

**November 25, 2021**  
*Weekly Update*



**NAACP**  
*Pennsylvania*  
STATE CONFERENCE



As you consider your many blessings, also think about and remember those who are struggling to put food on their table, are homeless, mentally unstable, fighting addictions, contemplating suicide.

For many, this year has been and continues to be a tough year. There are those who lost loved ones because of COVID and other health complications. Some of these losses are recent and still painful. All are encouraged to check in on loved ones, friends and neighbors such as seniors, or those you know have had a difficult time. Even a phone call can make a difference. For those with specific needs, if you can, share your resources and blessings.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania State Conference, it is our hope that all have a Thanksgiving full of joy and contentment. Don't hesitate to inquire as to the health status of those you will surround yourself with and when uncomfortable insist on them wearing a mask or you wear a mask.

Take this time to be intentionally positive instead of negative. Be kind and bless someone if you can. Allow the peace of God to comfort you as you count your blessings. Remember that being a blessing is never limited to one day.

**HAVE A WONDERFULLY BLESSED TIME OF THANKSGIVING!**

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**Ahmaud Marquez Arbery**  
May 8, 1994 – February 23, 2020

Senselessly killed on February 23, 2020, in Brunswick, Georgia at the age of 25, the family, community, and friends can find some solace in the verdict of those charged with his murder.

**VERDICT:** pronounced on November 24, 2021, following deliberation of a jury for approximately 11 hours found Travis McMichael, Greg McMichael, and William Bryan guilty on murder charges.

We still continue to grieve with the family as Ahmaud represents yet another Black male to lose his life for no good reason.

**FANTA BILITY**



Prosecutors say three officers were firing at a car they believed was connected to a shooting between two teens. One of the bullets hit eight-year-old Fanta Bility on August 27, 2021, following a football game at Academy Park High School in Sharon Hill, PA (Delaware County) at around 9:00 p.m. As a result of these shots, Fanta was hit and died. Prosecutors say that two teens are charged because their actions are what led directly to Bility's death. The officers who fired the shots have been put on administrative leave. A Grand Jury will determine whether the police officers will be charged. The full investigation is still ongoing and at this point there are more questions than

answers. Both the local NAACP Darby Branch which has jurisdiction over Sharon Hill and the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference Criminal Justice Committee continue to monitor the results of the investigation with the hope that the Criminal Justice System in Pennsylvania will be followed to hold those accountable for the death of Fanta Bility. We offer our sincere condolences to yet another family who has to mourn the loss of a child.

<https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/fanta-bility-police-firing-sharon-hill-20211115.html>

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## **SCHOOL FUNDING LAWSUIT**

The trial began on Friday, November 12, 2021  
with oral argument.

Pennsylvania's constitution states that the General Assembly must "provide a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth."

"Instead, the General Assembly has long upheld a system of inequitable and inadequate funding for our public schools. The failure to provide needed resources for students has necessitated the highly anticipated suit on behalf of six school districts."

**Follow this historic trial!**

**<https://www.fundourschoolspa.org/trial>**

The trial ran through the week of November 15 – November 19, 2021. The court adjourned for the Thanksgiving Holiday week of November 22nd and will resume on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The trial is being heard before Commonwealth Court Judge  
Renée Cohn Jubelirer.

The witnesses thus far have been:

- David McAndrew, Superintendent of Panther Valley School District
- Tara Yuricheck, a 5th grade history teacher in Panther Valley School District, and Derek Black, a professor at University of South Carolina Law School.
- Dr. Matthew Kelly, professor at Penn State's College of Education and an expert in the field of education and finance.

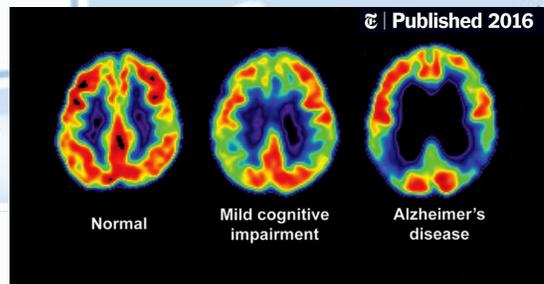
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## HEALTH OBSERVANCES NOVEMBER 2021

**Among other observances we have chosen to highlight the following:**

### **Alzheimer's Disease Awareness**

Alzheimer is one of the main causes of dementia and is a progressive mental deterioration that can occur due to generalized degeneration of the brain. It is also the most common cause of premature senility. As of now, there is no cure; however, medications and management strategies may temporarily improve symptoms.



### **Diabetes Awareness**

"A1C test, and it's a powerhouse. It can identify prediabetes, which raises your risk for diabetes. It can be used to diagnose diabetes. And it's used to monitor how well your diabetes treatment is working over time. It's also a critical step in forming your game plan to manage diabetes with your diabetes care team."



## DECEMBER 2021

### **World AIDS Day — December 1**

The theme is End inequalities. End AIDS. This year's domestic and global themes focus on inclusion, equity, and better health for all people affected by HIV and AIDS.

<https://www.cdc.gov/worldaidsday/index.html>

### **International Day of Persons with Disabilities December 3**

International  
Communication  
Project

3 December 2021

**International Day of  
Persons with Disabilities**

Towards an inclusive, accessible,  
and sustainable post COVID-19 world



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Over **1 billion people** globally experience disability (One in 7)



**International Day  
of Persons with  
Disabilities**

**3 December  
2021**

**Disability**  
is universal

It is estimated **80%** of people with disability live in developing countries.

It is estimated that some **93 million children** – or one in 20 of those under 15 years of age – live with a **moderate or severe disability**.

**70 million people** need a wheelchair.  
Only **5-15%** have access to one.



Disability disproportionately affects women, older people, and poor people.



People with disabilities have the same general health care needs as others. But they are:

- 2x** more likely to find health care providers' skills and facilities inadequate;
- 4x** more likely to be treated badly in the health care system; and
- 50%** more likely to suffer catastrophic health expenditure. These out of pocket health care payments can push a family into poverty.

**Half (1/2)** of people with disabilities cannot afford health care.



Communication disorders/difficulties are not consistently recognised globally as a disability.



**360 million people** globally have moderate to profound **hearing loss**.

Production of hearing aids only meets **10% of global needs** and **3% of developing country needs**.



Making all health care services **accessible** to people with disabilities is achievable and will reduce unacceptable health disparities.

Disability is included in five of the goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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## **COVID UPDATES**

# COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccines are safe and effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illnesses.

**All Pennsylvanians age 5 and older are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.** As of November 2, with parental consent, children ages 5 through 11 may now receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more about the [pediatric vaccine](#).

All adults in Pennsylvania are now eligible to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine booster. Based on [CDC recommendation Opens In A New Window](#), everyone 18 and older can schedule a booster dose six months after receiving their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or two months after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

**Looking for a replacement COVID-19 vaccine card?** We can help by sending you a record of your immunizations! Please visit the [PA-SIIS page](#) and complete the Authorization for Release of Immunizations Records Form.

**<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>**

**<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>**

Physicians are concerned that since the pandemic, many patients have not made appointments to receive a physical examination or consulted their primary doctor regarding prescriptions that they were taking that may now have expired. As we approach the end of the year, if you have not had a physical examination, please make an appointment as soon as possible to do so. Your health is important!