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Media Advisory

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USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Glen Smith and State Director Chris Hoffman to Unveil Major Education Investment and Highlight Agency Impact Across Pennsylvania

(Harrisburg, Pa., October 2, 2026) — On October 6, Under Secretary Glen R. Smith and Pennsylvania State Director Chris Hoffman will begin the day at the Wallenpaupack Area School District, where they will announce a major investment that strengthens educational opportunities for local students. They will then travel to Jim Thorpe to highlight broader Rural Development investments, including across Pennsylvania, and tour the community's combined police station, administrative office, and community center, which was supported in part by a $3.2 million Rural Development investment.

Wallenpaupack Area School District Funding Announcement:*

WHO: USDA Rural Development Under Secretary Smith and State Director Hoffman; students and faculty of Wallenpaupack Area School District; federal and state officials

WHAT: Multi-million-dollar announcement in education in Wayne and Pike Counties impacting 1,200 high school and adult learners annually

WHEN: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Wallenpaupack Area High School, 2552 Route 6, Hawley, PA

Press Conference: USDA Rural Development Announces Fiscal Year End Impacts Including Investments Across Rural Pennsylvania:*

WHO: USDA/Rural Development Under Secretary Smith and State Director Hoffman; Officials from Jim Thorpe; congressional staff

WHAT: USDA announces fiscal year 2026 impacts including investments across rural Pennsylvania

WHEN: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall, 115 East 10th St, Jim Thorpe, PA

RSVP: Media must RSVP to Heather Donodeo at heather.donodeo@usda.gov by close of business October 5.

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