

Center Stage: Gene Kelly Awards Recognize Talent

by Jenn Edmonds

It was that time of year again—the Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in Musical Theater—and Hampton High School’s Talbot Players were well-represented. Their performance of *Hadestown: Teen Edition* garnered nine nominations, and the awards were presented at the Benedum Center on Saturday, May 24, 2025.

“The company was extremely excited to receive so many nominations, especially because they were recognized across all three areas of musical theatre: cast, crew, and orchestra,” explained *Hadestown: Teen Edition* director Dan Franklin. “It was a testament to the overall solid quality of what they produced.”

Hampton High School received nominations for the following awards: Outstanding Dance Ensemble (Budget 4), Outstanding Vocal Ensemble (B4), Outstanding Crew/Technical Execution (B4), Outstanding Lighting Design (B4), Outstanding Student Orchestra, Outstanding Costume De-

(Continued on page 5)

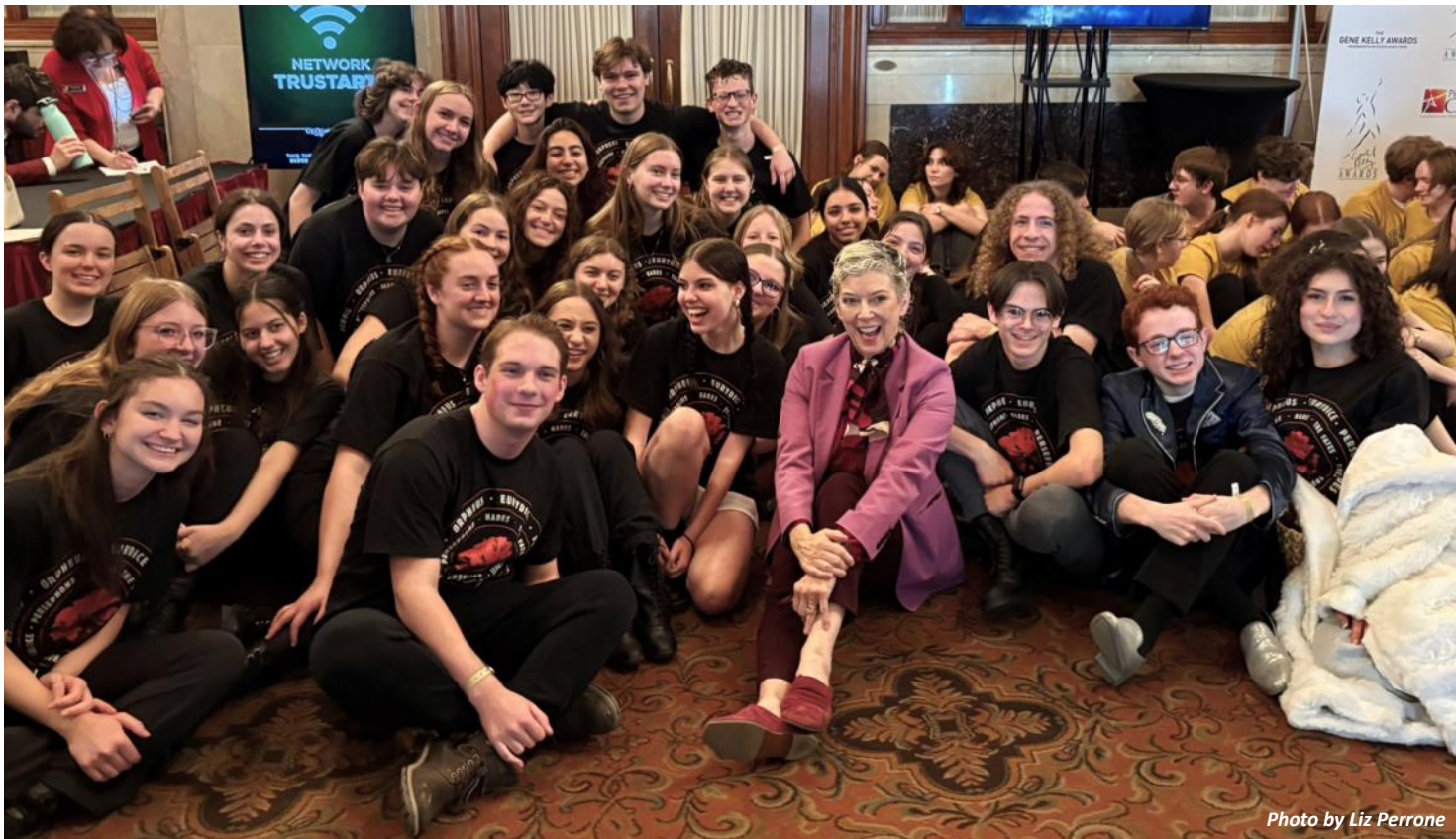


Photo by Liz Perrone

Patricia Ward Kelly, widow of the legendary Gene Kelly, shares a special moment with the talented cast at the Benedum

New Fish Bring Life to the Pond

by Laurie Rizzo

Residents visiting Hampton Community Park on Thursday, May 1 were treated to a special sight as Jones Lake Management, based in Cincinnati, Ohio, stocked the park’s pond with a variety of fish.

Among those lucky enough to witness the release were Cole and Kate Motchenbaugh.

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Memorial: Unveiling Gulf War Plaque

by Laurie Rizzo

On Monday, May 26, at 10 a.m., the Hampton community once again stood united in solemn remembrance, honoring the legacy of our nation’s heroes with a deeply moving Memorial Day ceremony led by American Legion Post 296.

As a familiar face, Marine veteran Hal

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Police Information

The Hampton Township Police Department (HTPD) is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of our residents and guests by providing the very best in law enforcement services. Thank you to the staff for helping to keep our community safe.

A summary of noteworthy incidents that occurred are listed below. These incident statistics included, but WERE NOT LIMITED TO, the following between the dates of 4/21/2025—5/14/2025:

Team DUI Task Force

During the weekend of 5/9/2025: The North Hills DUI Task Force conducted a Stationary DUI checkpoint detail that was in conjunction with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration Checkpoint Strike Force. On 5-9-2025, the task force conducted a Sobriety Checkpoint in McCandless Township. There were 837 vehicles that passed through the checkpoint and 2 individuals were administered field sobriety test, of those tested, 1 was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. 13 citations and 3 warnings were issued for various vehicle code violations. This is the Twenty Ninth year for the North Hills DUI Task Force and to date, 264 checkpoints/roving patrols have been conducted. There have been 2272 individuals tested for DUI, and of those tested, 1072 have been arrested. The North Hills DUI Task Force is comprised of officers from the police departments of Borough of Aspinwall, Borough of Etna, Indiana Twp, Northern Regional, O'Hara Twp, Ross Twp, Shaler Twp, West Deer Twp, Borough of West View, McCandless Twp, Borough of Millvale, Hampton Twp, Borough of Blawnox, and Reserve Township.

Law enforcement officials continue to emphasize the importance of responsible driving and urge motorists to make safe choices, such as designating a sober driver or utilizing alternative transportation when needed.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As *The Hampton News* continues its mission to bring you informative and engaging stories, we welcome your feedback, ideas, and submissions. Your voice helps keep our community connected, and we always love hearing from you!

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month, so be sure to send in your stories, announcements, and insights.

We also encourage you to support this month's advertisers, whose contributions make this publication possible. And most importantly, remember to support local businesses—they are the heart of our community!

Production, Print and Design: Laurie and John Rizzo

Proofreading: Deb Brady

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Vehicle Accident

On 5/12/25, HTPD officers were dispatched to the intersection of Wickline Rd. and S. Pioneer Rd. for a two vehicle accident with reported injuries.

Unit #1 sustained moderate damage to the passenger side front bumper but was able to be driven from the scene. Unit #2 sustained moderate damage to the rear passenger side of the vehicle and was towed from the scene. One person was taken for medical evaluation by private transport. A mailbox and post were damaged in the accident.

Public Drunkenness

On 5/11/25, at approximately 2154 hours, while traveling on Route 8 near Duncan Avenue an officer observed a male cross all four lanes of Route 8 wearing dark clothing. The officer, as well as other vehicles on the roadway, had to slow down in order not to strike the male.

The officer made contact with the male who was visibly intoxicated. After explaining to him that he was a danger to himself being intoxicated trying to walk home, he was given a curtesy ride home and cited with public drunkenness.

Wires Down

On 5/5/25, officers were dispatched to Harts Run Rd. for a downed telephone pole with wires down on the road. Three vehicles were damaged when the wires came down, there were no injuries.

The Hampton VFD, Fire Police and Duquesne Light were notified and arrived on scene. Harts Run Road was closed at Rosanna Drive and Clearview Road until it was cleared.

(Continued on page 12)

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Library News



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Everyone is welcome to join Hampton Community Library's Summer Reading Program: Color Our World! Paint the town RED with a summer full of fun at the library! There's no reason to be BLUE when you can color your days brighter with books, audiobooks, ebooks, eaudio, magazines, Wonderbooks, graphic novels and more. Your friends will be GREEN with envy when they see the exciting things you can access with your library card. The Summer Reading Program begins with signups starting June 1st and ends Saturday, August 9, 2025.

Children ages birth-12 are invited to register for the **in-person** program at the library starting June 1, 2025. Take home your swag bag & start reading to earn raffle tickets. Return each week for raffle tickets for a chance to win one of our awesome prizes!

Youth and Adults ages 13 and up can participate in the summer reading challenge too. Read books, get raffle tickets, win prizes ---it's that simple! Register at the library starting June 1, 2025.

No matter the weather, our programs will keep you busy all summer long!

Please note: There will be no Children's Programs July 28th thru August 2nd!

Check Mate! A Summer Chess Club!

Mondays, June 16th through July 28th @ 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Thursdays, June 19th through July 31st @ 5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

We welcome back Ben Lin, a US Chess Candidate Master and 2024 PA K-8 Champion, to guide you through the intricate game of chess though fun and interactive play. Whether you are a beginner, advanced beginner or have been playing for years... there's always something new to learn! All skill levels welcome! Please register when you come to play. Ages 5-12.

Color Our World with Stories!

Tuesdays, June 17th through Aug 12th @ 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Thursdays, June 19th through Aug 14th @ 10:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

This short, sweet story time will get your summer days started off with exciting stories, favorite songs, cheerful puppets and a bubble dance party! Stay and play after. Geared to ages 3 and up, but all are welcome! Please note, this will be the same storytime each day.

Artastic: Art for Everyone!

Fridays, June 20th through July 25th @ 10:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Drop-in anytime between the hours of 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. for a special art-making workshop. With your help, we will be making things for our pop-up shop, where all proceeds will be donated between NHCO and Animal Friends! Projects may include pet toys, friendship bracelets, beading, garden decor and more. All welcome—crafts are geared for ages 8 and up.

(Continued on page 4)



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Library

Bedtime Storytime! Wednesday, June 25th @ 6:30 -7:15 p.m.

Slip into your coziest pjs, grab your favorite bedtime buddy, and join Derek, our lovable furry friend, for a special evening of bedtime stories, soothing songs, and gentle movements to help you unwind after a busy day. While the program is designed especially for families with young children, everyone is welcome to join the fun and settle in for a peaceful night together.

Dungeons and Dragons Night!

**Wednesdays, June 11th, June 25th and July 9th
5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.**

Join our skilled teen Dungeon Masters for an exciting DnD pick-up game. Experienced players, newbies & curious fans all welcome. Ages 11-17 (Adult caregivers may play alongside if space allows). Character leveling starts at 5:30pm with gameplay appx.1 hour. Use our dice & characters or bring your own.

Family Game Night at the Library!

Tuesdays, June 17th – August 12th @ 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Looking for a fun, free way to spend quality time with your family? Come join us at the library for Family Game Night! Bring your favorite board game, card game, or puzzle, or choose from our selection of games! Whether you're competitive or just want to have fun, there's something for everyone! Play classic games, discover new favorites and enjoy quality family time in a cozy, welcoming atmosphere. Gather your family and friends, and let the games begin! No sign up required!

(Continued from page 3)

Rainbow Lab Adventures!

Tuesdays, July 1st through August 12th @ 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m.

Get your creativity wheels spinning! Explore the colorful world of art and science together! Things will get messy; please dress appropriately. This program will be held outside at the Rotary Pavilion at Hampton Community Park (this is the pavilion closest to the police station/municipal building/soccer fields). Registration appreciated, These STEAM projects are designed for ages 8-12. Please note: In case of thunderous weather please call the library to see whether a similar program will be held inside.

Cooks-n-Books Potluck Picnic! Thursday, June 26th at 6:30 p.m.

We spent a year baking, sautéing, burning, and tasting some yummy recipes! Now it's time to create your own favorite dish and bring it to share! Get together with old friends or come out and make new ones! The picnic will be held outside at the Rotary Pavilion at Hampton Community Park (this is the pavilion closest to the police station/municipal building/soccer fields).

Card Club! Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join us Wednesday afternoons for a game of 500 Bid or something new! Come out and show your skills or just enjoy some time out with friends, both new and old!

Murder by the Book!

A Mystery Book Discussion Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

The Mystery Book Group meets at the Grubbs Pavilion in the summer (this is the pavilion above/behind the pool, parking is

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Musical

(Continued from page 1)

sign (B4), Outstanding Scenic Design (B4), Outstanding Supporting Actor (Daniel Morgan, for his portrayal of Hades), and Outstanding Musical (B4).

Because of the nomination for Outstanding Musical, the full cast of Hadestown: Teen Edition had the opportunity to perform the number "Livin' It Up On Top." It was an upbeat song from the show and highlighted some of its choreography.

"I think we put on something that was really special to a lot of people, and I think the awards we were nominated for really reflected that. I was incredibly happy we got nominated for Outstanding Musical because that meant the whole cast got to perform a number on the Benedum stage," said Hampton junior Daniel Morgan.

Morgan was a finalist for Outstanding Supporting Actor for his role as Hades. "When I found out that I got nominated, the first thing I thought was: 'Is this actually real?' I've never felt so honored to receive a nomination. I can't help but thank all of the people who helped me along the way, as without them I wouldn't have come this far," Morgan said.



Left to right: Nathan Connelly, Lordyn Schomaeker, Clara Mauro, Logan Brady

gan said. He credited his directors—Mr. Franklin, Mrs. Zavallo, and Mrs. Lavella—as well as the cast and company for making him feel so accepted and for giving him a home away from home.

Franklin explained, "Some schools make the Gene Kelly Awards (GKA) the focus behind why they produce musicals and are extremely GKA-driven. That leaves a bad taste in my mouth because the emphasis isn't on learning the craft; it's about winning. We're the opposite—we focus on creating the highest quality theatrical experience for the students possible, and the GKA are a nice added after-effect. I was so very proud of what these students accomplished by coming together, and was happy to see them share it with the audience one more time," Franklin said.



Margaret Sager, Sophia Proviano, Michael Petrucci

The crew dazzled at the Gene Kelly Awards, taking home five outstanding wins! From breathtaking vocals to stellar technical execution, their dedication and talent shone through in Outstanding Vocal Ensemble, Set Design, Lighting Design, Crew/Technical Execution, and Musical. Bravo to the entire incredible cast and crew!

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Double the Fun: Poff Elementary Twins Move Up to Middle School!

by Laurie Rizzo

If you thought you were seeing double at Poff Elementary, you weren't wrong! Back in the Fall 2020 issue of *Hampton Magazine*, writer Deb Brady shined a spotlight on the school's remarkable twin population. Now, after years of sharing classrooms, swapping stories, and perhaps even pulling a few classic twin tricks, these dynamic duos are graduating from Poff and heading to Hampton Middle School.

Sister sets Abigail and Hannah Braden and Eden and Emily Sullivan, along with sisters Callie and Haley Carlin and the Perry twins, Kamden and Harper (a brother-sister pair), are taking their

twin bond to the next level as they start middle school together.

For Poff Elementary teacher Barb Landry, who has had the unique experience of teaching the four sets of twins across both fourth and fifth grade, this milestone is bittersweet. "Teaching all the twins for two years has been a truly special experience. Watching them grow—not just academically, but in confidence, character, and their one-of-a-kind sibling dynamics—has been a joy. With twice the twins came twice the fun, and memories I'll always treasure," she shared.


To commemorate this milestone, Christina Cervi recreated the original photo of the Poff twins, capturing them as they prepare to take on the next chapter of their school journey. Seeing them all together again brings back memories of their younger days—only now, they've grown, ready to tackle new adventures in middle school.

And why stop here? If this tradition keeps up, maybe we'll be lucky enough to get a final twin snapshot when they graduate from Hampton High School! Here's to more double the fun, double the memories, and double the excitement in the years to come!

Twins: Callie and Haley Carlin, Kamden and Harper Perry, Eden and Emily Sullivan, Abigail and Hannah Braden.



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Sienna Lasek, Grade Stitt, Janita Michael and Maya Tirpak

HAEE Scholarship Awardees



Drew Girard was awarded the Anna Kuhn Memorial Scholarship.

Sienna Lasek was awarded the Hampton All Around Effort and Excellence Scholarship.

A Standing Ovation

by Laurie Rizzo

Hampton High School proudly celebrates sophomore Zachary Jiang, who achieved a remarkable milestone by performing in the PMEA All-State Orchestra last month at the Kalahari Convention Center in Pocono Manor. His selection marks a historic moment for the Hampton community, as he becomes the first Hampton student in several years to earn a place in this prestigious ensemble.

A talented violinist, Zachary's dedication and artistry set him apart among Pennsylvania's top student musicians. The PMEA All-State Orchestra brings together elite instrumentalists from across the state, chosen through a highly competitive audition process. Zachary's skill and musical depth shone throughout, securing his spot among the best.



Madia Photography

His achievement is not only a personal triumph but also a proud reflection of Hampton High School's music program. His success highlights the excellence and commitment fostered within the school's vibrant performing arts community.

As he returns from this extraordinary experience, Zachary's journey serves as an inspiration to young musicians in Hampton. His hard work and passion remind us all of the power of perseverance and the beauty of music.

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Pond

(Continued from page 1)

Watching the fish splash into their new habitat was an exciting moment, especially for Cole. "I like to fish, and I'm looking forward to fishing at the newly stocked lake," he said, already anticipating the joy of casting a line in the refreshed waters.

The Hampton Township Public Works Department played a leading role in bringing the park pond project to life, ensuring the area was well-prepared for its latest addition—new aquatic life.

Adam Motchenbaugh, a Hampton resident and engineer with PVE LLC, designed the project and worked closely with the Township's public works team throughout the process. In preparation for the fish stocking, he and two fellow PVE employees installed habitats to support the larger fish.

Hampton Township Public Works Foreman, Rich Myros, also contributed significantly to getting the lake ready, prioritizing the well-being of the minnows by ensuring they had places to hide and thrive. "The minnows need cover to survive, so our team placed a few wooden pallets wrapped in chicken wire and weighted down with cinder blocks into the lake," Myros explained. "That should provide them a safe refuge."

For Assistant Township Manager Susan Bernet, the restocking carried a personal connection. "When I was a child, I remember catching my first fish right here at the pond," Bernet said with a smile. That nostalgic bond with the park resonates with many in the community, as fishing remains a cherished pastime for generations.

The pond, surrounded by the walking trail and ornamental grasses with bright yellow wildflowers that attract butterflies, is a serene spot for nature lovers. Those eager to fish in the newly stocked waters must adhere to the State Fish and Boat Commission's requirements for a fishing license. Additionally, the township reminds visitors that swimming and wading in the pond are not permitted, and fishing is strictly catch-and-release only to help sustain the pond's ecosystem.

Although the introduction of new fish is an exciting moment, it is expected that about 2% of them will not survive after release.

As spring unfolds, Hampton Community Park pond is now bustling, promising enjoyable fishing experiences for visitors in the coming months. Whether casting a line or simply enjoying the beauty of the park, the stocked lake is sure to bring renewed vibrancy to the community.

The variety of fish introduced into the pond includes:

40 lbs. of Fathead Minnows	150 Hybrid Bluegill
40 lbs. of Golden Shiner Minnows	40 Channel Catfish
75 Largemouth Bass (5-7")	8 Triploid Grass Carp
35 Hybrid Striped Bass (5-7")	3 Largemouth Bass (12"+)
250 Bluegill Sunfish	



Right place, right time! These lucky residents got to witness Hampton Park Pond come to life as fish were stocked into the water. A special moment in the making!



Shortly after the fish were set into the pond, 13 year old Trystan Hickler caught a blue gill.

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Love From Lucy Is a Mission of Giving Back

What began as a personal battle has grown into a movement of generosity. Love From Lucy, founded by Lucy Interthal, supports hospital patients and high school seniors facing adversity, with valuable input and support from her parents.

Lucy's Journey & Inspiration

At 17, Lucy was diagnosed with Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) during her junior year at Hampton High School. While undergoing treatment at UPMC Children's Hospital, she found comfort in the 6th-floor neurology pantry, though she noticed the 9th-floor pantry was far better stocked.



Lucy's dad Dave, Lucy, sister Molly, mom Beth Interthal.

After entering remission in July 2024, Lucy decided to give back, launching Love From Lucy to improve the 6th-floor pantry and provide small comforts for patients.

Expanding Their Impact

Beyond hospital support, Love From Lucy awards scholarships to high school seniors who have overcome challenges. Their Bingo fundraiser at Pine-Richland Youth Center drew around 200

attendees, with Pasquale's Pizzeria donating food for the event. The event raised enough money to fund the pantry at UPMC Children's Hospital for the next 2 years and enough to fund the scholarships for 2 years.

Up next: Midnight Madness, a late summer/early fall soccer tournament, supporting their mission and celebrating Lucy's passion for the game. She now coaches for Steel City Soccer, mentoring young athletes.

Looking Ahead

Love From Lucy embodies resilience and generosity, proving that small acts of kindness can make a lasting impact. To support their mission or join Midnight Madness, visit www.lovefromlucy22.com.



From left to right: Gwen Howell, Ava Boyd, Lucy, Saveria Ulizzi—friends since the age of six, brought together by soccer and still going strong!

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2900 Kilcain Lane	\$499,900	\$537,000	6
5015 Apple Ridge	\$539,000	\$525,000	114
4244 Timberlane Drive	\$449,000	\$427,000	37
3143 Haberlein Road	\$385,000	\$340,000	37
4485 Greengrove Drive	\$259,000	\$265,000	4
5188 Richland Road	\$259,900	\$250,000	7
5136 Hardt Road	\$229,900	\$240,000	4
2424 Hampton Avenue	\$239,900	\$239,900	5
2937 Chautauqua Street	\$247,500	\$238,500	44
4455 Middle Road	\$229,900	\$214,000	128

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Pest-proofing your home indoors and out is important not only for your health and happiness, but also to prevent lasting damage to your home. From day-ruining insects like a backyard bog of mosquitoes to a hive of hornets, unwanted rodents or termites gnawing through your floors and walls, preventing them from sharing your home will be an expense well-worth budgeting for.

Schedule professional pest maintenance or an exterminator to evaluate potential pest problems and prevent future ones.

Check for leaky pipes or stagnant water around your home.

Fence maintenance: Fix any holes or loose nails; paint or stain if necessary to prevent weathering.

Driveway maintenance: Fill holes or cracks in concrete.

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Library

(Continued from page 4)

available). Please call the library to request a copy of the book. Everyone who is interested in great reads is invited to join us!

June 18th: *Kill for Me, Kill for You*, by Steve Cavanagh.

Betty's Book Buzz Discussion Group. Fridays, 1:00 p.m. Betty's Book Group meets in the library. Please call the library to request a copy of the book. Everyone who is interested in great conversations and good reads is invited to join us!

June 20th: *The Perfect Couple*, by Elin Hilderbrand.

Summer Hours! Summer hours will begin Memorial Day and extend through Labor Day.

Mon: 9:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m., Tues &

Thurs: 9:30 a.m. -7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: **11:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. *starting June 11th!**

Friday: 9:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m., Sat.: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Hours:

The Library will be closed:

Community Day/4th of July Weekend:

Thursday, July 3rd - Sunday, July 6th.

Labor Day Weekend: Sat., Aug. 30th - Mon., Sept. 1st.

Pink Tag Sale: 21 Years of Community Giving

by Laurie Rizzo

For over two decades, the Hampton Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices office has hosted The Pink Tag Sale, raising funds for breast cancer research and maintaining its mission to support survivors and fund crucial research.

In May 2024, the sale surpassed \$100,000 in total donations, reaching the milestone during a Channel 11 news feature. The momentum has only grown, with 2025 already raising over \$16,000 and the total nearing \$125,000. Funds primarily benefit A Glimmer of Hope Foundation, with past contributions also supporting Komen.

Held annually on the first Saturday in May and Pink Saturday (the Saturday after Black Friday), the sale attracts hundreds of shoppers. The next event is November 29, 2025, featuring holiday items alongside regular goods.

Every donation finds purpose. After the May sale, local charities—homeless shelters, animal rescues, and churches—claim what they need, followed by Free Day, where the public can take remaining items before final contributions go to Goodwill, St. Vincent de Paul, and veterans' organizations.

"It is a whole office endeavor, including Nancy Pshirer Evans from the North Hills office," said organizer Linda Pelkofer, who once faced a breast cancer scare and remains passionate about the mission. "Sometimes we find notes from survivors thanking us. It's incredibly touching and reminds us why we do this."

Police Log *(Continued from page 2)*

Gas Lines

On 5/14/25, officers were dispatched to Henrich Farm Ln. for a report of fence installers striking a gas line. Upon arrival, Hampton VFD was on scene. People's Gas was notified and responded. Hampton's Code Enforcement Officer responded and confirmed that the installers had contacted 811 and had permits for the fence. All units cleared once People's Gas was on scene.

Traffic Control

On 5/9/25, officers assisted the Montessori School with a pre-planned evacuation drill from their school to Wyland Elementary School. Officers assisted with traffic control during the detail.

Solicitation Permit

Representatives for Home Genius Exteriors will be canvassing the township for the next few weeks. Sales representatives have been provided with the no-solicitation list for residents who have requested not to be contacted by door to door solicitors. Each sales representative

must have their ID clearly displayed so the homeowner can see their permit. If any resident experiences any issues with solicitors, they are advised to contact the Hampton Police Department.

Scam Attempt

On 5/13/25, a township resident received a phone call from an unknown number and was told that she owed a fine totaling \$7,121.00 due to missing jury selection/jury duty. They were told that the funds needed to be cash only. The same phone number then proceeded to text them "court documents," which contained an "arrest warrant" for the "Middle District of Pennsylvania." The documents also contained a "mobile escort order" which instructed the recipient to always remain on the phone with the caller, otherwise they would be arrested. Within the paperwork there was an instruction page on how to properly deposit the associated money into a "Bailing kiosk," which they claim is through BTC Tech (Bailing Institute & Technologies). A Google search of this yields no results, however, BTC is the common acronym used for Bitcoin. The resident ended their

phone call with the individuals after they went to the bank and spoke to the tellers, who advised them to file a police report, as they knew this was a scam.

Officers advised this was a scam and to ignore or block future calls from the individual (s). They were advised to report the incident through [ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov) and the FBI web site. An officer attempted to call the number she provided for the actor (s), but the line in question was disconnected.

For additional information on this type of scam visit the Federal Trade Commission Consumer Advice site.

Recycle Rama Results

One of the standout contributions to this year's Recycle Rama came from Thrivent Bikes, which collected 60 bicycles for refurbishment and donation, ensuring that unwanted bikes found new homes rather than ending up in landfills. Meanwhile, the paper shredding initiative processed 41 bins, totaling an impressive 8,200 pounds of shredded paper, helping residents securely dispose of sensitive documents while promoting

(Continued on page 18)

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20328 R4-23

Sports

2025 WPIAL Courage Award Recipient and Hall of Fame Inductee

by Jackie Smith

Hampton High School senior Aiden Hanna has been recognized for his extraordinary strength, perseverance, and community impact. He is the 2025 recipient of the WPIAL Courage Award and will be inducted into the WPIAL Hall of Fame Class of 2025.

The announcement was made in January at a press conference held at the Senator John Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania

Sports Museum. Hanna joins a distinguished group of 15 honorees who will be celebrated at the Hall of Fame banquet on June 6, 2025, at the DoubleTree in Green Tree.

An Inspiring Journey

Aiden's story is one of remarkable courage. Diagnosed with osteosarcoma in 2022, he turned adversity into action by founding Aiden's Helping Hands, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds for cancer research and supporting families facing pediatric cancer.

Despite the challenges he's faced, Aiden has remained a committed student-athlete, competing on Hampton's golf and baseball teams, serving as a member of the National Honor Society, and contributing to the Student-Athlete Advisory Council. Aiden shared, "My uncle, Scott Palmer, has had a huge impact on my life, and he has inspired me to become the man I am today." He also said, "My journey as an athlete taught me that perseverance is everything and it has helped me keep my head as high as it is."

Giving Back Through Sports

As part of its fundraising efforts, Aiden's Helping Hands hosts an annual golf outing and a recreational adult slow-pitch softball tournament. The upcoming tournament offers a unique opportunity for the

community to get involved. Do you have a recreational softball team? Have you thought about starting one? Join Aiden and others for a day of fun and purpose on Saturday, September 6, 2025.

Visit www.aidenshelpinghands.com to learn more and register.

Resilient by Nature

"Resilient—this word describes my journey throughout life so far. Stay dedicated to what you love and don't let anything defer you from what you think you personally can accomplish," Aiden said. Through strength, spirit, and service, Aiden continues to turn challenge into change. Join him and make a difference.

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Band's Surprise Cameo on Netflix

by Jenn Edmonds

You never know where you will see the Hampton High School Marching Band. We expect to see them at football games and band festivals but it's a surprise to see them while watching Netflix! Last year, the Hampton Band went to Louisville, KY for the annual band trip and performed at the Kentucky Derby Pegasus Parade on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

A clip of this performance was included in Episode 4 of the Netflix docuseries *The Race for the Crown*. "I did not have any idea that we were going to be included in *The Race for the Crown* Netflix show," said HHS Band Director Chad Himmler. "It's always fun when our Hampton students get put on a national stage, whether that be intentionally or by chance."

The Race for the Crown takes audiences behind the scenes in the world of horse racing and the journey to the Triple Crown.

Storm Slams, But The Prom Went On

A powerful storm tore through Hampton last month, leaving behind a trail of destruction that impacted roads, homes, and businesses alike. Downed trees and power lines littered the township, forcing road closures and shutting down schools. Many residents scrambled for essentials—generators, bags of ice, and easy-to-prepare food—as they navigated the chaos.

Beyond blocked streets and battered neighborhoods, the storm caused significant damage to homes and vehicles. Cell phone and internet service remained unreliable, with only those lucky enough to get a landline connection able to make calls. Meanwhile, Duquesne Light crews worked around the clock to restore power to affected areas, but for some, the outage stretched on for a grueling week.

A Bright Spot Amidst the Darkness

Despite the storm's challenges, Hampton High School's prom remained on schedule. However, for many students, the usual pre-prom rituals—getting their hair and makeup done—became a logistical challenge.

That's when Sandie Scott, owner of Salon U in the plaza next to Panera Bread, stepped in to help. Understanding the importance of the night, Scott opened her salon to promgoers, offering them a space

to get ready. When the salon posted the generous offer on Facebook, word spread quickly across town. Even Hampton High School Principal Dr. Imbarlina stopped by to personally thank Scott and her staff for their kindness. The invitation wasn't limited to just the girls; young men were also encouraged to stop by the salon to shave and freshen up before their big evening.

Though the storm left Hampton reeling, stories like these proved the community's resilience. Neighbors came together, businesses extended helping hands, and even in the wake of destruction, Hampton found moments of kindness and unity.

The prom dazzled students with an unforgettable evening at the Omni William Penn Hotel. While past after-prom festivities were held at the high school, students have enjoyed the hotel's 17th floor for several years now, solidifying a new tradition.

Prom sponsor Mrs. Amy Faith, in her third year overseeing the event, ensured everything ran seamlessly. One highlight was the buffet dinner in the grand ballroom, featuring a delicious spread of entrees and sides. Of course, no Pittsburgh celebration would be complete without the beloved cookie table. Despite a local power outage complicating baking efforts, parents came through with dozens of homemade cookies, much to the delight of stu-



Owner Sandie Scott, Dr. Imbarlina, stylist Olivia Wassill and Emerson Pryal at Salon U.

(Continued on page 17)

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Depreciation Lands Museum

Experience 18th Century History

Step back in time this June at the Depreciation Lands Museum in Hampton Township with an immersive event celebrating 18th-century life and entertainment!

On Sunday, June 8th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., gather in the museum's historic tavern for Tavern Games! Test your skills with classic 18th-century games like shut the box, marble solitaire, and cribbage, all enjoyed by colonists centuries ago. Whether

Memorial

(Continued from page 1)

English opened the event, the Hampton High School Band, comprised of 74 volunteer students, set the tone with stirring patriotic melodies, their music resonating through the crowd like a tribute carried on the wind. Pastor Ted Martin led a heartfelt prayer, and the scouts proudly recited the Pledge of Allegiance, their voices strong with respect for those who had served.

Post Commander Mark Heiber warmly welcomed all who had gathered, their presence a testament to the unwavering gratitude felt by the community. Then, in a breathtaking and unplanned moment of reverence, just as Hal finished ringing the bell for a solemn silence, the roar of an Air Force C-17 jet soared 1,000 feet overhead. It was chilling. It was powerful. It was a reminder of sacrifice that sent shivers through the crowd.

The highlight of the ceremony came as Hal unveiled the Gulf War Plaque, reading aloud the names etched in honor. One by one, attendees stepped forward, standing tall, their pride evident as the band softly played "God Bless the USA." The music wrapped around the moment like a solemn vow—never to forget, always to honor.

As the band struck up the anthems of each military branch, individuals representing those forces stepped forward with quiet strength. Nicholas DiCaprio and Brian Kessler stood for the Marines, Richard Silvester for the Army—these are just a few of the people who reflected service, sacrifice, and unyielding dedication. It was more than a gathering; it was a testament to remembrance, a celebration of valor, and a promise that the stories of those who served, and didn't come home, will never fade.

Visit www.thehamptonnews.com for more photos.

you're a seasoned player or learning for the first time, this event promises fun for all ages. Admission follows regular museum pricing—Adults \$5, Children \$3, Members Free.

Don't miss these unique opportunities to experience history in action—where the past isn't just remembered, it's lived!

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Current Events

Hartwood Acres Summer Music Lineup

Enjoy free live music under the open sky at the Allegheny County Summer Concert Series! Shows kick off at 7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted), with no tickets required. Arrive early to explore a variety of local food trucks, plus refreshments from Hop Farm Brewing and Black Dog Winery, available starting at 6:00 pm. Rain or shine, performances will take place at the open-air amphitheater with no covered seating.

6/01—River City Brass

6/08—Skyliners

6/15—No concert due to U.S. Open

6/22—Easy Star All-Stars: performing reggae versions of Pink Floyd, Radiohead, David Bowie, The Beatles, and Michael Jackson, including a full performance of “Dub side of the Moon!”

06/29 - **25th Annual Allegheny County Music Festival**, featuring Randall Baumann’s Ramble: A Celebration of Levon Helm’s Midnight Rambles. \$20 per vehicle suggested donation. Proceeds benefit the Allegheny County Music Festival Fund, which supports life-enriching items and experiences for children and youth served by the Department of Human Services and Juvenile Court.

07/20 - The Family Stone: original members of Sly & The Family Stone bring the funk

07/27 - Mat Kearney: platinum-selling singer-songwriter with a heart for indie-pop storytelling

08/03 - Nick Lowe & Los Straitjackets: a rock ‘n’ roll dream team full of retro cool

08/10 - KT Tunstall: Grammy-nominated hitmaker and loop-pedal wizard

08/17 - Smash Mouth: 90s favorites with mega-hits like “All Star” and “Walkin’ on the Sun”

08/31 - Monty Alexander: Jamaican jazz pioneer known for fusing bebop and reggae

PERMITTED ITEMS:

- Folding Chairs
- Outside food and drinks
- Popup tents and umbrellas may be used for shade prior to the concert, but they must be taken down before the performance begins.
- Dogs are permitted, but they must remain on leashes at all times and be up-to-date on all vaccinations and licensing. Owners must clean up after their dogs.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

- Charcoal grills
- Fire lanterns
- Drones

Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable

Kelly Mezurek presents “Their Own Cause: The 27th U.S. Colored Troops.”

Monday, June 30 at 6 pm. Hampton Township Community Center, 3101 McCully Road, Allison Park. Presentation is free and open to the public.

HHS Class Reunion

The Hampton High School Class of 1995 is celebrating its 30-year reunion locally on June 28-29, 2025! Details are being shared via social media and email. All classmates are invited and encouraged to attend.

For more information or to RSVP by June 6, please contact Kristin at klbrom828@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing all Class of 1995 Talbots there!

Farmer’s Market Opening Day

Wednesday, June 4

3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Community Center Parking Lot

Summerween Evening Swim

Saturday, June 21

at 7:30 p.m.—10 p.m.

Community Pool

Township Touch-A-Truck

Wednesday, June 11

4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Community Park Pool Lot

Pet First Aid 101 and Community Resources

Thursday, June 26 at 6 p.m.

at the Community Center

Sign up, contact Matt Hahn

412-487-7870

Pints In The Park

June 13, July 18, August 8,

September 6, September 12.



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Prom

(Continued from page 14)

dents. Parent Erin Colvin was recognized for her thoughtful cookie display setup.

Entertainment kept the energy high all night. A roaming magician, two caricature artists, and a wildly popular airbrush tattoo artist engaged the crowd. Diana DiMaria introduced a new feature—a self-service iPad photo booth decked out with a balloon arch and themed props.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) curated two engaging game rooms: one dedicated to card games, where parents volunteered as blackjack and poker dealers, and another featuring backyard favorites like cornhole, spike ball, and giant Jenga.

The night concluded with the crowning of the Prom King and Queen, Ryan Manno and Clara Mauro. Special thanks went out to DJ Matthew Carrol, Z Florist, photographer John Madia, and Perfect Image Photobooth Pittsburgh for making the night spectacular.

With another successful prom in the books, Hampton High students will cherish the memories for years to come. More prom photos at www.thehamptonnews.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Hampton Community Day

Thursday, July 3 Community Park
4 p.m. until Fireworks

National Ice Cream Day

Sunday, July 20 at 1 p.m.—3 p.m.
Community Pool

Christmas In July

Wednesday, July 23 4:00—6:00 p.m.
Community Pool

Township Movie Night

Friday, August 8 at 8:45 p.m.
Community Park Soccer Fields

Pool Member Appreciation Day

Wednesday, August 13 4-6 p.m.
Community Pool

Dog Swim Day

Saturday, September 6
11 a.m.—1 p.m. Community Pool
For additional information on these
events, visit www.hampton-pa.org

Pictured left: Hannah Kramer, Maddie Boras, Emerson Pryal, Keira Palmer, Elena Husar, Gigi Rudy, Ella Acquafondata, Gianna Kuhlmann, Maggie Barnett, Olivia Mayer, Ava Galuska, and Sarah Kenst

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UPCOMING EVENTS

17th Annual Shaler Great Gardens Tour Shows Great Personality

Gardeners are artists, painting landscapes with shovels instead of brushes. Experience their artistry on Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the Shaler Garden Club's Great Gardens Tour—an inspiring showcase of five spectacular gardens. Proceeds benefit the Shaler North Hills Library. Tickets are available in advance at the library (1822 Mt. Royal Blvd., Glenshaw, PA 15116) for \$20 or \$25 on the day of the tour or online at www.shalerlibrary.org.

A Sneak Peek at the Gardens

Keith & Bobbie Smith – Fox Chapel

After demolishing a neglected century-old home, the Smiths built a contemporary retreat, enfolded by gardens visible from every window. Over 100 native trees, shrubs, and perennials replaced invasive plants, forming a lush sanctuary. Featured in the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens, this space reflects a deep-rooted love for sharing beauty with others.

Alex & Sue Colaizzi – Ross Twp.

The historic 1929 Stonehouse stands among 2.5 acres of thoughtfully designed gardens. Stone walls, iron gates, rock gardens, a pond, and a flourishing dahlia garden invite visitors to explore. Sue, who has gardened here for 47 years, calls her work a passion, a sentiment echoed in every vibrant corner of their landscape.

William & Eileen Miller – Franklin Park

A living tapestry unfolds in layers of evergreens, Japanese maples, hydrangeas, and pollinator-friendly plants. Their garden encourages natural foraging while adding whimsical touches—a rooftop cupola, handmade steel flowers, and a copper bunny—each piece telling a story of care and creativity.

Debbie & Robert Busteed – Pine Twp.

Balancing a Certified Wildlife Preserve with stunning landscapes, this property showcases Moon Sycamore, Dwight Eisenhower Green Ash, and butterfly-friendly meadows. A woodland waterfall, overflowing urns, and a charming garden cottage add magic to the mix.

Shawn & Suzanne Graham – Pine Twp.

Built from a blank slate, this garden embraces Penn State Pollinator Certification and Audubon-approved native plant selections. Trees, shrubs, perennials, and seasonal blooms create an ever-evolving haven of beauty and purpose.

Celebrate 104 Years of Gardening Excellence

The tour is rain or shine and includes a chance to win a gift basket. Visit www.shalergardenclub.com or call (412) 486-0211 for details.

Recycling

(Continued from page 12)



paper recycling.

Recycling efforts extended to scrap metal, with approximately 3 tons collected, showcasing the importance of repurposing metals instead of discarding them. The event also featured JVS Electronics, though their final collection results were still forthcoming, reinforcing the importance of electronic waste recycling in reducing environmental impact.

Passing on mobility with purpose: Colleen Andrews hands over her crutches to Bryan Pusateri for recycling, giving them a second life.

19th Annual Firecracker 5K – July 4, 2025

Join the Hampton community at Hampton Community Park for the 19th Annual Firecracker 5K! The race begins at 8:30 a.m. featuring both a competitive course for runners and a walker-friendly option. Medals are up for grabs, and early registration ensures a tech-style race shirt. Proceeds support the Hampton Rotary Club's charitable and educational initiatives. Be part of this meaningful tradition! Visit the Rotary's donations page for details.



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Rep. Arvind Venkat

30th District
Allegheny County

Responding to the Storm, Easing Medical Debt, and Helping Military Families

by State Rep. Arvind Venkat

Since the April 29th storm, my staff and I have been communicating with residents, Duquesne Light, and the Public Utility Commission about the damage sustained in our area and the timeliness of the response. Being available to our community and effectively advocating for my neighbors continue to be among my top priorities.

In the legislature, a strong, bipartisan majority of the House passed legislation I introduced to help ensure patients and their families are better informed about hospital-based financial assistance programs and how to access them. House Bill 79 – now with the state Senate – would help all patients and their families avoid medical debt before it ever accrues.

The House also unanimously passed my House Bill 865 with State

Rep. Craig Williams, R-Delaware, that would bolster an important program for military families. The Military Family Education Program provides 10 semesters of tuition-free education for family members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Our bill makes clear that the benefit is available each time a Guard member reenlists or renews their service commitment. It is now with the State Senate for consideration.

I recently introduced House Bill 1470 with State Rep. Bryan Cutler, R-Lancaster, that would ensure Medical Assistance patients have access to GLP-1 drugs while saving the state money.

Our bill would implement a system to reduce the state's upfront expenditure for these drugs, which fight obesity and can help prevent costly diseases like type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease. Lower-income patients would have access to an important and beneficial medication, while healthier outcomes for these patients would translate to greater cost savings for the state.



State Senator
LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS
38th Senatorial District



As many of you may have heard, Pittsburgh Regional Transit is proposing major cuts to public transportation all over our region. In particular, Hampton could see local routes like the Mt. Royal and Thompson Run routes eliminated entirely. Along with these fixed route cuts, Hampton would lose all ACCESS service for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

As your State Senator and a new member of the PRT Board, I know that these cuts will be devastating. Our people, our workforce, and the future economic prosperity of Pennsylvania depends on access to transportation. Even leadership in the Senate Majority agrees with this.

That's why I'm joining my colleagues Senator Nikil Saval,

Rep. Aerion Abney, and Rep. Jessica Benham to introduce the Transit for All PA! legislation package, a suite of legislative proposals to help secure full funding for transit agencies across Pennsylvania.

This legislation is projected to yield hundreds of millions of dollars, enough to fully close the current funding gaps, prevent service cuts and fare hikes, and allow transit agencies to restore and expand services. That means returning lost service into places like Hampton and the greater North Hills area.

It builds on Governor Shapiro's proposal to allocate a portion of the existing income tax to public transit. Together, this funding can create statewide transit systems that will get people where they need and want to go, when they want to get there.

This is a fight that we can win, but we need your help. Please continue to share your stories with PRT and your legislators, and encourage your friends, family, and your employers to get in the fight! Reach out to PRT at www.rideprt.org and share your story with my office by calling 412-364-0469 or emailing

SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com.

Jeremy Shaffer

Devastating Storms Highlight the Need for Solutions Moving Forward



In late April, Hampton and other communities were hit with devastating storms. They caused widespread damage and knocked out power to many across Western Pennsylvania. I want to thank all our first responders, road crews, electric linemen and everyone who helped with storm recovery.

The effects in Hampton were significant and lingering, with many more severe than major snowstorms, including long-term power outages, road blockages and school closures. During the time it took to get the power back on, my office worked hard to advocate for our residents. I also heard your



complaints and frustrations about getting electricity restored, and lack of timely and reliable information.

It is important we learn from this experience to see what was done well and what we must improve in the future. We need a strong and resilient power grid. There are steps other regions have taken from vegetation management, to burying critical cables, to having improved local staffing, that we can implement here to reduce the severity of the impact of future events.

I have asked for an in-depth review of how our electric companies are preparing for and responding to storms, so I am pleased the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is conducting an investigation. I'm also looking forward to the commission's findings and working on real policy solutions that will improve the storm response in the future.

It's unacceptable that people were in the dark for as long as they were. Severe weather will continue to happen, and I'm committed to making sure we're not just reacting to these storms, but also actively preparing for the next one.



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