students, and service organizations.

Donald Heiter Community Center is "Working to grow into the community center Lewisburg needs today and tomorrow." To reach those goals planning is underway to expand partnerships and community-driven programming, increase capacity and modernize youth services, strengthen our childcare licensing infrastructure, upgrade facilities to better serve families, and build a more sustainable financial future.

To support the Donald Heiter Community Center, donate to sustain affordable youth programs explore opportunities to collaborate, and/or become a program partner or volunteer. The DHCC is located at 100 North 5th Street in Lewisburg. For more information, call 570-524-5000.

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The Central PA Chamber of Commerce Welcomes 2026 Board of Directors

Edited by Kay Poeth

The Central PA Chamber of Commerce welcomes several new and returning members to its Board of Directors starting in January 2026. Elected to three-year terms following the membership-wide election in November are: Steven Beattie, Executive Director of SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, Lewisburg; and Eric Turofski, Co-Op Coordinator for SUN Area Technical Institute, New Berlin.

Beattie remarked, "I am honored to rejoin the Central PA Chamber board after several years and deeply appreciate the trust our business community has placed in me to represent your interests." Beattie previously served two terms on the Board of Directors from 2008-2013, including serving terms as the Vice Chair and Chair of the Executive Committee. "During my time away, I advanced my career by serving national retailers across the country and earning my MBA. Since 2022, I've been proud to redirect my focus toward driving regional economic growth and championing the success of small businesses throughout our valley communities."

Turofski stated, "I am truly grateful for the confidence placed in me, and I look forward to contributing to the continued growth and success of our regional business community." He also summarized the mission and vision of the Central PA Chamber of Commerce, noting, "The Chamber plays a vital role in supporting local businesses, fostering economic development, and strengthening partnerships throughout Central Pennsylvania. I am excited for the opportunity to collaborate with fellow board members, staff, and community leaders as we work toward advancing these important initiatives."

In addition, incumbent Rachael Herb, Vice President of Danville Market for Service1st Federal Credit Union, Danville, was re-elected to serve a second three-year term. Terry Burke, Coordinator of Experiential and Community Engagement for Bucknell University's Freeman College of Management, Lewisburg; and James White, Business Development and Community Liaison for VNA Health System and Lewisburg Home Health & Crossings Hospice, were appointed to fulfill one-year terms due to vacancies on the Board of Directors.

On the news of being re-elected, Herb expressed, "Giving back to an organization that aligns with both my personal values and professional goals is truly rewarding. I look forward to contributing to and celebrating the Chamber's continued growth across all our communities."

In addition to his duties at Bucknell University, Burke serves as President of the Union County Veterans' Fourth of July Committee. He was previously appointed to fulfill a vacancy on the board, earlier in 2025, and highlighted why he is "happy to remain on the Central PA Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for another year. It is such a fun group of people who get things done in our communities. I am thrilled to be a part of it."

"After many years as a Central PA Chamber member," White explained, "I am pleased to serve on the Board of Directors for this organization. I take great pride in what it stands for and in the services it provides to the community and surrounding areas. Serving in this capacity is both a privilege and an opportunity to collaborate with community leaders while lending my experience to an already outstanding organization."

With new board members means others are stepping down. The Central PA Chamber of Commerce acknowledges Director of the Board, Lauren McDonald, Account Executive at The Wealth Factory, for completing two consecutive, three-year terms of service, including multiple years in various committee assignments. At McDonald's final meeting as a Director of the Board, on December 11, 2025, the entire Chamber staff and board members present expressed their appreciation for McDonald's positive impact and shared knowledge during her years of service.

Williams Grove Releases 2026 Schedule. Tribute Nights Will Honor Allen Brothers And Dave Blaney

Mechanicsburg – Williams Grove Speedway has released its 2026 schedule of events, offering 28 dates for the Lawrence Chevrolet 410 sprint cars and an even dozen races for the HJ Towing & Recovery 358 sprints at the legendary oval.

The season opener for the 410 sprints is Sunday, March 22 at 2 pm. The event will be a sprints-only program.

The season opener will be the first of 10 Williams Grove race dates in 2026 that are part of the newly announced PA Posse Sprint Series.

The 358 sprints will kickoff their 2026 campaign five days later for the first night race of the year on March 27.

After a successful return to the track in 2025, the All Stars Circuit of Champions Sprints will again visit in 2026 for the second running of the Lynn Paxton EMMR Legends Classic on June 5, paying \$8,000 to win.

The Dirty Deeds series of races for the 358 sprints will again be on tap with another three nights of high-dollar events, slated for April 10, July 17 and September 18.

Two Fan Appreciation Nights will again be held in 2026, coming up on June 12 for the 410 sprints and on August 7 for 358 sprint cars.

Kids Night will be held along with Fan Appreciation night on June 12.

The World of Outlaws will invade Williams Grove Speedway for traditional visits in 2026 including for the Morgan Cup on May 8 and 9, the C & D Rigging Summer Nationals on July 31 and August 1 and for the 64th annual J & S Classics National Open on October 2 and 3.

The 64th annual Saturday National Open finale will again pay \$75,000 to win in 2026.

The Yellow Breeches 500 series of races paying \$500 just to start will return with three races scheduled on April 10, June 12 and July 17.

All the Yellow Breeches races will see timed practice laps set heat lineups for the night.

Williams Grove will again host a pair of Pennsylvania Speedway series races in 2026 as the series kicks off on June 26 with a \$10,000 to win feature before the 37th annual Mitch Smith Memorial on July 3 returns with a \$20,000 winner's share and a huge fireworks display.

A total of five \$8,000-to-win 410 sprint car shows dot the slate in 2026 offering full purses worth over \$31,000 each.

The first show of the five comes in the Tommy Hinner-shitz Classic on April 17 as part of the Hoosier Diamond Series before the 8K Diamond Series Allen Brothers Tribute Race takes place on May 29, honoring Joey Allen and the late Bobby "Scruffy" Allen.

Next up paying 8K to win will be the Diamond Series All Stars Paxton Classic event on June 5 followed by the Diamond Series 44th annual Jack Gunn Memorial on August 21.

And the finale of the five will be when Williams Grove hosts Dave Blaney Tribute Night on Friday, September 4.

Wingless Sportsman have four events on the 2026 slate to go along with one date for winged Super Sportsman with all five events consisting of timed warm-ups and a feature only for the sportsman.

The August 21 show will again feature the sportsman showdown, featuring both the sportsman divisions in 20-lap mains.

Also appearing during 2026 will be the USAC 410 sprint national tour on June 19 along with the regular Lawrence Chevrolet Williams Grove 410 sprints as presented by Kurt Smith Motorsports.

For the fifth year in a row, the Spring Sprint Special will be featured, boasting three sprint car divisions, on April 24 to include 410 sprints, wingless sportsman and the PASS IMCA 305 sprints.

The PASS IMCA sprints also appear on May 29.

The Billy Kimmel Memorial for Lawrence Chevrolet 410 sprints will take place on August 28.

View the entire 2026 Williams Grove Speedway schedule of events and keep up to date on all the latest speedway news and information by visiting the oval's official website located at www.williams Grove.com and by following the track on X, Facebook and Instagram.

Kevin Nouse Named As Williams Grove Race Director

Mechanicsburg – Williams Grove Speedway has named Kevin Nouse of Mechanicsburg as oval Race Director, effective immediately.

Nouse brings nearly thirty years behind the wheel and several seasons as a track and series official to the post for the 2026 season.

Most recently, Nouse served as Series Director for the All Stars Circuit of Champions Sprints for the 2023 season and before that in the capacity of tech official for the series.

He also served at Williams Grove as a track official during the 2021 season.

Nouse will oversee and direct all aspects of the weekly Williams Grove Speedway racing programs in an effort to streamline processes while producing a more fan and racer friendly racing experience.

"My goal coming in is to give Williams Grove some structure and improve the organization of the racing program and then to run an overall expedited program," Nouse says.

Now 53, Nouse owns five career 358 sprint track titles at Williams Grove and 24 career wins in the division to go along with a pair of wins at the track in 410 sprint competition.

"My goal every week is to run the program as efficiently as possible, similar to the fashion that a national series sanctioned event would be run," he says.

"It's an honor for me to be at Williams Grove. It's my home track and I've been going to the Grove since I was a kid. I'm looking forward to the season ahead."

Nouse is currently conducting a total review of the speedway rulebook and technical specifications and hopes for its release in the very near future.

Pennsylvanians Should Stop, Ask and Confirm: Local Pharmacy May Still Be In-Network for Insurance Coverage

Pennsylvanians may have received an erroneous letter stating their local pharmacy is out of network; Consumers should verify coverage with their insurance plan or PBM

Harrisburg, PA — The Pennsylvania Insurance Department (PID) urges Pennsylvanians to stop, ask, and confirm if their local pharmacy is still in-network for their insurance. PID received reports that some consumers have received letters stating in error that certain local trusted pharmacies are no longer in-network. PID is actively looking into this issue and working with insurers, partner organizations, and state and federal agencies to determine the impact and ensure Pennsylvanians receive accurate information.

"Local pharmacies are a vital part of our communities and health care system," said Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner Michael Humphreys. "These trusted partners provide accessible, personalized care, medication counseling, and help managing chronic conditions, especially for seniors and individuals in rural or underserved areas. Ensuring accurate information about pharmacy network status aligns with the Administration's ongoing focus on transparency and accountability and protects access to local health care services. Incorrect information disrupts care, creates unnecessary stress for consumers and can unfairly economically damage providers that were never out of network in the first place."

Pennsylvanians who received a letter stating that their local pharmacy is no longer in their insurance network should not assume the letter is correct. Instead, they should call their insurance company or pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) directly and ask if the pharmacy is still in-network for their insurance plan. In examples shared with PID, the PBM later sent a letter to correct the inaccurate first letter to confirm that the consumer's preferred pharmacy, in fact, remained in-network.

The Shapiro Administration has consistently emphasized that community and independent pharmacies are essential to health care access in Pennsylvania, particularly because they provide personalized prescription services close to home that large chain or mail-order options often do not. Governor Josh Shapiro has highlighted that local pharmacies play a critical role in helping Pennsylvanians manage chronic conditions, understand their medications, and receive timely care in their own communities.

Pennsylvanians with questions or complaints about their health insurance can visit pa.gov/consumer or call 1-866-PA-COMPLAINT (1-866-722-6675).

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Kendra Aucker Presented Senate Citation for Leadership & Service



Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver and Senator Gene Yaw recently presented a Senate Citation to Kendra Aucker as she prepares for retirement after more than 30 years of service in health care leadership.

Kendra currently serves as Senior Vice President of WellSpan Health's North Region and President of WellSpan Evangelical Community Hospital. She has been part of the hospital's senior leadership team since 1990 and became President in 2015, following earlier roles that included Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Over her career, she helped guide the hospital's long-term growth while maintaining a strong focus on patient care and community needs.

"As Kendra prepares to retire in January 2026, I was glad to join colleagues and community members in thanking her for her leadership and service. I wish her all the best in this next chapter," stated Sen. Culver.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Urges Caution to Prevent Wildfires Amid Increased Risk Due to Dry Conditions

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry is warning residents of increased risk of wildfires this fall.

Human activity causes 99 percent of wildfires in Pennsylvania, leading to the destruction of thousands of acres of state and private woodlands each year.

Harrisburg, PA – The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is urging Pennsylvanians to exercise caution when burning outdoors to prevent wildfires as dry conditions persist across Pennsylvania.

"Wildfires pose a dangerous and growing threat to our state's forests and the surrounding communities that live and recreate near these woodlands," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "The Commonwealth has experienced increased fall wildfire activity in recent years, leading to strains on the Commonwealth's resources, volunteer firefighters, and emergency responders. Pennsylvanians can do their part to help by practicing safe behavior when burning debris or building a campfire."

Human activity causes 99 percent of wildfires in Pennsylvania, leading to the destruction of thousands of acres of state and private woodlands each year. The greatest danger of wildfires in Pennsylvania occurs during the spring months of March, April, and May, and the autumn months of October and November.

Wildfires require specific conditions to ignite:

An available fuel source, like dried grass or leaves
 Dry conditions, including low relative humidity
 An ignition source – a way for the fire to start
 Debris burning, equipment use, power lines, and campfires, are some of the most common causes of wildfires in Pennsylvania. Before building a campfire, using a firepit, or burning debris, residents should consult local government to learn about any restrictions or ordinances regarding fires.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry offers the following safety tips:

- Clear the area around the fire site before lighting.
- Keep fires small and never leave them unattended.
- Consider the conditions: avoid starting fires if it's warm, dry, or windy, and clear the surrounding area of leaves and other combustibles.
- Keep a water source (bucket or hose) and rake nearby to control any escaping embers.
- When finished, douse the fire with water until all ashes are cold to the touch.
- Pennsylvanians are encouraged to follow all guidance involving burn bans, which can be found on DCNR's website.
- Remember, a single spark can ignite a wildfire, risking your safety and that of others. As Smokey Bear says, "Only YOU can prevent wildfires!"

Bird Lore: Winter Finch Report

By Wayne Laubscher

For the past few months, and continuing through the winter, several species of finches are seeing a very good flight year (irruption). This is due to a poor seed crop in the boreal forest in central and eastern Canada, which forces some finches to seek more food to the south. Boreal forests, also known as "taiga," are the northernmost forests in the world. At the same time, a widespread spruce budworm outbreak in the same area is also a factor. These insect larvae provide an excellent source of food for finches and other bird species during the nesting season, leading to higher numbers of surviving nestlings and thus more pressure to find food.

Purple Finches have been moving south since August in good numbers. Males are a raspberry red and females are strongly brown-streaked with a heavy face pattern. They prefer black oil sunflower seeds at feeders as well as various deciduous seeds. This species nests in Pennsylvania. They can be confused with the more common House Finch; however, House Finches are brick red in the front with brown streaking and females are lightly brown streaked.

A good flight of Pine Siskins is occurring as far south as the mid-Atlantic states, including Pennsylvania. They are brown, usually with heavy streaking and some yellow in the tail and wings. These rather tame birds prefer nyger (thistle) seeds in tube or sock feeders. They also feed on spruce, tamarack, and hemlock. Pine Siskins will nest in Pennsylvania during irruptions.

There is currently a moderate flight of Evening Grosbeaks happening. Birds are being reported in New York, New England, and Pennsylvania. This is that big and colorful finch that many people look forward to seeing. Adult males are yellow and black with a yellow eyebrow and large white patch on the wing. Females and juvenile birds are mostly gray with black and white wings and a yellowish green tinge on the neck and sides. They are a large finch about 8 inches long. Evening Grosbeaks eat large amounts of black sunflower seeds and prefer platform feeders.

Redpolls seem to be showing a strong flight out of the eastern boreal forest south into New England and New York and could make it into Pennsylvania according to Matt Young of the Finch Research Network. Redpolls are small arctic finches. Both sexes have red caps and black chins. Males also have a pink wash on the breast. At feeders, they consume black oil sunflower and nyger seeds. They also feed in weedy fields and on birch and alder trees. Matt Young also hinted at another possible species, Pine Grosbeak, which is rare in Pennsylvania, that might show up here. There are currently reports in New York. Males are bright rosy red with black and white wing bars. Females are gray with a yellowish tinged head, breast, and rump, and white wing bars. They about 9 inches long. Pine Grosbeaks will come to feeders with black sunflower seeds.

Two additional non-finch species are included in this annual finch forecast. One is the very familiar Blue Jay. An above-average flight of jays south is likely. The other is Red-breasted Nuthatch. They have been irrupting south into our area since August. They have bluish gray backs, a black cap, white face with a black stripe through the eye, and an orange-tinged belly. Their call has been described as like a little tin horn. They are found in conifers and also will come to suet feeders.

So, keep your feeders filled, be sure to clean them periodically, and enjoy the bird show.

Thanks and acknowledgments to forecaster Tyler Hoar, Matt Young, and the Finch Research Network. Go to: finchnetwork.org for more information.

FWVLA Forum Series Kicks Off 2026 Series: Education Without Boundaries

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area will kick off its 2026 Forum Series with a public talk on the future of education.

Education Without Boundaries: Virtual, Blended, and Innovative Teaching and Learning will take place from 4:00–5:15pm on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at the Public Library for Union County Community Room in Lewisburg.

The forum will feature Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Chief Outreach Officer Bernadette Ulrich Boerckel and Lewisburg Area School District Superintendent Vincent Hoover focusing on innovative teaching, virtual and blended learning, and emerging questions around artificial intelligence in education.

The event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. For information, contact LWVLAForum@gmail.com.

Shapiro Administration Announces 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show Theme: 'Growing a Nation'

The Farm Show will officially kick off a year of America250PA celebrations recognizing Pennsylvania's leading role in our nation's founding and future.

Pennsylvania agriculture continues to be a national leader, supporting 600,000 jobs and generating \$132.5 billion for the Commonwealth's economy.

Philadelphia, PA – Today, Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding announced the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show theme, "Growing a Nation" at historic Wyck House Farm and Garden in Philadelphia. The 2026 Farm Show — Pennsylvania's State Fair™ — will kick off a year of America250PA special events and celebrations bringing millions of visitors to the Commonwealth recognizing Pennsylvania's leading role in the founding of our American democracy.

"America was born in Pennsylvania, with its identity deeply rooted in agriculture," said Secretary Redding. "Two hundred and fifty years later, Pennsylvania agriculture is still leading our nation, supplying the economic power, ingenuity, and innovation that is growing our nation's future. Farm Show celebrates the outstanding products and people who make up our powerhouse agriculture and food industry, supporting 600,000 jobs pouring more than \$132.5 billion into our state economy, including exports of more than \$4 billion in agriculture and forest products — not only keeping our heritage alive, but supplying innovative solutions to our nation's greatest challenges.

"The Shapiro Administration is proud to support Pennsylvania agriculture and the innovative, tenacious Pennsylvanians who are growing a vibrant tomorrow for our Commonwealth and our nation," he continued.

Wyck House Farm and Garden uniquely bridges the past and future of American agriculture. As one of the oldest urban farms in the country — continuously cultivated for over 300 years — Wyck stands as a living example of how agriculture has shaped communities, sustained families, and rooted American values in the soil of our cities and towns. Its legacy makes it the ideal backdrop for revealing a theme that connects generations of growers to the broader American story.

"For 300 years, residents of Wyck have used the land to nurture and nourish themselves and their community," said Wyck Executive Director Kim Staub. "Today, we use the past as inspiration for the present, sharing a harvest that puts food on the table and strengthens connections in our urban neighborhood."

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the Commonwealth in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. One of the original 13 colonies — and home to the signing of both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution — Pennsylvania holds a uniquely pivotal role in the nation's founding and future.

"America250PA is proud to partner with the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the nation," said America250PA Executive Director Cassandra Coleman. "While we look forward to January, it feels especially fitting to share this news in October. For generations, Pennsylvania farmers — whether under the summer sun or by the light of a harvest moon — have done the work that helped the American experiment grow and thrive for 250 years."

Every year, the PA Farm Show brings half a million visitors to the capitol city for eight days of competition, and family fun with an educational twist. The 2026 event will run from Saturday, January 10 through Saturday, January 17 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg.

The 2026 Farm Show will feature fan-favorites like the 1,000-pound butter sculpture, delicious Farm Show Food Court, thousands of competitive agricultural events, homegrown celebrity cooking demonstrations at the PA Preferred® Culinary Connection, and more than one million square-feet of hands-on agriculture education opportunities and chances to engage with the people who are growing Pennsylvania and our nation through agriculture.

To stay up to date on PA Farm Show news, visit farmshow.pa.gov or follow the Pennsylvania Farm Show on Facebook and Instagram.

Since taking office in 2023, Governor Josh Shapiro's bipartisan budgets have invested in Pennsylvania's national legacy as a leader in agriculture. He has proposed a budget for 2025-26 that continues to foster innovation, protect the industry, and continue to support Pennsylvania agriculture's competitive edge on the national and international front.

The Governor's Economic Development Strategy recognizes agriculture, along with energy, manufacturing, robotics, and technology as key to Pennsylvania's future economic success.

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