

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SUMMER 2025

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the nation. Children are frequently being victimized in their own homes, often via the internet...and it's happening right here.

In early April, Rep. Tina Pickett and I welcomed about 250 people to human trafficking awareness events in Towanda and Wellsboro. It was heartening to see so many people come out in solidarity to help protect our children. Pennsylvania Attorney General Dave Sunday joined the session in Wellsboro with Wyoming County District Attorney Joe Peters and Lantern Rescue Founder Korrin Moon.

Whether you are a parent or not, I encourage you to learn more about human trafficking and how you can help put a stop to it. Visit www.repowlett.com/hta to watch videos of each event and to access other resources.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SMALL BUSINESS LEADERS

Small businesses are the backbone of rural communities such as ours. So, the best way to keep our communities, our Commonwealth and our country growing and thriving is to encourage, inspire and support aspiring young entrepreneurs.

I am happy to say we had a great turnout for our first-ever Future Entrepreneur Summit back in May, and I hope to do it again next year! We were blessed with help from an array of co-hosts and sponsors, and I'd like to extend special thanks to our distinguished panel of experts, which included Jordyn Smith, co-owner of Smith + Co.; Dustin Butler, owner of Butler Hill Beef Farm; Sarah Callahan, owner of Flower Girl Florist; and Jason Gehman, CEO of PRSM Healthcare.



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATV/UTV RIDERS

After lengthy conversations with PennDOT officials, I'm excited to report the agency has unveiled a new policy that could significantly increase riding opportunities for ATV/UTV enthusiasts!

Based on the success we've seen with the Regional Trail Connector pilot program that allowed the use of DCNR roads to better connect trails, PennDOT is adopting a policy that will better facilitate the opening of certain sections of state highways to also serve as connector roads between trailheads.

Requests must be initiated by your municipal officials, so if you have suggestions

for a section of roadway that could serve as a connector, talk with them about it!

This will improve the experience for local riders and serve as a draw to riders from outside the area. We've already seen results from the pilot program with the estimated economic impact in Tioga and Potter counties at \$8.2 million in 2022 and \$11.7 million in 2023. Further expanding opportunities will only build on these impacts. Get out and enjoy all our region has to offer!

ON THE ISSUES

While being in the minority party in the state House has made it more challenging to advance some of our legislative priorities, rest assured I'm fighting as hard as ever to make our voices heard on the issues that matter most. Here are just a few of the bills I am working on at the state Capitol.

Voter ID (House Bill 759): Requiring voters to show ID before casting a ballot is broadly supported as a means to improve election integrity. My bill would ensure identification requirements are easily met by providing a durable voter registration card to all eligible voters.

Lifeline Scholarships (House Bill 1489): No child should be trapped in a school that isn't meeting his or her needs. This bill would affect families who either have a household income below 350% of the federal poverty guidelines or who reside in the attendance areas of the state's lowest-performing schools.

Stream Maintenance (House Bills 88, 327 and 328): When floodwaters rise, lives

and livelihoods are at risk. These bills seek to improve the maintenance of our creeks and streams to prevent flooding by increasing available funding and streamlining permitting processes for stream clearing.

Responsible Energy Development (House Bill 347): Demand for energy is on the rise, as is the cost. My bill would allow for the extraction of oil and gas resources underneath our state lands in an environmentally conscious manner.

Support for Dairy Industry (House Bills 177 and 179): Dairy is a vital segment of our state's agriculture industry, providing jobs to those who work in the industry and nourishment to those of us who enjoy milk, yogurt, cheese and more. These bills provide a tax incentive for dairy processing facilities and empower our schools to purchase and serve whole milk and 2% milk to students.



State Representative

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MAKE THE CONNECTION!

Community Connection is our weekly email that aims to share stories that bring us together as a community and connect us to one another in ways that demonstrate there are so many more things that unite rather than divide us. The email includes important news from here at home and your state Capitol. Thank you for reading!



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I was humbled to receive the PA Rural Electric Association's first-ever Legislator of the Year Award. Pictured with me, from left: Leroy Walls, chairman of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Cooperative board; Steve Brame, PREA/Allegheny President and CEO; and Alfred Calkins, director from Tri-County Rural Electric.



Thanks to Commonwealth University – Mansfield student Will Gowin for his outstanding work as our intern earlier this year! Will did such an amazing job and served our area with a humble servant's heart. He played a key role in several projects, including our Human Trafficking Awareness Nights and our Future Entrepreneur Summit. Will's future is looking bright! If you see him around this summer, be sure to say, "thank you," and wish him well on his next chapter.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SENIOR EXPO • FRIDAY, AUG. 1 • 9 A.M. TO NOON

Wellsboro Senior High School Gym and Commons • 225 Nichols St., Wellsboro

SCAM AWARENESS SEMINAR ON SENIOR DAY AT THE TIOGA COUNTY FAIR
TUESDAY, AUG. 5 • 9:30-10:30 A.M.

Tioga County Fairgrounds, Main Building • 2258 Charleston Road, Wellsboro
Please register at www.RepOwlett.com or contact the offices in Wellsboro or Troy.

GAME COMMISSION NIGHT: FOCUS ON PREDATORS

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18 • 6-8 P.M. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Wellsboro Fire Company Annex • 21 East Ave., Wellsboro

Please register at www.RepOwlett.com or contact the offices in Wellsboro or Troy.



I always love reading to our kids in the district! On this day, I was joined by students of Trinity Lutheran at The Green Free Library in honor of National Library Week.