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ELECTION 2026

TRUMP SLAMS SCOTUS

High court rejects his push to restrict mail ballots



President Donald Trump walks from Marine One to his limousine upon his arrival at the Ellipse just outside of the White House on Sunday in Washington. JOSE LUIS MAGANA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Partnership and working with your peers’

Rep. Watro outlines job initiatives, drug law proposal at Hazleton Chamber event

By Martin Repetto
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MCADOO — State representatives, local businesspeople and community leaders met Tuesday morning at Capriotti’s Palazzo for the Hazleton Chamber of Commerce’s monthly Red Carpet Breakfast.

State Rep. Dane Watro, R-116, Kline Twp., delivered the main address.

“What I want to talk about today is partnership and working with your peers to grow your community. In the legislature and in local institutions, I find it important that we understand we should be bringing money and jobs home to communities,” Watro said. “Just recently, I worked with Rep. (Elizabeth) Fiedler, who is on the other side of the aisle, on a piece of legislation to establish pre-apprentice programs in PA’s community colleges, building a new path to union jobs. When I said who I’d worked with, I got a lot of oohs and awes over who was co-sponsoring the bill, but in the end all that mattered was that it would help people find work.”

Watro continued by listing policies he

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Patel defends loosening of FBI employment standards

Chief says changes meant to enable victims of bestiality and prostitution to apply

By Eric Tucker
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — FBI Director Kash Patel on Tuesday defended the bureau’s loosening of hiring requirements regarding prostitution and bestiality, saying the changes were meant to enable victims of those acts to apply for employment without fear of automatic disqualification.

The FBI quietly issued guidance this past spring lifting a categorical hiring ban on applicants who had previously engaged in

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By Seung Min Kim
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday went after the Supreme Court after it rejected his push to restrict mail-in voting in this year’s midterms, saying justices who opposed him were “not the people I interviewed.”

His social media missive was just the latest in a long history of Trump assailing justices, particularly those he had nominated, who ruled against him on his administration’s most prominent initiatives. The president has been publicly furious with the Supreme Court over its decisions against restricting birthright citizenship and his ability to issue tariffs unilaterally.

On mail-in voting, the Trump administration had made a last-minute push to have the U.S. Postal Service play a central role in deciding who would be able to receive a ballot. But state election officials argued there was not enough time to make the changes for the Nov. 3 midterm elections — and said their systems were already secure and accurate.

The court ruled late Monday in an emergency order that the restrictions would most likely lose in court, at least for this year’s election.

“The Court’s inability and unwilling-



An election worker reaches for an unopened ballot during sorting at the Clackamas County Elections office on Nov. 7, 2024, in Oregon City, Ore. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

ness to do the right thing for our Country will go down, in a very negative way, in the annals of History,” Trump wrote in a lengthy social media post Tuesday. “This Supreme Court is bullied and cajoled by the Radical Left into making decisions that have set America back at least a hundred years.”

Justices Sam Alito and Clarence Thomas publicly dissented from the order, and Trump on Tuesday called

them “legends both.” Trump has nominated three of the justices on the Supreme Court — Neil Gorsuch, Amy Coney Barrett and Brett Kavanaugh.

“These are not the people I interviewed to serve on the United States Supreme Court, they are merely a shell of their original selves,” Trump said. He asserted that the court “is costing

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SJM Auto owner works through injuries and delays to plan Toys for Tots drive

By Martin Repetto
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The staff at SJM Auto Sales & Repair in Sybertsville is working hard to get everything ready for the annual Toys for Tots drive, despite some setbacks.

Centered around a 60-foot Christmas tree, the toy drive is meant to be an event the community can celebrate.

This year, though, the tree planning process hit a snag after SJM owner Steve Martonick broke his ankle in August.

“Normally we’d already have a tree picked out with a plan to cut it down and transport it in place, but I’m still having some trouble putting weight on my ankle, so I haven’t been able to pick one out yet,” Martonick said. “We don’t want just any tree; it has to be around 60 feet

tall, and it has to look like one you’d want in your living room. Still, I have three good options lined up, and I plan to drive out to them all and choose one within a week.”

Picking a tree is a year-long process, Martonick added. He always tries to keep an eye out for one that could match the famous 75-foot tree that fill Rockefeller Center in New York City during the holiday season.

Once picked out, a local crane company will come out to draw up a plan to safely remove it from its spot in the forest. Workers then spend two weekends wrapping the tree to prevent damage during transport, then another full day moving the tree through town with the donated help of a semi-truck.

Martonick plans to have

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Derrick Walters and Robert Koslop work to decorate the the 60 foot Norway spruce on Dec. 1, 2025 at SJM Auto Sales and Repair in Sybertsville. JOHN HAEGER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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