

*Some clips may be behind a paywall. If **Regional** employees need access to these clips, please contact your **Regional Communications Manager** (NWRO – Tom Decker; NCRO – Megan Lehman; NERO – Colleen Connolly; SERO – Stephanie Berardi; SCRO – John Repetz; SWRO – Lauren Camarda). If **Central Office** staff (and others outside of DEP) need access to these clips, please email me at kedeibert@pa.gov*

Mentions

Republican Herald: Sinkhole breaks water main in Mahanoy Twp.

<https://www.republicanherald.com/2024/12/17/sink-hole-breaks-water-main-in-mahanoy-twp/>

Tribune-Review: Plum School Board approves tax increase limit; advances building project, electric bus purchase

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/plum-school-board-approves-tax-increase-limit-advances-building-project-electric-bus-purchase/>

Air

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Allegheny County Council punts on air quality fee increase

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-local/2024/12/17/county-council-air-quality-fee-increase/stories/202412170113>

Public Source: Allegheny County Council punts vote on permit fee increase

<https://www.publicsource.org/health-department-fees-permits-allegheny-county/>

Climate Change

The Allegheny Front: Study: Climate change boosted wind speeds in 2024 Atlantic hurricanes

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/climate-change-atlantic-hurricanes-2024/>

The Allegheny Front: Flying this holiday season? Here's what to know about the climate impact

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/holiday-travel-carbon-footprint-climate-impact-flying/>

Conservation and Recreation

Bradford Era: Beetles released to combat invasive insect; biocontrol for hemlock woolly adelgid in ANF

https://www.bradfordera.com/news/beetles-released-to-combat-invasive-insect-biocontrol-for-hemlock-woolly-adelgid-in-anf/article_5a41d098-bcb6-11ef-abaa-f304f842d148.html

Times Observer: USDA releases more beetles to combat invasive insect

<https://www.timesobserver.com/news/local-news/2024/12/usda-releases-more-beetles-to-combat-invasive-insect/>

Meadville Tribune: Funding for trail secured for Pymatuning park

https://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/funding-for-trail-secured-for-pymatuning-park/article_888cac77-110c-5d06-8d64-3c18e343bb5d.html

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Fish and Wildlife Services seeks public comment on hellbender
<https://www.sungazette.com/news/outdoors/2024/12/fish-and-wildlife-services-seeks-public-comment-on-hellbender/>

Tribune-Democrat: 'Resiliency' project to replace struggling Flight 93 Memorial tree grove moving forward, Park Service says
https://www.tribdem.com/news/city_of_johnstown/resiliency-project-to-replace-struggling-flight-93-memorial-tree-grove-moving-forward-park-service-says/article_271ba6e6-bcaf-11ef-934a-6700e3bab1bc.html

WJAC: Phase one of revitalizing Flight 93 memorial groves completed; more work ahead
<https://wjactv.com/news/local/phase-one-of-revitalizing-flight-93-memorial-groves-completed-more-work-ahead#>

Tribune-Review: Vandalism does \$50K in damage to Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy vehicles in Frick Park
<https://triblive.com/local/vandalism-does-50k-in-damage-to-pittsburgh-parks-conservancy-vehicles-in-frick-park/>

Bucks County Herald: Wildflower meadows coming to Warrington's Mill Creek Preserve
https://www.buckscountyherald.com/news/wildflower-meadows-coming-to-warringtons-mill-creek-preserve/article_df253c66-bcfa-11ef-a302-7ba5339f5b71.html

Energy

Herald-Standard: Smith Township supervisors reject solar farm request
https://www.heraldstandard.com/news/local_news/2024/dec/18/smith-township-supervisors-reject-solar-farm-request/

Oil and Gas

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Expanding natural gas exports will increase prices and pollution, report says
<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2024/12/17/biden-trump-Ing-exports-moratorium-energy/stories/202412170104>

Tribune-Review: Letter to the editor: Fracking falsehoods
<https://triblive.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-fracking-falsehoods/>

Delco Times: EPA grants California authority to ban sales of new gas cars by 2035
<https://www.delcotimes.com/2024/12/18/epa-grants-california-authority-to-ban-sales-of-new-gas-cars-by-2035/>

Radiation Protection

NorthcentralPA.com: Montoursville business violates nuclear regulations

https://www.northcentralpa.com/business/montoursville-business-violates-nuclear-regulations/article_a5f466b6-bc09-11ef-addf-03209d7aaa54.html?utm_campaign=blox&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR191m9MSVfQOLgb5vpo8L4GDIEhvugtZ-N8TOh1RwNZsLEZeHa_HbuCOuY_aem_hwrlmIFJw16uQXe0K29ttA

Waste

WESA: Nuclear bunker sales increase, despite warnings they won't provide protection

<https://www.wesa.fm/2024-12-18/nuclear-bunker-sales-increase-despite-warnings-they-wont-provide-protection>

Bucks County Herald: Proposed sewer plant in Newtown Township inflames Middletown residents

https://www.buckscountyherald.com/news/proposed-sewer-plant-in-newtown-township-inflames-middletown-residents/article_22d86880-bcf5-11ef-96e4-d7eac44b4c43.html

Water

Indiana Gazette: Blairsville Borough Council discusses water surcharge amid mandatory restrictions

https://www.indianagazette.com/news/blairsville-borough-council-discusses-water-surcharge-amid-mandatory-restrictions/article_87cd7644-bcd3-11ef-85b5-f79cf299dfef.html

Central Penn Business Journal: York Water Company acquires Adams County system

<https://www.cpbj.com/york-water-company-acquires-adams-county-system/>

Carlisle Sentinel: Carlisle increases water rates, maintains real estate taxes in final 2025 budget

https://cumberlink.com/news/local/government-politics/carlisle-borough-council-final-budget-2025-capital-projects-outside-agency-funding/article_8416577e-b7fa-11ef-9047-abd57883ad2c.html

Miscellaneous

Lancaster Farming: Avian Influenza Has Infected Domestic Birds in Every US State

https://www.lancasterfarming.com/farming-news/poultry/avian-influenza-has-infected-domestic-birds-in-every-us-state/article_a4ce62ae-bbec-11ef-896d-dff3caf8a330.html

Observer-Reporter: Peters Township approves 2025 budget

<https://www.observer-reporter.com/news/local-news/2024/dec/18/peters-township-approves-2025-budget/>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Damages set at \$50,000 for 6 vandalized Frick Environmental Center vehicles

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/crime-courts/2024/12/18/vandalism-frick-environmental-center-pittsburgh-parks-conservancy-cars/stories/202412180070>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Closure of Washington County glass plant delayed until April
<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/career-workplace/2024/12/17/charleroi-glass-factory-closing-anchor-hocking/stories/202412170050>

KDKA: Lithium battery fires on U.S. flights now occur nearly twice a week, according to new FAA data
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/lithium-battery-fires-us-flights-new-faa-data/>

WTAE: Monroeville Mall for sale: Community hopes for revival amid changing ownership
<https://www.wtae.com/article/monroeville-mall-sale/63216048>

WTAE: Truck stuck, damaging bridge in Lawrence County
<https://www.wtae.com/article/lawrence-county-bridge-damage-truck/63227867>

The Allegheny Front: Pennsylvania dairy farms have so far evaded a bird flu outbreak
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/pennsylvania-dairy-farms-milk-bird-flu-outbreak/>

KDKA Radio: Western PA Milk supply is safe amid national concerns
<https://www.audacy.com/kdkaradio/news/local/western-pa-milk-supply-is-safe-amid-national-concerns>

KDKA Radio: Some adjustments made to North Shore entertainment plaza
<https://www.audacy.com/kdkaradio/news/local/some-adjustments-made-to-north-shore-entertainment-plaza>

Union Progress: Some Rankin Bridge restrictions end at main entrance to Braddock
<https://www.unionprogress.com/2024/12/18/some-rankin-bridge-restrictions-end-at-main-entrance-to-braddock/>

Philadelphia Inquirer: Mayor Cherelle L. Parker launches a new website to show the city's progress on her campaign promises
<https://www.inquirer.com/politics/philadelphia/parker-launches-philly-stat-20241217.html>

Philadelphia Inquirer: Historic \$16M Market Street transformation begins in Old City. Expect traffic, parking restrictions through 2026.
<https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/market-street-construction-traffic-old-city-philadelphia-20241217.html>

Patch: Large Sinkhole Forming Again In Upper Merion
<https://patch.com/pennsylvania/norristown/large-sinkhole-forming-again-upper-merion>