

VOL. 35 NO. 40

SERVING NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.
DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BLUEVALLEYTIMES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

Pen Argyl Honors Leaders of Distinction During Alumni Weekend

By State Rep. Ann Flood

PEN ARGYL - Returning to Pen Argyl Area High School for Alumni Weekend was a special experience, especially as one of this year's Leaders of Distinction honorees.

On Friday evening, I celebrated with fellow alumni, school leaders, family and friends at the Pen Argyl Area High School Alumni Association's Leaders of Distinction celebration. The weekend brought together graduates whose accomplishments have made an impact in their communities and professions, while giving us an opportunity to reflect on the experiences that helped shape our lives.

I was proud to be honored alongside Eric Doney as one of two Academic Leaders of Distinction, while Philip Racciato and Alison (Reesman) Brown were recognized as the Athletic Leaders of Distinction.

Being recognized by the school and community where I grew up was deeply meaningful to me. Pen Argyl Area High School played an important role in my life, and it was wonderful to reconnect with classmates and celebrate the accomplishments of fellow alumni.

The weekend continued Saturday with a tour of the high school, a tailgate luncheon and the Alumni Weekend football game, where the Leaders of Distinction honorees were recognized at halftime.

I am grateful to the Pen Argyl Area High School Alumni Association and Athletic Department for this special recognition and for bringing alumni together to celebrate the accomplishments of graduates who continue to make a difference in their communities.



Regulation Of Illegal Gambling Machines Calls For Compromise As Court Deadline Looms

By: State Rep. Ed Neilson, 174th Legislative District

PENNSYLVANIA - In June 2026, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that so-called "skill games" found in bars, restaurants, gas stations, and other places throughout Pennsylvania are, in fact, slot machines under the Gaming Act and Crimes Code. Because slot machines are only lawful in licensed casinos or other qualifying establishments approved by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, the court gave the legislature a deadline to enact legislation before these illegal slot machines become subject to law-enforcement action and seizure.

The Oct. 13 deadline is approaching fast, so the General Assembly must work faster to enact a solution, because just letting the clock run out is not a responsible option. As lawmakers, we were given an opportunity to regulate these machines. It's something I have called for since I started seeing them around my neighborhood, inside local convenience stores and close to schools.

Without regulation or oversight, these machines lack age restrictions and can attract criminal activity by holding large amounts of cash without extra security to keep workers and shoppers safe.

At the same time, Pennsylvania is missing out on substantial revenue that could be used to support vital public services. By authorizing the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to license and regulate a limited number of these machines, we can ensure they are taxed fairly, comparable to casinos, while also implementing safeguards to protect our communities.

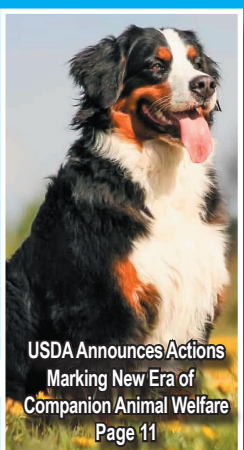
That's why I've introduced H.B. 1141, which would legalize and strictly regulate a limited number of machines, bring another useful revenue stream to Pennsylvania, and allow eligible businesses to keep using the machines, but with regulation and oversight.



Continued on page 3



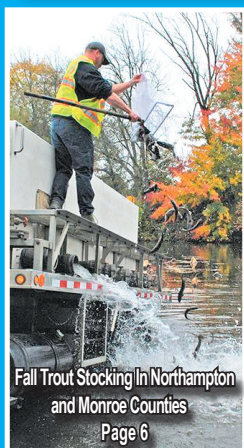
September is Trails Month in Pennsylvania!
Page 10



USDA Announces Actions Marking New Era of Companion Animal Welfare
Page 11



Teamwork at St. Luke's Helped Heidi Get Back on Track
Page 7



Fall Trout Stocking in Northampton and Monroe Counties
Page 6



Mark M. Kukla
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Taxation 610.863.7776

Business Consulting

Accounting Services

40 S. Broadway Wind Gap Pa. 18091

WE CHANGED OUR NAME!
Horn's Outdoor, Inc.
is now



We are the same great people and will continue to provide the same quality of service to our valued customers!
1169 Mt Bethel Highway, Mt Bethel, PA.
610-558-6614
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm www.hnoutdoor.com



State Farm

Debbie Pettinari, Agent

106 S Broadway

Wind Gap, PA 18091

610-881-4433

Debbie.pettinari.wz73@statefarm.com

Ed's Auto & Tire

1109 Blue Valley Dr. (Rt. 512), Pen Argyl Pa.

OPEN MON.-SAT 8-5 CLOSED SUNDAYS

Summer Specials

SEE OUR AD
ON BACK
COVER

Radiator Flush
Water Pump

Timing Belts
A/C Tune Up

610-881-4440