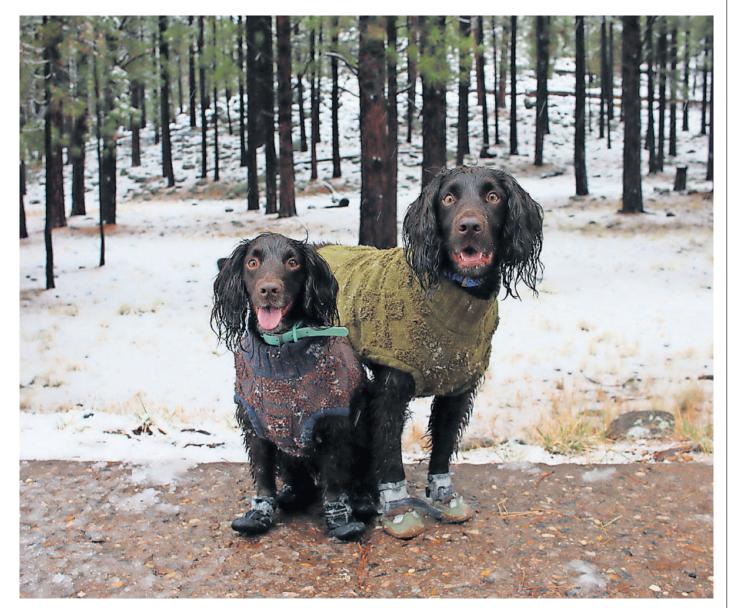


ADMIRAL SPEAKS

AN ADMIRAL COMMANDING MILITARY STRIKES ON AN ALLEGED DRUG BOAT IN THE CARIBBEAN TELLS LAWMAKERS THERE WAS NO "KILL THEM ALL" ORDER FROM THE DEFENSE SECRETARY. B1

EXTREME WEATHER

Don't forget pets when preparing for winter's cold



Two English cocker spaniel dogs wear waterproof collars, sweaters and dog booties before playing in the first snow of the season in Flagstaff, Arizona, in November. Photos by Cheyanne Mumphrey, Associated Press

These tips help you mitigate the chilling effects of snow, rain, wind and ice.

Cheyanne Mumphrey Associated Press

At wintry weather settles in, it brings risks for pets as well as people. Pet owners can take steps to keep their animals warm and safe, including learning about the dangers of extreme temperatures, buying weather-resistant accessories, and stocking up on extra supplies in case of power outages or storms.

'The best time to prepare for weather is before you have that weather," said Dr. Michael Bailey, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. "The same thing you would do for children in your house, do for your pet."

That means understanding the signs of hypothermia and frostbite, avoiding antifreeze and de-icing chemicals, and taking steps to mitigate the effects of snow, rain, wind and ice.

CAUTION NEEDED IN THE COLD



Mild hypothermia can begin when dogs' body temperature drops below 98 degrees, according to the American Animal **Hospital Association.**

Many cities around the U.S. can get cold enough in the early mornings to pose a threat to pets who are smaller, older or have

health concerns. When you think of dogs, you think, well, they already have a fur coat, so they should be fine in the cold, but that isn't necessar-It's not just the Midwest and Northeast ily true," said Amy Hrin, with the American that should prepare for freezing weather. Humane Society. It depends on the breed,

size and age of the pet, and also temperature and wind chill.

Dogs are at risk of frostbite once the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, experts say, especially if they are damp or wet, which could leave paws, ears and tails more vulnerable. That is not usually life-threatening, but hypothermia, which often follows, can be deadly if

Mild hypothermia can begin when dogs' body temperature drops below 98 F, according to the American Animal Hospital Association. Signs can include delayed reflexes, or increased heart rate or breathing followed by a slow heart rate or shallow breath. Experts suggest immediate veterinarian care, which includes gradual rewarming efforts.

Another concern is de-icing salts and chemicals, which can burn, dry out or irritate paw pads. They can also cause indigestion if the animal licks its paws. There are pet-friendly options for sidewalk salts, but don't assume your neighbors or city officials are using those. The American Humane Society says booties, cleaning paws after walks and applying paw balms can mitigate these risks.

Antifreeze is another toxin pets could encounter outside or even in the garage. SEE ANIMALS, A2

EXTREME WEATHER

As temperatures drop, emergency shelters open

The cold-weather shelters are a seasonal answer to a persistent homeless problem that's been exacerbated in recent years.

Charles Thompson

cthompson@pennlive.com

Winter weather is just getting started in Pennsylvania.

But in a tangible way, the worst of the cold weather season might have just passed for some homeless people in the midstate.

INSIDE

Seven-day forecast. B6

That's because, as of Monday, shortterm cold weather shelters were opened by nonprofits and faith-based organizations in a number of cities and towns across the

The cold weather shelters are a seasonal answer to a persistent homeless problem that's been exacerbated in recent years by

steadily rising rental prices. Hard numbers aren't always easy to

But statewide, sheltered and unsheltered

homeless counts as recorded by annual point-in-time surveys were at 14,088 in 2024, the most recent count available.

While not an all-time high for Pennsylvania, it was the highest count since 2017.

The stats also show a stubborn steadiness to the problem in midstate counties, despite new programs aimed at specific populations like veterans or single moth-

ers, and the regular dispersal of tent cities. In a 10-county region of south-central Pennsylvania, housing issues lead all other categories in calls to the 211 human services

Regional manager Christine Marriott said within that category, her staff takes SEE EXTREME WEATHER, A2

YORK COUNTY

County judge indicted on fraud charges to return to bench

A federal indictment against the jurist, who faced up to 30 years in prison, is dismissed.

Jonathan Bergmueller

jbergmueller@pennlive.com

A York County judge who previously faced up to 30 years in prison on a variety of fraud, tampering and obstruction of justice charges has had his suspension without pay lifted.

There is nothing preventing York County Judge Steven Stambaugh from resuming his judicial duties in the York County Court of Common Pleas following the order Thursday ending his suspension.

The order came three days after District Judge Malachy E. Mannion ordered the indictment against Stambaugh dismissed.

Stambaugh was indicted in 2024 by a federal grand jury on 26 counts of wire fraud, two counts of mail fraud and a count each of witness tampering and obstruction of justice. The indictment accused him of instructing employees in 2020 to collect COVID-19 relief funds to which they were not entitled.

The Justice Department also accused him of trying to pressure one employee into lying to investigators.

Days before his scheduled Nov. 3 trial, Stambaugh entered a federal diversionary program, which allowed him to avoid entering a plea or facing a trial.

Diversionary programs require viduals to complete certain government requirements and avoid criminal infractions in exchange for the possibility of a reduction in charges or a dismissal of an

The exact duration and terms of the agreement are not clear, but with his indictment's dismissal on Dec. 1, it appears Stambaugh successfully completed the program.

The Court of Judicial Discipline, the state authority that hears cases of judicial misconduct, previously ordered Stambaugh suspended without pay solely because of the existence of the federal indictment.

With the indictment's dismissal, the sole reason for his suspension evaporated. Stambaugh requested the suspension be vacated so he may resume his judicial

In his petition, Stambaugh documented several factors presented by an assistant U.S. Attorney in federal court that weighed into the decision to allow him into the federal diversionary program.

Federal attorneys weighed new evidence that came to light in addition to new evidence that affected the credibility of essential federal witnesses.

Other factors included the fact the alleged crimes occurred at the beginning of the pandemic during business shutdowns; Stambaugh collected little monetary benefit from the scheme; the brief duration of the scheme; and the minimal or low loss to the government.

Because of that, the pretrial diversion agreement "fairly and adequately addresses the matter and thereby serves the interests of justice," the attorney said, according to Stambaugh.

This year, Rep. Seth Grove, R-York County, introduced a measure to start impeachment proceedings against Stambaugh, saying, "No one is above the law, especially those who are supposed to judge and sentence those who have violated the law.

"A rogue judge who violates the law gives a black eye to all those who hold dear our justice system to be fair and impartial."

His measure is still pending.

According to the Pennsylvania Constitution, a judge can only be impeached for "misbehavior in office" by the state House of Representatives. Articles of impeachment are then presented to the state Senate, whose members decide on either conviction or acquittal.