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Lafayette College Hosts Former Congressman, RNC Chair In Bipartisan Discussion



Photo by Andreas Pelekis

By Andreas Pelekis, News Editor

EASTON - The 90-minute Q&A session focused on bipartisan issues.

Lafayette College invited two prominent political figures to campus on Monday: Michael Steele, the former chair of the Republican National Committee and MSNBC political analyst, and Harold Ford, the former Tennessee 9th district representative and co-host of "The Five" on Fox News.

College President Nicole Hurd moderated a 90-minute Q&A session with the pair. The event in Colton Chapel drew over 100 guests, including students, faculty, staff and community members.

Steele, a Republican, and Ford, a Democrat, concentrated on bipartisan issues. Among the topics discussed were higher education, party division and the various outcomes for the country come Inauguration Day.

Former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democrat nominee, are neck-and-neck in recent Wednesday polls, according to The New York Times.

"Are there any issues that you believe both parties can actually find common ground?" Hurd asked Steele and Ford after a student initially posed the question.

Ford predicted that under a Trump presidency, the government could agree on affairs with China and work on limited tax cuts and trade. Under Harris, Ford thought the administration could promote bipartisan solutions to gun control.

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Slate Belt Rising Unveils Completed 'Painted Kayaks of Portland' Project as Route 611 Expected to Reopen in November

By Brian Fenstermaker / Director, Slate Belt Rising

Portland, PA – Slate Belt Rising is thrilled to announce the completion of the "Painted Kayaks of Portland" project, a public art installation now displayed throughout Portland Borough. As the community prepares for the expected reopening of Route 611 in November, this project aims to attract visitors and restore local pride after the challenges posed by the road's closure.

The kayaks, generously donated to Slate Belt Rising by Edge of the Woods Outfitters, were painted by local artist Sarah Lanier, who also completed the 2023 Portland mural on the side of the Portland Auto Repair building. Over the summers of 2021 and 2022, Lanier transformed the kayaks into vivid depictions of Portland's natural beauty and historic charm, particularly along the Delaware River. While the kayaks had only been displayed a few times before, they are now a seasonal attraction available for residents and visitors to enjoy throughout much of the year, with the exception of the winter months.

The project was completed thanks to a Main Street grant from the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

There are seven kayaks in total, spread throughout the Borough. Their locations are mapped as part of another Slate Belt Rising initiative, the Slate Belt Heritage & Art Trail. You can view the locations of the kayaks and other

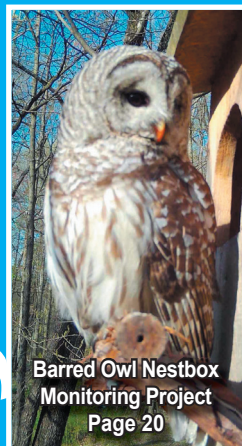
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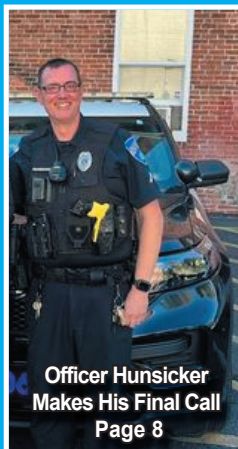
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