

Blue Valley Times

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SBRP Chief Mettin Recognized as Special Olympic World Games Volunteer



L-R Senator Mario Scavello, SBRP Chief Dave Mettin, State Rep. Marcia Hahn. Metten was presented citations for his volunteer work for the Special Olympics

By Michael Ortoski
PLAINFIELD TWSP. - Last week Slate Belt Regional Chief Dave Mettin was recognized by the community and the SBRP board as a volunteer for the Special Olympics World Games on his trip to United Arab Emirates.

Chief was asked by CEO of the Special Olympics organization to help carry the 'Flame of Hope' in Special Olympics games which was a "trip of a lifetime" according to Mettin.

Mettin was one of 50 officers selected to participate. "I was one of 50 officers that are going out there representing not only Special Olympics, but law enforcement in the United States, law enforcement in Pennsylvania, and the Slate belt area. So I'm very proud to be a part of it," Mettin said.

Many of the community were on hand to congratulate him along with his family, Wife Jenny, Sons Tyler and Alec and daughter Victoria.

State Senator Mario Scavello and State Rep. Marcia Hahn presented Mettin with citations from both the Senate and the House for dedicating himself to such a worthy cause as the Special Olympics.

Their was food and a cake after all the speeches that read 'congratulations and happy birthday' coincidentally.

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Slate Belt Rising Receives \$100,000 From Community Partners

By Michael Ortoski
Plainfield Township - Representatives from the Grand Central Sanitary Landfill and Merchant's Bank presented \$50,000 each as part of their six-year commitment of funds to Slate Belt Rising at a check presentation that took place on Wednesday afternoon at Grand Central Landfill's main office.

Slate Belt Rising the state's first multi-municipal Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The program is focused on investing in and revitalizing the boroughs of Bangor, Pen Argyl, Portland and Wind Gap.

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Brian Fenstermaker (Office of Senator Scavello), Stephanie Steele (Co-Chair, Slate Belt Rising), Stephen Reider (Director, Slate Belt Rising), Rocco Del Vecchio (CEO, Merchants Bank) Adrienne Fors (Waste Mgmt.) Larry Rice (Senior Vice President, Chief Credit Officer, Merchants Bank of Bangor)



Brian Fenstermaker (Office of Senator Scavello), Stephanie Steele (Co-Chair, Slate Belt Rising Steering), Stephen Reider (Director, Slate Belt Rising), Adrienne Fors (Waste Management), Joe Statile (District Manager, Grand Central Landfill) Larry Rice (Merchants Bank)



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Northampton County Is Under Quarantine Spotted Lanternfly Permits Needed For Business

By Becky Bartlet

EASTON - Lamont McClure reminds local businesses that Northampton County is under quarantine for the Spotted Lanternfly along with Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Schuylkill counties. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has the authority to regulate the transfer of commodities moving within or leaving the quarantine zone.

"Any business transporting goods or services in Northampton County needs to obtain a Spotted Lanternfly permit," says Lamont McClure. "This invasive species poses a great threat to our agricultural community. We all need to work together to prevent it from spreading."

Beginning May 1, 2019, the Bureau of Plant Industry will begin performing inspections and verification checks to confirm that businesses are properly permitted. Failure to take the permit exam and educate employees can result in possible fines and penalties.

Only businesses which move products within or out of the quarantine zone are required to get permits. The Department of Agriculture has a page to help determine if a permit is required: https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/quarantine/Pages/Do-I-Need-a-Permit.aspx

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper from China and was first discovered in the United States in Berks County in 2014. Experts believe this to be the worst invasive pest since the introduction of the gypsy moth nearly 150 years ago. The Spotted Lanternfly threatens \$18 billion of PA agricultural products, affecting apples, cherries, grapes, hops, peaches, plums and ornamental and hardwood trees.



VFW Post 739 Bangor, Pennsylvania



Banquet Facility Rentals

We have a selection of various facilities that are seasonal and available year round. Most have a capacity of at least 200 guests with ample parking.

The Banquet Hall is 3600 sq. ft. air conditioned, with high ceilings, elevated stage with sound system, catering kitchen, bingo machine and walk up wet bar, all fully handicap accessible.

The Outdoor 'Grove' has 3100 sq. ft. that has a covered pavilion, full kitchen, bar, band/DJ stage, dance floor and newly installed ceiling fans for those hot days. For outdoor fun they also have horse shoe pits, gazebo, volleyball, large yard area for lots of fun & games.

202 Veterans Road Bangor, Pa.

Our Bar is Now 'SMOKE FREE' 610-588-5555

2020 Census Hiring Thousands of Workers

By Michael Ortoski

HARRISBURG, Pa. -- The 2020 Census Day is April 1 of next year, but opportunities are opening up now to help ensure the count is a success. The Census Bureau is charged with counting every person living in the United States once each decade. It's a massive undertaking with important consequences, including distribution of federal funds and drawing congressional district lines. (contd.) Podcast and entire story available: <https://www.newsservice.org/index.php>

Slate Belt Rising

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Slate Belt Rising Director Stephen Reider and members of the Slate Belt Rising Steering Committee were present to accept the contributions. "I would like to thank Waste Management and Merchant's Bank for their generosity and continued support of the Slate Belt Rising program I look forward to continuing to work with them and all of our partners to make our program a success," said Reider.

Other Slate Belt Rising sponsors and partners include ESSA Bank & Trust, Lafayette Ambassador Bank, and Northampton County.

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