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ELECTION 2025 LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

OUTSIDE CASH POURS INTO RACE

Committed to ensuring fair and secure elections

Focused on attracting better-paying jobs

Public servant dedicated to improving our schools

U.S. Air Force veteran ready to fight for better services

Ready to put residents' safety and security first

After years of Republican dysfunction and mismanagement, we're ready for County Council members who actually deliver.

What kind of **SPooky** tricks is Denise Williams responsible for?

POOF

Luzerne County rescinding 6,700 Mail Ballots due to Misspelling of Rep. Alec Hincavage's name. *TIMES LEADER*

POOF

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTIONS [Luzerne] County Ran Out of Paper on Election Day. Now the DA is investigating. *Patriot News*

Don't let Denise Williams and her Goblins CURSE Luzerne County!

STEPHEN J. URBAN threatened children in his neighborhood with a baseball bat and was charged with assault and evidence tampering after trying to cover it up.

Let's put Luzerne County back on the right track with responsible leadership we can trust.

VOTE FOR ALL 5

Denise Williams Chris Belles Tom Perzina Dawn Simmons Steven Coslett

The Democratic candidates for County Council will:

- Fight to reject tax increases
- Address the rising cost of living
- Attract better-paying jobs
- Keep elections fair and secure

VOTE THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION SLATE FOR COUNTY COUNCIL

Luzerne County Council campaign fliers mailed over the last four weeks. **SUBMITTED**

Five seats up for grabs with majority at stake

By Michael P. Buffer
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The candidates for Luzerne County Council have individually minimized the importance of their political parties during the general election campaign. Yet the county Democratic and Republican parties and outside groups have been spending thousands of dollars to help the parties win control of county council. Democrats only have to win two of the five seats up in Tuesday’s election to regain the majority on council for the first time since 2019. County council currently has a 7-4 Republican majority, and all five council seats on Tuesday’s ballot are held by Republicans. Various officials last week denounced campaign fliers mailed by the Republican and Democratic parties. State + Local Election Alliance based in Washington D.C. has also mailed at least five fliers promoting the five Democrats running for county council. State + Local Election Alliance spent more than \$14,000 on mailers from Oct.

ELECTION DAY
Polls: Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. State law requires everyone be allowed to vote as long as they’re in line before polls close.
Have an issue? For problems voting or to report questionable practices, voters can call 570-825-1715 in Luzerne County.
Mail-in ballots: The Penn Place Building, 20 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Wilkes-Barre, is open until 8 tonight so voters can return mail-in ballots.
Resources: Find your polling place and more at www.luzernecounty.org/396/Elections.
Learn about the candidates: Read our election coverage at citizensvoice.com/news/politics/election/ and standardsspeaker.com/news/politics/election/.
Stay up to date: Get the latest election news and results throughout the day at citizensvoice.com and standardsspeaker.com.
14, 17 and 20 and \$2,538 on phone banking in support of the Democratic candidates,

according to campaign finance reports. DemocracyFIRST, also based Washington D.C., has contributed more than \$55,000 to the Luzerne County Democratic Committee since July, reports show. Northeast Leadership Fund, a political committee based in Plains Twp., contributed \$10,000 in October to Luzerne County Leaders, a committee supporting Republicans running for county council, and \$2,500 in September to the committee for Democratic candidate Steven Coslett. Outside Democratic groups started showing an interest in county elections in recent years because of election issues, Luzerne County Democratic Chairman Thomas Shubilla said. “The election board stuff that been the main focus,” Shubilla said. County council currently appoints four of five members to the election board, which certifies election results and sets policies. One election board policy that has generated a lot of controversy in recent

See **COUNCIL** on Page A4

Mass murderer George Banks dies at 83

Gained notoriety in 1982 when he killed 13 people, including 5 of his own children

By James Halpin
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Infamous mass murderer George Banks, who slaughtered 13 people including five of his own children, has died in state prison at the age of 83, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Banks, who was serving life in prison after being deemed by the courts too mentally ill to be executed, died of natural causes on Sunday at State Correctional Institution at Phoenix in Montgomery County, DOC spokeswoman Maria Bivens said. Banks gained notoriety on Sept. 25, 1982, when he murdered 13 people in what at the time represented the second-deadliest mass shooting in United States history. Prosecutors said Banks had been drinking and taking prescription drugs when he used an AR-15 assault rifle to initiate the rampage by killing eight people at his home at 28 Schoolhouse Lane in Wilkes-Barre. The victims at that location included three women, all mothers to his children, as well as five children, four of whom were his own. While wearing camouflage fatigues, Banks then left the house

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STATE BUDGET IMPASSE Northwest Area on verge of ‘shutdown’

By Christopher Doyle
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SHICKSHINNY — A rural, Northeastern Pennsylvania school district could “shut down” entirely if the state-budget impasse continues another three months — and news of this drastic action comes as the same district also considers closing its intermediate school as part of consolidation efforts. Superintendent Joseph Long said after the Oct. 23 school board meeting that the Northwest Area School District would seriously consider shutting down Jan. 31 if the General Assembly fails to adopt a state budget by that time. In an email Monday, Long said the district would do a holistic review on its situation before taking any action, but affirmed that a shutdown would mean a complete halt to all school operations in Northwest Area. “All factors will be carefully

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Trump administration: SNAP will be partially funded in November

By Geoff Mulvihill and Kimberlee Kruesi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — President Donald Trump’s administration said Monday that it will partially fund SNAP for November, after two judges issued rulings requiring the government to keep the nation’s largest food aid program running. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program, had planned to freeze payments starting Nov. 1 because it said it could no longer keep funding it during the federal government shutdown. The program serves about 1 in 8 Americans and is a major piece of the nation’s social safety net. It costs more than \$8 billion per month nationally. The government says an emergency fund it will use has \$4.65 billion — enough to cover about half the normal benefits.

Exhausting the fund potentially sets the stage for a similar situation in December if the shutdown isn’t resolved by then. It’s not clear exactly how much beneficiaries will receive, nor how quickly they will see value show up on the debit cards they use to buy groceries. November payments have already been delayed for millions of people.

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A customer walks into a bakery as a SNAP EBT information sign is displayed at the front door in Chicago on Sunday. **NAM Y. HUH/ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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