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Devin Ryan  
Principal

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File #: 192112

January 18, 2022

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE YORK WATER COMPANY Under Sections 1102(a)(1) and 1102(a)(3) of the Public Utility Code, for approval of the right of THE YORK WATER COMPANY to (1) to acquire certain private wastewater facilities from Country View Manor Community, LLC; and (2) begin to offer, render, furnish and supply wastewater service to the public in a portion of Washington Township, York County, Pennsylvania  
Docket No. A-2021-3030076**

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Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing is the Proof of Publication indicating that notice of the above-referenced proceeding was published in *The York Dispatch/York Sunday News* and *York Daily Record* on December 23, 2021 and December 27, 2021.

Furthermore, the Application was served on the entities listed in the Commission's December 17, 2021 Secretarial Letter, as evidenced by the Certificate of Service included with the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Devin Ryan

DR/cls  
Attachment

## Proof of Publication State of Pennsylvania

**The York Dispatch/York Sunday News and York Daily Record** are the names of the daily newspaper(s) of general circulation published continuously for more than six months at its principal place of business, 1891 Loucks Road, York, PA 17408.

The printed copy of the advertisement hereto attached is a true copy, exactly as printed and published, of an advertisement printed in the regular issues of the said **The York Dispatch/York Sunday News and York Daily Record** published on the following dates, viz:

December 23, 2021  
December 27, 2021

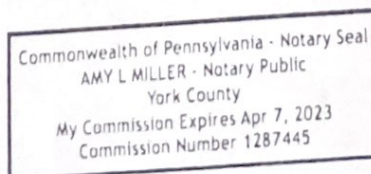
### COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF YORK

Before me, a Notary Public, personally came John Pfeiffer who being duly sworn deposes and says that he is an Account Manager of **The York Dispatch/York Sunday News and York Daily Record** and he personally knowledge of the publication of the advertisement mentioned in the foregoing statement as to the time, place and character of publications are true, and that the affiant is not interested in the subject matter of the above mentioned advertisement.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, on this 7th day of January 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

} *john pfeiffer-1-10-2022*  
\_\_\_\_\_ John Pfeiffer-1/10/2022



► WHISTLE

Continued from A1

since 1955. Yorkers can hear the sounds of the Christmas carols being played from miles away. But even more people have tuned in to hear them — via the internet — from across the globe. Now in its seventh year, people can tune in to watch a livestream of the concert at [www.yorkpafactorywhistle.com](http://www.yorkpafactorywhistle.com). Streaming will begin at 12 a.m.

Ryan said the whistle produces 134.1 decibels of sound at a 23-foot distance, which is louder than a jet engine, which produces 115 decibels at the same distance. Depending on the wind direction, he said, the whistle concert has been heard up to 12 miles away.

**'Weird music':** For new transplants who are unfamiliar with this York tradition, hearing the whistle for the first time without warning can be unnerving.

"It's funny the different stories that people tell me who have never heard it before," Ryan said. "You don't see anybody playing it, but you hear this weird music when you're all around York."

Some new residents, who later became fans of Ryan, told him that they had first thought their house was haunted, he said.

Other stories include a mother who wasn't too happy about the factory whistle playing after she had put her baby to sleep, Ryan said.

And one time, folks at the York County Court-



Whistle master Donald E. Ryan plays the factory whistle during a 2018 rehearsal for the annual Christmas morning concert in York City. The performance of traditional carols on the whistle will take place at 12:15 a.m. Saturday. Below, notes are seen marked on the controls for the whistle.



house asked him nicely to practice after business hours because the sound was disrupting court sessions, he said.

**Group effort:** Even though Ryan is at the helm, it takes at least four people, including himself, to carry out the 20- to 25-minute show on Christmas morning.

One person operates an air compressor, another pulls and holds

the valve open to the whistle and finally someone points at the music to help Ryan better read the notes, he said.

The York Christmas tradition began in the 1920s with a steam whistle at the New York Wire Co. building on East Market Street. In 2013, the whistle was transferred to the Metso Co. building on Arch

Street. Steam was used until 2009. Since 2010, however, the whistle has been powered by compressed air.

The York Factory Whistle Concert Fund, established in 2011, helps keep the tradition alive, according to the York County Community Foundation. The Engineering Society of York and the York Factory Whistle Concert Committee now run the annual event, Ryan said.

"These people that come in and help out. They're from different industries around York," Ryan said. "Without these other people stepping up, I could not do this."

— *Reach Harper Ho at [hho@yorkdispatch.com](mailto:hho@yorkdispatch.com) or on Twitter at @howdyhoharper.*

► DEADLINES

Continued from A1

Candidates and their supporters are scheduled to begin circulating nominating petitions to get on the primary ballot as of Feb. 15, but counties need about three weeks before that to prepare materials for the process. The petition circulation period is scheduled to end March 8.

Degraffenreid said people have until Jan. 18 to file objections to the proposed maps.

"And the whole process will be further impacted by the time necessary to file and consider any appeals to the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court," she told the legislative leaders.

Congressional redistricting is done separately through legislation that must pass both chambers — currently with Republican majorities — and be signed by Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat. It's unclear when the General Assembly will consider new districts that reflect a drop in the state's congressional delegation from 18 seats to 17.

As the pandemic was spreading throughout the country in March 2020, Pennsylvania lawmakers voted to delay that year's presidential primary by five weeks, from April 28 to June 2.

► INTERVIEW

Continued from A3

to overturn the election. Jordan is a staunch supporter of the former president's false claims about voter fraud. The lawmaker brought those claims up during an October hearing on a motion to hold former White House chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon in contempt for refusing to comply with a congressional subpoena.

In that hearing, Jordan admitted once again that he spoke with Trump on the day of the attack.

"Of course, I talked to the president," Jordan told members of the Rules Committee, in response to questioning from the panel's chairman, Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. "I talked to him that day. I've been clear about that. I don't recall the number of times, but it's not about me. I know you want to make it about that."

A request for comment from Jordan's office was not immediately returned.

Thompson writes

that Jordan has already publicly signaled a willingness to cooperate with the panel's efforts to get answers about Jan. 6, citing the lawmaker's quote from that October hearing: "I've said all along. I have nothing to hide. I've been straightforward all along."

On Monday, the committee sent a similar request to Republican Rep. Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, who the panel believes had "an important role" in efforts to install then-Justice Department official Jeffrey Clark as acting attorney general in late 2020.

Perry rejected the committee's request Tuesday, calling the committee and its investigation "illegitimate."

In response, Tim Mulvey, a committee spokesperson, said that while the panel prefers to gather evidence from members "cooperatively," it will pursue such information "using other tools" if necessary.

► PFIZER

Continued from A1

could overwhelm hospitals.

The drug, Paxlovid, is a faster, cheaper way to treat early COVID-19 infections, though initial supplies will be extremely limited. All of the previously authorized drugs against the disease require an IV or an injection.

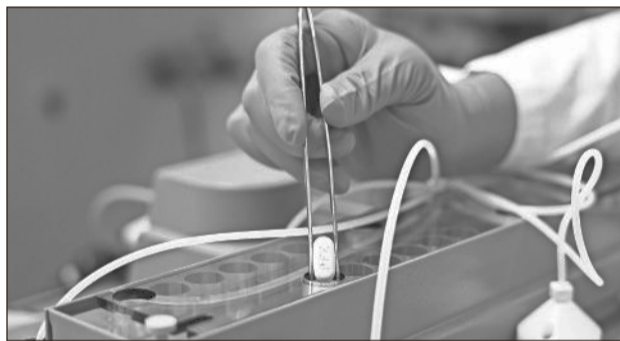
**Effective:** An antiviral pill from Merck also is expected to soon win authorization. But Pfizer's drug is all but certain to be the preferred option because of its mild side effects and superior effectiveness, including a nearly 90% reduction in hospitalizations and deaths among patients most likely to get severe disease.

"The efficacy is high, the side effects are low and it's oral. It checks all the boxes," said Dr. Gregory Poland of the Mayo Clinic. "You're looking at a 90% decreased risk of hospitalization and death in a high-risk group — that's stunning."

The Food and Drug Administration authorized Pfizer's drug for adults and children ages 12 and older with a positive COVID-19 test and early symptoms who face the highest risks of hospitalization. That includes older people and those with conditions like obesity and heart disease. Children eligible for the drug must weigh at least 88 pounds (40 kilograms).

The pills from both Pfizer and Merck are expected to be effective against omicron because they don't target the spike protein where most of the variant's worrisome mutations reside.

**Increasing production:** Pfizer currently has 180,000 treatment courses available worldwide, with roughly 60,000 to 70,000 allocated to the U.S. Federal health officials are expected to ration early shipments to the hardest hit parts of the country. Pfizer said the small supply is due to the manufacturing time



Pfizer's Paxlovid pills, used to treat COVID-19, are seen in a lab last month. U.S. regulators approved the pills for use on Wednesday.

— currently about nine months. The company says it can halve production time next year.

The U.S. government has agreed to purchase enough Paxlovid to treat 10 million people. Pfizer says it's on track to produce 80 million courses globally next year, under contracts with the U.K., Australia and other nations.

Health experts agree that vaccination remains the best way to protect against COVID-19. But with roughly 40 million American adults still unvaccinated, effective drugs will be critical to blunting the current and future waves of infection.

The U.S. is now reporting more than 140,000 new infections daily and federal officials warn that the omicron variant could send case counts soaring. Omicron has already whipped across the country to become the dominant strain, federal officials confirmed earlier this week.

Against that backdrop, experts warn that Paxlovid's initial impact could be limited.

For more than a year, biotech-engineered antibody drugs have been the go-to treatments for COVID-19. But they are expensive, hard to produce and require an injection or infusion, typically given at a hospital or clinic. Also, laboratory testing suggests the two leading antibody drugs used in the U.S. aren't effective against omicron.

**Challenges:** Pfizer's pill comes with its own challenges.

Patients will need a

positive COVID-19 test to get a prescription. And Paxlovid has only proven effective if given within five days of symptoms appearing. With testing supplies stretched, experts worry it may be unrealistic for patients to self-diagnose, get tested, see a physician and pick up a prescription within that narrow window.

"If you go outside that window of time I fully expect the effectiveness of this drug is going to fall," said Andrew Pekosz, a Johns Hopkins University virologist.

The FDA based its decision on company

results from a 2,250-patient trial that showed the pill cut hospitalizations and deaths by 89% when given to people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 within three days of symptoms. Less than 1% of patients taking the drug were hospitalized and none died at the end of the 30-day study period, compared with 6.5% of patients hospitalized in the group getting a dummy pill, which included nine deaths.

Pfizer's drug is part of a decades-old family of antiviral drugs known as protease inhibitors, which revolutionized the treatment of HIV and hepatitis C. The drugs block a key enzyme which viruses need to multiply in the human body.

The U.S. will pay about \$500 for each course of Pfizer's treatment, which consists of three pills taken twice a day for five days. Two of the pills are Paxlovid and the third is a different antiviral that helps boost levels of the main drug in the body.



**Christmas and New Year Holiday Collection Schedule**

**Saturday 12/25/21**

**Saturday 01/01/22**

**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS:**

Due to the Christmas Day and New Year's Day Holidays occurring on Saturday, Penn Waste routes will not be affected by the holiday.

Please visit our web site at [www.pennwaste.com](http://www.pennwaste.com) for specific municipality information.

Sign Up for our E-News Updates to receive collection updates sent directly to your e-mail inbox!

*Penn Waste wishes all of our customers a safe and happy holiday!*

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION NOTICE**

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**Applicant:**

**THE YORK WATER COMPANY**  
130 East Market Street  
York, PA 17401-1219

**Through and By Counsel for:**

Michael W. Hassell, Esquire  
Devin T. Ryan, Esquire  
Post & Schell, P.C.  
17 North Second Street – 12th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1601  
717-612-6052  
[dryan@postschell.com](mailto:dryan@postschell.com)

**BY THE COMMISSION**

  
**Rosemary Chiavetta**  
 Secretary

► **MILITARY**

*Continued from A3*

as well as 14 examples of what constitutes “active participation” in those activities.

Knowingly displaying any sort of paraphernalia, words or symbols that support extremism or groups that are vocal proponents of extremist ideology is considered “active participation” under the new guidelines. According to the Pentagon, that includes “flags, clothing, tattoos and bumper stickers” on or off a military installation.

Officials also took a closer look at the screening process for new recruits, citing “several tragic incidents involving people with access to Department of Defense installations.”

The report mentions shootings at Fort Hood in 2009 and the Washington Navy Yard in 2013, both of which were carried out by current or former service members.

Defense department officials outlined new efforts to ferret out recruits with potentially dangerous extremist ideologies, starting with updating screening questionnaires to include specific questions about whether recruits have joined “racially biased enti-

**“We owe the men and women of the Department of Defense an environment free of extremist activities, and we owe our country a military that reflects the founding values of our democracy.”**

— Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III

ties and other extremist groups.”

The forms will notify recruits that any involvement in criminal gangs or extremist organizations is forbidden.

Recruiters and the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations also now have access to an FBI portal with “information on local gangs, white-supremacy and nationalist groups, gang signs, and extremist symbols and tattoos,” the report states. Officials said the portal will allow recruiters and investigators to better assess “questionable tat-

toos and branding that suggest propensities to extremism and violence.”

If a recruit either attests to being a member of an extremist organization or has a tattoo that’s been flagged by the FBI, senior leadership will have to issue what’s known as a “Morals Eligibility Determination” that allows them to move forward in the application process, the defense department said.

During a background briefing, a senior defense official outlined the screening process for applicants, which includes a recruiter interview, a look at their criminal history or past involvement with law enforcement, fingerprinting and an FBI name check.

“We look at that and the city, county, and state of residence at the time of enlistment,” the official said. “We also look for any offensive, racist, supremacist tattoos, including those that may reflect gang affiliation. Then we have a robust partnership with the FBI Cryptology and Racketeering Records Unit to be able to look at symbology as it may be evolving across the United States because, again, that’s one of the things that we found is that this changes so quickly and it can vary a lot region-to-region, state-by-state.”

► **PUTIN**

*Continued from A3*

from the West.

“We didn’t do it just to see it blocked ... but for the purpose of reaching a negotiated diplomatic result that would be fixed in legally binding documents,” Putin said.

He reaffirmed that NATO membership for Ukraine or the deployment of alliance weapons there is a red line for Moscow that it wouldn’t allow the West to cross.

“We have nowhere to retreat,” he said, adding that NATO could deploy missiles in Ukraine that would take just four or five minutes to reach Moscow. “They have pushed us to a line that we can’t cross. They have taken it to the point where we simply must tell them; ‘Stop!’” He voiced concern

that the U.S. and its allies could try to drag out the security talks and use them as a cover to pursue a military buildup near Russia.

He noted that Russia published its security demands to make them known to the public and raise the pressure on the U.S. and its allies to negotiate a security deal.

Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in remarks broadcast Sunday that NATO’s expansion to Ukraine or other ex-Soviet nations is “a matter of life or death for us.”

He noted that Friday’s test-firing of Russia’s Zircon hypersonic missiles would help make Russia’s push for security guarantees

“more convincing.”

Friday’s launches were the latest in a series of test of Zircon, which Putin said is capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound to a range of more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles). They marked the first time Zircon missiles were launched in a salvo, indicating the completion of tests before the new missile enters service with the Russian navy next year and arms its cruisers, frigates and submarines.

Peskov on Sunday also pointed at Putin’s earlier warning that a Ukrainian offensive against the rebel-held territories would entail “grave consequences” for Ukraine’s statehood,

adding that “they know it well in Kyiv and they know it well in Washington.”

Russia annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and shortly after threw its support behind a separatist rebellion in the country’s east. Over more than seven years, the fighting has killed over 14,000 people and devastated Ukraine’s industrial heartland.



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BY THE COMMISSION

*Rosemary Chiavetta*  
**Rosemary Chiavetta**  
Secretary

ADVERTISEMENT



**Why you need dental insurance in retirement.**

Many Americans are fortunate to have dental coverage for their entire working life, through employer-provided benefits. When those benefits end with retirement, paying dental bills out-of-pocket can come as a shock, leading people to put off or even go without care.

Simply put – without dental insurance, there may be an important gap in your healthcare coverage.

**When you’re comparing plans...**

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services. Some plans may limit the number of procedures – or pay for preventive care only.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles. Some plans may require you to pay hundreds out of pocket before benefits are paid.
- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits. Some plans have annual maximums of \$1,000.

**Medicare doesn’t pay for dental care.<sup>1</sup>**

That’s right. As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. That means if you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

**Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.**

The best way to prevent large dental bills is preventive care. The American Dental Association recommends checkups twice a year.

**Previous dental work can wear out.**

Even if you’ve had quality dental work in the past, you shouldn’t take your dental health for granted. In fact, your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.<sup>2</sup>

**Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.**

Consider these national average costs of treatment ... \$217 for a checkup ... \$189 for a filling ... \$1,219 for a crown.<sup>3</sup> Unexpected bills like this can be a real burden, especially if you’re on a fixed income.

<sup>1</sup> “Medicare & You,” Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2021. <sup>2</sup> “How might my oral and dental health change as I age?”, [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com), 11/30/2018. <sup>3</sup> American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2018 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2018, American Dental Association.

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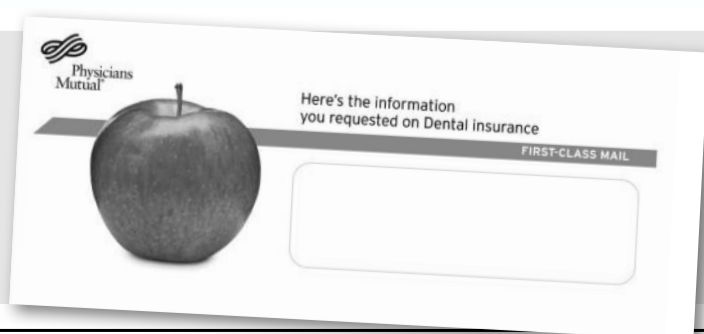
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Colleen W., MO



Includes the Participating (GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds B438, B439 (GA: B439B).



The beneficiaries of this year's Christmas Emergency Fund are York County victims of Hurricane Ida. FILE PHOTO

## Christmas Emergency Fund benefits local victims of Ida

Each holiday season, the York Daily Record offers readers the opportunity to help our community through the Christmas Emergency Fund.

Hundreds of York County residents were affected by the remnants of Hurricane Ida when torrential rains overwhelmed parts of York County on Sept. 1, 2021. First responders braved flooded roadways to save lives during the height of the storm.

But Ida's impact did not end when the rain stopped. Once the flood waters receded, the extent of the damage was evident in the debris and damage done to homes and other property – losses that were in many cases not fully covered by insurance or FEMA grants.

The York County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster movement has a Long-Term Recovery Committee to secure funding, in-kind or cash donations, material and labor to bring as many homes as possible back to a safe, sanitary and secure condition.

Your gift to the 2021 York Daily Record Christmas Emergency Fund will go to help those families who still need assistance rebuilding after the storm.

Traditions Bank and the York County Community Foundation are partnering with us to collect and disburse donations – all free of charge so every penny goes to help local folks.

Please consider giving generously. You can donate online at <https://bit.ly/3CznS3U>, or checks can be mailed to: YDR Christmas Emergency Fund C/O Traditions Bank, 226 Pauline Drive, York, PA 17402-0136.

**Current total: \$10,548.09**

# Man said he woke up, 'snapped' and strangled his 72-year-old wife

Shelly Stallsmith York Daily Record  
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

Ronald Kachinski told police “something wasn't right in his head” when he woke up Tuesday morning.

Less than 30 minutes later, the 76-year-old was on the phone, telling 911 he had strangled his wife and she was lying dead on the living room floor.

He “snapped” after waking up, and began to strangle his 72-year-old wife, Sandra Anderson, he told Pennsylvania State Police during an interview Tuesday. Kachinski is in York County Prison after being denied bail at his arraignment on charges of criminal homicide and strangulation.

Kachinski told police he began strangling Anderson in the bedroom of their home on Alta Vista Way in Springfield Township, but she escaped his grip and

ran to the living room, yelling “no” and “stop.” Kachinski followed her and threw her to the floor, according to an affidavit of probable cause.

Kachinski told police he “placed his hands on her neck, and continued to strangle her again.”

Kachinski said he sat on his couch for a minute before calling 911 to report he had killed his wife.

Police found Anderson just where Kachinski said she would be, lying in a fetal position on the living room floor. Following police direction, Kachinski exited the house and was taken into custody.

Results were not yet available from Wednesday morning's autopsy.

Shelly Stallsmith is a trends reporter for the York Daily Record. She can be reached at [mstallsmith@ydr.com](mailto:mstallsmith@ydr.com) or followed on Twitter at @ShelStallsmith.

# Coroner IDs man found dead in car at Springettsbury Township Walmart

Shelly Stallsmith York Daily Record  
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

A welfare check ended in tragedy late Saturday afternoon when a man was found dead in his vehicle in a York County Walmart parking lot, police say.

Springettsbury Township Police Lt. Brian Wilbur said Monday that a shopper called police out of concern.

“She noticed the man when she went into the store, and he was in the same position when she came out of the store,” Wilbur said. “So she called us, just to check on him.”

The York County coroner's office released late Tuesday night that the man was 55-year-old Frank Nispel.

Wilbur said the man had a York County address, but the coroner's office said he had no recent home address. It is believed he was living out of his vehicle, which had possibly been parked in the lot for a few days.

There was no evidence of foul play, and Wilbur said

there was no indication of drug use.

A Facebook post Saturday on the Fixing York PA page brought comments and speculation about what went on in the parking lot. The initial post said there was a “major police presence and a section of the parking lot is cordoned off.”

From there, people speculated that it was a drug overdose, that it was young people and that there were two people.

Wilbur stated there was one person in the vehicle when police arrived.

“We have no indication there was a second person in the car,” Wilbur said. “But if anyone knows differently, we need them to reach out to us with that information.”

People can contact the Springettsbury Township Police Department at 717-757-3525 with any information about Saturday's incident.

Shelly Stallsmith is a trends reporter for the York Daily Record. She can be reached at [mstallsmith@ydr.com](mailto:mstallsmith@ydr.com) or followed on Twitter at @ShelStallsmith.

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**BY THE COMMISSION**

*Rosemary Chiavetta*  
Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary

# Capitol rioters cleared to spend holidays families

Erik Larson Bloomberg News  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Some of the people confined to their homes while awaiting trial on charges tied to the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of former President Donald Trump have been freed to travel for the holidays.

While it's been almost a year since a mob tried to forcibly prevent Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's election victory, criminal cases against hundreds of defendants still haven't been resolved, and judges have been temporarily loosening some restrictions on their movement so they can meet with family members.

Federico Klein, a former Trump appointee with the State Department, on Tuesday won permission from U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden to travel to visit his brother on Christmas Eve. The request by Klein, accused of attacking police with a riot shield, wasn't challenged by prosecutors.

Thomas Caldwell, a Virginia man who is charged in one of the biggest conspiracy cases stemming from

the riot and who bought a gun that looked like a cell-phone weeks before the attack, asked to attend a party with his neighbors on Christmas. U.S. District Judge Amit P. Mehta in Washington on Monday granted the request, which prosecutors didn't challenge.

Donovan Crowl, a former Marine who stormed the Capitol with the right-wing Oath Keepers militia group while wearing a combat helmet and ballistic goggles, asked to spend Christmas and New Year's with his sister. Christopher Grider, a Texas wine-maker who allegedly helped shatter a window leading to the House chamber, asked to leave his multi-acre property in central Texas to visit family in Houston and Dallas this week. Both requests were granted.

In Grider's case, prosecutors had tried in January to keep him locked up by arguing the father of three was “at the front line, breaching a secure location with violence after disrupting Congress.” Even so, the U.S. didn't object to his recent holiday plans.

The treatment of many of the 700 people charged so far with crimes stemming from the Capitol siege has been criticized by some as too lenient for people who allegedly attempted to forcibly overthrow an election. Prosecutors had a hard time keeping many of them behind bars pending trial, with judges instead granting home confinement with GPS monitoring.

Kimberly Wehle, a former federal prosecutor in Washington who has been closely watching the Jan. 6 cases, said the treatment of many of the defendants sends the message “that these are ho-hum crimes.”

“How many people in U.S. jails and prisons – disproportionately men of color, and some for low-level non-violent offenses – enjoy Christmas at home?” said Wehle, now a professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law. “To state the question is to answer it: It doesn't happen.”

Many defendants who are confined to their homes are already allowed to leave their property for work, church services or medical appointments. Others don't need to request to leave for the holidays because they're already locked up with their families. But not all of them.

Adam Johnson, who was photographed smiling in the Capitol while walking away with the Speaker of the House's lectern, wants to visit his father on Christmas Eve in Miami. U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton granted that request Dec. 13.

George Pierre Tanios, charged in March with assaulting a U.S. Capitol Police officer, filed an unopposed motion to modify his home confinement to travel from West Virginia to New Jersey to visit family for Christmas.

“His sister is about to have a baby any day now, and he would like to be able to meet his new niece/nephew during the holiday get together for his family,” his lawyer said in the filing.



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PA-GC10790387-02

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**Postmaster:** Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 5830, Augusta, GA 30916

# Juries

Continued from Page 1A

it," Thomas said. "The IRS have said what we are doing is wrong."

Thomas recently gave a presentation to the Beaver County Commissioners regarding proposed legislation that would change the way jury members are paid in the state.

He said state legislators have introduced a bill in which an employer would pay a worker, who is summoned for jury duty, like a regular day of work, and would take the entire amount and deduct it like a regular employee-related expense. After taxes are measured, the IRS would reimburse costs.

"It's also been passed in the Legislature that it will be served as a tax credit in the state of Pennsylvania," Thomas said.

Thomas said in the proposed bill, the employee/juror would receive the full wage, and the employer would be fully indemnified.

"The county would be forgiven a \$49,000 bill that they don't owe," he said.

Thomas said he is planning on giving a full presentation on this matter during a March 2022 meeting with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

He said he is hoping to get as much support from commissioners across the state before the CCAP meeting, to increase the chances the full CCAP members will endorse the idea.

"If CCAP endorses the bill, it'll pass the Legislature," Thomas said.

The commissioners said they will speak with the county law department and the court system to see if they support the idea of sending a letter of support for the proposed bill.

When asked, Thomas said under the proposed bill, if a juror is unemployed, the agency that gives them any unemployment assistance would be the one that is reimbursed.

He also said this proposed bill has been endorsed by the IRS, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce and the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association.

## A change of jury demographics

During his presentation, Thomas said he is also campaigning to broaden the demographics and backgrounds of jury members in the state.

He said right now, juries in Pennsylvania are 83.9% white, 53.9% male, and most have at least an associate degree.

"You simply listen to those (numbers) and you have wiped out entire classes of people, or ones who cannot afford to take a day off," Thomas said. "Juries do not represent the population of Pennsylvania."

Thomas said he wants to see different groups of people be more representative on juries.

He said the District Attorneys Association has stated if the base of juries is broadened, the caliber of the juries increases.

Thomas said since the pay for juries is low, around \$9 a day, many people are often unable to take off work



**A campaign is underway to make the IRS reimburse companies for jury members, rather than have counties themselves pay for jury members in Pennsylvania.**

LUCY SCHALY/BCT FILE

to be a jury member.

"Money should not be an impact on the caliber of the juror representation," he said.

*Nicholas Vercilla is a staff reporter for the Beaver County Times and Ellwood City Ledger. He can be reached at nvercilla@gannett.com.*

# Variant

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The variant could also add more heat to already simmering inflation by forcing shutdowns of factories and ports, delaying shipments and driving up prices.

But it's not yet clear how deep the hurt will go

or how long it will last.

For now, the variant is playing havoc with travel. More than 700 flights entering, leaving or flying within the U.S. were called off, according to the flight-tracking website FlightAware. That figure was down from nearly 1,000 on Saturday. More than 50 flights were already canceled for Monday.

Delta, United and JetBlue have blamed the omicron variant of the coronavirus for staffing shortages that forced cancellations.

"This was unexpected," United spokesperson Maddie King said of omicron's impact on staffing.

Globally, airlines scrapped about 2,200 flights as of Sunday

morning, down from more than 2,800 from the day before, FlightAware's data showed. The site did not say why flights were canceled.

JetBlue scrapped 10% of its flights Sunday. Delta canceled 5% and United canceled 4%, according to FlightAware. The three airlines canceled more than 10% of scheduled flights on Saturday. American Airlines

spokesperson Derek Walls said the Christmas cancellations stemmed from virus-related sick calls.

Despite omicron, American consumers appeared undaunted. Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks all kinds of payments including cash and debit cards, reported Sunday that holiday sales had risen 8.5% from a year

earlier, the biggest annual gain in 17 years. Mastercard SpendingPulse had expected an 8.8% increase.

The results, which covered Nov. 1 through Dec. 24, were fueled by purchases of clothing and jewelry. Holiday sales were up 10.7% compared with the pre-pandemic 2019 holiday period.

After omicron hit, some consumers shifted their spending to e-commerce, but sales stayed strong.

Also Sunday, the nation's top infectious disease doctor acknowledged that he was frustrated with the limited supply of COVID-19 tests.

Demand for tests has risen amid the surge fueled by the omicron variant. "We've obviously got to do better," Dr. Anthony Fauci said in an interview that aired Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

"I think things will improve greatly as we get into January, but that doesn't help us today and tomorrow," Fauci said.

Fauci said he was pleased with evidence that omicron causes less severe illness for most people. But he warned against complacency because the rapid spread of the disease could "override a real diminution in severity," because so many more people could get infected.

There are still many questions about how bad the omicron surge will be in the U.S., Johns Hopkins infectious disease specialist Dr. Amesh Adalja said Sunday.

"There are multiple signals showing decreased severity. But the problem is, we have many high-risk individuals that are not vaccinated in some parts of the country. And there are hospitals in those regions that already are dealing with a lot of delta patients," Adalja said.

Meanwhile in Europe, France recorded more than 100,000 virus infections in a single day for the first time in the pandemic. COVID-19 hospitalizations have doubled over the past month as omicron complicates the French government's efforts to stave off a new lockdown.

Happy  
*Holidays*

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE YORK WATER COMPANY Under Sections 1102(a)(1) and 1102(a)(3) of the Public Utility Code, for approval of the right of THE YORK WATER COMPANY to (1) to acquire certain private wastewater facilities from Country View Manor Community, LLC; and (2) begin to offer, render, furnish and supply wastewater service to the public in a portion of Washington Township, York County, Pennsylvania. Docket Number: A-2021-3030076

Formal protests and petitions to intervene must be filed in accordance with Title 52 of the Pennsylvania Code, on or before January 18, 2022. All filings must be made with the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, 400 North Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120, with a copy served on the Applicant. The documents filed in support of the Application are available ONLY online for inspection and copying on the Commission's website at [www.puc.pa.gov](http://www.puc.pa.gov), and at the Applicant's business address. ALL Parties to proceedings pending before the Commission must open and use an e-filing account through the Commission's website at [www.puc.pa.gov](http://www.puc.pa.gov) or you may submit the filing by overnight delivery to: Secretary, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120. If a filing contains confidential or proprietary material, the filing is required to be submitted by overnight delivery. Large filings containing confidential or proprietary material may be submitted through the Commission's Share Point File system with advanced notice to the Commission prior to submittal.

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