

## October 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Penncrest School Board is holding a special voting meeting tonight at the Cambridge Springs High School Auditorium. In the public meeting the board intends to discuss and possibly act upon creating a contract for a new Superintendent after the Departure of Timothy Glasspool for a school district in the Pittsburgh Area. According to Board Member Jeff Brooks via social media, the board members have only interviewed one outside candidate for the position, a Mr. JP Smith and there has been no official vetting or checking references.

PennDOT is inviting residents of Pennsylvania to fill out a short 24-question survey about the job they have done this year. In 2023 PennDOT paved more than 1,000 miles of roadways and completed repairs on 161 bridges among other projects. A link to the online survey can be found by visiting [PennDOT.gov](https://www.penn.gov/PennDOT) while PennDOT work schedules for Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Warren, and Venango Counties can be found at [PennDOT.gov/District1](https://www.penn.gov/PennDOT/District1); Clarion County is in District 10.

## October 3<sup>rd</sup>

22-year-old Joseph Snyder of Warren, Ohio has been charged with felony corruption of a minor after it was discovered he allegedly had a relationship with a 14-year-old Oil City resident. The illicit relationship was discovered in July when Snyder took the child from her home in his car so that they could smoke marijuana and have relations. Court records show he is also charged with interfering with the custody of a minor and luring a child into a vehicle.

Meadville's City Manager, Maryann Menanno, announced that final repaving of Park Avenue in Meadville is scheduled to take place on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Park Avenue will be reduced to a single lane on both days and there will be no parking on either side of the street. Park Avenue was milled down in August to facilitate upgrades and repairs to storm drains.

Police are looking into suspects for the murder of Philadelphia journalist and homeless advocate Josh Kruger who was shot to death at his home. Josh Kruger wrote for several Philadelphia area publications and was an advocate for the homeless; he was shot seven times at his home in Point Breeze.

A Meadville man somehow avoided even minor injuries despite his truck rolling down an embankment. Crash scene investigators say that Joshua Stump was driving too fast for the conditions on Route 322 in East Fairfield Township Crawford County last Wednesday. He lost control of his Ford F-150 and spun out before crossing traffic and rolling down a hill. Firefighters from Cochran Volunteer Fire Department had to cut Mr. Stump from inside his vehicle, but he survived unscathed.

A bill authored by a local state representative Lee James, who represents portions of Crawford and Venango Counties, passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives by a margin of 188 to 15 yesterday. HB 1232 seeks to make revisions to the Borough Code which bring it up to snuff with changes to the Township Code and bring more consistency and flexibility to the law. The Borough Code sets the rules by which towns form and run their local governments.

## October 4<sup>th</sup>

In Venango County, a 16-year-old girl was injured when her buggy was destroyed after colliding with a parked car. On Butler Street in Clintonville the girl momentarily lost control of the horse that was pulling her buggy after multiple pieces of heavy construction equipment drove past and spooked the animal. The runaway horse pulled the buggy into the rear of a parked pickup truck and caused the buggy to overturn, injuring the driver. The horse continued its way down Butler Street until it was stopped and the girl was taken to Grove city for the treatment of minor injuries.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the Federal Communications Commission have planned a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert and Wireless Emergency Alert Systems that will take place this afternoon at about 2:20 PM local time. The test will be broadcast simultaneously on all radio and television channels and also on WEA compliant cell phones and devices where it will arrive as a text message.

The Pennsylvania State Police fire marshals are investigating the cause of a fire that may have killed a 73-year-old woman in Edinboro. Last Thursday Mary Wray was discovered unresponsive inside her burning home by members of the Edinboro Fire Department that responded to a call about a structure fire from a passer-by. She was taken to UPMC Hamot where they declared her deceased. While police say they do not suspect foul play, an investigation into Mary Wray's death and the origins of the house fire are both continue.

An Armstrong County Jury convicted Zachary Baum on multiple counts of sexually assaulting multiple women between the ages of 16 and 20. Baum was found guilty of charges ranging from stalking and simple assault to sexual abuse of children, and multiple charges of strangulation and involuntary deviate intercourse. Three survivors of his attacks testified to the jury about how Baum harassed, stalked, and ultimately violently attacked them.

## October 5<sup>th</sup>

Two young women suffered only minor injuries when their SUV rolled near Union City on Saturday. Crash scene investigators say that the 18-year-old driver was traveling at an unsafe speed and was unable to make a left turn and she ended up in a ditch which caused the vehicle to roll. They were both taken to Corry Memorial Hospital for treatments and the driver was cited for driving at unsafe speeds.

Authorities are searching for leads to a suspect that assaulted a 49-year-old man on Terrace Street Extension just outside of Meadville at midnight on Thursday September 29th. The suspect is a white male described as about 6'2" tall and weighing 250 pounds. Anyone with information is asked to call the Meadville State Police at (814)332-6911.

The former City Manager of DuBois is facing further criminal charges. John Suplizio was arraigned on new charges bringing his total felony count to 13 and 10 misdemeanors.

A portion of Erie's Peach Street will be closed today. The closure between 7th and 9th streets is expected from 9 AM to 5 PM while Erie Waterworks does critical maintenance in the area. Questions and concerns can be directed to the office of Ron Constantini Sr. by calling (814)870-8000 ext 306.

In State News, three police officers were injured in an exchange of gunfire with a man who had shot his brother moments before. The shooting started over a familial argument between the suspect, his 12-year-old son, and his brother and escalated to the suspect chasing his son and brother upstairs and shooting his brother. The suspect waited downstairs for police and immediately opened fire when they arrived, injuring two officers and a sergeant before he was killed by return fire. The three Philly PD officers all suffered minor injuries, but the man's brother is listed as in critical condition.

## October 6<sup>th</sup>

A 46-year-old Corry woman will be charged with DUI after she crashed her SUV in Crawford County. Witnesses had called to report an erratic driver in a white SUV on Route 77 near Riceville; when officers from the Corry State police found the SUV it was stuck in a ditch at the intersection of Routes 77 and 8 in Bloomfield Township.

The City of Franklin begins celebrating its 40th Applefest today. The celebration takes place from 10 AM to 6 PM rain or shine and includes hundreds of attractions such as vendors, live entertainment, and everything downtown Franklin has to offer. Applefest runs from today until the end of Sunday, so there is plenty of time to visit beautiful downtown Franklin for Applefest.

Yesterday Pennsylvania's Attorney General Michelle Henry announced she and Attorney's General from every state in the nation reached a \$49.5 million settlement with the data management company Blackbaud for failing to inform customers about a major data breach in 2020.

A Guys Mills man was hospitalized after a rollover crash near Townville last Saturday. First responders say that Clarence Morton (80) had to be extracted from his pickup truck by members of the Venango and Cambridge Springs Volunteer Fire Departments after he rolled it near state game lands about about noon-thirty. He was taken to UPMC Hospital. The accident is being blamed on driving at unsafe speeds and investigators say his vehicle traveled for almost 500 feet after its initial impact with a ditch.

Pennsylvania's House of Representatives approved a bill criminalizing the possession of Xylazine. Xylazine is a prescription sedative approved by the FDA for use on animals which has begun to see use as a recreational drug. Xylazine has also been found as an additive to illicit substances similar to how fentanyl has been used. Deaths from overdose of the drug have risen astronomically since 2015 and it now accounts for 7% of all overdoses.

## October 10<sup>th</sup>

Three students from Lakeview High school were killed in a fiery crash in Mercer County last Thursday night. Police say they were alerted to a crash on Skunk Run Road in Lake Township by an automatic notification via smartphone shortly before 9 PM and by the time help arrived the vehicle was already engulfed in flames. The driver, 18-year-old James Harrison, and two passengers, 17-year-old Harmony Liege, and Aliya Harvey were all killed in the crash and identified by Mercer County Coroner John Libonati.

Pennsylvania residents have less than two weeks left to register ahead of the November 7th general elections this year. The last day to register ahead of the election is Monday October 23rd, two weeks and a day before the election is scheduled. In Pennsylvania, United States Citizens at least 18 years of age that have been residents of their voting district for at least a month can register at [Vote.PA.gov](https://Vote.PA.gov).

Authorities in Venango County are searching for leads in their investigation of vandalism and burglary on a property on Cooperstown Road in Oakland Township. The victim reported that an unknown number of actors caused significant damage to his property by destroying and stealing multiple objects. Police say that on Saturday the 7th a tractor on the property had its fuel tanks filled with water, an ATV had a tire popped, and the carburetor was stolen from a pickup truck; the thieves and vandals also stole two metal gas cans. Anybody who may have information is asked to call the Pennsylvania State Police in Franklin at (814)676-6596.

PennDOT is suspending the publication of its weekly work schedules until spring as it gears up for the winter maintenance season. Work crews will still attend to the everyday jobs of patching, ditching, clearing brush, and other maintenance activities, but the primary focus will be on preparing for the winter maintenance activities like plowing.

## October 11<sup>th</sup>

Last Thursday, Vernon Township's Supervisors approved a 20-year contract with the city of Meadville for the provision of coverage by the Meadville Police Department. Starting January 1st of next year, Meadville City Police will take over patrol and law enforcement duties 24 hours a day and 7 days a week within Vernon Township. Vernon Township itself will be phasing out its own department which has struggled to hire and keep qualified police officers. According to Meadville City Police Chief Michael Stefanucci, Meadville will see no change in services, but residents of Vernon Township will see an increased presence of officers and quicker response times to calls.

An informational meeting about the deal will be held at 4 PM on Tuesday, October 24th. During that meeting the police department will be announcing the roll out of a new Crime Watch program intended to benefit everyone under MPD jurisdiction. Until January 1st, Vernon Township will be patrolled by the Pennsylvania State Police.

## October 12<sup>th</sup>

A New York Woman was hospitalized after suffering head injuries when she crashed in Erie County on Sunday. Crash scene investigators say that Brandy Donaldson of Frewsburg overcorrected after drifting slightly over the shoulder on Route 6 in Conneaut Township. They say she overcorrected again which sent her vehicle into a skid and then caused it to roll onto its roof when she hit a ditch.

The City of Franklin has a new notification system for residents who wish to receive alerts about road closures, emergencies, and more. You can sign up for the system over the internet by visiting [FranklinPA.gov/alert](https://FranklinPA.gov/alert).

Gregory Greene of Harrisburg received two life sentences plus 65 ½ years after pleading guilty, but mentally ill to two counts of first-degree murder and other crimes on Monday. Greene was the subject of national news media after killing two people in February 2022, including his sister Meredith, and attempting to kill three others; his other sister and his two nieces.

The Oil City Library is hosting an after hours movie night for teenagers on Friday the 13th. From 7 to 10 PM the library will hold a screening of the horror film STAY ALIVE for an audience between 13 and 18 years of age. The film is rated PG-13 for violence and gore so no-one under 13 is permitted. Call the Oil City Library at (814)678-3072 or stop in for registration.

There is a planned outage for Pennsylvania EBT benefits between 3 AM and 9 AM both today and on Saturday the 14th. The outages are planned to allow the Department of Human Services Contractor, Conduent, to perform upgrades to the digital systems. The DHS Secretary Val Arkoosh, also announced yesterday that the USDA has increased both the maximum benefit for SNAP and the income levels required to qualify.

## October 13<sup>th</sup>

Meadville Central Fire Department responded to a fire call earlier this week when the first floor of a downtown business building was filled with smoke. After searching high and low in the building itself and two adjacent structures they discovered the smoke was the result of an improperly cleaned heating system. Meadville Central, two Volunteer Departments, and the Meadville Police and Auxiliary responded to the scene; they would all like to remind you to ensure your heating systems are properly cleaned and maintained before you turn them on for the colder months.

A Meadville man is charged with DUI after crashing in his car in Conneaut Lake. According to police the driver of a car suffered minor injuries when he was too intoxicated to make a right turn on Route 18 on the Conneaut Lakeshore and collided with a guard rail Monday. The Driver was unrestrained and a passenger in the car was buckled in and uninjured.

The bridge which carries Thompson Street over Oil Creek in Hydetown was reopened yesterday after months of closure for repairs. The bridge was subjected to a major overhaul of the deck, barriers, supports, and road approaches.

Attorney General Michelle Henry has a \$1,000,000 settlement with the Pennsylvania based convenience store chain Rutter's over a 2018 data breach that exposed more than 1.3 million resident's credit card information. As part of that settlement Rutter's will be required to implement multiple security measures and undergo random assessments to ensure compliance with PA consumer protection laws.

In case you missed these headlines:

There is a planned outage for PA EBT benefits tomorrow morning between 3 and 9 AM so that the commonwealth's contractor Conduent to update its digital systems and security.

The Oil City Public Library is hosting a screening of the film STAY ALIVE as part of an after hours horror night for teenagers between 13 and 18 years old. The film is PG-13 rated for violence and gore so no children under 13 can attend the screening at 7 PM. Sign up at the library or by calling (814)678-3072.

## October 16<sup>th</sup>

Crawford County authorities report a fatal crash in Summit Township between Linesville and Harmonsburg Saturday afternoon. At about 3:15 PM a 79-year-old man was killed and three others injured when two pickup trucks collided essentially head-on after a driver lost traction on the rain-slicked road surface. Hugh Elliot of Linesville succumbed to injuries he sustained during the crash; the driver of the truck which hit him and passengers in both vehicles were taken to UPMC Hamot for severe injuries. No charges were filed against the driver who hit Mr. Elliot but an investigation is ongoing.

An Ohio man will be extradited into Pennsylvania to face human trafficking charges. Donte Lashawn Cole is accused of running a multi-state human trafficking operation in a Monroeville hotel from his home in Ohio. Cole was arrested on Friday morning on charges related to trafficking women and at least one minor for prostitution in Pennsylvania and adjoining states.

## October 17<sup>th</sup>

A Mercer County Attorney and a notary public are facing various felony charges for an alleged conspiracy to defraud a man out of his house. According to authorities, Attorney Dustin Cole and Notary Jenny Laslow, both of Hermitage, conspired to make an illegal loan to a Volant resident seeking legal help to avoid a foreclosure on his home in exchange for the deed as collateral. They then filed that deed with the Mercer County Recorder to take possession of the property and attempted to evict the rightful owner. Dustin Cole has been charged with theft by deception, conspiracy to commit theft by deception, and loaning money at illegal interest rates. Jenny Laslow is charged with conspiracy to commit theft by deception.

On Saturday, Doctor Ron Cole was inaugurated as the 23rd president of Allegheny College; Dr. Cole is a longtime and influential resident of Meadville who graduated from the college in 1987 and has previously served as both a professor and provost at the college.

In Venango County, police are searching for witnesses who may have seen an attempted burglary in Plum Township, not far from Dempseytown. According to police there were signs that someone attempted to break into a home on Wallaceville Road while the resident was out of town. Evidence suggests that someone had broken a lock on a shed and attempted to push an air conditioning unit through a window to get inside the house, but did not succeed. If you may have information please call the Franklin State Police at (814)676-6596 and reference incident number PA23-1323580.

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro signed four new laws yesterday, most of them making minor modifications to existing policies. The most significant of these laws is Senate Bill 836 which allows the use of an applicant's fingerprints to run background checks for police jobs. Governor Shapiro has signed 12 non-budget laws since taking office.

### **October 18<sup>th</sup>**

52-year-old Kevin Green of Bear Lake has been charged with assault and other crimes after police say he pointed a handgun at his daughter during an argument. According to the Pennsylvania State Police he and his daughter were arguing after she wanted to visit friends out of state and when the argument got heated he pulled a gun on her.

Three Mercer County Volunteer Fire Departments have been granted more than \$17,000 to improve their wildfire fighting capabilities. The Clark, Transfer, and West Middlesex Volunteer Fire Departments each received between \$2,300 and \$9,300 from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Meadville Public Library is looking for donations of gently used children's books for their annual used book sale. If you would like to donate children's picture books or juvenile fiction and non-fiction to the book sale please bring the materials to the main desk of the Meadville Public Library on 848 North Main Street by October 31st.

### **October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Pennsylvania will become the only state to benefit from two of the regional clean hydrogen hubs created by investments from the United States Department of Energy. In Philadelphia, the Mid Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub 2 (or MACH 2) will receive about \$750 million in Federal investment and create an estimated 21,000 jobs. Southwest PA will benefit from the Appalachian Region Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH) near the border in West Virginia, which received about \$975 million and will create an estimated 20,000 jobs.

Pennsylvania's Government firmly took sides with Israel in its ongoing conflict in Gaza. This week in the legislature Senators unanimously approved two resolutions condemning the October 7th attacks on Israeli civilians on the Shabbat while the Representatives of the House approved a resolution urging the United States Congress to support Israel however necessary. Governor Josh Shapiro issued a proclamation supporting Pennsylvania's Jewish Community and condemning hate, terror, and violence everywhere.

## October 20<sup>th</sup>

A Mercer County man is charged with aggravated assault on a Children and Youth Services Worker. Authorities say 30-year-old Justin Barr of Mercer got angry at the worker while she was performing a home inspection and hit her with the door of a car. Attacking a government employee while they are at work in any manner is a felony in Pennsylvania.

The Meadville Public Library is looking for donations of gently used children's picture books or juvenile fiction and non-fiction for their annual book sale. Please bring donations to the main desk of the Meadville Public Library on 848 North Main Street by October 31st.

As part of its bankruptcy restructuring, Rite Aid has announced that three of its Northwest Pennsylvania Stores will be closing. Two Erie locations on Liberty and Parade Streets and the only Rite Aid in Titusville, located on East Central Avenue will be closed before the end of the year.

## October 23<sup>rd</sup>

On October 1st, a Knox woman was killed in the same collision that left her passenger only lightly injured. Investigators just released a report about how a 19-year-old lost control of her vehicle on Bredinsburg Road in Venango County's Cranberry Township went airborne and collided with a tree. She was declared dead at the scene but her passenger was evaluated for only minor injuries.

Oil City Public Library is holding an after-hours movie night for adults on Saturday. The double feature of Poltergeist and Scream begins at 7 PM and ends around midnight; there will also be snacks and a basket raffle. The After Hours films are both rated R and may only be attended by adults who are 18 and older. RSVP at the Oil City Library or call (814) 678-3072.

Today is the very last day for PA residents to make sure they are registered to vote ahead of the November 7th election. Voters in PA also have only eight days to request an absentee or mail-in ballot; the deadline for those requests is on Tuesday, October 31, by 5:00 PM. Election Day is November 7th and that is also the deadline for mail-in and absentee ballots. Check your registration status, register to vote, or apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot at your local election office or online at [Vote.PA.gov](https://Vote.PA.gov).

Police believe that alcohol contributed to the fatal crash of a Ford F-150 on Saturday evening. Damian Coscia of Saegertown suffered lethal injuries when he crashed on Grange Center Road in Cussewago Township, Crawford County. First responders say the 48-year-old was not wearing a seatbelt and was partially ejected through the driver's side door as his vehicle collided with trees.

## October 24<sup>th</sup>

Details have been revealed about the drug-related arrest of a New York man in Titusville. Court and police records indicate that Luke Stevenson of West Seneca, New York was arrested on September 29th on charges of manufacture or possession with intent to deliver cocaine and methamphetamine. According to police Stevenson was caught driving erratically and had no tail lights on his vehicle and the drugs were discovered by State Troopers during the traffic stop. The Pennsylvania State Police in Corry are asking anyone who may have more information to call Trooper Dafula at (814)663-2043.

In Warren County, Mason Swanson was sentenced yesterday to a prison term as long as 50 years for possession of child pornography. Swanson, who pleaded guilty to the charges, was sentenced to 20 to 50 years for possession of sexual materials involving children; he will also serve a minimum five years probation after being released and will be registered as a sexually violent offender for life. Swanson has also pleaded guilty to separate charges of aggravated assault against a guard at Warren County Jail.

PennDOT has announced the promotion of a Meadville man to Assistant District Executive of Maintenance in District 1. Aaron Fox has been a PennDOT employee for over 25 years and has a degree in mechanical engineering, he will oversee the maintenance activities and winter servicing of over 3,000 miles of roads and 2,600 bridges across the district. District 1 includes most of Northwest Pennsylvania, it is headquartered in Oil City and encompasses the entirety of Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, and Warren Counties.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate has dropped again, setting a new record low of 3.4% in September; according to the Department of Labor and Industry, last year's September unemployment rate was 4.3%. For the 9th consecutive month, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania added jobs and increased its all-time high employment numbers with over 6.17 million men and women employed in non-farm positions. The national unemployment rate for September was 3.8%.

## October 25<sup>th</sup>

The town of Rimersburg has been awarded almost \$9 million in PENNVEST grants to upgrade its municipal water systems. The funds are intended for use in upgrading the wastewater system to double its treatment capacity to 400,000 gallons a day. Rimersburg Borough wants to expand its wastewater facilities to avoid the risk of contamination of drinking water during floods or heavy rain showers. PENNVEST is the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and provides funds for local governments through grants and low-interest loans to help pay for drinking and wastewater projects.

Tonight the Saegertown Panthers Girl's Wrestling Team is holding a Try It night for their sport. Girls from Meadville Middle and High School and girls that attend any school in the Penncrest District are invited to attend a special practice tonight at 6 p.m. Girl's wrestling is the fastest growing sport in the United States and the PIAA has sanctioned a team for Saegertown Jr./Sr. High School which may include girls from any PennCrest school and from Meadville Middle and High Schools. For more information you may contact Coach Mellissa Bartholomew at SaegertownGirlsWrestling@Gmail.com.

## October 26<sup>th</sup>

Tonight is Trick-or-Treat Night in Meadville and the majority of Crawford County from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The City of Meadville plans Trick-or-Treat for the Thursday before the Halloween Parade which happens on the last Saturday of October. Titusville and other Eastern Crawford County towns are different and schedule Trick-or-Treat on Halloween Day, and then there are all the Tunk-or-Treats! Keep track of all the Trick-or-Treat and Trunk-or-Treat events in Crawford, Erie, Mercer, and Venango Counties with the 7 Mountains Northwest PA Trick-or-Treat Guide by visiting News Live 365 at [7mmnorthwestpa.com](http://7mmnorthwestpa.com).

Pennsylvania's Attorney General Michelle Henry announced on Tuesday that the Commonwealth has joined in a multistate lawsuit against Facebook's parent company Meta. Pennsylvania and 32 other states allege that Meta's business practices encourage a mental health crisis among young adults and teenagers across the United States. They also allege that Meta is knowingly collecting and selling the data of users younger than 13 years of age in violation of Federal law.

## October 27<sup>th</sup>

According to Authorities, a man named Corry Rodgers was arrested twice on different ends of Crawford County on Saturday. The 32-year-old was arrested in Titusville early Saturday morning after fleeing from police while investigating a prowling incident; Rodgers was charged and released on bail in Titusville for public drunkenness, prowling, and resisting arrest. Later that same day he was arrested again for DUI after crashing a car near Blooming Valley, later it was discovered that the vehicle was stolen and the keys taken from the owner's home. Rodgers remains in Crawford County Jail on several felony and summary charges from the theft of the crashed car.

Tomorrow night at 6:30, it's Heroes vs Villains in downtown Meadville. The 56th annual Meadville Halloween Parade presented by the Crawford Area Young Chamber of Commerce (CAYCC) continues to be the largest nighttime parade in Pennsylvania. As always it's entirely free to watch; proceeds from this year's parade sponsors will benefit the Crawford County K-12 Career Education Alliance.

Meadville City Police Department has launched a new online tool in concert with CRIMEWATCH Technologies. The new website and smartphone application grant residents timely and direct access to public safety information from MCPD. Using the new tool residents can find information about recent incidents, community events, and a crime mapping feature; it can even be used to report crimes, send tips, or even pay driving or parking fines. [Visit MeadvilleCityPolice.org](http://VisitMeadvilleCityPolice.org) for more.

Saturday is a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days are to remind us to dispose of unused prescription drugs that could be misused such as opioids and other painkillers. Look for anonymous take-back boxes at pharmacies, hospitals, and police stations, then just drop your unused prescription medications inside. The Pennsylvania State Police have take-back boxes in all 65 of their stations year-round.

**October 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Pennsylvania State Police are searching for a missing teenager from Erie County. 15-year-old Marissa Lynn Steffey has been missing since last Monday, October 23rd, and is believed to have run away from her home on North High Street in Waterford. Marissa is a 15-year-old teenage girl, she has brown hair and eyes, stands about 5'7" tall, and weighs around 125 pounds. She was last seen wearing a black Nike branded sweatshirt, ripped dark colored blue jeans, and a black backpack. Anybody who may have information please call the Erie State Police at (814)898-1641.

In State News, a joint operation between the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency and Pennsylvania State Police ended in the arrest of two men and seizure of about 50,000 tablets of fentanyl. Leroy Williams and Ryan Hofer were intercepted in Delaware county by State Police officers after being tracked by the DEA.

**October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Yesterday at 5 p.m. a Pennsylvania State Police Spokesman confirmed that 15-year-old Marissa Lynn Steffy was found safe. The teen was missing after running away from her Waterford home on Monday, the 23rd.

The Venango Area, specifically Franklin, Cranberry, and Oil City are among the new communities that will benefit from the PA Heart and Soul program. PA Heart and Soul is a public/private partnership between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Humanities, the Community Heart and Soul Foundation, and others. Patronage by PA Heart and Soul involves a multi-year program including cash grants, training for city officials and employees, and developing community outreach programs, among others. Meadville is one of PA Heart and Soul's earlier beneficiaries.

Representatives from Allegheny College were invited to a special summit in Washington DC to celebrate their success in the Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge. Allegheny and only 20 other colleges and universities were invited to the summit, where Allegheny was recognized for achieving carbon neutrality and greatly reducing its energy consumption.

## November 1<sup>st</sup>

The Pennsylvania State Police are seeking public help in the investigation into the theft of cash from a local business in the Venango County side of Titusville. On September 18th or 19th, between closing at 11 p.m. and opening at 7 a.m. one or more unknown suspects managed to get inside the office at Cross Creek Resort and steal about \$1,400 in cash money. An investigation is ongoing and anybody who may have information is being asked to call the Pennsylvania State Police in Franklin at (814)676-6596.

It's November 1st, and it's a snowy morning, which means in many towns and boroughs around the region special winter parking rules are in effect. Towns, Cities, and Boroughs such as Erie and Saegertown have ordinances about which side of certain streets can be used for parking during the snowy period from November until April; other areas around the region may ban street parking altogether for the winter period. Please pay attention and look for signage indicating any special parking regulations where you live and visit.

Our partners at Operation Weather Alert are tracking multiple school delays due to rapid snowfall. For more information visit Operation Weather Alert on Facebook or at [7mmnorthwestpa.com](https://www.facebook.com/7mmnorthwestpa) and click on Operation Weather Alert for a constantly updating list of weather-related closings and delays.

Meadville Central Fire Department's 8th annual Food Drive is underway. The food drive secures donations for three organizations across Meadville - the Center for Family Services, Women's Shelter, and Meadville Senior High School Food Locker. The food drive is seeking donations of non-perishable foods like dry goods and canned vegetables but also accepts monetary donations and gift cards which can be used to purchase specific needed items. Dropoff boxes where donations can be made are located in nine areas around Meadville: Meadville City Fire Department, Meadville City Hall, the Crawford County Courthouse, Meadville/Western Crawford County Chamber of Commerce, The Meadville Market House, The Italian Civic Club, Dollar General in the Downtown Mall, Connect 55, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2006.

## November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Yesterday, a fatal crash in Mercer County closed the eastbound lanes of Interstate 80 between Mercer and Newcastle for more than 10 hours. Road conditions are being blamed for a 10-vehicle pileup at about 5:45 a.m. yesterday. First responders and investigators on the scene say that several passenger vehicles and tractor-trailers were involved in the crash and several more vehicles suffered minor crashes attempting to avoid the pileup. One person was killed, he was identified by the Mercer County Coroner as 34-year-old Anthony Mallory of Rochester, New York; six other people were reported as injured. Interstate 80 was clear enough to be re-opened shortly after 4 p.m.

In State News, Pennsylvania's Commonwealth Court ruled that the state cannot join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative without approval from the legislature. Former PA Governor Tom Wolf attempted to join the state in the RGGI through executive order, but the court ruled that it constitutes a tax.

The Pennsylvania State Police in Erie will hold their annual 'Stuff the Cruiser' event to benefit Toys for Tots on Saturday, November 4th from noon until 4 p.m. in the parking lot of Wal-Mart in Summit Township. PSP Erie and the United States Marine Corps have teamed up every year for eight years for the annual toy drive and participants have donated thousands of non-violent toys to needy families through Toys for Tots. This year's toy drive will include a special early-season visit from Santa Claus as well as costumed characters, face painting, and glitter tattoos for children.

Pennsylvania's Attorney General, Michelle Henry, announced criminal charges against the Natural Gas company Equitrans related to a 2018 explosion that injured three people in Green County. Charges of discharging industrial waste, failure to contain pollution, and two counts of violating the Clean Streams Law have been filed against Equitrans after the Green County District Attorney turned an investigation over to the state.

## November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Police are reportedly investigating the theft of \$2,000 cash that was locked in a safe near Oil City. Investigators say that the theft was reported last Wednesday and they have several suspects that they are in the process of investigating. At press time, no arrests have been announced.

The Meadville Bulldogs will play the Corry Beavers in the 4A District Football Championship tomorrow night at 7. Our sister station Pop Radio will carry the action live on 100.7 and 98.1 FM, the broadcast starts at 6:45 with a pregame show.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives will soon be debating an extension to Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana laws. Senate Bill 773 increases the number of permits issued for growers, dispensaries, and studies and was recently approved by the House Health Committee in a 20-5 vote. The bill was readily passed through the PA Senate, but Republican House Health Committee Chair Kathy Rapp thinks the bill can, and should, meet more scrutiny in the lower chamber.

The Pennsylvania State Police in Meadville are in possession of multiple pieces of personal property that were turned in to them and are looking for the rightful owners. One such item is a remote-controlled drone that was discovered near Tamarack Lake at the intersection of Freyermuth Road and Tamarack Drive on Wednesday, October 25th. Another item is a handheld radio that was discovered on Harmonsburg Road in Crawford County's Summit Township last Saturday, October 28th. If you are the owner or have information about these please call the Pennsylvania State Police in Meadville at (814)332-6911.

Heather Presdee, a Butler area nurse who was charged with homicide in the death of two patients under her care in May, has been charged with two more murders in the first degree. The 41-year-old has also been charged with 17 counts of attempted murder, and 19 counts of neglect of a care-dependent person. In all, Presdee is accused of injecting at least 22 patients with dangerous doses of insulin which has led to the deaths of four of them, and the permanent injury of at least one other.

## November 6<sup>th</sup>

In Crawford County's Vernon Township, a 7-year-old girl was injured when an SUV struck her as the driver attempted to pass a stopped school bus. According to the Pennsylvania State Police, the child suffered severe injuries to her face and seemingly minor injuries to her legs when she was struck by the vehicle at about 6:45 on Wednesday morning. The driver, David Beatty of Cochranon, has been charged with violating traffic signs and devices displayed on a school bus and other charges may be pending. Pennsylvania law requires all drivers to stop at least 10 feet from a school bus with flashing red lights and an extended STOP sign unless they are separated by a physical median such as a grassy or concrete divide between lanes.

Open enrollment for policies on Pennsylvania's insurance marketplace PENNIE began on November 1st and runs until January 15th. To ensure an insurance policy by New Year's Day it is recommended to have a policy purchased by December 15th, policies purchased after that cut-off date will start in February of next year. To register and begin shopping for insurance policies to benefit you and your family visit [PENNIE.com](https://www.pennie.com) or call (1-844)440-4440.

Details about the Interstate 80 pileup that killed a Rochester New York man have been revealed by the Pennsylvania State Police Troopers investigating the incident. A press release on November 2nd states that the crash started at 5:45 on Wednesday morning when a tractor-trailer traveling in the eastbound lane began to skid on slush and snow and struck the median, the semi's trailing unit partially blocked both lanes of I-80. A second commercial vehicle attempted to stop and avoid the wreck but slid into the trailer which caused a complete blockage of both lanes. A third semi joined the other two and was itself struck three times by passenger vehicles including a white SUV that contained the victim who was killed. A fourth commercial vehicle was the last to join, hitting one of the crashed passenger cars and then crushing and pinning the SUV. Mercer East End Volunteer Fire Department, some civilian witnesses and uninjured crash victims, and Mercer auto wrecking assisted the State Police at the scene.

## November 7<sup>th</sup>

Today is Election Day across the United States, this year is what's known as an off year and most of the elections are municipal and countywide with only a few statewide decisions to be made for judgeships in the Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth Courts.

In PA, the Commonwealth Court Election pits Democrat Matthew Wolf against Republican Megan Martin for one term of 10 years on the nine-person body.

Superior Court Elections have four candidates, two Democrats, and two Republicans each seeking one of two seats for a 10-year term on the body of 15; Democratic candidates are Jill Beck and Tanika Lane, and Republican candidates are Maria Batista and Harry Smail Junior. Two judges on the superior court are up for retention, President Judge Jack Panella, a Democrat who has been in the Superior Court for 20 years, and Judge Victor Stabile who was elected in 2013 as a Republican.

For the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Democrat Daniel McCaffery and Republican Carolyn Carluccio are in a contest for one term of 10 years on the highest court in the state.

Today is Election Day across the United States, this year is known as an off year and most of the elections are municipal and countywide with only a few statewide decisions to be made for judgeships in the Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth Courts. Remember that when voting at a new location for the first time in PA you must provide identification. Valid identification at your polling place includes any photo ID issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania such as a Driver's License or PennDOT ID or by the United States Government such as a US Passport or US Armed Forces ID. Student and Employee IDs issued by state-approved agencies are also valid. If you lack a photographic ID, certain documents that include your name and address such as the confirmation card issued by your County Voter Registration Office, a firearm permit, or a paycheck or bank statement can suffice. Learn more, and check your polling location at [Vote.PA.gov](http://Vote.PA.gov).

## November 8<sup>th</sup>

About 1/3 of registered voters showed up to the polls to have their voices heard in the municipal elections yesterday and the unofficial results from yesterday's contests are in. In some contests mail-in and absentee ballots are still being tabulated, while others are in their final counts; the preliminary results of elections in your county can be viewed on your county website. In the statewide elections for Judgeships, it appears that Democrats have been victorious in every race. Voters selected Matthew Wolf for a 10-year term on the Commonwealth Court 52% to 48% over Megan Martin. For the Superior Court, Democrats Jill Beck and Tamika Lane were selected for the two open seats and both Judges Jack Panella and Victor Stabile retained their seats within. At press time the race for Supreme Court appears to be for Democrat Daniel McCaffery who held a 53%-47% lead over his opponent Carolyn Carluccio, a gap of about 180,000 votes. You can review the results of the state-wide elections by visiting the [Pennsylvania Election Returns](http://Pennsylvania Election Returns) website.

The Pennsylvania State Police have charged a Utica Woman with DUI and child endangerment after she was allegedly caught driving while on alcohol, marijuana, and methamphetamine with her 13-year-old daughter in the car. According to a police report she was originally pulled over for driving 20 miles per hour over the speed limit through the borough of Sugar creek and showed signs of impairment; a blood test performed after she failed a field sobriety test revealed a blood alcohol level higher than twice the legal limit and traces of the other two drugs. Court records say her name is Rebekah Eakin and she has been released after posting \$15,000 bail.

On Saturday Night, the Meadville Bulldogs defeated the Corry Beavers to clench their third consecutive District 10 Championship. This Saturday they will play a sub-regional playoff game against the University Prep Wildcats, at home on Bender Field in Meadville at 2 p.m. Our sister station Pop Radio 100.7 and 98.1 will carry the contest live, the pregame show begins at 1:45.

## November 9<sup>th</sup>

The Pennsylvania State Police have issued a warrant for the arrest of 45-year-old Harold Hayes, most recently of Sharon. Hayes is a tier 1 sex offender with a long history of criminal behavior. He is currently wanted for several Megan's Law violations after lying multiple times to authorities about his address. According to the State Police Hayes has provided multiple false addresses during his required monthly check-ins with the authorities. Anyone who has information about the whereabouts of Harold Hayes is urged to contact the state or local police departments.

25-year-old Nathaniel Price pleaded guilty to two counts of homicide seven years after the deaths of Timothy Gardner and Jaqueline Brink. Price pleaded guilty to the robbery and murder of the two victims in 2016, confessing that he and two unnamed co-defendants conspired to burglarize the couple, and during the course of the robbery, he killed both victims to prevent there being any witnesses. As part of his plea deal Price will serve at least 65 years of a 130 year sentence; he has also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary, criminal mischief, and reckless endangerment.

Monday begins the annual Click-It or Ticket campaign by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Pennsylvania State Police. From Monday, November 13th until Sunday the 26th the Pennsylvania State Police and other law enforcement agencies across the state and the nation will be adopting a zero-tolerance policy to unbelted passengers and drivers in motor vehicles. PA law requires all drivers and front-seat passengers to be wearing a seatbelt and anyone under 18 years of age to be properly secured regardless of where they sit in a car. The Pennsylvania State Police will also be providing free child safety seat checks at various locations throughout the Click-It or Ticket period.

PennDOT Photo and Driver's License Centers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be closed on Saturday in honor of the Veteran's Day Holiday. Photo and License Centers ordinarily closed on Saturdays will be closed on Friday, November 10th. Residents are still capable of acquiring most of the services available at the Photo and License Centers including any publications, forms, and manuals online at [DMV.PA.gov](https://www.dmv.pa.gov).

## November 13<sup>th</sup>

According to Pennsylvania's Attorney General, on Thursday, Micheal Burham pleaded guilty to charges of kidnapping and escaping from jail after offering a not guilty plea to the escape charge in September. Burham, who made national news after he escaped from Warren County Jail and spent nine days as a fugitive in July, was originally being held in Pennsylvania for the abduction of an elderly couple from Warren County and forcing them to drive him to South Carolina in May. On Thursday, Burham, who was transferred to Erie County, changed his plea in both cases to guilty and is scheduled to be sentenced on January 5th. Burham is still the primary suspect in a rape and murder investigation in Jamestown, NY.

Human remains discovered by Oil Creek last year have finally been identified. Titusville's Public Safety Commissioner Dustin LeGoullon announced that the body had been identified as Bradley White, who was 46-years-old when he disappeared nearly five years ago on November 18th, 2023. According to the Venango County Coroner Christina Rugh there was no indication that foul play was involved in Mr. White's death.

Frito-Lay has issued a voluntary recall on snack foods being sold in multiple states including Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. Specific batches of 'Off the Eaten Path Chickpea Veggie Crisps' may contain undeclared allergens in the form of milk ingredients due to the unintentional inclusion of the wrong flavorings. Bags that have been recalled all have a March 12, 2024 expiration date and contain the last five characters in their manufacturing code 514MH, 516MH, and 517MH. The product can be returned for a refund or replacement at the location it was purchased from.

On Wednesday evening the Meadville Public Library is celebrating National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) by hosting a meet and greet with local authors. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. you can visit the library's community space to meet local writers Amy Eddy, C.D. Bennet, Ellie Byham, Jen Craven, Judy Sharer, and Shana Buchard.

## November 14<sup>th</sup>

The Pennsylvania State Police based in Erie are investigating the homicide of a woman found on the shoulder of Interstate 90. At 2:30 a.m. on Friday morning, the Belle Valley Fire Department responded to a brush fire alongside the westbound lane of I-90 near Mile Marker 30 and discovered human remains. The Coroner has positively identified the remains as those of a 48-year-old woman with no known ties to the Erie region, but her full identity is not being revealed at this stage in the investigation; her death has been ruled a homicide. The Pennsylvania State Police based in Erie are asking anybody who observed suspicious activity along Interstate 90 on Thursday night or Friday morning to contact them about it by calling (814)898-1641.

Open enrollment for Pennsylvania's Insurance Marketplace PENNIE is ongoing until January 15th. Visit [PENNIE.com](https://www.pennie.com) or call (1-844)440-8440.

The Pennsylvania State Police in Mercer County begin their annual toy drive today. A donation box has been placed in the lobby of their barracks on 826 Franklin Road in Mercer and the troopers there are asking anyone who wishes to donate to bring new unwrapped toys between today and Monday, December 18th. The annual toy drive benefits the Children's Aid Society of Mercer in its annual mission to bring a joyful holiday to Mercer County's needy children.

Saturday night at Bender Field the Meadville Bulldogs defeated the University Prep Panthers 20-18 and advanced into the 4A Quarterfinals of the PIAA playoffs. The next contest is against the Juniata Indians and takes place at home on Bender Field Friday Night at 7 p.m. The game will be broadcast on our sister station Pop 100.7 and 98.1 with a pregame show starting at 6:45 p.m. Its the Bulldogs vs the Indians 6:45 p.m. Friday night on Pop!

## November 15<sup>th</sup>

Two men were hospitalized after a single vehicle crash on Harmonsburg Road. According to crash scene investigators from the Meadville State Police: Dylan Maynard of Cochranon was driving when his passenger, Michael Confer of Meadville, grabbed the steering wheel which caused their pickup truck to lose control and crash head-on into a roadside tree. Neither man was wearing a seatbelt and both men were hospitalized at Meadville Medical Center with suspected serious injuries.

From 5 to 6:30 p.m. this evening, the Meadville Public Library is celebrating National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) by hosting a meet and greet with local authors. You can visit the library's community space to meet local writers Amy Eddy, C.D. Bennet, Ellie Byham, Jen Craven, Judy Sharer, and Shana Buchard.

This time of year when the cost of keeping your home warm can become a financial burden, some families can turn to LIHEAP for a hand up. For a family of four making less than \$45,000 a year, The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program can help cover the cost of keeping your family comfortable and safe through the fall and winter. Contact your local County Assistance office or visit [DHS.PA.gov](https://www.dhs.pa.gov) for more information about LIHEAP and its eligibility requirements.

The Pennsylvania State Police in Mercer County announced the arrest of a West Middlesex man for the alleged sexual assault of an 11-year-old girl. At press time a man named Louis Bendzak is awaiting a preliminary hearing for indecent assault of a minor and corruption of a minor after being arraigned yesterday.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Michelle Henry and Agriculture Secretary Russel Redding are attempting to spread the word about a new scam specifically targeting Pennsylvania farmers. The scam involves contacting farmers about registering for a so-called "Winter Farm Expo" at the PA Farm Show Complex and Expo Center on January 6th and 7th 2024 and soliciting payments for vendor and display spaces. There is no "Winter Farm Expo" and the scammers are attempting to confuse farmers into thinking they are registering for the official 2024 Pennsylvania Farm Show and State Fair which runs from January 6th to 13th. If you have been targeted or victimized by this scam you can call the Attorney General at (1-800)441-2555.

## November 16<sup>th</sup>

The Pennsylvania State Police barracks in Corry is holding a free child safety seat inspection today from 2 to 6 p.m. The Corry State Police barracks is located at 11088 on US Route 6E in Union City and experts will be on hand to check your children's car seats to ensure they are up to standards, installed correctly, and safe to use. Walk-ins are accepted but appointments are preferred, call (814)663-2043 to schedule an appointment. Meadville's State Police Barracks is hosting theirs at Meadville Central Fire Department tomorrow.

Downtown Franklin's 14th annual Holiday Wine and Spirits walk is tomorrow night, event registration begins at 4 p.m. and the walk, featuring 17 destinations on 13th and Liberty streets, starts at 6 p.m. Participants must be 21 or older; for more information visit Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce on Facebook or call (814)432-5823.

## November 17<sup>th</sup>

The identity of a woman whose body was discovered near Exit 29 on Interstate 90 has been revealed by investigators. 48-year-old Michelle Tayse of Nashville, Tennessee was the body discovered by Belle Valley firefighters who responded to a brush fire in the very early morning hours of last Friday. According to Erie County Coroner Lyell Cook, Michelle's cause of death was multiple stab wounds.

The Pennsylvania State Police are working with the Nashville Police Department to investigate the murder; the working theory is that Michelle was killed in Tennessee and transported to Erie to be disposed of where they thought no one could identify her. The killer or killers used an accelerant to try and destroy her remains and caused a brush fire. The Pennsylvania State Police based in Erie are asking anyone who may have information to call them at (814)898-1641; they are particularly interested in any suspicious activity that may have been observed by anyone traveling or working around Exit 29 last Thursday night or Friday morning.

A collision between an SUV and a box truck proved fatal for an Ohio couple on Wednesday.

Crash scene investigators say that 67-year-old Mark Swanson of Lyndhurst, Ohio failed to stop at a sign posted on the intersection of Route 89 and Buell's Corners Road and collided head-on with the rear passenger side of a passing box truck.

Mr. Swanson was transported to Titusville Hospital for severe injuries, but his wife Rebecca was killed in the crash. The truck driver was not injured, and police are still investigating.

The Pennsylvania State Police based in Meadville will be holding a free child safety seat check this evening at the Meadville City Fire Department from 3 to 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public; experts will be available to ensure your children's safety seats are safe, up to date, and properly installed as well as answer any questions. The fire department is located at 850 Park Avenue in Meadville.

Another safety seat check will take place at the Franklin Fire Department on Tuesday.

## November 20<sup>th</sup>

Two boys, 12 and 13 years of age were arrested after the burglary and vandalism of an elementary school in Meadville. On Friday night the two preteens allegedly entered Neason Hill Elementary School after hours on the night before an annual PTO fundraiser and threw eggs on the walls and floor of a stairwell inside the building. After the vandalism, police say they stole about a dozen gift cards and other items from gift baskets that were for the annual school raffle. Both of them will be charged through the juvenile justice system.

Pennsylvania's Department of Labor and Industry released its preliminary findings for its October 2023 job report. According to L&I Pennsylvania's unemployment rate remained at the record low 3.4% set in September, with little change in the number of people getting new jobs or becoming unemployed; the unemployment rate was 4.4% last October. The Federal unemployment rate increased by 1/10 of a percentage point to 3.9% in October leaving Pennsylvania ½ a percentage point lower than the national average.

A woman was arrested for taking a Springboro man's car without permission, police were notified of the crime by the victim while he was inside the car's trunk. The victim, a 60-year-old man, reportedly jumped into the trunk of the ill-gotten car as the alleged thief was driving away and then called police from inside after the car stopped. Ashley Zazado of Linesville was arrested for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle, and criminal mischief as well as multiple summary charges.

All of Pennsylvania's Photo and Driver's License Centers will be closed this Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday. While it will not be possible to get photos and take driving tests, virtually every other service provided by the centers can be done online, including forms, publications, and manuals, by visiting [DMV.PA.gov](https://www.dmv.pa.gov). The website is capable of handling everything from scheduling exams to, ordering duplicates of licenses or ID cards, or even paying fees. There are no extra costs for using the online services.

## November 21<sup>st</sup>

The Pennsylvania State Police are investigating the theft of an entire tree stand from a hunting camp located in the woods between Hubbard and Sportsman roads in Crawford County's Summit Township. The theft was reported on November 10th but may have happened any time between mid-October and early November. Anybody who may have information about the theft should contact the Pennsylvania State Police in Meadville by calling (814)332-6911.

The City of Meadville is looking for volunteer applicants for the Authorities, Boards, and Commissions. With a new year approaching, many of the terms for current members of the various advisory boards are going to expire soon and replacements will be needed. Vacancies will be appearing on the Codes Appeal and Zoning Hearing Boards; the Housing, Sewer, and Recreation Authorities; Planning and Zoning and Shade Tree Commissions; and the Environmental Advisory and Streetscaping Committees. For more information and applications for the various openings go to the Meadville City Building at 894 Diamond Park during operating hours or visit [CityofMeadville.org/abcs](http://CityofMeadville.org/abcs).

A Saturday evening collision with a deer injured a Stoneboro man in Mercer County's Sandy Lake Township. The 27 year old was driving along Henderson Road at about 5 p.m. when the animal ran into the driver's side of his vehicle, causing him to lose control and collide with a stump near the side of the road. He was taken to Sharon Regional Hospital for treatment of injuries of unknown severity.

The City of Franklin is performing a survey for its residents as part of the process of creating a new plan to enhance the safety and comfort of driving city streets. To take the survey and help Franklin identify its traffic safety needs so it can improve its network visit them on Facebook or at [Franklinpa.gov](http://Franklinpa.gov).

PENNIE is in its open enrollment period from now until January 15th. To shop for insurance policies on Pennsylvania's own insurance exchange visit [PENNIE.com](http://PENNIE.com) or call (1-800)440-8440.

## **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Five of six members of a family were hospitalized after a collision between a pickup truck and an SUV at the intersection of Centertown and Gilmore roads in Wolf Creek Township, Mercer County. Crash scene investigators say the driver of a pickup entered the intersection when it was unsafe to do so and was hit by the SUV at speed on its passenger side. A stop sign that was posted on Gilmore Road was knocked down and not visible to the pickup's driver, according to the investigators. In the SUV a 17-year-old driver, 51-year-old woman, and three children were taken to a hospital in Grove City for the treatment and evaluation of injuries.

The Holiday Season can be a dangerous time to drive and requires vigilance, with lots of vehicles on the roads as people travel to see friends and loved ones. Holiday celebrants may be traveling through unfamiliar territory and unusual levels of traffic. Northwest Pennsylvania saw 592 crashes, which led to 259 injuries and eight deaths between the Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve holidays last year. During the Thanksgiving Holiday, state and local police will be on patrol in a highly visible manner, performing DUI checkpoints, and enforcing seatbelt compliance as part of Click-It or Ticket.

On Tuesday the City of Meadville set up its giving tree for the 2023 Holiday Season.

The tree resides near the Meadville Police Department close to the corner of North Cottage and West Center streets in Downtown Meadville. The tree is stocked with bags containing hats, scarves, and mittens for anyone who may need them in the cold weather, but you should only take one bag per person to help as many people as possible. If you wish to make donations of toiletries, warm socks, hats, mittens, gloves, or scarves please just drop them off at the dispatch desk inside the police station.

On Friday night at 7:30 p.m., the Silver Cornet Band will perform its yearly after Thanksgiving concert at the Barrow-Civic Theatre in Franklin. There are no tickets sold for this holiday concert, the cost of entry is a non-perishable item of food to be donated to local food banks. The Silver Cornet band was founded in 1856 and is one of the oldest volunteer community bands in the United States, this year's performance features Peter and the Wolf, the music of Paul Simon, and some Christmas tunes to set the holiday mood.

## **November 27<sup>th</sup>**

Two teenage boys were shot in the city of Sharon on Saturday morning. According to the police, at about 1 a.m. Saturday morning two teenagers said to be 16 years old both suffered what authorities called potentially life-threatening injuries on the 200 block of Cedar Avenue. At press time the police were keeping the details vague, but residents who live in the vicinity reported more than a dozen shots were fired before the police arrived at the scene. Sharon PD is asking anyone who may have information about the shooting or a suspect to call them on their non-emergency number at (724)983-3210 or Mercer County's 911 center at (724)662-6110

Operation Weather Alert will be watching for closings or delays after the National Weather Service has issued Lake Effect Snow Warnings that begin at 7 o'clock this morning for Crawford, Erie, and Warren Counties and a Winter Weather Advisory for Mercer, Venango, and Forest Counties.

## November 28<sup>th</sup>

A New York man was knocked unconscious by a collision with a deer on the day after Thanksgiving. According to the Pennsylvania State Police, Jeffery Cooley of Clymer New York was driving through Crawford County's Athens Township early Friday morning when his SUV collided with the animal; the impact knocked him unconscious and he was tended to by Volunteers from Centerville Ambulance Service, but not taken to any hospitals. His SUV was disabled as a result of the crash.

Operation Weather Alert is active today, tracking closings and delays across the Northwest PA region. At press time there were already about a dozen delays across Erie and Crawford Counties and as snow piles on there are more to come. View closings and delays by checking out Operation Weather Alert at [7MMNorthwestPa.com](http://7MMNorthwestPa.com). Due to the weather PennDOT has reduced the speed limits to 45 miles per hour on Interstates 86 and 90 and also on Interstate 79 in Erie County. The Conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles can be checked online at [511pa.com](http://511pa.com).

The Pennsylvania State Police released their information about traffic enforcement during the Thanksgiving Holiday period. According to the State Police, they responded to 979 traffic accidents over the holiday and four of those accidents were fatal; 73 accidents involved drunk drivers, and 542 drivers were charged with DUI. Troop E which covers Crawford, Erie, Venango, and Warren Counties reported 10 injuries from 48 traffic accidents during the period and only one alcohol-related crash with 33 DUI citations. Troop D which includes Lawrence and Mercer Counties also reported 48 crashes with only three injuries, but they also reported nine crashes involving drunk drivers and 46 DUIs. The Pennsylvania State Police issued over 10,500 speeding tickets this year. These figures do not include information from local and municipal police forces, just the Pennsylvania State Police.

## November 29<sup>th</sup>

The Pennsylvania State Police reported the arrest of 32-year-old Brittany Goodwine of Pittsburgh, who they said led officers on a high-speed chase on Thanksgiving Day. When a Trooper from Mercer County attempted to initiate a traffic stop for a broken taillight on Interstate 79 she sped away from them which began a pursuit that continued all the way through Mercer and Butler and into Allegheny County. Her vehicle was finally stopped after police managed to disable it on the Wexford Exit of I-79. Goodwine was allegedly driving under the influence of a controlled substance and was charged with felonies for possession with intent to deliver that same substance, and another for fleeing and eluding police.

The Bridge Literary Arts Center is hosting an any genre writer's workshop at the Oil City Library this Saturday from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Budding writers are invited to attend and bring their own original poem or short prose to share with a group of like-minded people for feedback and commentary. The Bridge Literary Arts Center has been promoting writing in Venango County since 1993, find more information about them at [bridgeliteraryartscenter.org](http://bridgeliteraryartscenter.org).

The Pennsylvania State Police based in Corry are investigating an attempted arson in Troy Township, Crawford County. Last Wednesday, just before Thanksgiving, two unknown individuals entered a home on Crowther Road near Titusville and started two small fires before leaving, but the fires failed to spread. Anybody who may have information about this crime should call the Pennsylvania State Police in Corry at (814)663-2043.

Arch Street in Meadville will be closed between Market and Water Streets today and tomorrow while work is performed on the Windstream building located in Meadville's Downtown. Public notice of the closure was made yesterday by Meadville's City Manager Maryann Menanno via social media and on the City of Meadville's [website](http://www.meadvillepa.com). Meadville is still taking applications from residents who wish to volunteer to fill positions on several Authorities, Boards, and Commissions.

## November 30<sup>th</sup>

Authorities are investigating the theft of six firearms from a home in West Mead Township earlier this month. The weapons were reported stolen on Saturday, November 18th, and include three handguns, a shotgun, and two unnamed firearms. Among the identified stolen weapons were a Remington Fieldmaster shotgun and a Colt Ace model target pistol; other stolen weapons were a black American Arms pistol and another manufactured by Jennings.

Oil City's 23rd Annual Christmas Past begins tomorrow with a visit from Santa Claus and the lighting of the Christmas Tree at Oil City's town square. The tree lighting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a meet and greet with Santa; Holiday Sleigh Rides start at 5 p.m. and run until 8:15 p.m. The weekend-long celebration includes several events on Saturday and Sunday as well, including a 5K Run/Walk, and a craft and vendor show with locations spread throughout downtown. The Oil City Public Library will be hosting several events on Saturday, including two free showings of the film 'Elf' starring Will Ferrell in the library theater at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The former Administrator of Lawrence County ARC has been charged with neglect and involuntary manslaughter in the 2021 death of a patient in her care. According to the office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General, Kelley Gonzales (48) of New Castle failed to order refills of seizure medication for one of her patients which led to his death 10 days after he ran out. The AG's allegations include that Gonzales altered the patient's medical records after his death to make it appear as if his prescription had been discontinued by his healthcare provider when it was not. Gonzales was arraigned on the charges of felony neglect of a care-dependent person and altering medical records, and misdemeanor charges of involuntary manslaughter on Tuesday; she was released on her own recognizance.

A major credit agency upgraded Pennsylvania's credit rating in their recent review. Fitch Ratings recently upgraded PA to a AA rating from its previous AA- rating. Fitch is the third major credit agency after Moody and S&P Global also increased their ratings. All three agencies cited the commonwealth's balanced budgets and surplus rainy day funds as key to their decisions.

## December 1<sup>st</sup>

It is almost Christmas and Meadville is celebrating with Merry Meadville. Formerly Light Up Night, the new name is meant to reflect the expanded event which has now become a two day celebration. Merry Meadville takes place alongside the First Friday community market which includes expanded hours and activities for local businesses on the first Friday of the month. Merry Meadville begins with free cookies and \$2 rides in a historic carriage at the Market House at 5:00 p.m. Cocoa and cookies will also be available at the Diamond Park at 5:30 p.m. and Santa Claus himself will arrive to light the Christmas tree at 6:00 p.m. and then spend some time visiting with children at the Crawford County Trust building. Saturday begins with the 65th annual Art and Jean Cocolin Pancake Day at Active Aging and continues with pet friendly photo sessions with Santa at Crawford County Trust, and carriage photos at The Market House until 2 p.m. You can also shop at Meadville's numerous boutiques and specialty stores, dine at its restaurants, participate in the Selfie with an Elfie contest, and admire the ice sculptures that will decorate Chestnut Street and Diamond Park.

Erie County authorities are investigating the theft of objects from inside a vehicle yesterday. The vehicle was caught on security footage being robbed in the parking lot of Erie Fitness Academy by a black male with a beard, the man was wearing a gray baseball cap and hoodie, dark colored jeans with bleach stains, orange underwear, a belt, and black gloves. Anyone with information about the theft or the suspect should call the Pennsylvania State Police located in Girard at (814)774-9611.

Open enrollment for policies on Pennsylvania's insurance marketplace PENNIE is open and runs until January 15th. To ensure an insurance policy by New Year's Day anyone using the the exchange must have a policy picked within two weeks by Friday, December 15th, policies purchased after that cut-off date will start in February of next year. To register and begin shopping for insurance policies to benefit you and your family visit [PENNIE.com](https://www.pennie.com) or call (1-844)440-4440.

## December 5th

A fatal crash closed a portion of the westbound lane of Interstate 90 for about five hours last night while responders rescued survivors and crews picked up debris. According to crash scene investigators 69-year-old Jose Alicea Gomez was killed while attempting to help a stranded motorist by jump-starting their car when their own vehicle was clipped by a passing commercial vehicle, starting a chain reaction that killed Jose and injured the stranded driver. Responders say that the stranded driver, Darnella Robertson was also injured in the crash and that she was conscious, but disoriented. The truck driver was also injured too, Cedric Harris of Ontario Canada's truck plunged down a ravine into Elk Creek and he had to be extracted, his vehicle is to be removed on Wednesday. Authorities are still investigating the crash to determine who, if anyone, was at fault.

Pathologists believe that they have identified the unknown pathogen that has been sickening and sometimes killing dogs in several US states including Pennsylvania. Dr. David Needle of the University of New Hampshire reported the discovery of a new bacteria after examining 30 samples taken from animals and his laboratory is now searching for a cure or preventative.

A Mansfield Ohio man has been charged with multiple crimes including aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after allegedly firing a gun at a resident of Cambridge Springs. Court records say that Edward Oglesby Jr. has been in Crawford County Jail since mid-November on \$40,000 bail. Police allege that Oglesby fired an undeclared number of shots from a handgun at a 49-year-old Cambridge Springs man about a week before Thanksgiving, but no other details about the crime have been released publically.

In State News, a doctor is being held in Montgomery County Correctional Facility on charges related to a possible anti-Semitic arson attack in Lower Marion Township. Police say that 35-year-old Dr. Amy Cohen attempted to burn down the home of the grandparents of a woman who was dating her ex-boyfriend at about 1:30 in the morning last Thursday. Before the attack, the victims and their family had been receiving threatening messages containing anti-Semitic language for about a week. Dr. Cohen had her bail set at \$5 million cash over the weekend.

## December 6<sup>th</sup>

The Pennsylvania State Police are in possession of a lost firearm. The weapon was discovered near Cloverdale Road in Rome Township, Crawford County on Monday, November 27th, shortly after the beginning of deer season. If you lost a firearm in that area please call the Pennsylvania State Police based in Corry at (814)663-2043.

Allegheny College is hosting its last fall open house of the year this Saturday. Prospective students from near and abroad can register online for a tour of the grounds by visiting [Allegheny.edu/visit](http://Allegheny.edu/visit). The college also offers virtual tours as well as online and even off-campus recruitment events which you can learn about on their website.

In State News, the Game Commission is investigating an incident after a man was shot in one of their shoulders by another hunter in Westmoreland County. The victim reports that they had just ended their outing, put their gear away, and removed their orange clothing before being shot. The shooter apparently mistook the other outdoorsman for a coyote they were stalking.

## December 7<sup>th</sup>

A local musician from Erie has become an internet sensation after playing his version of a Metallica song for social media, the most unusual thing about it is he is only seven years old.

[@coenkrysiak](#)'s latest Instagram upload was of him and his father playing Metallica's 'One' together where his father plays bass and the young artist takes the lead. The video has garnered well over 40 million views on TikTok and Instagram since it was released on Sunday and the young artist has gained himself over 200,000 followers on Insta, thousands of comments, and over a million likes for his video. Coen plays both drums and guitar and has covered music by Muse, Kiss, Metallica, and others alongside his sister and his dad.

Franklin Area School District is accepting applications for its Pre-K program. Pre-K is for children who are four years old and takes place at Victory Elementary School during the same hours as regular elementary school; transportation is provided. This program is funded by Pre-K Counts and is for families living in the Franklin Area School District. Call Denise Phipps at (814)673-8010 for more information.

Authorities in Crawford County are searching for a hit-and-run driver who left the scene of an accident in the parking lot of Wal-Mart on November 26th. The driver of a black Silverado 1500 Z71 Off Road pickup truck with illegible plates was caught on camera; authorities describe him as a white male in his thirties with a red beard and a stocky build wearing a green sweatshirt with an American flag printed on it. He was traveling with a female child who had red hair. Anyone with information about this incident should please contact the Pennsylvania State Police in Meadville at (814)332-6911.

33 separate charges of fraud and identity theft have been filed against a Pittsburgh area man in relation to the 2022 congressional election. 64-year-old Kirk Rice was an election canvasser for an undisclosed candidate in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District. According to PA Attorney General Michelle Henry, Rice falsified dozens of records by forging signatures and addresses in a bid to get their candidate a spot on the ballot.

## December 8<sup>th</sup>

Today, PennDOT begins the emergency demolition of a bridge near West Middlesex that carries East Main Street (Route 318) over Interstate 376 after it was severely damaged by a hit from a truck. That section of Main Street will be closed indefinitely and parts of I-376 in the area will be closed for an estimated week. The bridge was struck by a roll-off truck that was traveling along the Interstate beneath it; the driver was severely injured in the crash according to the Shenango Township Police.

Open enrollment for policies on Pennsylvania's insurance marketplace PENNIE runs until January 15th. To ensure an insurance policy by New Year's Day it is recommended to have a policy purchased within the next week. Policies purchased after the December 15th cut-off date will start in February of next year. To register and begin shopping for insurance policies to benefit you and your family visit [PENNIE.com](https://www.pennie.com) or call (1-844)440-4440.

Three teenagers were injured, one severely, in a Warren County Crash. According to the Pennsylvania State Police in a report released Monday, it was mid-November, and the three boys, 16 and 17 years of age, were traveling along Route 27 in Pittsfield Township at a high rate of speed when the driver lost control of his Honda, hit a utility pole, and rolled multiple times. All three boys were hospitalized; one passenger was airlifted to receive trauma care for head injuries at UPMC Hamot.

Oil City High School will host its Holly Jolly Jamboree next Saturday. For the meager cost of donating one non-perishable food item, you can join the December Holiday Celebration and enjoy Christmas Karoeke, cookie and ornament decorating, a hot cocoa bar, a gift shop, and more. All this starts at 5:30 p.m. next Saturday, December 16th. Proceeds from the event benefit the Oil City High School Leadership Council and Food Bank.

## December 11<sup>th</sup>

An inmate from Mercer County Jail walked out of an Erie hospital on Saturday morning and still has not been located by authorities as of this morning. According to Mercer County authorities, the man was on medical furlough and thus not under guard; he was able to walk out of UPMC Hamot on Saturday morning. At press time, there was still no information available about the prisoner's name, height, or weight, but an intake photograph shows he has blond hair and blue eyes, the description of the man that was offered says he has a buzz cut and a goatee and was last seen wearing an orange jumpsuit. He is not considered dangerous or high-profile by authorities, but if you encounter him you should call 911.

Pennsylvania is the recipient of \$143 million in grant money to expand passenger rail service in the Commonwealth. The grant is part of the more than \$8 billion earmarked for rail services by the Federal Government in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The Mercer County State Police's annual toy drive has only one week left to go. A donation box has been placed in the lobby of their barracks on 826 Franklin Road in Mercer and the troopers there are asking anyone who wishes to donate to bring new unwrapped toys between today and Monday, December 18th. The toy drive benefits the Children's Aid Society of Mercer in its annual mission to bring a joyful holiday to Mercer County's needy children.

Overwhelming demand and budget negotiations have left hundreds of people unable to get help from a state program for home repair. Last year, lawmakers agreed to use \$125 million in ARPA funds to create the Whole-Home Repairs Program, but now, administrators tell the media the program is backlogged due to huge demand. Another \$50 million was included for the program in the most recent state budget, but that amount won't come to pass until lawmakers can agree on additional legislation. The program benefits renters as well as homeowners.

## December 12<sup>th</sup>

Authorities finally revealed the name of the Mercer County Jail inmate who walked out of a hospital while on medical furlough. The 31-year-old's name is Alex Rabold, a Newcastle resident whose record mainly shows traffic violations and was apparently being held for charges filed in Hermitage. On Monday Rabold was officially charged with escape by authorities and it is suspected he stole a 2014 Nissan Altima from the parking lot of UPMC Hamot, that vehicle was discovered in the town of Sharon on Saturday night. Rabold turned himself in to authorities in Mercer County on Monday night.

The President of the University of Pennsylvania resigned over the weekend after pressure from major donors, alumni, and even some members of Congress for her to step down from office. Liz Magill resigned on Saturday, though she will remain interim University President until another is appointed. Magill's resignation follows a Congressional hearing in the United States Capitol Building where she failed to explain whether student protestors calling for genocide in Israel was a violation of UPenn's student ethics code.

A Centerville man was killed in a brutal crash that closed Route 8 in Northern, Crawford County for around 5 hours yesterday. Investigators from the Pennsylvania State Police say that just before 8 a.m. on Monday, 23-year-old Devon McWilliams lost control of his Toyota Corolla and began to spin. He was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the car when it collided with a Mack truck that was coming in the opposite direction. Crawford County Coroner Scott Schell declared Devon dead at the scene of the crash. Route 8 was closed between Hilton and Church/Lake roads in Bloomfield Township from about 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Mercer County Historical Society is the beneficiary of a \$4,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). The money was awarded through the PHMC's Cultural and Historical Grant Program which assists organizations that are not directly supported by other PA state programs and is based on a percentage of the Historical Society's yearly operating expenses.

## December 13<sup>th</sup>

Earlier this week police released information about a late November crash that injured three people including a baby on Interstate 79 in northern Crawford County. The day after Thanksgiving the trio from New York state including a 77-year-old and 28-year-old woman and a newborn baby girl were traveling along the interstate through Cussewago Township when the driver lost control of her Lincoln MKX at around 2 p.m. The vehicle exited the highway, hit an embankment, and came to rest on its roof about 200 feet from the initial impact. All three occupants of the vehicle were transported to UPMC Hamot for suspected serious injuries, the younger woman was not wearing a seatbelt during the crash, and the baby was in an improperly secured car seat.

Pennsylvania's Attorney General warned residents that gift card draining scams have come to Pennsylvania. Hundreds of cards were affected by scammers in Bucks County earlier this month. Experts recommend either not buying gift cards, only buying cards from behind the checkout counter, and enclosing a receipt with purchased gift cards so the balances can be reclaimed.

## December 14<sup>th</sup>

A 17-year-old has been charged with aggravated assault, theft from a motor vehicle, reckless endangerment, and more after he was allegedly caught attempting to steal from a car in New Castle. According to the police, the teen was caught in the act of breaking into an unattended car on Beckford Street on Saturday night and fired a gun at someone who attempted to stop him. Later, he hopped over a fence and attempted to flee from officers of the New Castle Police Department, but was discovered hiding beneath a porch. Authorities did not reveal the suspect's name because he is a minor.

A police officer from Beaver County has been charged with manslaughter in the death of a Center Township man. Officer, John J. Hawk of the Center Township Police Department was off-duty when he allegedly assaulted a witness to a shooting outside of a Wal-Mart last year, which led to the man's death. According to the office of the Attorney General, other police officers testified to a grand jury that Hawk was not even on duty during the incident and that the witness he attacked was not presenting himself as a threat to anyone else at the crime scene; it was testified that Hawk was only there to keep the perimeter clear, was not in uniform, and not authorized to attempt arrests.

Around 300 members of the local National Guard unit have been notified that they will be deployed by the end of the month. The 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry will be reporting to the armory in Cambridge Springs shortly after Christmas to join with other members of the 56th Stryker Brigade for a deployment with the US Africa Command. After a few weeks of training the Guardsmen will be deployed to South Africa where a spokesperson for the Guard said they mainly participate in crisis response and force protection with other members of NATO.

## December 15<sup>th</sup>

A 23-year-old New York woman was hospitalized after crashing in Erie County earlier this month according to the Pennsylvania State Police. Crash scene investigators say that Jessica Gibbons of Sherman was hospitalized after losing control of her vehicle on Hare Creek Road in Wayne Township on Wednesday the 3rd. They say she struck a utility pole, which rotated her car 90 degrees before hitting a tree about 40 feet from the initial impact. Her life was saved by wearing a seatbelt, but she suffered severe injuries.

UPMC is reinstating its policy requiring all visitors and staff to wear masks within their hospitals and treatment centers. The policy comes back into effect on Wednesday, December 20th, and includes all 40 of their hospitals due to what they are calling a massive uptick in respiratory infections this fall that is only expected to worsen in the winter. UPMC runs five hospitals across the Northwest Pennsylvania region as well as around a dozen other facilities that include urgent care, outpatient treatment centers, and physical therapy clinics - all will require masking.

Mercer County resident Chase Cominsky, who made national headlines for cheating in a Cleveland walleye fishing tournament last year was convicted for passing phony hundred-dollar bills in Mercer County. Cominsky was sentenced to 6 to 12 months in Mercer County jail yesterday; his adult son Kaiden was convicted of forging those same fake bills and sentenced to a term of parol. Cominsky's legal woes do not end with this new sentence, he was also charged with several counts of deer poaching by the Pennsylvania Game Commission in October and will soon face trial on those.

The Meadville public library hosts Tails that Wag every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon. During Tails that Wag young readers can have the opportunity to read books to therapy dogs provided by Paws Hand Delivered. The dogs are friendly, well-trained, and safe for anyone to be around; they make great listeners for young readers who may have trouble and need a little help, or to assist a young one in developing a lifelong love of literature. Meadville Public Library is located at 848 North Main Street, just off the north side of the Diamond.

## December 18<sup>th</sup>

Five people were hospitalized and one killed in a three car collision in Erie County's LeBoeuf Township. On Sunday afternoon at about 1 p.m. on Route 97, police say a Union City woman lost control of her SUV and hit two other vehicles that were traveling in the opposite lane. The out-of-control driver was injured and taken to UPMC Hamot; two women and a teenage girl in the second vehicle were also taken to UPMC Hamot; and the passenger of the third vehicle was also hospitalized. The third vehicle's driver, 24-year-old Ethan Johnson of Titusville, was declared dead at the scene of the crash by a deputy coroner and the entire incident is still being investigated by the Pennsylvania State Police.

On Wednesday the Pennsylvania State Senate voted along party lines to pass Senate Bill 907 which seeks to put at least one armed security officer in every public school. The legislation is not expected to find passage in the house. One of the primary sticking points is that if passed it would cost each public school in the state around \$100,000 a year in salary and benefits, even with assistance from the Commonwealth.

## December 19<sup>th</sup>

A Mercer County man faces over 300 felony charges for the possession and dissemination of child pornography. Ryan Marinoff of Sharpsville was arrested by the Pennsylvania State and South Pymatuning Police has been charged with 300 counts of possession of child pornography, 14 counts of dissemination of those images, and an additional count for criminal use of a communication facility. Authorities allege that since 2021 the 46-year-old used Kik Messenger to trade images of children with other people over the internet. Marinoff was once on the sex offender registry but was removed in 2015.

The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce has announced its 2023 Citizen of the Year. Vince Witherup will have that honor bestowed upon him during the Venango Chamber's annual dinner on Wednesday, February 21st. In a recent press release, the chamber summarized their choice by calling Mr. Witherup "the embodiment of an exemplary citizen, possessing natural leadership skills, a genuine interest in others, and a strong desire to give back to the community."

The Pennsylvania State Police are investigating a burglary near the borough of Girard and asking for help from the public. Last Thursday, December 14th, residents of a home on Cross Station Road reported the theft of \$1,500 cash, two Xbox game consoles, and a pair of golden earrings. Anyone with information about the theft should call the Pennsylvania State Police in Girard at (814)774-9611.

PennDOT has reduced the speed limits on Interstates 79 and 90 in Erie County to 45 miles per hour due to winter weather causing slippery surfaces and poor visibility. At press time a number of school districts are operating on two hour delays due to the weather, Operation Weather alert has details on Facebook and at this station's website.

There's less than a month left to register for PA's insurance exchange PENNIE and compare policies for you and your family by visiting [PENNIE.com](https://www.pennie.com) or by calling (1-844)440-4440.

## **December 20<sup>th</sup>**

A Kennerdell man has been charged with multiple crimes after attempting to flee from police in Venango County. 27-year-old Erik Turnbull chose to flee from members of the Pennsylvania State Police when they attempted to pull him over for having an expired inspection on Saturday, December 9th. After leading the authorities for seven miles through Rockland Township he finally pulled over and surrendered. It was after that, police discovered Turnbull was driving under the influence in an unregistered vehicle; he has been charged with felony DUI and fleeing and eluding police as well as multiple summary charges, and has been remanded to Venango County Jail without bail.

Through Pennsylvania's Neighborhood Assistance Program, local businesses have awarded \$22,000 to nonprofits in Mercer County. NAP provides tax credits for local businesses that contribute to nonprofit and charitable organizations Mercer's Community Food Warehouse received \$8,250 to cover costs related to storing and distributing food, while \$13,750 was given to the Community Action Partnership of Mercer County.

Erie County temporarily lost its primary radio system for 9-1-1 dispatch for a few hours last night. According to the County's Chief Information Officer, Chris Carrol, a human error made during routine maintenance disabled the entire system for a few hours. During that time the 9-1-1 call center was still open and communicating with first responders through alternative means. The radio service was restored by 8:20 p.m. and operations resumed as normal.

Several students of St. Stephen's Lutheran Academy were injured when a school bus slid into a ditch yesterday morning. At about 9:15 a.m. the bus became stuck in a ditch while on the way to Utica; the driver was able to free the bus from the ditch and finish the trip where they called for emergency services. Several children were transported to a nearby hospital for the treatment of some minor injuries and all the parents of the students were informed of the incident. There were no details about the number of students who were injured or the injuries suffered at press time.

## **December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Portions of Interstate 80 were closed for about 3 hours due to the buildup of nearly 20 tons of ice cream after a tractor-trailer rolled into its side on the Emlenton Bridge at the Venango and Clarion County line. The crash à la mode, as it was called by the Emlenton Fire Department, happened at around 12:45 a.m. on Wednesday morning, turning the Westbound lane of I-80 into a rocky road. Authorities say there were no injuries reported by the driver of the truck and traffic flow was restored to the area shortly before 4 a.m.

Attorney General Michelle Henry announced that Pennsylvania residents will be the recipients of a little more than \$20.5 million from a recent settlement with Google. The money is PA's share of a \$700 million settlement made with all 50 states and US Territories. Eligible PA residents will be notified through the email account they use for services on Android phones. Settlements will average around \$2 apiece.

## December 22<sup>nd</sup>

A missing child from Oil City was found dead in the basement of the apartment building where he lived, a suspect is in custody. The mother's boyfriend, Trevaughn Stribling-Jackson has been charged with the murder of the two-year-old victim as well as other crimes. Oil City Police discovered the child's remains shortly after his mother reported him missing on Wednesday, she told police she had last seen her child Monday afternoon before leaving for work; when she returned late at night nine hours later he was gone. Stribling-Jackson, who fled from Washington County after being charged with robbery and other felonies, was denied bail in Venango County by Judge Matthew Kirtland.

PennDOT has sent out reminders that all Driver's License and Photo Centers will be closed tomorrow and on Monday for the Christmas Holiday. PennDOT can still offer almost a full suite of services online at [DMV.PA.gov](https://www.dmv.pa.gov) where residents can accomplish nearly everything short of photography and taking a driver's test 24/7 with no extra fees.

## December 27<sup>th</sup>

The Oil City Police are searching for a 46-year-old man who went missing on Christmas Eve. Aubrey Walters went missing from his home in Oil City on Christmas Eve according to his family. He is a white male said to be about 6'1", he has a slim build and a shaved head; in a photograph distributed by the Oil City Police Department Aubrey appears to have blue eyes and brown hair. Oil City Police Lt. Cory Ruditis is heading this investigation and if you have any information about the whereabouts of Aubrey Walters please call for Lt. Ruditis at (814)678-3080.

Daniel Briere, son of the Philadelphia Flyer's General Manager, who was caught on a viral video pushing an Erie woman's wheelchair down the stairs of a Pub earlier this year was sentenced in court last week. The 24-year-old former Mercyhurst hockey player and another student were sentenced to 15 months of probation as part of the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program after pleading guilty to criminal mischief.

Last week, a Stoneboro man pleaded guilty to one count of theft of government property while in a Federal Court in Erie. 42-year-old Martin Kobsik is an investment banker, formerly from Prudential, who took out a \$150,000 COVID-19 Disaster Assistance Loan from the Small Business Administration and admitted in court that he used the money for a vacation and to make improvements to his home rather than keep his business running. Kobsik could face a 10-year prison sentence and/or a fine of up to \$250,000 during his sentencing in April.

In State News, a California resident was arrested by Federal Agents in relation to SWATting incidents in Pennsylvania. The act of SWATting involves calling the police in order to anonymously report a criminal threat in a home, business, or school and initiate a police response. 19-year-old Nathaniel Deleaon of Tulare California was arrested on Friday for making several such calls in Pennsylvania's Cumberland and Franklin Counties; allegedly in an effort to harass a teenage girl he had met online.

## **December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Titusville's Veterans Memorial was destroyed on the morning of Christmas Eve. On Sunday, a driver in a pickup truck collided with the memorial near the center of town at a high rate of speed, entirely destroying portions of the structure. The nearly 20-year-old memorial was erected in 2004 to commemorate every man and woman from Titusville who served in the armed forces. Local veterans and city officials are hopeful that the memorial can be reconstructed.

November's unemployment rate for Pennsylvania was still a record low 3.4% for the third month in a row, according to the Department of Labor and Industry. L&I reports an increase of 10,900 nonfarm jobs in PA and that 2,000 people have entered the workforce and are looking for employment. A new record of 6,178,700 PA residents are currently employed and the unemployment rate has decreased by a full percentage point since last year. The national unemployment rate has decreased by 0.2% to 3.7%.

The Pennsylvania State Police released the results of their Christmas weekend enforcement period. PSP says the department responded to significantly fewer vehicle crashes than it did last year; Troopers were called to 404 accidents as opposed to 661 in 2022. Three people suffered fatal injuries in three fatal crashes, down from seven last year, and there was about a 33% decrease in reported injuries - 70 as opposed to last year's 113. The number of alcohol-related crashes was the same at 36, unlike last year none of them were fatal; DUI arrests were up to 198 from 116.

Troop E which covers Erie, Crawford, Warren, and Venango Counties reported a single injury in 15 crashes and one substance related crash with 16 DUI stops. Troop E issued nearly 200 speeding tickets over three days, the most in any part of the state. Troop D which covers Lawrence and Mercer Counties reported only eight crashes with a single injury, two involved drugs or alcohol; there were 12 DUI stops.

## **December 29<sup>th</sup>**

Police are investigating a burglary in the town of Spartansburg. Shortly before Christmas, on Tuesday, December 19th, the owner of a home on Glydenn Road left with his family for about an hour, between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., and returned to find someone had broken in. A small black safe containing personal documents was stolen from the residence as well as a black leather wallet and \$2,950 cash. Anybody who may have information about this burglary is being asked to call the Pennsylvania State Police in Corry at (814)663-2043.

An Edinboro Police Officer is suing Cambridge Springs PD in Federal Court over harassment charges filed against him in August. Harassment charges against Officer William Winkler were dismissed in District Court for lack of evidence back in October, but he is not done with the case. Earlier this month Mr. Winkler filed a suit against the Cambridge Springs PD alleging the department violated his rights by bringing a criminal case against him without sufficient evidence, he also accuses the officer who cited him of defaming his character with personal remarks made to other officers in his department.