Altoona Mirror

PENN STATE GAMEDAY INSIDE TODAY

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Newburg takeover of Pinecroft OK'd

Judge approves merger of fire companies

By William Kibler
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Blair County Judge David Consiglio recently approved the absorption of Pinecroft Volunteer Fire Company of Antis Township by the Newburg Volunteer Fire Department of Logan Township, with Newburg taking over Pinecroft's building, apparatus and equipment.

Consiglio approved the transfer of the Pinecroft assets in spite of opposition from Antis Township, which argued that those assets should remain with Antis, based on their having been financed in large part by money from township residents.

Pinecroft is merging with Newburg in the aftermath of Pinecroft being decertified by the Antis supervisors for refusing to be absorbed by the Excelsior Fire Department of Bellwood — a borough surrounded by Antis Township.

A merger of those two companies had been recommended by each of two fire service studies conducted for Antis by the state within the previous several years.

The supervisors considered Excelsior the stronger of the two, based on call history and levels of firefighter training.

Despite Consiglio's ruling in favor of Pinecroft, the company remains decertified, and as a firefighting unit, its identity has disappeared into Newburg's.

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DIGGING DEEP



Mirror photo by Patrick Waksmunski

Tom Sell shovels soil to his wheelbarrow as part of planting new grass at his neighbor's home along East Fir Street in Hollidaysburg on Thursday afternoon. Sell maintains the lawn duties.

PSU sued by Trump admin

In-state tuition policy for some immigrants challenged

By Heather Hollingsworth
The Associated Press

The Department of Justice filed a complaint Thursday against Penn State challenging its policy of offering in-state tuition rates to some immigrants in the country illegally, part of a sweeping crackdown by President Donald Trump's administration.

Two dozen states once offered the tuition breaks, which often had bipartisan support. But as the Trump administration began suing last year, the policies ended in places including Kentucky, Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Florida. More recent challenges have focused on individual schools, including a lawsuit filed last month against the University of Delaware.

A Penn State spokesperson said the university was aware of the complaint and reviewing it.

The suit against Penn State, which has 86,000 students, comes as the nation looks for clues about how education and immigration policy might shift after a bruising midterm election rout for Republicans.

The federal government argues federal law prevents states from providing preferential benefits to immigrants in the U.S. illegally, regardless of whether or not they meet residency requirements.

"The Department of Justice today continues its efforts to ensure that no state law or university policy gives preferential treatment to illegal aliens over our Nation's own citizens," Stanley Woodward, a top Justice Department official, said in a news release.

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Gun rights advocate expects sales surge

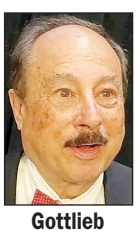
By Greg Bishop
The Center Square

Expect a surge of gun sales, but also gun control legislation, after Tuesday's dominance by Democrats in the U.S. Congress and in various states where the power is shifting to liberal politicians.

That's according to Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

Tuesday's election saw Democrats win seats across the country. Gun control groups heralded the wins.

"This wave of progress flipped control of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, a rare shift seen only twice before in the last 70 years," said a statement from Brady United, a gun control advocacy group that endorses candidates for elected office. "We witnessed red, blue, and purple states and districts across the country reject the Trump administration's assault on public safety and the lawmakers who push deadly policies that prioritize gun industry profits over people's lives."



Gottlieb

But, Gottlieb said it's not just control of Congress Democrats won, they also are set to snag trifectas in states like Pennsylvania and Arizona.

"We're going to have a few more states that we're going to have to deal with where we're going to have some problems, particularly places like the state of Arizona and Pennsylvania," Gottlieb told The States Thursday in a virtual interview. "Arizona's gone from a great gun right state right now to a very anti-gun state overnight. Pennsylvania, you know, that now the trifecta on the government controlled by the Democrats in Pennsylvania, many of which are anti gun and are going to push all kinds of gun control measures.

Everytown, another gun control group, celebrated Arizona elections.

"Arizona voters flipped the State House of Representatives and the State Senate to a Gun Sense Majority!" the group posted on social media Wednesday. "This critical victory comes after thousands of our volunteers, supporters, and gun violence survivors connected with Arizona voters about the stakes of gun safety in this election."

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State may require court filers to verify AI citations

By Angela Couloumbis
Spotlight PA

HARRISBURG — "Always double-check your work."

Most people have heard this simple but sage advice at some point in their lives, whether from a grade school teacher, a college professor, or a supervisor at work.

Now, as the use of artificial intelligence skyrockets, a committee that advises the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is weighing whether lawyers and other filers who use that tech should have to certify they double-checked the authenticity of citations and information in legal documents.

Failure to comply could result in sanctions ranging from a reprimand to fines to outright dismissal of a case, according to a proposed notice published last month in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, the state's weekly gazette for government proposals for new rules, regulations, and other information.

SPOTLIGHT PA

The Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence said it wants to make all court filers aware that generative AI can produce "inaccurate, misleading, or fabricated information," such as erroneous legal citations or quotations.

Those filers, including lawyers and people representing themselves, must "thoroughly review" the accuracy of any AI-generated content in court documents before submitting them, and certify compliance with the requirement. That includes checking summaries of legal principles as well as all legal citations and quotes.

The proposal would effectively place the accuracy burden on humans, rather than technology.

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