

Slate Belt 'PAL' (Police Activities League)



Volunteers of the Slate Belt Regional Police



Janell Connolly Co-Chair of Slate Belt Rising

By Michael Ortoski

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP - Janell Connolly Co-Chair of Slate Belt Rising (SBR) and chair of the Youth Engagement committee spoke at the Slate Belt Regional Police Department Commission meeting on Thursday night about a new Slate Belt Rising initiative called the Slate Belt PAL (Police Activities League) Program.

Connolly explained that The National PAL Chapter requires the Chief's of involved departments to support the efforts in order to move forward. Connolly is happy to report that not only does the initiative have the support of both Bangor Chief, Scott Felchock and Slate Belt Regional Chief, David Mettin-but also a verbal commitment from Washington Twp Chief, Scott Miller; East Bangor and Portland Chief, Robert Mulligan; and Bangor School District Chief, David Strawn. "In addition to the support from our law enforcement

agencies, we have made contact with almost every Volunteer Fire Department, and Youth Centered Organization in the region-we're excited to work with them all" Connolly went on to say.

"The Slate Belt PAL will serve to supplement and strengthen youth sports programs already in operation and offer new options for youth not already engaged by offering leadership training, mentoring, day camps at our many natural attractions, free and low cost events throughout the region and opportunities in the arts and sciences.

We invite you to "follow" the Slate Belt PAL Facebook page which will post all future activities. <https://www.facebook.com/slatebeltpal>" said Connolly.

Slate Belt Rising's Youth Engagement Committee has been busy in the last year. In addition to providing funding and volunteer

hours creating the PAL, they created and implemented a new Girls Field Hockey Program, which serves young people from both Pen Argyl and Bangor School Districts, and helped equip a computer Lab with four stations at the HUB, a youth and community outreach program in Downtown Bangor.

For more information or to volunteer, find the PAL at www.slatebeltpal.org and find Slate Belt Rising at www.slatebeltrising.org

Visit www.bluevalleytimes.com

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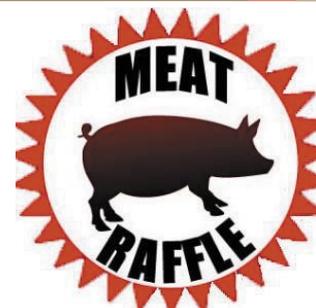
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To Protect and Serve

By Connor Kupres / Pen Argyl H.S. Intern

PEN ARGYL- A new face in the Pen Argyl Area High School hallways has been creating quite a buzz this year. Officer Joseph Torre was assigned to us since the start of the year.

Officer Torre started his thirteen year long career as part of the Hellertown PD, "After a few months with Hellertown I took a job with the Plainfield police department," says Officer Torre. "Then last year it merged into Slate Belt regional and I have been there since." Before his time as an officer of the law, Officer Torre was a student athlete at Phillipsburg High School playing football and baseball.

"My freshman year, our baseball team only lost one, we went undefeated all the way through districts without a loss" Torre continues, "The only thing I never got to experience on the topic of high school sports was to beat Easton in football, I imagine that would have been a great memory."

After High school, Officer Torre studied Criminal Justice at Northampton Community College. He soon would attend and complete the police academy. Adding to the list of accomplishments, Officer Torre is now an expecting father "I would consider myself an outdoor and family man. In my free time I enjoy hunting and fishing and generally being outdoors." He continues, "But most of all I enjoy spending time with my family and friends."



Inside the school, Officer Torre spends most of his time in his soon to be office, across from the library in room B104. Everyday Torre "takes rounds around school to make sure everything is running smoothly."

The route is never the same though. "I change up the route and my time at certain high traffic areas to prevent myself from developing a pattern, this will maximize my effectiveness in case of emergency." When he is not walking around the school, Officer Torre is doing what he calls "School Security Assessments, or SSA's." He continues, "If you remember Officer Long in the middle school, that is the kind of thing he would do, but this is just on a bigger scale because there are more kids who older and will understand if a situation is dangerous."

With training he received over the summer to implement the new lockdowns, there were more things that were learned from the class. "Over the summer the course I took allowed me to bring some ideas to the school, such as giving a school map to headquarters so the police not in the building have an idea of where they are. Now instead of waiting for backup we are going in to control the situation as fast as possible." He continues with "what else is new there, is now an enter by any means necessary policy." This policy allows for Officer Torre or any other policeman to enter the building or any room in the building without a key if the situation requires it.

Officer Torre is here to help the school in his words, "Don't be afraid to come up and talk or tell me things, I am approachable, a good listener, and will do everything in my power to help you." He continues, "There is also a confidentiality agreement between cops and minors so anything said stays in the office."

Giving the Gift of Life

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - Legislation that would help encourage organ and tissue donation in Pennsylvania is now on the governor's desk. Senate Bill 180, which unanimously passed the House last week, would expand the list of those persons authorized to decide on behalf of a decedent whether his or her organs are donated.

Among other provisions, it would also permit a minimally invasive blood or tissue test to be conducted to determine the suitability of a donor; call for education regarding organ and tissue donation and transplantation for high school students, as well as nursing and medical students; and increase the voluntary contribution made by citizens from \$1 to \$3 for driver's license and vehicle registration renewals.

Currently, more than 800 Pennsylvanians are waiting for an organ transplant.

PennDOT has partnered with the Department of Health in cooperation with the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE) and The Gift of Life Donor Program in an effort to promote organ and tissue donation awareness.

When you visit any of PennDOT's Photo License Centers to get your photo taken for a driver's license or identification (ID) card, you may choose to have the "Organ Donor" designation printed on your product. Customers under the age of 18 are required to have consent of a parent or guardian. There is no additional fee to have this designation placed on your driver's license or ID card at the time the photo is taken.

You can also register online to become an organ donor. The entire process takes less than 90 seconds and has the potential to save or enhance many lives. Once the organ donor designation is added, you will receive a confirmation card, which must be carried with you until the time of your driver's license or identification card renewal.

Veterans Day Ceremony

By Bob Washock

BANGOR- The Bangor & Roseto American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Order of the Elks will be holding a Veterans Day remembrance ceremony on Saturday November 10th at 10AM at Memorial Park on Eisenhart Blvd, Bangor PA by the pool entrance.

If you have questions about publishing this contact Bob Washock 484-894-0767



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