

*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*

Top DEP Stories

Yahoo! News: DEP has cleared 76% of permit backlog

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/dep-cleared-76-permit-backlog-201700869.html>

WJAC: Officials advise public about abandoned mine lands and landslides

<https://wjactv.com/news/local/officials-advise-public-about-abandoned-mine-lands-and-landslides>

Mentions

Carlisle Sentinel: West Pennsboro Township warehouse developers to address technical deficiencies

https://cumberlink.com/news/local/west-pennsboro-township-proposed-warehouse-ritner-highway-dep-technical-deficiencies/article_e653ddea-c45b-11ef-b65a-4b4db3395479.html

Climate Change

Tribune Review: Bird count helps mark the impact of a changing climate

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/bird-count-marker-for-impact-of-changing-climate/>

Conservation and Recreation

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Bike lane program to be pursued in 2025

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2024/12/bike-lane-program-to-be-pursued-in-2025/>

WITF: First Day hikes in Pennsylvania planned

<https://www.witf.org/2024/12/27/first-day-hikes-in-pennsylvania-planned/>

The Mon Valley Independent: Duck hunting alive & well for some in Western Pa.

<https://www.monvalleyindependent.com/2024/12/30/duck-hunting-alive-well-for-some-in-western-pa/>

Tribune-Democrat: 'Start the year strong': First Day Hikes scheduled across regional parks and trails

https://www.tribdem.com/news/start-the-year-strong-first-day-hikes-scheduled-across-regional-parks-and-trails/article_186b1504-c458-11ef-9fcf-4f2d364081f4.html

KDKA: Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium to host annual Donation Day

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/pittsburgh-zoo-aquarium-host-annual-donation-day/>

WESA: State park guided hikes can help Pennsylvanians start 2025 on the right foot

<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2024-12-30/state-park-first-day-hike-pennsylvania-new-years-2025>

Tribune Review: Dredging planned to be developed for North Huntingdon lake

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/dredging-planned-to-be-developed-for-north-huntingdon-lake/>

Tribune Review: First Day Hikes in scheduled in 3 area state parks

<https://triblive.com/local/regional/first-day-hikes-in-scheduled-in-3-area-state-parks/>

Energy

SpotlightPA: The Trump admin could make Pennsylvania's clean energy projects less environmentally friendly

<https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2024/12/energy-federal-funding-trump-administration-uncertain-pennsylvania-hydrogen-clean/>

Meadville Tribune: The Trump admin could make Pennsylvania's clean energy projects less environmentally friendly

https://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/the-trump-admin-could-make-pennsylvania-s-clean-energy-projects-less-environmentally-friendly/article_51aec2db-9332-5d01-bd28-19c085158139.html

WESA: Trump administration could make Pennsylvania's clean energy projects less environmentally friendly

<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2024-12-28/trump-solar-pennsylvania-energy>

WJET-TV: Thousands without power across Erie and Crawford counties as high winds sweep across the region

<https://www.yourerie.com/news/breaking-news/thousands-without-power-across-erie-and-crawford-counties-as-high-winds-sweep-across-the-region/>

Scranton Times: Solar developer appealing Newton Township denial of farm

<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2024/12/29/solar-developer-appealing-newton-twp-s-denial-of-farm/>

WESA: What will it take for the American steel industry to go 'fossil-free'?

<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2024-12-30/american-steel-industry-carbon-emissions-hydrogen-renewable-energy>

Oil and Gas

Shamokin News-Item: AAA: Local gas prices fall

https://www.newsitem.com/news/business/aaa-local-gas-prices-fall/article_03246ba0-bc06-11ef-9dd7-530c5c73ad26.html

PFAS

Lock Haven Express: Alternate stream water-testing method detects emerging contaminants
<https://www.lockhaven.com/news/outdoors/2024/12/alternate-stream-water-testing-method-detects-emerging-contaminants/>

WBRE: Maryland sues maker of Gore-Text over pollution from “forever chemicals”
<https://www.pahomepage.com/news/ap-maryland-sues-maker-of-gore-tex-over-pollution-from-toxic-forever-chemicals/>

Waste

Tribune Review: Christmas tree, string light recycling benefits environment, coats for kids project
<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/christmas-tree-string-light-recycling-benefits-environment-coats-for-kids-project/>

Tribune Review: Extending sewage to Crabtree would need approval from Hempfield, Salem and Unity
<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/extending-sewage-to-crabtree-would-need-approval-from-hempfield-salem-and-unity/>

Gettysburg Times: Cumberland Christmas tree drop off
https://www.gettysburgtimes.com/news/local/image_a78f81b2-c3a3-11ef-97b5-4f565a883b93.html

FOX43: Environmentalist offers tips for getting rid of holiday waste
<https://www.fox43.com/article/tech/science/environment/environmentalist-offers-tips-for-getting-rid-of-holiday-waste-christmas-hanukah-new-year/521-99b73ae8-9803-41b6-af7f-5f6b9d33905e>

WFMZ: Annual Christmas tree recycling program underway at Blue Marsh Lake
https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/berks/annual-christmas-tree-recycling-program-underway-at-blue-marsh-lake/article_98d274ea-c489-11ef-ae89-5b8dfe084ea5.html

WFMZ: Reading Christmas tree drop-off locations now open
https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/berks/reading-christmas-tree-drop-off-locations-now-open/article_704dcb28-c489-11ef-a7bf-ef70a29736e4.html

Daily Local News: Developers of waste processing facility plan in Berks to hold information session
<https://www.dailylocal.com/2024/12/30/developers-of-waste-processing-facility-plan-in-berks-to-hold-information-session/>

Daily Local News: East Pikeland Township offers Christmas Tree recycling
<https://www.dailylocal.com/2024/12/30/east-pikeland-township-offers-christmas-tree-recycling/>

The Inquirer: Recycle your Christmas tree into goat food or wood chips for playgrounds at these local orgs
<https://www.inquirer.com/philly-tips/christmas-tree-philadelphia-recycling-disposal.html>

Water

Meadville Tribune: Water Authority crew spends early Christmas hours repairing main break
https://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/water-authority-crew-spends-early-christmas-hours-repairing-main-break/article_4b750dc6-c488-11ef-ac23-2f6a19b29e11.html

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Trout Run volunteer firefighters set aside loss to put communities first during T.S. Lee flood
<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2024/12/trout-run-volunteer-firefighters-setting-aside-loss-to-put-communities-1st/>

Huntingdon Daily News: Borough to apply for water tank funds
https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/borough-to-apply-for-water-tank-funds/article_6e5ba554-c48b-11ef-ae4f-a78cd003359c.html

FOX43: Dauphin County road shut down during stormwater infrastructure work
<https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/dauphin-county/dauphin-county-road-closed-stormwater-infrastructure-work/521-d3009429-c4f3-4adc-89c5-02a8f7219cdf>

Miscellaneous

Reading Eagle: Ask the Master Gardener: Is it safe to use ashes in a garden?
<https://www.readingeagle.com/2024/12/18/ask-the-master-gardener-is-it-safe-to-use-ashes-in-a-garden/>

WGAL: Emergency crews respond to brush fire in Providence Township
<https://www.wgal.com/article/emergency-crews-brush-fire-providence-township-lancaster/63285479>

WVIA: 2024 Year in Review: economic development, environment key in rural areas
<https://www.wvia.org/news/local/2024-12-29/wvia-2024-year-in-review-economic-development-environment-key-in-rural-areas>

Observer-Reporter: Greene County Farm Bureau advocates up for local farmers
https://www.observer-reporter.com/editors_pick/2024/dec/29/greene-county-farm-bureau-advocates-up-for-local-farmers/

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Tens of thousands around Pittsburgh without power after gusty winds move through the region
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/weather-news/2024/12/30/pittsburgh-wind-power-outages/stories/202412300029>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Investigation update: After massive CPAP recall, Philips plagued by more fallout
<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/healthcare-business/2024/12/29/philips-cpap-breathing-machine-recalls/stories/202412290068>

WPXI: Over 50K people without power as strong winds hit Western PA

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/over-50k-people-without-power-strong-winds-hit-western-pa/BIZJ44SFVJH45F7MAP6G5PBWCI/>

Tribune Review: Salem residents want proper permits, enforcement for concrete plant

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/salem-residents-want-proper-permits-enforcement-for-concrete-plant/>