

Hoby Recipient For Women's Club Of Pen Argyl

By Diane Cascioli

PEN ARGYL - Madison Dietz, daughter of Matthew and Lori Dietz of Pen Argyl has been chosen as a recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Award. Madison will attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth seminar. Madison will have an opportunity to meet with and learn from forerunners in the political, corporate and scientific fields.

Madison was selected based upon her character, leadership skills and academic achievement. She was selected on the recommendations of her teachers and the guidance counselor.

Madison participates in soccer, cross country and track and field. She also is a member of the Leo Club and is a class officer.



Pennsylvania Lagging In School-Based Mental Health Support

By Danielle Smith - Keystone Stste News Service

PENNA. - As young people struggle with mental health issues, schools often provide the best avenue for getting them help. However, Pennsylvania has fallen behind in providing services to students.

A mental health report card for Pennsylvania found more than 57,000 children with major depression did not receive treatment.

Kate Fox, behavioral health policy coordinator with the advocacy group Children First PA, said schools are vital for identifying mental health warning signs and intervening early and emphasized the need for systemwide, sustainable reforms to create a workforce pipeline for diverse mental health professionals to support children in and out of schools.



"If you see on the Hopeful Future school mental health report card for Pennsylvania, we have really low staffing ratios for school mental health professionals," Fox reported. "We have only one school psychologist for every 997 students."

Fox pointed out the report card showed only one school social worker for every 3416 students, compared to a recommended ratio of one for every 250. Fox noted access to school-based mental health services in Pennsylvania varies significantly, largely due to funding disparities. Wealthier districts generally offer more robust support compared with underfunded districts.

Angela Kimball, chief advocacy officer for the mental health advocacy organization Inseparable, said schools provide a range of mental health services, tailored to individual needs, with the goal of supporting student success. Research demonstrates youths who receive school-based mental health services are six times more likely to complete a full course of treatment compared with those relying solely on community-based care.

"School mental health not only helps students be healthy, it also helps them learn, and it helps make them better able to go on to higher education or on to working," Kimball outlined. "This is something that has long-term benefits."

Kimball added states are increasing investments in school mental health professionals, expanding workforce development programs and enhancing telemedicine mental health services. They are also adding care coordinators to help families access services, wellness coaches for brief support and young-adult peer mentors for guidance.

Game Commission Provides Avian Influenza Information, Coleman Says

By Robert Arena

HARRISBURG – Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R-16) is sharing tips to stay healthy and minimize the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) following the Pennsylvania Game Commission's announcement that it is the suspected cause of death for wild geese in the Lehigh Valley.

"As geese and other waterfowl migrate through our area, it's important to know what to do if we see sick or dead birds," said Coleman. "The Game Commission has provided some steps the public can take to help them track and manage any illness among wildlife."

To best protect the health of wildlife, domestic animals and humans, the Game Commission asks the public to assist them by doing the following:

Report sick or dead wild birds to the commission by calling 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453), emailing pgc-wildlifehealth@pa.gov or using the online Wildlife Health Survey tool.

Dispose of a dead wild bird found on your property – if the Game Commission hasn't responded within 24 hours – by burial or commercial/residential trash. Both methods will protect scavenging wildlife. If electing to dispose of the carcass, the following guidance is provided:

Before picking up the wild bird carcass, put on either disposable or washable gloves. If gloves are unavailable, a plastic bag can be used as a makeshift glove.

If performing on-site burial, a burial hole at least two feet deep will discourage scavenging. Do not bury the carcass in an area that could contaminate a water supply.

If disposing of the carcass in commercial/residential trash, place the carcass in a plastic bag along with any disposal gloves that were used. Then place everything in a second plastic bag before disposal.

Once disposal is complete, immediately wash your hands and any non-disposable gloves that were used.

Because HPAI impacts more than just wildlife, please also report any sick or dead domestic bird to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at 717-772-2852. Anyone who isn't feeling well after having contact with sick or dead birds is encouraged to contact their primary care physician or the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 877-724-3258.

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www.familiesfirstpenargyl.org,
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Families First of Pen Argyl provides service, programs, resources, and an environment in which family members in the Pen Argyl Area School District are assisted towards a better quality of life.