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LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Last week, the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) announced that it will implement the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), which will help domestic violence victims secure additional protection upon a 911 call. The LAP is an evidence-based method that helps law enforcement better identify victims who may be at a heightened risk of homicide. The PSP training is developed by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) and will enable troopers to use standardized lethality screening to identify factors associated with those increased risks. When an individual is identified as higher risk, they will be immediately connected to a local domestic violence hotline or advocate. PSP Lieutenant Colonel and Acting Commissioner ***George Bivens*** called this a "valuable tool" and a significant milestone "ensuring that LAP reaches each one of our 67 counties across our Commonwealth."

SWEET DEALS

The online Hersheypark store has listed the former Hershey Sweet Lights for sale. Individual lights are for sale from anywhere from $50 to $5,000 for all of the 12 Days of Christmas. The attraction displayed colorful lights on Christmas-themed frames, but after 20 years, Sweet Lights has closed. Hersheypark's Halloween festivities ended on Sunday, and Christmas Candylane will open on November 13th. At this time, they are sold out, but the website notes that more lights are coming soon.

COOL EXPANSION

Locally owned Kokua Shave Ice is expanding with a new location in Mechanicsburg, taking over the former Idea Coffee space at 121 Walden Way. Owned by Midstate pastors ***Tommy*** and ***Bekah Arnold***, the business launched in 2022 as a way to teach their children about entrepreneurship. The approximately 700-square-foot location will have seating for around 20 guests and offer more than 20 Hawaiian shaved ice flavors, coffee drinks, and fresh pastries. Idea Coffee closed the location back in April. Kokua Shave Ice hopes to open the new location in January 2027, with tentative hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

HOMELAND HACKDOWN

A data leak has exposed information connected to more than 41,000 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employees, including workers in sensitive government positions. The nonprofit Distributed Denial of Secrets published the records Wednesday after receiving them from a hacking group calling itself the Department of Peace. The leaked information includes names, phone numbers, email addresses, and internal group memberships. DHS says it is investigating the potential breach and taking steps to protect employees, while the hackers claim they accessed the information through an Okta sign-on service. Okta says it has found no evidence its systems were compromised, and some of the leaked records appear to contain outdated employee information.

HOLY VOTE

Pope Leo XIV has become the first pope to vote in a U.S. general election by casting a mail-in ballot. The Chicago-born pontiff has submitted a ballot in Chicago ahead of the November 3rd midterm elections. The statement from the Holy See press office noted that he has also voted while living in Peru, citing his long-standing belief in civic participation and the democratic process. Pope Leo has voted in five primary elections, requesting Democratic ballots twice and Republican ballots three times, according to the Illinois State Board of Elections.



Happy Birthday

- ***Kathryn Silcox***, Senior Counsel, Saxton & Stump
- ***Kathy Bruder***, Regulatory & Government Affairs Attorney, Saxton & Stump
- ***George Hartwick III***, Commissioner, Dauphin County
- ***Heather Eyster***, Senior Director of Investor & Member Engagement, Harrisburg Regional Chamber
- ***Tom DiBello***, Commissioner, Montgomery County
- ***Mark Mussina***, Secretary, Lycoming County
- ***Rick Telesz***, Democratic Candidate for the 8th District, PA House of Representatives
- ***Edward Ritter***, Democratic Candidate for the 47th District, PA House of Representatives

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