

THE MORNING CALL

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Aria and Vashanna Johnson make crafts Friday at the Allentown Art Museum in Allentown. **EVERY FOLMAR PHOTOS/THE MORNING CALL**

Trump to visit Lehigh Valley

President to speak at Mack Trucks in Lower Macungie Tuesday

By Chris Dornblaser and Evan Jones
THE MORNING CALL

President Donald Trump will visit the Lehigh Valley next week.

The president will speak at the Mack Trucks facility in Lower Macungie Township on Tuesday. The registration website states the event will begin at 2 p.m.

U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser announced the visit in a post on social media.

"Mack Trucks are a symbol of America's manufacturing strength," Meuser said on Facebook. "Their Lehigh Valley operations are a pillar of the local economy, employing Pennsylvania workers and driving the nation's trucking industry."

During his own visit to a Mack Trucks site on Friday, Lehigh Valley Rep. Ryan Mackenzie also confirmed the visit.

Mackenzie was at Mack Defense's facility in Allentown to announce a \$47 million defense contract to produce heavy dump trucks for the U.S. Army through the end of 2027. The extension will help preserve 100 jobs at the plant next to Queen City Airport.

Mackenzie said the White House began looking for a location for the president to visit in the Lehigh Valley or the Poconos within the last week.

"We provided a number of suggestions

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"Mack Trucks are a symbol of America's manufacturing strength. Their Lehigh Valley operations are a pillar of the local economy, employing Pennsylvania workers and driving the nation's trucking industry."

U.S. REP. DAN MEUSER ON FACEBOOK

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

Lehigh Valley residents marked the Juneteenth holiday Friday with arts and crafts at the Allentown Art Museum and outdoor fun at the city's Arts Park. The museum hosted its annual celebration by exhibiting and showcasing African art, along with inviting people to craft in the art room. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States.



Above: Tabitha Perez paints Ken Simon's face at the Juneteenth celebration Friday at Arts Park in Allentown.



Right: Lyrica Abner Schuler hula hoops at the celebration Friday.

Allentown approves data center ordinance

Some criticized bill's regulations as too lenient

By Lindsay Weber
THE MORNING CALL

In a vote following hours of public comment, Allentown City Council approved a bill regulating where data centers may be developed across the city.

The vote on Bill 20 was 4-2, with Santo Napoli, Cynthia Mota, Jeremy Binder and Cristian Pungo voting in favor. Ce-Ce Gerlach and Natalie Santos voted against it.

The zoning ordinance allows data centers in two of the city's three "industrial" zoning districts. Data centers are permitted by "special exception" only, which means that each proposal will receive a public hearing and vote by the city's zoning hearing board.

Under the ordinance, data centers are not allowed within 75 feet of the right of way of a public street, or 200 feet of any residen-

tial, civic or childcare areas. The ordinance also requires robust landscaping around the perimeter, and thorough environmental, noise and waterway studies and reviews from the developer before any approval from the city.

The vote followed an unsuccessful push for a "municipal curative amendment" from Gerlach, which would have rejected the measure and instead given the city's planning staff a 180-day deadline to come up with a stricter law regulating data centers.

Several members of the public also urged the city to approve the curative amendment proposal, arguing that the ordinance did not go far enough to limit data centers in Allentown.

"I know that everyone in this room is concerned about new data center proposals coming in if (Bill 20) is in place, but that is why we need this curative amendment," said Alicia Ruthrauff, a downtown Allentown

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The transformation to Center Square continued June 2 in downtown Allentown. Unlike previous bills, a recently proposed bill will have a component to enhance small businesses in the NIZ with an assistance program. State Sen. Nick Miller said it's similar to programs in the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone. **APRIL GAMIZ/THE MORNING CALL**

Legislation to open NIZ's tax records adds small-business program section

By Evan Jones
THE MORNING CALL

Another attempt will be made in the Pennsylvania Legislature to allow independent auditors to access tax information in Allentown's Neighborhood Improvement Zone. Included this time around is a section to enhance small businesses in the unique tax subsidy district.

State Sen. Nick Miller, D-Lehigh, said he will introduce legislation "that will enhance transparency, accountability and small business development" in the NIZ, which includes an area along Hamilton Street in

the downtown and the Lehigh riverfront. State Rep. Ana Tiburcio, D-Lehigh, will introduce a companion bill in the House of Representatives. The NIZ is part of both Miller's and Tiburcio's districts.

In 2025, Senate Bill 367 was introduced by Sen. Jarrett Coleman, R-Lehigh, and co-sponsored by Miller. It passed unanimously, but stalled in a House committee.

"As a lifelong Allentown resident, former Allentown School Board member and someone who has invested in and owned real estate in our city, I understand both

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FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 Mexico beats South Korea in front of home crowd

Mexico becomes the first team to advance to the knockout stage of the World Cup on Thursday, sending fans onto the streets across the country to celebrate. **Sports, C1**

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