
Garrett P. Lent

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File #: 176154

January 30, 2023

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: PA PUC v. National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation
Docket No. R-2022-3035730

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing are Proofs of Publication evidencing that notice of the public input hearings in the above-captioned proceeding were published in certain newspapers of general circulation throughout National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation's ("National Fuel") service territory on the dates indicated on the proofs. National Fuel is awaiting further proofs of publication from other newspapers where the notices of the public input hearings were published. The remaining proofs of publication will be e-filed with your office upon receipt. Copies of this letter will be provided as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office.

Respectfully submitted,



Garrett P. Lent

GPL/kl
Attachment

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
January 30, 2023
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cc: The Honorable Mary D. Long
Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

VIA E-MAIL

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Providers Task Force, Inc.*

Date: January 30, 2023


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US safety agency to consider ban on gas stoves

By Ari Natter

Bloomington News (NS)

A federal agency says a ban on gas stoves is on the table amid rising concern about harmful indoor air pollutants emitted by the appliances.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission plans to take action to address the pollution, which can cause health and respiratory problems. "This is a hidden hazard," Richard Trunka Jr., an agency commissioner, said in an interview. "Any option is on the table. Products that can't be made safe can be banned."

Natural gas stoves, which are used in about 40% of homes in the U.S., emit air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter at levels the EPA and World Health Organization have said are unsafe and linked to respiratory illness, cardiovascular problems, cancer, and other health conditions, according to reports by groups such as the Institute for Policy Integrity and the American Chemical Society. Consumer Reports, in October, urged consumers planning to buy a new range to consider going electric after tests conducted by the group found high levels of nitrogen oxide gases from gas stoves.

New peer-reviewed research published last month in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that more than 12% of current childhood asthma cases in the U.S. can be attributed to gas stove use.

"There is about 60 years of health studies showing that gas stoves are bad for our health, and the strongest evidence is on children and children's asthma," said Brian Seal, a manager in the carbon-free buildings program at the non-profit clean energy group RMI and a co-author of the study. "By having a gas connection, we are polluting the insides of our homes."

The Bethesda, Maryland-based Consumer Product Safety Commission, which has a staff of roughly 600, plans to open public comment on hazards posed by gas stoves later this winter. Besides banning the manufacture or import of gas stoves, options include setting standards on emissions from the appliances, Trunka

said. Lawmakers have weighed in, asking the commission to consider requiring warning labels, range hoods and performance standards. In a letter to the agency in December, lawmakers including Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey and Representative Don Beyer of Virginia, both Democrats, urged action and called gas-stove emissions a "cumulative burden" on Black, Latino and low-income households that disproportionately experience air pollution.

Parallel efforts by state and local policymakers are targeting the use of fossil fuels in buildings more broadly, in a push to reduce climate-warming emissions (such as from methane) that exacerbate climate change. Nearly 100 cities and counties have adopted policies that require or encourage a move away from fossil fuel-powered buildings. The New York City Council voted in 2021 to ban natural gas hookups in new buildings smaller than seven stories by the end of this year. The California Air Resources Board unanimously voted in September to ban the sale of natural gas-burned furnaces and water heaters by 2030.

Consumers who want to switch from gas to electric ranges could get some help from the massive climate spending bill signed into law in August. The Inflation Reduction Act includes rebates of up to \$840 for the purchase of new electric ranges as part of some \$4.6 billion in funding to help lower-income and moderate-income households electrify their homes.

"The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, which represents gas range manufacturers such as Whirlpool Corp., says that cooking produces emissions and harmful byproducts no matter what kind of stove is used.

"Ventilation is really where this discussion moves to, rather than banning one particular type of technology," said Jill Notini, a vice president with the Washington-based trade group. "Banning one type of a cooking appliance is not going to address the concerns about overall indoor air quality. We may need some behavior change, we may need [people] to turn on their hoods when cooking."

Why are eggs still so expensive?

By Erin Bookle

The Dallas Morning News (DN)

Egg prices jumped 49% in 2022 through November, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and costs are expected to remain high through the first quarter of 2023, CNN and CNBC report.

The average cost of a dozen large, Grade A eggs more than doubled to \$3.59 in November 2022 from \$1.72 in November 2021, according to BLS data.

"Prices have been escalating for nine consecutive weeks ... setting new record highs on a daily basis since the week of Thanksgiving," Kathryn Rispoli, editor of the Egg Price Current, told CNN.

Prices of eggs have gone up since early 2022 due to the impact of avian flu, which decreased the supply of egg-laying hens throughout the year. But CNN reports that the situation has been exacerbated by higher energy and feed costs, in addition to high consumer demand in the later part of the year due to holiday baking habits as well as consumers forgoing higher-cost proteins like beef.

Avian influenza, or bird flu, is caused by an influenza type A virus that can infect birds like turkeys, chickens, ducks and geese, among



Brandon Bell/Getty Images North America/T15

Cartons of eggs are seen for sale in a Kroger grocery store on Aug. 15, 2022, in Houston, Texas. Egg prices steadily climb in the U.S. as inflation continues impacting grocery stores nationwide.

others, the Dallas Morning News' Sarah Bahari reported in September 2022. The highly pathogenic virus is often fatal for birds, but rarely affects humans.

More than 67 million birds across 49 states have been affected by this year's flu outbreak, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The disease has primarily affected "layers" — chickens

raised for eggs — but not "broilers" — chickens raised for meat, which is why poultry prices haven't been affected as strongly, NPR reported.

Experts told CNBC that elevated egg prices could last into the first quarter of 2023, but that price pressures appear to be easing along with seasonal demand. However, any additional outbreaks of bird flu could disrupt this trend.

Nurses go on strike at 2 big New York City hospitals

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) —

Nurses at two of New York City's largest hospitals went on strike Monday in a dispute over pay and staffing levels after a weekend of negotiations did not produce a deal for a new contract.

The walkout involves as many as 3,500 nurses at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx and about 3,000 at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan. Patients are likely to see disruptions in care such as emergency room visits and childbirth.

The New York State Nurses Association, which represents the workers, said it was being forced into the drastic step because of chronic understaffing that leaves them caring for too many patients.

Hundreds of striking nurses chanted, waved signs and sang the chorus from Twisted Sister's 1984 hit "We're Not Gonna Take It" on Monday morning outside Mount Sinai on Man-

hattan's Upper East Side.

"We were heroes only two years ago," said Warren Escobon, a nurse in transplant and oncology units, referring to the height of the COVID-19 crisis. "We was on the front lines of the city when everything came to a stop. And now we need to come to a stop so they can understand how much we mean to this hospital and to the patients."

Nurse practitioner Juliet Escobon said, "We were so-called heroes — and now, this is how you treat the heroes?"

The union said in a statement late Sunday, "Nurses don't want to strike. Bosses have pushed us to strike by refusing to seriously consider our proposals to address the desperate crisis of unsafe staffing that harms our patients."

Montefiore officials said in a statement Monday, "We remain committed to seamless and compassionate care, recognizing that the union leadership's decision will spark fear and

uncertainty across our community."

Mount Sinai officials said Monday, "Our first priority is the safety of our patients. We're prepared to minimize disruption, and we encourage Mount Sinai nurses to continue providing the world-class care they've always provided, in spite of NYSNA's strike."

The hospitals planned to assign managers and others not represented by the union to cover the shifts of striking workers.

Montefiore and Mount Sinai had been getting ready for a walkout by transferring patients, diverting ambulances to other institutions, postponing non-emergency medical procedures and arranging for temporary staffing.

Nurses at New York-Presbyterian Hospital ratified a deal Saturday that will give them raises of 7%, 6%, and 6% over the next three years while also increasing staffing levels. That deal, which covers 4,000 nurses, has been seen as a template for the negotiations with other hospital systems.

But one by one, the other hospitals struck agreements with the union as the deadline approached.

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Passcode: 83345259

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To preregister by email, please email Judge Long's legal assistant, Daniela Alban, at dalban@pa.gov, and provide: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, and (4) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

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AT&T Relay Service number for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired: 1.800.654.5988

Newly discovered comet may be visible to naked eye this month

By Richard Tribou

Orlando Sentinel (NS)

ORLANDO, Fla. — A comet discovered in 2022 that has not been in the neighborhood for 60,000 years could get bared enough by the sun this week as it approaches its closest path by the Earth to be seen by the naked eye this month.

The ball of ice known as Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) will make its closest approach to the sun on Thursday, but is already visible in the Northern Hemisphere in the predawn skies with the use of a telescope or binoculars, according to NASA.

As comets get closer to the sun, their dust tails can grow larger and brighter in the sky. This comet, which has a bright green core with a short, broad dust tail and long ion tail, was captured by astronomy photographer Dan Bartlett in December. It will come within about 100 million miles of the sun, according to the sky.org.

It was first discovered in March 2022 by astronomers using the wide-field survey camera at the Zwicky Transient Facility

at the Palomar Observatory in California. At the time it was already inside the orbit of Jupiter, according to NASA. It will make its closest approach to Earth on Feb. 2, with its brightest presence, passing by just over 26 million miles away.

"Comets are notoriously unpredictable, but if this one continues its current trend in brightness, it'll be easy to spot with binoculars, and it's just possible it could become visible to the unaided eye under dark skies," according to Preston Dyches with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Visibility could improve further from mid- to late January with the dimming new moon on Jan. 21. Look to the northwest as it moves through the constellations of the Big Dipper and Little Dipper. This week, it could be located about halfway between the two bright night sky stars of Arcturus and Vega.

The comet's visibility will switch to the Southern Hemisphere in early February. JPL calculates the comet has not been this close to Earth for 60,000 years, which was in the middle of the last ice age.

LIFESTYLES

ON THE WEB:
www.thecourierexpress.com

BITS & PIECES

Mengle Memorial Library Reader's Group to meet

BROCKWAY — The next meeting of the Mengle Memorial Library Reader's Group in Brockway is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 19 at 1:15 p.m. This monthly discussion group highlights the fiction and non-fiction titles read recently by participants. The group welcomes new members and is open to everyone. Call the library for more details at 265-8245.

Relay For Life DuBois sets monthly meeting

DUBOIS — Anyone interested in volunteering for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of DuBois is invited to attend their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. at the Best Western of DuBois. The meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month.

Soul Platter Cafe announces menu for this weekend

DUBOIS — The Soul Platter Cafe is open for sit-down dining this Saturday, Jan. 21, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Take-out is also available. The cafe, located at 28 E. Scribner Ave., DuBois, in the Garfield Mason Lodge building beside the Reitz Theater. Please use the front door or the side door ramp entrance. To take out, please call 814-603-2782 and leave name, number and pick-up time. This weekend's menu will offer several options:

- Entree: Paige's Lasagna, green beans, bread sticks and homemade applesauce
- Sandwich: Dave's Delicious Tuna Melt, served with chips and a pickle or a gourmet cheese panini. Ask about their soup and panini combo.
- Soup: Olive Garden's Copy Cat pasta e fagioli served with bread sticks
- Dessert: Brooke's Caramel Pecan Cupcakes or ask about their pop-up dessert.

The cafe features home cooked meals and offers suggested prices. It is a pay-what-you-can establishment and is a mission of the First United Presbyterian Church of DuBois.

Wooden nickels can be purchased to give to those in need of a meal. The nickel represents one menu item and is a great gift. Special thanks to the Reynoldsville Knights of Columbus for their continuing donations of food items for the Red Food Box, the Soul Platter Cafe is very grateful.

Garfield Lodge to hold Civil War presentation

DUBOIS — The members of the Garfield Lodge invite the public to attend a presentation by Larry Fulton on the Cold Harbor Civil War Battlefield at 8 p.m. on Feb. 2 at the lodge social hall at 28 E. Scribner Ave., DuBois.

Reitz Theater announces cast for upcoming musical

DUBOIS — Director Chris Taylor is pleased to announce the cast for the upcoming musical, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, to be presented at The Reitz Theater Feb. 10-18.

The ensemble cast includes Tom Hibbert, Becky Sensor, Nate Horner, London Watt, Dave Martin, Misti Bruner, Chris Taylor, and Kristie Taylor, with musical direction by Joe Sensor and lighting design by David Schwab.

Told through a series of musical vignettes, the show is a hilarious, sometimes poignant, look at modern love from early dating through the senior citizen years. For more information and tickets for this perfect Valentine's Day date, please visit reitztheater.com or Reitz Theater of CRI on Facebook.

Troy Hess heads off to U.S. Air Force Basic Training

FRENCHVILLE — Troy Hess of Frenchville, Clearfield County, shipped off to the U.S. Air Force Basic Military Training in San Antonio, Texas, on Dec. 19, 2022.



HESS

Hess will go through the 7.5 weeks of Air Force Basic Training, which is designed to challenge people both mentally and physically, learn the basics of Air Force life and condition them for the requirements needed to graduate.

As Hess continues to go through his training, he has already gained college credits towards an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and has received a guaranteed paycheck, which comes twice a month.

After Basic Training, Hess will be attending technical training for Security Forces, which are the ground combat force and military police service of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force. An important part of protecting the

U.S. is ensuring the safety of the people, properly and resources on every Air Force base. As the largest career field in the Air Force, it's the job of Security Forces to protect, defend and fight. They are responsible for missile security, defending air bases around the globe, law enforcement on those bases, combat arms and handling military working dogs. It takes a combination of mental and physical toughness.

Those interested in becoming an Airman can contact Sgt. Kevin Hollander in DuBois at 814-591-3604.

DAHS to present "The Show Can't Go On, But It Must"



Submitted

The DuBois Area High School will present "The Show Can't Go On, But It Must," by Michael Druce at 7 p.m. Jan. 19 through 21 at the DAHS Auditorium. Tickets will be sold at the door. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students/senior citizens. Shown, standing, are Danielle Smith, Madelyn Rhodes, Gage Pardee, Cam Rodgers, Nicole Weible, Colin McGrath-Lindmar, Madajynn Wilson, Julia Wirths, Molly Sensor; row two: Ricky Hoare, Caroline Badger, Sierra Raab, Devan Bell, Aubrey Ott, Jerimiah Mond, Michaela Albers, Andy Hewitt; front row: Katelyn Gardner, Lily Puckey, Ryan Himes, Wayne Delp, Keenan Connor-Park, Rayne Caltagaron, Porter Kolash, Ella Chirico. Missing: Alex Horsely, Mara Jardine, Bailey Perry, Nathan Shaffer.

Mother has kept identity of son's father a secret

Dear Abby: Thirty years ago, I had an affair with "Roger," a married man. We worked together and fell in love. At the time, Roger was married with three children. My husband and I were separated, and I had one son. The 16-year age gap between us didn't matter to me. I admired him. Roger was soft-spoken, intelligent and a gentleman. He was of Christian faith, so when he decided to divorce his wife, his partners held an intervention and bought out his equity in the company, which forced him to move out of state.



Dear Abby
Jeanne Phillips

Roger was a great person and struggled with the thought of leaving his family. I understood, and we parted ways. I kept informed about him as much as possible over the years but never contacted him, so when he left, I was pregnant, but I didn't tell him because so much was going on and I didn't want the baby to be a tool. I had a son, reconciled with my husband and never told a soul. Eight years after that, my husband and I divorced.

Although I tried, I never found the courage to reach out to Roger. Five years ago, I visited the state where he lived. I even went to his office, but did not reach out. I recently had several dreams about him and couldn't stop thinking of him. They seemed so real. I looked Roger up online and found out he died a year ago. I am devastated and feel guilty for not giving my son the opportunity to know his father. Roger has other children. At this point, should I let them know or should I just leave everything alone? My biggest fear is causing pain to his wife. She is a good person and doesn't deserve this. —

Holding Many Secrets Dear Holding: What is to be gained by making an announcement at this late date? As you stated, it won't provide your son the opportunity to know his father. And receiving shocking news at this point will only cause Roger's widow pain. However, I would do another internet search to see if you can find out what killed Roger. If it's something that could be passed down to your son, warn him. Otherwise, I'm voting for leaving everything alone.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Stockton

Continued from Page 1A

Township on Aug. 28, 2003.

Stockton was involved in the development and planning of the deadly bank robbery plot, but he was never indicted and received immunity in exchange for his testimony against Marjorie Diehl-Armstrong, one of the two people indicted in the case and the only person who went to trial, where she was convicted.

But Stockton never testified at Diehl-Armstrong's trial in U.S. District Court in Erie because he suffered a stroke during the proceedings and underwent triple-bypass heart surgery in his native Washington state. Stockton never spoke publicly in detail about what he knew about Wells' death.

In addition to Wells, Diehl-Armstrong and Stockton, the others directly connected to the plot, according to court records, were William A. Rothstein, Diehl-Armstrong's former fiancé and Stockton's roommate; drug dealer Kenneth E. Barnes; Diehl-Armstrong's boyfriend James Roden, whose dead body was found in a freezer; and Wells' co-worker Robert Pinetti. They are all dead.

Still living, according to court records, is Jessica Hoopsack, once a prostitute who Wells knew and who was linked to Barnes. But she was never charged in the case and had limited knowledge of the plot, according to testimony at Diehl-Armstrong's trial.

The Erie Times-News recently learned of Stockton's death, which was not believed to have been announced in an obituary.

The Times-News this week confirmed his death with the medical examiner's office for Whatcom County, in Washington. The county includes Bellingham, where Stockton lived.

Stockton died on Aug. 10, the medical examiner's office told the Erie Times-News on Wednesday. The death was ruled accidental, with the cause of death listed as acute respiratory failure.

The office said it could not release further information on the death.

Retired federal agents remember Stockton

Erie resident Jerry Clark interviewed Stockton as the lead investigator for the FBI in the pizza bomber case.

"He was the last of the last who had intimate knowledge or involvement in the case," Clark, who is retired from the FBI, said on Thursday.

Based on his interviews with Stockton as part of the probe, Clark said, he expected Stockton's testimony would have bolstered the evidence gathered in the case. Clark said he was disappointed medical issues prevented Stockton from taking the stand.

"I would have loved to have heard what he had to say," said Clark, an associate professor in the criminal justice program at Gannon University.

The other lead investigator in the case was Jason Wick, an agent with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Wick, who is also retired, said he would have liked to have seen Stockton charged in the pizza bomber case.

"I thought he was as complicit as anyone," said Wick, an assistant professor in Gannon's criminal justice program. "He was definitely involved. He had more to do with building the device than we know."

Linked to pizza bomber case through Rothstein

Stockton became part of the pizza bomber case through his relationship with his roommate in the Erie area, Rothstein, believed to be the architect of the plot along with his former fiancée, Diehl-Armstrong. Stockton was hiding out with Rothstein in Summit Township in August 2003 because he was on the run from prosecution in Washington state.

Stockton was wanted on charges that he raped a 19-year-old developmentally disabled woman in Washington in 2002. Stockton was convicted in the rape case but was out of prison when he died. As part of his sentence, he had to register as sex offender for life.

Rothstein died of cancer at 60 in July 2004, three years before a federal grand jury issued the indictments in the pizza bomber case. Rothstein was an unindicted co-conspirator in the case.

The grand jury indicted two people — Diehl-Armstrong and Barnes, the drug dealer who knew Wells. Both are dead.

Barnes testified against Diehl-Armstrong at trial in exchange for a plea deal that originally netted him a federal prison sentence of 45 years.

He pleaded guilty in September 2008 to using a de-



Brian Wells is seen inside the PNC bank in Summit Township on Aug. 28, 2003, in an FBI raidout of the surveillance images shot during the bank robbery. Wells is carrying the cane gun and wearing the collar bomb, which is protruding from his shirt. ERIE TIMES-NEWS FILE

structive device during a crime of violence and conspiracy to commit bank robbery. He got the 45-year sentence in December 2008, but after his testimony and Diehl-Armstrong's conviction, in 2010, a judge halved the sentence to 2011.

Barnes died of cancer at 65 in July 2019 while serving his sentence at a federal prison in North Carolina.

Diehl-Armstrong center of case

Diehl-Armstrong was found guilty in federal court in Erie in November 2010 of the felonies of armed bank robbery, conspiracy to commit armed bank robbery and using a destructive device in a crime of violence. She was sentenced to life plus 30 years in February 2011.

She claimed at trial that Rothstein framed her.

Diehl-Armstrong died of breast cancer at 68 in April 2017 while serving her sentence at the Federal Medical Center Carswell, a women's prison near Fort Worth, Texas.

At trial, Barnes testified that he participated in the pizza bomber plot so Diehl-Armstrong could raise \$250,000 to pay him to kill her father so she could get what she believed was her inheritance. Wells was to get the \$250,000 by robbing the bank.

Wells got away with \$8,702 before he died in the bomb blast. The contact killing never occurred, and Diehl-Armstrong's father, Harold Diehl, died of natural causes in 2014. He was 95.

Also involved in the plot was Roden, Diehl-Armstrong's live-in boyfriend. But he also died without testifying. In early to mid-August 2003, Diehl-Arm-

strong fatally shot Roden, 45, to prevent him from revealing the bank-robbery plot. His body was stuffed in a freezer in Rothstein's house.

Diehl-Armstrong was serving a state prison sentence of seven to 20 years in Roden's death when she was indicted in the pizza bomber plot.

Barnes says Stockton helped attach bomb

Barnes testified about Stockton's role in the plot at Diehl-Armstrong's trial.

He said Stockton handed the collar bomb to Rothstein before Rothstein locked it to Wells' neck at the site of a television transmission tower near Rothstein's house in Summit Township on Aug. 28, 2003. Barnes also said Stockton and another man, Pinetti, Wells' co-worker, tackled Wells to force him to wear the bomb after Wells tried to run away.

Pinetti, 43, who worked with Wells at a Millcreek Township pizza shop, died of what the Erie County Coroner's Office said was an accidental drug overdose three days after Wells was killed. He was not named an unindicted co-conspirator.

The odd and dangerous personalities of those involved in the pizza bomber plot turned out to be hallmarks of the case.

Stockton was among the characters that made the case so strange and heinous. The criminally minded misfits referred to themselves as "the fractured intellectuals."

"The fact that these like-minded people found each other with such bad intentions was a truly amazing part of the case," said Clark, the FBI agent.

Contact Ed Palatella at epalatella@timesnews.com. Follow him on Twitter @EJPalatella.

Palatella is the co-author, with retired FBI Agent Jerry Clark, of two books on the pizza bomber case: "Pizza Bomber: The Untold Story of America's Most Shocking Bank Robbery" (Berkeley/Penguin Random House, 2012) and "Mania and Marjorie Diehl-Armstrong: Inside the Mind of a Female Serial Killer" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017).

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Paw Print

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Program

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high-schoolers toward becoming certified firefighters. The institutions would apply for consideration and would ultimately be chosen by the state fire commissioner.

Participating students must be at least 16 years old to qualify and attend schools, public or non-public, partnering with higher education institutions. The aim is to have one location in each of the eastern, central and western regions.

"Pennsylvania is facing a severe

shortage of volunteer firefighters, with the current number of volunteers down to less than 15 percent of the number of volunteers in the 1970s. By encouraging school districts to partner with institutions of higher education, we can help recruit and retain firefighters at a time when first responders are desperately needed," Brooks wrote in a legislative memo seeking cosponsor support.

The measure quickly advanced out of the Education Committee this week and twice received consideration on the Senate floor before being referred to the Appropriations Committee, a pathway to a third

and final consideration before likely moving onto the state House. The Senate reconvenes Tuesday.

A prior version of the bill also advanced out of the Senate in April 2021 and made progress in the House but eventually stalled without a final vote in the 2021-22 session. Brooks noted in remarks at an Education Committee meeting this week that an earlier version met a similar fate in the 2019-20 session.

Jerry Ozog, executive director, Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute, said he supports the initiative. Many of the students will likely move on to other careers,

he said, but they can always serve as volunteers in their communities.

"One thing that EMS (emergency medical services) and fire could provide is life experience and meaningful work that makes an impact in the community. You get to see the results of the work," Ozog said.

Brooks' bill would direct a combined \$450,000 to be split evenly among the three institutions offering firefighting training. A non-lapsing, restricted Fire Training Fund would be established with the state treasury. The state fire commissioner could solicit tax-exempt donations for the fund.

The pilot program would begin as soon as Jan. 1, 2024, and continue for four years. The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee would be tasked within the first six months of the pilot program to survey municipal fire departments in each program area to determine potential impact on increasing volunteer registration and also make recommendations.

The colleges or universities offering the training could also incorporate training in EMS at their own discretion. A separate, similar four-year pilot program for EMS was enacted as part of Act 104 of 2022.

Survival

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heart is blocked. Cardiac arrest can result in death if proper steps aren't taken immediately.

Cardiac arrest can be reversed by restoring a normal heart rhythm with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a defibrillator.

Hanflia was treated quickly following his collapse as CPR was done immediately and medical staff had access to an automated external defibrillator, or AED, to shock his heart

and restore its rhythm. CPR can double or triple the chances of a cardiac arrest victim's survival, especially if it's performed immediately. However, bystanders only perform CPR 16 percent of the time, according to the AHA.

Local emergency medical officials hope more people will take an interest in taking CPR training in the wake of Hanflia's cardiac arrest and subsequent recovery.

"People should not be afraid of taking CPR training and learning how to do this," said Chief Patrick Wiley of Meadville Central Fire Department.

"It may not be (someone) in the general public they save, but it may be their own family member."

The fire department's emergency medical technicians handled 14 cardiac arrest calls in 2022, according to Wiley.

Successfully completing a CPR training course in Pennsylvania gives a person certification for two years.

"With CPR, you're going to circulate the blood and oxygen in the system (for the person) until help arrives," Wiley said. "The chances of survivability are much greater."

CPR training includes how to use an AED, which in the past 15 years or so has become commonplace in public buildings, airport terminals, schools, social clubs, workplaces and many retail stores.

If someone is in cardiac arrest, each minute defibrillation is delayed, the odds of survival are reduced by approximately 10 percent, so having access to an AED and knowing how to use one is critical.

"Honestly, they're very easy to use," Wiley said. "It literally will take you through the process — through every

step of the process. It's part of the CPR class."

"They are a game-changer," Dr. Kevin Kraeding, medical director at Meadville Medical Center, said of AEDs. "They increase the chances of survival tremendously."

While an AED's use is self-explanatory, Kraeding said it is a good idea to get AED instruction ahead of time through a CPR course.

"The more knowledge you have the better," he added.

Eric Henry, owner of Meadville Area Ambulance Service, agrees. "Everybody should learn

CPR because you just never know when someone may need it," he said.

Courses in CPR are available through the American Red Cross, Meadville Area Ambulance Service and other area ambulance companies in the county as well as Meadville Central Fire Department.

"It's readily available," Wiley said. "We don't care who they use" for a course, "we just want people to learn CPR."

Kethi Gushard can be reached at (814) 724-6370 or by email at kgushard@meadvilletribune.com.

Biden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"This appointment underscores for the public the department's commitment to both independence and accountability in particularly sensitive matters, and to making decisions indisputably guided only by the facts and the law," Garland said at a news conference.

Hur will explore whether any person or entity violated the law and will receive all the resources he needs to conduct the investigation, Garland said.

The naming of a special counsel is a blow for Biden and the White House, which had sought to move quickly past the episode. Garland's move also intensified questions about why the White House waited until after news reports on the discovery of the documents to disclose the incident.

Biden has said he was "surprised" that classified material was found at an office he used after his vice presidency, and he suggested Thursday that documents found in his garage were secure because they shared space with his classic Corvette. He did not explain why the files were at his home.

"By the way, my Corvette's in a locked garage, so it's not like they're sitting out in the street," Biden told reporters at the White House after he was asked about the latest discovery.

Biden's glib remark, which came before Garland's announcement, risked suggesting that the White House — which has refused to answer many questions about the documents — regards the incident as inconsequential.

A special counsel is already investigating Trump's handling of classified documents following an FBI search of his Palm Beach, Florida, home in August. Biden has called Trump "totally irresponsible" for the hundreds of pages of classified materials he and his aides took from the White House after his presidency ended in 2021.

But with Biden's own handling of classified material now under scrutiny, Democratic criticism of the former president and perhaps even the legal case against him risk being undermined. Many Republicans have complained of a double standard in the Justice Department's handling of the Trump and Biden cases.

The first batch of classified records connected to Biden were found Nov. 2 as the president's lawyers were cleaning out Biden's office at the Penn State Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement in Washington. The White House has said the lawyers immediately notified the National Archives and Records Administration, which took possession of the materials the following day.

Garland said the Archives' inspector general notified the Department of Justice on Nov. 4.

The White House has not explained why lawyers were hired to clean out Biden's old office.

Garland asked John Lausch, the Trump-appointed U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, to review the discovery. Biden's team meanwhile began searching other properties connected to him, including his Wilmington and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, homes, for additional records.

Garland said Biden's aides reported to Lausch on Dec. 20 that they had discovered more classified records at his Wilmington home and that



Associated Press

Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice on Thursday in Washington as John Lausch, the U.S. Attorney in Chicago, looks on.

Garland said the team reported Thursday finding one additional document at Biden's Wilmington home. The White House said the document was found among stored materials in an adjacent room.

Though Republicans have sought to draw an equivalence between the Biden and Trump cases, their are still vast differences in both the magnitude of the classified material in their possession and their handling of the documents.

While neither the Justice Department nor the White House has enumerated the records found at Biden's office and home, the White House has described both batches as "small." CBS News reported that about 10 classified documents were found at Biden's office.

The National Archives had not sought the return of Biden's records, according to the White House.

Trump, on the contrary, had hundreds of pages of classified material at his home in Palm Beach. After the National Archives asked for its return, Trump voluntarily sent the agency only some of the materials. The FBI searched his Mar-a-Lago resort based on suspicion he had withheld many of the documents and found them stashed in his office and a storage room near parts of the property accessible to members of Trump's club.

There is no indication Biden or his aides sought to keep any of the material found at his office or his home or tried to mislead the Archives and Justice Department, as Trump's associates may have done.

Biden said Thursday that he and his team are "cooperating fully and completely with the Justice Department's review" of the matter. "As I said earlier this week, people know I take classified documents and classified material seriously," he added.

After Garland announced Hur's appointment, Sauber said in a statement that the White House was "confident that a thorough review will show that these documents were inadvertently misplaced, and the president and his lawyers acted promptly upon discovery of this mistake."

House Republicans, who have largely defended Trump, have said they will investigate whether Biden improperly kept the documents found at his office and home and whether intelligence sources and methods were compromised as a result.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said Thursday that Congress should probe Biden's handling of classified documents, arguing that a double standard had been applied to the Trump and Biden matters.

"This is what makes America not trust their government," McCarthy said at a news conference.

In his comments Thursday, Biden said he was limited in what he could say about the matter. "I'm going to get a chance to speak on all of this, God willing, soon," he said.

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Conneaut

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said in a press release Thursday. "By taking this proactive approach we are hopeful to avoid substantial property tax increases for several years."

Cost-cutting measures on the table include combining the district's two middle schools into one building.

"The board wants to invite residents of Conneaut School District to join short-term advisory committees that will collect data, evaluate ideas, and formulate a recommendation to the full board," the statement said.

Committees on budget and finances, educational programming, transportation and facilities will meet from February to May. The committees will each consist of two school board members, relevant district administrators, district residents and staff volunteers with an appointed liaison.

The board's call was aimed at residents interested "the solution," according to the press release. Interested residents should email Beth Moss, confidential secretary to the superintendent, at bmoss@conneaut.org by Feb. 1.

Applicants should include their name, address, voting municipality, email address and phone number. They should also state the number of children or grandchildren they currently have enrolled in the district, their areas of expertise and reasons for serving and their top two committee choices.

Local & State News

Briefs

AOC to hike

The Allegheny Outdoor Club will hike the Tanbank Trail to Toms Run and then return by way of the Ironwood Trail on Sunday. The hike will be about four miles. The group will meet at the parking lot on the corner of Musante Street and Pleasant Drive at 8:30 p.m. or the parking lot at Dunham Sidling at 2 p.m.

Lunch group to meet

The Bon Ton lunch group will meet at Bob Evans

Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 12:30 p.m.

Caregiver Support Group to meet

Monday
The Caregiver Support Group will meet at North United, Jan. 16, at Grace United Methodist Church, 501 Pennsylvania Ave. East. Anyone interested in Alzheimer's Disease or other dementia-related diseases is welcome to attend. The

meeting is intended to offer caregivers a time of sharing. Books and pamphlets covering dementia-related illnesses and issues, including grief, will be available. Those attending are asked to enter the church through the elevator entrance from the parking lot and go to Wesley Parlor. Attendance is welcome to bring a lunch. More information is available by calling Karen (814) 723-9592, Laura (814) 723-5008, or Linda (814) 726-1199.

Reassessment...

Commissioner Ben Kafferlin said when he first started studying the issue eight to nine years ago it was "very much uncertain whether it was necessary," especially relative to the cost. "But we know, of course, that there is a good that will come out of it," he said. "Proprieties will be equal... It needs to be done."

The county has "appropriately set aside money to do it" and said it would now be a "diservice" to the county's residents to not proceed. Patricia Durbin said that there are "fads behind the need." "From every angle," she said, "it's very clear."

Durbin said that Solicitor Nathaniel Schmidt and Chief Assessor Brian Bull made the specific vendor recommendation to the commissioners. "The reassessment process is pretty expensive as far as the scope of the project," Schmidt said. "The biggest criteria... that separated the two of them" was Vision's "ability to accomplish the reassessment project in a timely basis."

He said the firm is currently working through a similar project in Clarion County and has the staff readily available to shift to Warren. They also offered a "package that had a really good public relations project," he added. "It's very important the public understand what each step is going to entail."

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston noted that Vision was not "the lowest bidder technically" but Schmidt said because they were within 1% that he and Bull "didn't see that as a major distinguishing factor."

Taxpayers could shoulder \$32B cost in childhood sexual abuse cases

By CHRISTINE SMITH

The Center Square
A new report in Pennsylvania estimates opening a two-year litigation window for survivors of childhood sexual abuse to file civil claims against public schools could cost taxpayers as much as \$32 billion.

The Susquehanna Valley Center for Public Policy published an analysis Tuesday citing data from a national study - in which it suggested claims against Pennsylvania schools could reach 15,000. The U.S. Department of Education also speculates the abuse rate in public schools is 100 times more prevalent than incidents uncovered in Catholic schools in the last decade.

That figure places claim estimates around 100,000, according to the analysis. The center assessed multiple metrics from various studies and settled claims in other states, ultimately concluding that the broadly supported policy could cost districts between \$5 billion and \$32 billion.

The massive price tag could trigger significant budget cuts and tax increases to cover the legal fees, legislators say. It's a risk that, so far, hasn't deterred Gov. Tom Wolf and all allies in the General Assembly who supported the special session called on Monday to settle the issue.

a crucial detail that deserves thoughtful deliberation, said Erica Clayton Wright, spokeswoman for Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward, R-Greensburg. Clayton Wright told The Center Square on Tuesday the senator hasn't wavered in her belief that all survivors - from public and private schools - "should have the ability to face their abusers in court."

"That said, in addition to the constitutional amendment being the strongest legal path for victims, it is also the best public to properly vet this matter and consider the potential cost for their school districts," she said.

The center analyzed 20 similar cases between 2012 and 2020 and estimated that rewarded claims ranged from \$325,000 to \$500,000. This means Pennsylvania school districts, in total, could face claims varying between \$5 billion and \$32.5 billion.

who would otherwise escape civil punishment for their crimes due to an expired statute of limitations. And while all sides have long agreed on the merits of the policy, disputes over the best way to implement it abound. A clerical error within the Department of State brought to light in 2021 - just months before voters were set to decide the issue via ballot referendum - complicated the issue even further and delayed the process at least another six years.

Constitutional amendments must pass each chamber in two consecutive legislative sessions before appearing on the ballot, meaning the earliest voters could weigh in would be the May primary election.

Both Ward and House Republican Leader Bryan Cutler, R-Quarryville, prefer the lengthy amendment process over passing legislation to open the window because they fear the bill would face legal challenges that will mire it in court for years.

Jailed...

Police said the alleged victim had to go to a window and yell for help. "After a crowd had gathered, she was able to exit the residence and call police for help," according to the affidavit.

Police sent Riker away and told him to spend the night somewhere else, according to the affidavit. "After police departed, Riker returned and confronted the woman again, pushing her inside the residence and faking her phone. The alleged victim 'was able to have a neighbor call 911.' Police arrived and told Riker to stay away from her.

Riker had his vehicle parked in the driveway of that residence in the morning and was involved in a physical altercation with a man there. Police responded again.

The alleged victim then went to Warren County Courthouse. When she tried to leave, "Riker parked his vehicle behind her, blocking her escape," according to the affidavit. She agreed to meet him somewhere else and he let her leave. When she didn't go to that location, "Riker followed closely behind in his truck, beeping his horn, swerving behind her, and calling her cell phone."

entry into the building and again took her cell phone." An employee, "after observing what Riker was doing," came outside and yelled at Riker to let her go, according to the affidavit.

He did and left on foot, police said. According to police, he was found about a mile from that location, with the alleged victim's cell phone. "Riker stated that he had been in self-defense, had taken her cell phone... and that he did go too far in stepping her free movements," according to the affidavit.

Riker was arraigned Tuesday before District Judge Laura Brauer and taken to Warren County Jail after failing to post \$10,000 bail.

A preliminary hearing is set for 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18.

Senate delays Philadelphia DA's impeachment trial amid court case

By BROOKE SCHULTZ and MARC LEVY

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania's state Senate voted Wednesday to postpone a trial seeking to remove Philadelphia's progressive district attorney on the heels of a court ruling that said the impeachment articles don't meet the constitutionally required standard.

The motion was approved unanimously in the Republican-controlled Senate and indefinitely postpones the trial of Democrat Larry Kraser, which had been scheduled to begin Jan. 18.

required standard of "misbehavior in office" to remove a public official from office. The practical effect of Ceisler's ruling wasn't immediately clear, and Ceisler has yet to release an opinion that further explains her order. Her ruling also may be appealed by House Republicans.

Spearheaded by the GOP, the House voted to impeach Kraser in November. Kraser has dismissed the House Republicans' claims as targeting at his policies and sued to halt the trial. Democrats say Republicans are abusing their legislative authority.

whelmingly reelected by Philadelphia voters in 2021), has not been charged with a crime or been sanctioned by a court. Ceisler agreed with Kraser that the seven claims against him do not rise to the impeachable standard of "misbehavior in office."

Ceisler also wrote that three of the claims constitutionally intrude upon the state Supreme Court's exclusive authority to govern the conduct of lawyers in Pennsylvania and that two of the claims improperly challenge Kraser's discretionary authority as the district attorney.

Speaker...

"When I was growing up... there are families that make sausage," Thompson told the Times Observer on Wednesday. "The sausage making process, some of it is not real pleasant but at the end of the day everyone enjoys the outcome."

"That's legislating," he explained. "(You) bring people together that have diverse backgrounds and opinions. That's what we witnessed last week. It was unpleasant certainly to go into the wee hours."

Thompson added that there is "always underlying drama" in Congress. "That's what you have when you have a committee of 435 to do such important work."

"I think at the end of the day, the Republican conference is stronger for it," Thompson's basis for that statement is the rules package - the procedures outlining how the House will operate during the 118th Congress - he said, for any organization to reach the level of a "high performing team. It takes time to learn the personalities."

people coming in, people changing roles." "It takes weeks or months," he said, for any organization to reach the level of a "high performing team. It takes time to learn the personalities."

"I think with the intensity of the speaker election, we pretty well accomplished that in five days." The end result, he argued, can be seen in the legislation passed this week "and we're not done. I'm thankful where we're at."

He stands by the decision to support McCarthy as speaker.

"Kevin McCarthy has already shown signs of being a great Speaker," Thompson, both in advancing legislation and "empowering us to lead with collaborative effective solutions for the families of this country."

Arkoosh to lead Shapiro's sprawling human services agency

By MARC LEVY

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Dr. Val Arkoosh, an anesthesiologist who led Pennsylvania's third-most populous county through the pandemic before mounting a failed run for U.S. Senate, will be nominated to lead the sprawling Department of Human Services under the incoming Democratic governor, Josh Shapiro.

term elected attorney general, will be inaugurated Tuesday to become the 45th governor of Pennsylvania. On Montgomery County's board, Arkoosh overlapped with Shapiro for two years before he was elected to attorney general.

The Department of Human Services administers more than \$50 billion in state and federal money, or about half of all the money that flows through Pennsylvania's state government every year.

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Passcode: 83845259

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To preregister by email, please email Judge Long's legal assistant, Daniela Alban, at dalban@pa.gov, and provide: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, and (4) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

To preregister by phone, please call Judge Long's office at 412-565-3550 and leave a message providing: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, (4) a phone number where you can be reached prior to the hearing if we need to contact you, (5) your email address, if you have one, and (6) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

Requests for Interpreters: If you require an interpreter, please pre-register as soon as possible. If you register too close to the hearing date, we may not have enough time to arrange for an interpreter. If you request an interpreter, we will make every reasonable effort to have one present.

If you need assistance preregistering to testify, you may have someone register for you, but they will need to provide us all the information listed above. Additionally, if more than one person in your household would like to testify, one person may preregister for other individuals in the same household, but we will need the information for each individual.

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AT&T Relay Service number for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired: 1 800 654 5788

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication:** Kittanning Leader Times

***City, State:** Kittanning, PA

***Advertiser Name:** National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46754

***Date of Insertion:** 1/5/23 and 1/12/23

Caption: National Fuel

***Ad Size:** 3x10.25

***Total # Inserted:** 2 dates

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.



Signature

1/20/23

Date

Gloria Olvido

Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

Name of Publication: The Derrick

City, State: Oil City PA

Client name: National Fuel

Insertion Order 46765

Date of Insertion: 1/10/23

Caption: Public Input

Ad Size: 3 x 7

Please Return Completed Affidavit to:

MANSI Media

3899 North Front Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: 717-703-3022

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Signature



Date

1/23/23

Name (Please Print)

Robert Briggs

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

Name of Publication: The Derrick

City, State: Oil City PA

Client name: National Fuel

Insertion Order 46765

Date of Insertion: 1/13/23

Caption: Public Input

Ad Size: 3 x 7

Please Return Completed Affidavit to:

MANSI Media


3899 North Front Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: 717-703-3022

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.



Signature

1/23/23

Date

Robert Gregg S

Name (Please Print)

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

Name of Publication: Clarion News

City, State: Clarion, PA 16214

Client name: UPMC

Insertion Order #46767

Date of Insertion: January 10, 2023

Caption: National Fuel

Ad Size: 5.55" x 7"

Please Return Completed Affidavit to:

MANSI Media

3899 North Front Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: 717-703-3022

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Cindy Hartle
Signature

1/18/2023
Date

Cindy Hartle
Name (Please Print)

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

Name of Publication: Clarion News

City, State: Clarion, PA 16214

Client name: UPMC

Insertion Order #46767

Date of Insertion: January 12, 2023

Caption: National Fuel

Ad Size: 5.55" x 7"

Please Return Completed Affidavit to:

MANSI Media

3899 North Front Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: 717-703-3022

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Cindy Hartle
Signature

1/18/2023
Date

Cindy Hartle
Name (Please Print)

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication: Greenville Record-Argus**

***City, State: Greenville, PA**

***Advertiser Name: National Fuel**

Insertion Order #: 46764

***Date of Insertion: 1-5-23; 1-12-23**

***Caption: National Fuel Public Notice**

***Ad Size: 4x10**

***Total # Inserted: 3,885 each day**

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Jim Rust

Signature

1-19-23

Date

Jim Rust

Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication: Greenville Record-Argus**

***City, State: Greenville, PA**

***Advertiser Name: National Fuel**

Insertion Order #: 46764

***Date of Insertion: 1-5-23; 1-12-23**

***Caption: National Fuel Public Notice**

***Ad Size: 4x10**

***Total # Inserted: 3,885 each day**

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Jim Rust

Signature

1-19-23

Date

Jim Rust

Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication:** Kittanning Leader Times

***City, State:** Kittanning, PA

***Advertiser Name:** National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46754

***Date of Insertion:** 1/5/23 and 1/12/23

Caption: National Fuel

***Ad Size:** 3x10.25

***Total # Inserted:** 2 dates

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.



Signature

1/20/23

Date

Gloria Olvido

Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication: Corry Journal**

***City, State: Corry, PA**

***Advertiser Name: National Fuel**

Insertion Order #: 46761

***Date of Insertion: 1/5/23, 1/12/23**

Caption: Public Notice

***Ad Size: 5.75" x 10.5"**

***Total # Inserted: 1**

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Tim Joncas

Signature

1/18/2023

Date

Tim Joncas

Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication: Corry Journal**

***City, State: Corry, PA**

***Advertiser Name: National Fuel**

Insertion Order #: 46761

***Date of Insertion: 1/5/23, 1/12/23**

Caption: Public Notice

***Ad Size: 5.75" x 10.5"**

***Total # Inserted: 1**

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Tim Joncas

1/18/2023

Signature

Date

Tim Joncas

Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: DUBOIS COURIER EXPRESS

*City, State: DUBOIS PA

*Advertiser Name: NATIONAL FUEL

Insertion Order #: 46757

*Date of Insertion: 11/18/23

Caption: NATIONAL FUEL PUBLIC NOTICE

*Ad Size: 4x9

*Total # Inserted:

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

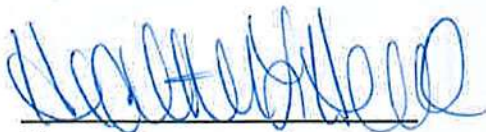
E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.



Signature

11/18/23

Date

Heather Hauritsko

Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: DuBois Courier Express

*City, State: DuBois Pa

*Advertiser Name: National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46757

*Date of Insertion: 11/3/23

Caption: National Fuel Public Notice

*Ad Size: 4x9

*Total # Inserted:

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:


E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.


Signature

11/3/23
Date

Heather Haurilesko
Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: Dubois Courier Express

*City, State: Dubois Pa

*Advertiser Name: National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46757

*Date of Insertion: 11/17/23

Caption: National Fuel Public Notice

*Ad Size: 4x9

*Total # Inserted:

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.


Signature

11/18/23
Date

Heather HAURICSO
Name (Please Print)

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LOCALiQ

Erie Times-News | The Intelligencer
Bucks County Courier Times
The Daily American | Beaver County Times
Pocono Record | Durlington County Times

PO Box 630531 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0531

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Mansi Media
4000 Crums Mill RD # 101
Harrisburg PA 17112-2896

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF ERIE

The Erie Times-News is a newspaper of general circulation, whose principal place of business is at 205 W 12th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania. That a copy of the printed notice, hereto attached, is exactly as the same was printed and published in the regular edition of the Erie Times-News, published in the issue dated:

01/06/2023, 01/13/2023

Sworn to and subscribed before on 01/13/2023

D. Roberts
Legal Clerk

Shelly Hora
Notary, State of WI, County of Brown
8-25-23

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$1854.00
Order No: 8275438 # of Copies:
Customer No: 574861 -1
PO #:

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!

Please do not use this form for payment remittance.

SHELLY HORA
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

Public Input Hearings Re: National Fuel Gas Rate Increase

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) will hold a public hearing concerning the National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation request for an increase in rates. Telephonic public input hearings will be held on:

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

To participate in the hearing: (1) you must dial the toll-free number listed below; (2) you must enter a PIN number when instructed to do so, also listed below; and (3) you must speak your name when prompted. The telephone system will connect you to the hearing.

Toll-free Conference Number: 866.566.0649
Passcode: 83345259

If you wish to testify at one of the telephonic public input hearings, please preregister by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. If you do not preregister and provide the information listed below, you may not be able to testify. Individuals will testify in the order in which they preregister. You may preregister by email or by phone.

To preregister by email, please email Judge Long's legal assistant, Daniela Alban, at dalban@pa.gov, and provide: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, and (4) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

To preregister by phone, please call Judge Long's office at 412-565-3550 and leave a message providing: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, (4) a phone number where you can be reached prior to the hearing if we need to contact you, (5) your email address, if you have one, and (6) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

Requests for Interpreters: If you require an interpreter, please pre-register as soon as possible. If you register too close to the hearing date, we may not have enough time to arrange for an interpreter. If you request an interpreter, we will make every reasonable effort to have one present.

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AT&T Relay Service number for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired: 1.800.654.5988

LOCALiQ

Erie Times-News | The Intelligencer
Bucks County Courier Times
The Daily American | Beaver County Times
Pocono Record | Durlington County Times

PO Box 630531 Cincinnati, OH 45263-0531

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

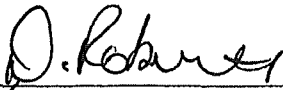
Mansi Media
4000 Crums Mill RD # 101
Harrisburg PA 17112-2896

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, COUNTY OF ERIE

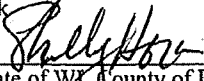
The Erie Times-News is a newspaper of general circulation, whose principal place of business is at 205 W 12th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania. That a copy of the printed notice, hereto attached, is exactly as the same was printed and published in the regular edition of the Erie Times-News, published in the issue dated:

01/06/2023, 01/13/2023

Sworn to and subscribed before on 01/13/2023



Legal Clerk



Notary, State of WI, County of Brown

8-25-23

My commission expires

Publication Cost: \$1854.00

Order No: 8275438

of Copies:

Customer No: 574861

-1

PO #:

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!

Please do not use this form for payment remittance.

SHELLY HORA
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

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Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: *The Meadville Tribune*

*City, State: *Meadville, PA*

*Advertiser Name: *National Fuel*

Insertion Order #: *46759*

*Date of Insertion: *1/6/2023*

Caption: *"Public Input Hearings"*

*Ad Size: *6.781" x 10"*

*Total # Inserted: *5295*

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.


Signature

1/18/2023
Date

Jon Grzegorzewski
Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: *The Meadville Tribune*

*City, State: *Meadville, PA*

*Advertiser Name: *National Fuel*

Insertion Order #: *46759*

*Date of Insertion: *1/13/2023*

Caption: *"Public Input Hearings"*

*Ad Size: *6.781" x 10"*

*Total # Inserted: *5192*

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Jon Grzegorzewski
Signature

1/18/2023
Date

Jon Grzegorzewski
Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication: WARREN TIMES OBSERVER**

***City, State: WARREN PA**

***Advertiser Name: NATIONAL FUEL**

Insertion Order #: 46766

***Date of Insertion: 1/5/23**

Caption: Mower - National Fuel Public Notice

***Ad Size: 3X8**

***Total # Inserted: 4200**

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Stacy Stone
Signature

1/18/23
Date

Stacy Stone
Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication: WARREN TIMES OBSERVER**

***City, State: WARREN PA**

***Advertiser Name: NATIONAL FUEL**

Insertion Order #: 46766

***Date of Insertion: 1/12/23**

***Caption: Mower - National Fuel Public Notice**

***Ad Size: 3X8**

***Total # Inserted: 4200**

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Stacy Stone

Signature

1/18/23

Date

Stacy Stone

Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: Butler Eagle
*City, State: Butler PA
*Advertiser Name: Mansi International Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46755

*Date of Insertion: 1-6-23

Caption:

*Ad Size: 4col x 8"

*Total # Inserted:

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.


Signature

1-11-23
Date

C Gallagher
Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: Butter Eagle
*City, State: Butter PA
*Advertiser Name: Mansi National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46755
*Date of Insertion: 1/13/23
Caption:
*Ad Size: 4x8"
*Total # Inserted:

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:
MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

[Signature]
Signature

1-13-23
Date

C. Gallagher
Name (Please Print)

Please note, this form does **NOT need to be notarized, unless you are told otherwise by a MANSI Media representative.*

AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: *The Progress*
*City, State: *Clearfield PA*
*Advertiser Name: *National Fuel*

Insertion Order #: *40758*

*Date of Insertion: *1/10/23* *1/13/23*

Caption:

*Ad Size: *5x11*

*Total # Inserted:

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:
E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com
Fax: (717) 703-3022
Mail:
MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.

Cara Irwin

Signature

1/17/23

Date

Cara Irwin

Name (Please Print)

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AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

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*Name of Publication: *The Progress*
*City, State: *Clearfield PA*
*Advertiser Name: *National Fuel*

Insertion Order #: *40758*

*Date of Insertion: *1/10/23* *1/13/23*

Caption:

*Ad Size: *5x11*

*Total # Inserted:

**Please return completed & signed
affidavit to any of the following:**

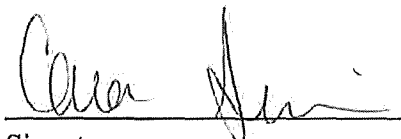
E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Signature

1/17/23

Date

Cara Irwin

Name (Please Print)

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AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

***Name of Publication:** Ellwood City Ledger

***City, State:** Ellwood City, PA

***Advertiser Name:** National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46763

***Date of Insertion:** 1/10/23, 1/13/23, 1/17/23

Caption: National Fuel Public Notice

***Ad Size:** 10" x 9.95"

***Total # Inserted:** 3 days

Please return **completed & signed** affidavit to any of the following:

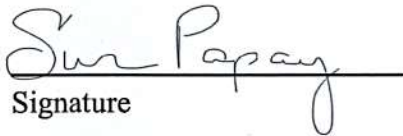
E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.


Signature

1/17/23
Date

Susan Papay
Name (Please Print)

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***City, State:** Ellwood City, PA

***Advertiser Name:** National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46763

***Date of Insertion:** 1/10/23, 1/13/23, 1/17/23

Caption: National Fuel Public Notice

***Ad Size:** 10" x 9.95"

***Total # Inserted:** 3 days

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Mail:

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Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Signature

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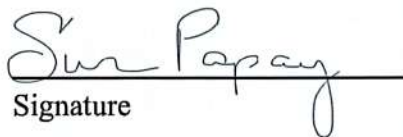
E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

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1/17/23

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AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

- *Name of Publication: New Castle News
- *City, State: New Castle PA
- *Advertiser Name: Mansi – National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46771

*Date of Insertion: 1-9-23 & 1-16-23

Caption: National Fuel Gas Rates

*Ad Size: 4 col. x 8"

*Total # Inserted: 2

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:

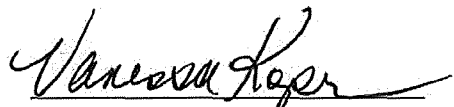
E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.



Signature

January 17, 2023

Date

Vanessa Koper

Name (Please Print)

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AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

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*City, State: New Castle PA

*Advertiser Name: Mansi – National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46771

*Date of Insertion: 1-9-23 & 1-16-23

Caption: National Fuel Gas Rates

*Ad Size: 4 col. x 8"

*Total # Inserted: 2

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affidavit to any of the following:**

E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Signature

January 17, 2023

Date

Vanessa Koper

Name (Please Print)

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AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: Sharon Herald

*City, State: Sharon, PA

*Advertiser Name: Mansi – National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46773

*Date of Insertion: 1-9-23 & 1-16-23

Caption: National Fuel Gas Rates

*Ad Size: 4 col. x 8"

*Total # Inserted: 2

Please return completed & signed affidavit to any of the following:

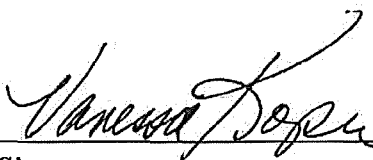
E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

My signature verifies that this ad was inserted as scheduled according to the above specifications.



Signature

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AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

Please Fill out Information Below:

(Note: Any line marked with an asterisk (*) must be filled in completely & accurately)

*Name of Publication: Sharon Herald

*City, State: Sharon, PA

*Advertiser Name: Mansi – National Fuel

Insertion Order #: 46773

*Date of Insertion: 1-9-23 & 1-16-23

Caption: National Fuel Gas Rates

*Ad Size: 4 col. x 8"

*Total # Inserted: 2

**Please return completed & signed
affidavit to any of the following:**

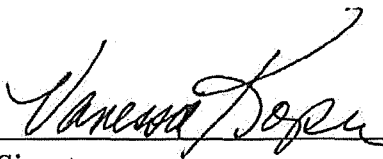
E-mail: tearsheets@mansimedia.com

Fax: (717) 703-3022

Mail:

MANSI Media – Tearsheet Dept.
3899 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Signature

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Date

Vanessa Koper

Name (Please Print)

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Biden in Texas for his first visit to border as president

By Colleen Long
Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — President Joe Biden arrived in Texas on Sunday for his first trip to the U.S.-Mexico border since taking office, stopping in El Paso after two years of hounding by Republicans who have hammered him as soft on border security while the number of migrants crossing spirals.

Biden planned to spend a few hours in the city, currently the biggest corridor for illegal crossings, in large part to Nicaraguans fleeing repression, crime and poverty in their country. They are among migrants from four countries who are now subject to quick expulsion under new rules enacted by the Biden administration in the past week that drew strong criticism from immigration advocates.

port migrants arriving to the U.S. It was not clear whether Biden would talk to any migrants.

"The president's very much looking forward to seeing for himself firsthand what the border security situation looks like," said John Kirby, the White House national security spokesman.

But Gov. Greg Abbott, R-Texas, scoffed at Biden's outreach. "All he's going to do down there is arrange the chairs on the deck of the Titanic. He's not going to achieve any solutions that will make the border safer, more secure and stop illegal immigration," he told Fox News Channel. Abbott was on hand as Biden got off Air Force One, giving the president a letter that outlined laws that the governor said would make a great difference, if enforced, in addressing the "chaos" at the border.

sweeping changes have failed in recent years.

From El Paso, Biden will continue south to Mexico City, where he and the leaders of Mexico and Canada will gather on Monday and Tuesday for a North American leaders summit. Immigration is among the items on the agenda. The challenge facing the U.S. on its southern border requires cooperation among multiple countries, a sign that diplomacy will matter as much as internal U.S. policies.

In El Paso, where migrants congregate at bus stops and in parks before traveling on, border patrol agents have stepped up security before Biden's visit.

"I think they're trying to send a message to the world that we're consistently checking people's documented status, and if you have not been processed they are going to pick you up," said Ruben Garcia of the Annunciation House aid group in El Paso.

ezuelan migrant in El Paso who hopes to seek asylum in Canada, said he has no prospects for finding a U.S. sponsor and that he's now reluctant to seek asylum in the U.S. because he's afraid of being sent to Mexico.

Mexico "is a terrible country where there is crime, corruption, cartels and even the police persecute you," he said. "They say that people who think about entering illegally won't have a chance, but at the same time I don't have a sponsor... I came to this country to work. I didn't come here to play."

The numbers of migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has risen dramatically during Biden's first two years in office. There were more than 2.38 million stops during the year that ended Sept. 30, the first time the number topped 2 million. The administration has struggled to clamp down on crossings, reluctant to take hard-line measures that would resemble those of the Trump administration.

time, 30,000 migrants per month from Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela will get the chance to come to the U.S. legally as long as they travel by plane, get a sponsor and pass background checks.

The U.S. will also turn away migrants who do not seek asylum first in a country they traveled through en route to the U.S. Migrants are being asked to complete a form on a phone app so that they can go to a port of entry at a pre-scheduled time and date.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters aboard Air Force One that the administration is trying to "incentivize a safe and orderly way and cut out the smuggling organizations, giving the policies are 'not a ban at all' but an attempt to protect migrants from the trauma that smuggling can create.

years in public service, Biden has not spent much time at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The only visit that the White House could point to was Biden's drive by the border while he was campaigning for president in 2008. He sent Vice President Kamala Harris to El Paso in 2021, but she was criticized for largely bypassing the action, because El Paso wasn't the center of crossings that it is now.

President Barack Obama made a 2011 trip to El Paso, where he toured border operations and the Paso Del Norte international bridge, but he was later criticized for not going back as tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors crossed into the U.S. from Mexico.

Trump, who made hardening immigration a signature issue, traveled to the border several times. During one visit, he crammed into a small border station to inspect cash and drugs confiscated by agents. During a trip to McAllen, Texas, then the center of a growing crisis, he made one of the most often repeated claims, that Mexico would pay to build a border wall.

The president was expected to meet with border officials to discuss migration as well as the increased trafficking of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, which are driving skyrocketing numbers of overdoses in the U.S.

Biden was scheduled to visit the El Paso County Migrant Services Center and meet with nonprofits and religious groups that sup-

Biden's announcement on border security and his visit to the border are aimed in part at quelling the political noise and blunting the impact of upcoming investigations into immigration promised by House Republicans. But any enduring solution will require action by the sharply divided Congress, where multiple efforts to enact

Migrants and asylum-seekers fleeing violence and persecution have increasingly found that protections in the United States are available primarily to those with money or the savvy to find someone to vouch for them financially.

Jose Natera, a Ven-

depressed breathing or even coma. Nearly 15% were admitted to non-critical care units and more than a third were seen in emergency rooms. Drowsiness, breathing problems, bluish heart rate and vomiting were the most common symptoms.

The results are not surprising, said Dr. Brinn Schultz, a pediatric emergency physician at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. He previously worked at Children's National Hospital in Washing-

ton, D.C., where he and his colleagues treated kids who had eaten pot edibles "almost on a daily basis," he said.

Reports and hospitalizations rose during the last two years of the study, during the COVID-19 pandemic. More children were at home, with more opportunities to find pot treats, Tweet said. With marijuana more widely legal, parents may have felt less stigma seeking help from poison centers and health care providers, she added.

As legal pot grows, more kids sickened by edibles at home

By Janet Alaccia
AP Health Writer

(AP) - The number of young kids, especially toddlers, who accidentally ate marijuana-laced treats has risen sharply by over five years as pot became legal in more places in the U.S., according to a study published Tuesday.

More than 7,000 confirmed cases of kids younger than 6 eating marijuana edibles were reported to the nation's poison control centers between 2017 and 2021, climbing from about 200 to more than 3,000 per year.

Nearly a quarter of the children wound up hospitalized, some seriously ill, according to

a new analysis in the journal Pediatrics.

And those are just the reported cases, said Dr. Marit Tweet, a medical toxicologist with the Southern Illinois School of Medicine, who led the study.

Cases of kids eating pot products such as candies, chocolate and cookies have coincided with more states allowing medical and recreational cannabis use. Currently 37 U.S. states permit use of marijuana for medical purposes and 21 states regulate adult recreational use.

Tweet called for greater vigilance by parents and for more laws like those adopted by several states to

make pot products — often packaged to look like kids' candies and snacks — less appealing and accessible to children.

"When it's in a candy form or cookies, people don't think of it in the same way as household chemicals or other things a child could get into," she said. "But people should really be thinking of it as a medication."

Tweet and her colleagues analyzed reports to the National Poison Data System, which includes the na-

tion's 55 regional poison control centers. More than half of the children were toddlers, ages 2 and 3, the study showed. More than 90% got the edibles at home.

"They're the ones starting to explore and to get up and move around," she said.

Of more than 7,000 reports, researchers were able to track the outcomes of nearly 5,000 cases. They found that nearly 600 kids, or about 8%, were admitted to critical care units, most often with

depressed breathing or even coma. Nearly 15% were admitted to non-critical care units and more than a third were seen in emergency rooms. Drowsiness, breathing problems, bluish heart rate and vomiting were the most common symptoms.

The results are not surprising, said Dr. Brinn Schultz, a pediatric emergency physician at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore. He previously worked at Children's National Hospital in Washing-

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su do ku

3	4	9			6	5
6	5	7				
		9	5			8
			4		9	6
9	4					3
7	3	6				
	8		3	7		
2	3	6		5	7	
	5			8	3	9

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fit each row, column, and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you have, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

0	7	8	1	9	2	5	4
4	3	6	7	2	1	6	8
1	2	9	8	4	6	8	7
8	9	6	9	2	7	5	4
2	4	7	5	1	6	9	3
6	9	1	4	8	6	2	7
7	6	4	2	8	1	9	5
3	1	5	8	0	4	7	8
9	8	2	7	5	3	4	1

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14116-30-51 Sat 9-noon | 817-371-6725

2726 W. 20th, Plano, TX 75075 | 469-4111 by appointment only | 469-498-7311

Public Input Hearings Re: National Fuel Gas Rate Increase

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) will hold a public hearing concerning the National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation request for an increase in rates. Telephonic public input hearings will be held on:

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

To participate in the hearing: (1) you must dial the toll-free number listed below; (2) you must enter a PIN number when instructed to do so, also listed below; and (3) you must speak your name when prompted. The telephone system will connect you to the hearing.

Toll-free Conference Number: 866.566.0649
Passcode: 83345259

If you wish to testify at one of the telephonic public input hearings, please preregister by **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023**. If you do not preregister and provide the information listed below, you may not be able to testify. Individuals will testify in the order in which they preregister. You may preregister by email or by phone.

To preregister by email, please email Judge Long's legal assistant, Daniela Alban, at dalban@pa.gov, and provide: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, and (4) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

To preregister by phone, please call Judge Long's office at 412-565-3550 and leave a message providing: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, (4) a phone number where you can be reached prior to the hearing if we need to contact you, (5) your email address, if you have one, and (6) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

Requests for Interpreters: If you require an interpreter, please pre-register as soon as possible. If you register too close to the hearing date, we may not have enough time to arrange for an interpreter. If you request an interpreter, we will make every reasonable effort to have one present.

If you need assistance preregistering to testify, you may have someone register for you, but we will need to provide us all the information listed above. Additionally, if more than one person in your household would like to testify, one person may preregister for other individuals in the same household, but we will need the information for each individual.

If you do not wish to testify but want to listen to the public input hearing(s), please contact Judge Long's office by email at dalban@pa.gov or phone at 412-565-3550 and provide your name and the hearing(s) you want to listen to so we can ensure we have adequate caller capacity on the conference bridge to accommodate all callers.

The deadline for signing up for the public input hearings is **Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.**

If you intend to offer any exhibits at the public input hearing, you **must** email your proposed exhibit(s) to Judge Long at malong@pa.gov by Tuesday, January 17, 2023. In your email to Judge Long you **must** copy all individuals listed in the "full-service list" in the attached parties' list. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in you not being allowed to present your proposed exhibit(s). Proposed video evidence **must** be submitted in the MP4 format and cannot exceed 2 MB. Proposed video evidence that does not meet these criteria will not be permitted.

AT&T Relay Service number for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired: 1.800.654.5988

Game commission seeks help with turkey flock sightings

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is asking for the public's help in finding turkey flocks to trap for ongoing turkey projects.

The agency is encouraging Pennsylvanians to report the locations of any turkey flocks they see between now and March 15. Information is being collected online at <https://pgc-datacollection.pa.gov/TurkeyBroodSurvey>.

Visitors to that webpage will be asked to provide the date of the sighting, the location, and the type of land (public, private or unknown) where birds are seen, among other things.

Game commission crews will visit sites to assess them for the potential to trap turkeys.

Turkeys will not be moved. Instead, they'll simply be leg-banded and released on site. In four Wildlife Management Units, some also will be outfitted with GPS transmitters, then released back on site to be monitored over time.

Trapping turkeys during winter is part of the commission's ongoing population monitor-



The game commission is also attaching GPS transmitters to a sample of turkeys in management units 2D, 3D, 4D and 5C; on approximately 150 hens and 100 males total. The four study areas have different landscapes, turkey population densities, and spring hunter and harvest densities.

"We're studying turkey population and movement dynamics, disease prevalence and other aspects that may limit populations," Casalena said.

The studies are being done in partnership with Penn State University and the University of Pennsylvania's Wildlife Futures Program.

The population and movement portion of that work is looking at how landscape and weather impact hen nest rates, nest success, poult survival, predation, habitat use and movement.

The disease portion of the study examines how disease prevalence varies based on landscape and impacts things like the survival and nesting rates of hens of different ages.

This is accomplished by collecting blood,

tracheal, feces and skin from turkeys that receive backpack-style transmitters at the time of capture.

The study will continue next winter for both males and females, and continue through 2025 for hens, so that in the end, the Game Commission will monitor more than 400 females and more than 200 males.

Researchers from Penn State University and the University of Pennsylvania's Wildlife Futures Program will interpret the data collected. Biologists from Maryland, New Jersey and Ohio also have joined the study this year.

"It is the largest turkey project we've ever conducted, with the hope of answering many questions regarding current turkey population dynamics," Casalena said.

Finding birds to trap is key to accomplishing the work. That's where the public comes in.

Fortunately, Pennsylvanians have a history of helping in this way.

Last winter's Wild Turkey Sighting Survey was extremely useful to staff for locating trapable flocks, Casalena said.

FOR THE RECORD

Sunrise: 7:44 a.m.

Sunset: 5:12 p.m.

WEATHER

TONIGHT: Mostly clear. Low: 27.
TOMORROW: Overcast, sprinkles or flurries possible. High: 43.

LOTTERY PENNSYLVANIA

SATURDAY EVENING WILD CARD: 2

Pick 2: 31
Pick 3: 902
Pick 4: 1344
Pick 5: 4371
Cash 5: 4-14-17-30-40
Match 6: 19-23-33-36-41-42
SATURDAY MIDDAY WILD CARD: 2

Pick 2: 14
Pick 3: 068
Pick 4: 4546
Pick 5: 82831
Treasure Hunt: 4-8-14-24-26

SUNDAY EVENING WILD CARD: 2

Pick 2: 03
Pick 3: 804
Pick 4: 1023
Pick 5: 63942
Cash 5: 9-17-20-34-35
Match 6: 16-29-36-37-43-46

SUNDAY MIDDAY WILD CARD: 2

Pick 2: 86
Pick 3: 079
Pick 4: 8427
Pick 5: 12556
Treasure Hunt: 6-11-17-19-22

OHIO

SATURDAY EVENING
Pick 3: 924
Pick 4: 3188
Pick 5: 70435
Rolling Cash 5: 1-6-7-33-35
Lotto: 2-19-34-38-46-47
Kicker: 645944

SATURDAY MIDDAY

Pick 3: 664
Pick 4: 5746
Pick 5: 28546

SUNDAY EVENING

Pick 3: 303
Pick 4: 8231
Pick 5: 55510
Rolling Cash 5: 6-9-12-29-36

SUNDAY MIDDAY

Pick 3: 711
Pick 4: 9595
Pick 5: 01603

Multi-State
Powerball: 35-36-44-45-67
Power Play: 14
Power Play: 3x

Correction

Local Shenango Township supervisors last week changed the name of Shenango Park Drive, which is located on Old Pittsburgh Road, to Primrose Place. The location of the road was incorrect in Saturday's edition.

Police

STATE
Accident: Patricia A. Ahmer, 59, of Struthers, Ohio, was southbound on South State Line Road in North Beaver Township sometime before 11:32 p.m. Dec. 17 when she lost control of her 2004 Lincoln Town Car on the icy roadway and struck a utility pole. Police said Ahmer suffered a minor injury and had been transported to a Mercy St. Elizabeth Hospital Boardman before they arrived on the scene. The car sustained moderate front-end damage and was towed from the scene. Also responding were the departments from Wampum and North Beaver Township, Hoga Ambulance and De's Towing.

Accident: Police found a 2010 Jeep Cherokee near the bottom of a hill off the 2700 block of Harlansburg Road, Scott Township, at 1:16 a.m. Dec. 10. The vehicle had failed to negotiate a curve and went off the road, through a ditch and down a hill, striking several shrubs and trees. Police learned that a man had arrived at the scene and taken the operator away before their arrival, but that through investigation they identified the driver of the Jeep as Mylinda A. McDaniel, 27, of New Castle, who had sustained minor injury. Harlansburg Road was closed while the car was removed from the scene. Hoga EMS, the Scott and Hickey Township fire departments, McDaniel's Towing and Jacob's Towing also responded.



Fire agencies adjusting to higher fuel costs

BY NICHOLAS VERGILIA
NEW CASTLE NEWS

While gas prices are down from their \$4 high-water mark from earlier in the year, the cost of diesel fuel is still sky high.

The average cost of a gallon of unleaded fuel in Pennsylvania is \$3.630 a gallon, while diesel is \$5.544 a gallon, according to AAA, compared to a year ago when the prices were \$3.528 and \$3.918, respectively.

To account for any potential rise in fuel costs, the New Castle Fire Department budgeted \$123,000 for fuel in their proposed 2023 budget.

The same amount was budgeted for 2022, with the department, as of September, spending \$90,529.99.

Chief Mike Kobbe said when budgeting for fuel, he wanted to be

safe and overestimate on the amount allocated rather than be short.

Those figures represent a department with a proposed budget of more than \$2.5 million with a staff of full-time and casual workers.

What does the high gas prices mean for smaller volunteer companies and departments who receive little to no money from their municipal governments and rely entirely on donations and fundraisers?

Sam Haines, the assistant chief and treasurer for the Volant Volunteer Fire Company, said the situation for every fire agency is different.

He said the Volant VFC is completely self-sufficient, receiving no funding from Volant Borough minus workers compensation.

Haines said the company gives generously every year.

The company decided to add a fifth major fundraiser event in 2022, on top of other smaller drives which has allowed them to be able to maintain their services despite the increase in costs.

Haines said there are some departments in the county where the costs are divided between them and the municipalities, such as with the Neshannock Township Volunteer Fire Company and Shenango Area Fire District.

There are other departments, like in New Castle and Ellwood

City Fire Department where essentially all costs are paid for by the municipalities, so rising costs in fuel would generally affect the local governments over the departments.

However, for smaller departments, the vast majority of funding comes from fundraising and community donations.

Haines said the company, as well as the other fire agencies in the county, are appreciative of the community's support year after year and that those donations enable them to operate.

Majority of 16k canceled Pa. mail-in ballots were from Dems

HARRISBURG (AP)—New data from Pennsylvania's elections agency shows an early November state court decision that barred mail-in ballots without accurate handwritten dates on their exterior envelopes resulted in otherwise valid votes being thrown out.

The Department of State said this week more than 16,000 mail-in ballots were disqualified by county officials because they lacked secrecy envelopes or proper signatures or dates. Democratic voters, who are much more likely to vote by mail, made up more than two-thirds of the total canceled ballots.

The agency said 8,250 Pennsylvania mail-in ballots were rejected because they were sent in without being contained within a secrecy envelope, making it impossible for them to be tabulated without putting voter privacy at risk. The remaining 7,904

invalidated ballots were tossed out because the exterior envelopes used to send in those ballots did not have the voters' signatures, or because those exterior envelopes were either undated or improperly dated.

Many counties, but not all, worked with voters to "cure" undated ballots.

Those fixed ballots were counted and are not among the number of rejected ballots now being reported by the Department of State.

Some people whose mail-in ballots were thrown out in the high-stakes November election may not be aware that happened.

"In many counties, voters who provide their email address when applying for a mail ballot automatically receive email notifications with status updates on their ballot, including whether their ballot was canceled," Department of State spokeswoman Ellen Lyon said in an email.

Public Input Hearings Re: National Fuel Gas Rate Increase

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Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

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To preregister by email, please email Judge Long's legal assistant, Daniela Alban, at dalban@pa.gov, and provide: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, and (4) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

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AT&T Relay Service number for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired: 1.800.654.5988

Woman gets 3 years in bogus good Samaritan online fundraiser

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. (AP) — A New Jersey woman who pleaded guilty to helping her boyfriend spend a feel-good story about a homeless veteran that garnered more than \$400,000 in online donations has been sentenced to three years in prison on state theft charges.

Burlington County prosecutors say Kate Lynn McClure, 32, wasn't present in the Mount Holly courtroom Friday because she is serving a one-year federal term in the case. Her state prison term will run concurrently and the former transportation worker will be barred from ever working again as a New Jersey public employee.

Prosecutors said McClure and her then-boyfriend, Mark D'Amico, came up with the good Samaritan story in November 2017, claiming that homeless veteran Johnny Bobbitt Jr. had given his last \$20 to McClure when her car ran out of gas on an interstate exit ramp in Philadelphia.

The three conducted newspaper and television interviews and

solicited donations, ostensibly to help Bobbitt, through a GoFundMe campaign they named "Paying It Forward," prosecutors said. Prosecutors said the campaign raised more than \$400,000 from about 14,000 donors in about a month and at the time was the largest fraud perpetrated through the crowdfunding platform.

Authorities began investigating after Bobbitt sued the couple, accusing them of not giving him the money. They eventually determined that all of the

WEATHER

KANE 3-DAY FORECAST [AccuWeather.com](#)

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
34	29	36	43
<small>Partly cloudy with wind</small>	<small>Partly cloudy</small>	<small>Mostly cloudy</small>	<small>Partly cloudy and sun</small>

Almanac

Season for Season: Seasonal high/low 33/17

Temperature: Normal high/low 31/17

Normal high/low: 31/17

Normal month to date: 1.07°

Year to date: 1.07°

Normal year to date: 0.72°

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 7:42 a.m.

Sunset today: 5:04 p.m.

Moonrise today: 7:57 p.m.

Moonset today: 9:44 a.m.

Sunrise tomorrow: 7:42 a.m.

Sunset tomorrow: 5:06 p.m.

The Region

View today's weather and temperatures in a high, high and bright blue

Biden inspects busy port of entry along US-Mexico border

By Colleen Long
Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — President Joe Biden inspected a busy port of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border on Sunday, his first trip to the region after two years in office as Republicans hammer him for being soft on border security while the number of migrants crossing spirals.

Biden watched as border officers in El Paso demonstrated how they search vehicles for drugs, money and other contraband. In a sign of the deep political tensions over the immigration, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott handed Biden a letter upon his arrival that said the "chaos" at the border was the "direct result" of the president's failure to enforce federal laws.

Biden planned to spend a few hours in the city, currently the biggest corridor for illegal crossings, in large part to Nicaraguans fleeing repression, crime and poverty in their country. They are among migrants from four countries who are now subject to quick expulsions under new rules enacted by the Biden administration in the past week that drew strong criticism from immigration advocates.

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discuss migration as well as the increased trafficking ofentanyl and other synthetic opioids, which are driving skyrocketing numbers of overdoses in the U.S.

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money was spent by March 2018, with large chunks spent by McClure and D'Amico on a recreational vehicle, a BMW and trips to casinos in Las Vegas and New Jersey.

D'Amico, 43, pleaded guilty in December 2019 and was sentenced to five years in state prison, a term also running concurrently with an earlier federal term. He and McClure have both been ordered to fully reimburse GoFundMe.

Bobbitt was sentenced to probationary federal and state terms.

Mayor Kaso told reporters aboard Air Force One that the administration is trying to "incentivize a safe and orderly way and cut out the smuggling organizations," saying the policies are "not a ban at all" but an attempt to protect migrants from the trauma that smuggling can create.

The changes were welcomed by some, particularly leaders in cities where migrants have been massing. But Biden was excoriated by immigrant advocate groups, which accused him of taking measures modeled after those of the former president. Administration officials disputed that characterization.

For all of his international travel over his 50 years in public service, Biden has not spent much time at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The only visit that the White House could point to was Biden's drive by the border while he was campaigning for president in 2008. He sent Vice President Kamala Harris to El Paso in 2021, but she was criticized for largely bypassing the action, because El Paso wasn't the center of crossings that it is now.

President Barack Obama made a 2011 trip to El Paso, where he toured border operations and the Paso Del Norte international bridge, but he was later criticized for not going back as tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors crossed into the U.S. from Mexico.

Trump, who made hardening immigration a signature issue, traveled to the border several times. During one visit, he crammed into a small border station to inspect cash and drugs confiscated by agents. During a trip to McAllen, Texas, then the center of a growing crisis, he made one of his most-often repeated claims, that Mexico would pay to build a border wall.

American taxpayers ended up footing the bill after Mexican leaders flatly rejected the idea.

Teacher shot by 6-year-old known as devoted to students

By Denise Lavio
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The Virginia teacher who authorities say was shot by a 6-year-old student known as a hard-working educator who is devoted to her students and enthusiastic about the profession that runs in her family according to fellow teachers and city officials.

John Eley III, a former member of the Newport News School Board, identified the first-grade teacher as Abby Zwerner, 25, Zwerner was shot Friday at Richneck Elementary School, authorities said.

Shortly after the shooting, police said Zwerner had life-threatening injuries, but she has improved and was listed in stable condition at a local hospital.

Eley and other city officials met with teachers and the principal at the school Friday and later went to the hospital, where they met with members of Zwerner's family, including several aunts who also are teachers.

"The family was all educators and said she was excited about doing the job," said Eley, who was recently elected to the Newport News City Council.

"The custodians and other teachers spoke about how she's a good teammate, she's a team player, she loves her children, she's just an all-around good teacher."

HARDY
FROM PAGE 1

Lumber, which eventually became 84 Lumber (named after the town where it was headquartered) which currently has more than 250 stores nationwide.

"My father was always asking, 'What's next?'" his daughter Maggie Hardy, to whom he turned over control of 84 Lumber and Nemacolin Resort, said in the profile. "He wanted to conquer the next challenge or make something even better. He taught us never to be satisfied and push to be better today than we were yesterday."

"Joe was a true American success story," former Penn-

sylvania governor and Homeland Security director Tom Ridge told the Post-Gazette. "And he was a true gentleman. He could have demanded to be treated like a tycoon, but instead he wanted to be known as Joe."

The family statement said Hardy had proven "that nothing is impossible by willing himself to his 100th birthday," which had made the family "beyond proud of him for making this final accomplishment."

A funeral service for Hardy, whose survivors include eight children and 15 grandchildren, is scheduled Thursday in Westminster Presbyterian Church followed by full military honors and private interment.

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HOMETOWN

2023 'Lens on Litter' photo contest details released

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MILWAUKEE, Pa. — The Gene Cappelli Lens on Litter Photo Contest, a program of the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC), is an annual statewide photography contest...

The purpose is not to glorify litter, but to bring awareness to how litter affects our public health and safety, scenic beauty, property values, the environment and wildlife.

The contest is open to Pennsylvania amateur photographers only. Entries will be judged on six criteria: an original message, originality, photographic technique, quality of photo, originality of title and severity of the litter.

A top prize of \$500 will be awarded to each of two categories: adult and student (through grade 12). Four additional prizes will be awarded with second place winners receiving \$250 and third place \$100 in each group.

The deadline to submit is Oct. 31. The photos must be taken in Pennsylvania by Pennsylvania residents.

Send photos (don't lose per person, no smaller than 4 by 6 and no larger than 8 by 10).

Mail to the Pennsylvania Resources Council, East Office, 3671 N. Presidential Road, Media, PA 19063. High resolution digital submissions may be sent to lenscontest@prc.org...

All entries including digital must include:

- entrant's name
• address
• e-mail address
• telephone number
• title given to photo
• location of litter site
• how you learned of the contest.

For student submissions, age, grade and school name must also be provided. Photos submitted without all the above will be disqualified.

Photos will not be returned and may be used by PRC at their discretion.

Questions may be directed to lenscontest@prc.org and additional information on online entry forms as well as previous winners, can be found at https://prc.org/programs/lenscontest/.

Questions are welcome. Any person or organization interested in becoming a sponsor is encouraged to join us in this effort to fight litter big!

All Around the Area

Bible study at Corry First

• Corry First United Methodist Church, 410 North St., invites community members to attend a weekly Bible study beginning on Thursday, Jan. 5 at 9:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center basement...

Word basics

• Microsoft Word is a word processing software designed to create professional-quality documents. This six-week introductory course will begin with an overview of the program toolbar and ribbon...

Email basics

• Email, short for Electronic Mail, consists of storing, so that you send and received over the Internet. The Email Basics course will teach common email systems, such as accounts and e-mailing messages...



Hints From Heloise

DISPOSING OF WIPY WIPY PROPERLY

Dear Heloise: I read your column in the daily Elktonian Chronicle and was along all of your very good hints. In a recent column, you published a letter about not flushing wet wipes down the toilet...

I live on a small aging condominium body as the 1960s, and I'm a board member of the complex. We have many plumbing problems...

Every time the plumber comes to unclog a pipe, their large snake comes up with wads of flushable wet wipes...

The hints usually suggested these two things: First, keep a small spray bottle of water next to the toilet and spray a bit on clean toilet paper...

The second hint is, if you need to use a wet wipe, fold it up and put it in a plastic zip-close bag...

I like the tip on a shirt keep me feeling much fresher so I do this small, inexpensive thing, which helps to save our aging pipes and our budget! — Heidi Heloise, Houston

Hometown Desk can be reached at 665-8291 ext. 27

REAL NEWS from real news sources

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If Your Inspection Sticker Says 1-2023 Contact one of these authorized inspection stations for an appointment!

S & H Car Care Sessa/Chico, Auto Service, Custom Exhaust Works 1332 W. Main St., Corry 664-8285

Croftly Chevrolet "A family membership with your family at heart!" Rt. 6 Corry, PA 814-664-8614

Team of Country Automotive 435 E. Smith St., Corry, PA 664-8763

CURING TEAPOT STAINS Dear Heloise: I suggest putting diluted bleach in the teapot...

SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES Dear Heloise: In a recent article about smoke alarms, Patricia Roberts of Berks, Pa., mentioned that there are no batteries to change in smoke detectors...

USING AN AFFORDABLE SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES Dear Heloise: Several days ago a suggestion was made that a smoke alarm's battery should be tested with an app...

TRAVELING WITH LUGGAGE Dear Heloise: When traveling in an SUV that is loaded up with luggage, we get a little check over the system to see if anything can be seen through the windows and front camera...

PRO Car Care Service Inc. 1100 W. Main St., Corry, PA 814-964-3144

Submit your Special Event FREE. Submit your birth announcements, engagements, weddings, anniversaries and other hometown news and events to The Journal by emailing them to jordan@thecorryjournal.com...

Advertise Here For information on advertising, call Dave or Tim at 665-8291

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The new Stull Nature Reserve in Hermitage had been the 42-acre homestead of long-time city Commissioner Sylvia Stull. She left it to the city when she died in 2006.

Stull Nature reserve honors commissioner's legacy

FROM PAGE A1

and the only woman to serve as the board's president — served as a mentor to Piccirilli, who said Stull "truly cared" for the city. Whether it was working with the city officials whom she deeply respected, such as City Manager Gary Hinkson, or former city solicitor and late Judge Francis Fornelli, or the many residents who came to her, Piccirilli said Stull approached everything with the same attention to detail and care regarding the city. "She ran for commissioner for all the right reasons," Piccirilli said of Stull. "The best advice she ever gave me was to look at all the facts and do the right thing."

Stull passed on some of the knowledge and habits she had learned over the years, such as reading every single word of a proclamation or attending all of the city's functions. Stull also emphasized the importance of researching a topic as much as possible before taking action, speaking often with city officials and her fellow commissioners many times to discuss difficult issues. In one instance, Stull asked Piccirilli to take her to a doctor's appointment, where Stull proceeded to read off medications and their side-effects to the doctor — all based on research she had done herself. "Silvia always made sure you did your homework and read all the material. She used to call me every night at 9 to talk," Piccirilli said.

Board Vice President William Moder also served alongside Stull after Moder joined the board in 2004, following the death of commissioner William Scanlon. Like Piccirilli, Moder said that the city and its residents were the most important things to Stull, and often said "if anyone in the city has a problem, it's my problem."

Although Moder had previously known of Stull through relatives and his work on the economic commission, he received a firsthand introduction to Stull's hands-on approach toward solving residents' problems about a month into his first term. "She called me while I was at home and said, 'can you pick me up and bring your boots? Someone's got water in their basement,'" Moder said. Stull and Moder visited a few houses that day, inspecting basements that were flooded with rainwater after a heavy storm. Not only did Stull insist they walk around the basements and see what happened, but she

spoke with Hinkson shortly afterward to prevent future basement floods for those residents, Moder said. Moder also experienced some of Stull's late-night phone calls, especially since the absence of email at that time meant city matters had to be shared via paper packets and books. "The night before any meeting, she'd call and ask 'did you read this on page 23?' or 'We need to ask about this from that report,'" Moder said.

Stull and her husband never had any children, and Moder said Stull often treated the city and its residents as a form of extended family. "That's why when Stull had the property donated to the city — the property that originally belonged to Stull's family, the Carrs, before becoming the home of her and her husband — Moder said it wasn't surprising to those who knew her. "I think she would have liked not hing better than to see a bunch of preschoolers or kindergarteners there, learning about nature," Moder said.

Though he's no longer on the board, former commissioner Bob Jazwinski worked with Stull during the early 1990s. The time period was a difficult one for Hermitage, since city officials were still trying to recover from the loss of multiple mills in the 1980s, resulting in widespread unemployment and other financial challenges. "There were a lot of controversial decisions back then, like raising taxes and balancing the budget while maintaining our services," Jazwinski said. "But Sylvia was always enjoyable — I never remembered her getting angry or mean with anyone."

When working alongside Stull, whether it was at a board meeting or an informal meeting on her porch, Jazwinski said communication with different people was always an important part of Stull's decision-making process. "That's why, aside from reading and researching issues facing the board, Stull also tried to listen to the different viewpoints from residents, commissioners and different city officials as much as possible," Jazwinski said. "She worked really hard to understand opposing and competing views," Jazwinski said. Jazwinski said Stull's posthumous donation of her "beautiful" property was especially significant since the land belonged to multiple generations of her family until her passing.

"Hopefully the city can use it to the advantage of its residents and their quality of life," Jazwinski said. The commissioners the driver's side front, sending Davis' vehicle on to its side and hitting a traffic light pole, the release states. Both vehicles were sedans. Davis suffered minor injuries, as did a front seat passenger. The other rear passenger in Davis' vehicle was taken to the hospital with serious injuries, and Anthony suffered moderate injuries, the release states.

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Fatal Pymatuning car crash victim ID'd as boy, 14

FROM PAGE A1

Hermitage Road when his vehicle ran a red light, according to a press release from the Pymatuning Township Police Department.

This caused a vehicle driven by Ian Anthony, 28, of Greenville, to hit

Biden inspects US-Mexico border

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — President Joe Biden walked a muddy stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border and inspected a busy port of entry Sunday on his first trip to the region after two years in office, a visit shadowed by the fraught politics of immigration as Republicans blame him for record numbers of migrants crossing into the country.

At his first stop, the president observed as border officers in El Paso demonstrated how they search vehicles for drugs, money and other contraband. Next, he traveled to a dusty street with abandoned buildings and walked along a metal border fence that separated the U.S. city from Ciudad Juarez.

His last stop was the El Paso County Migrant Services Center — but there were no migrants in sight. As he learned about the services offered there, he asked an aid worker, "If I could wave the wand, what should I do?" The answer was not audible.

Biden's nearly four-hour visit to El Paso was highly controlled. He encountered no migrants except when his motorcade drove alongside the border and about a dozen were visible on the Ciudad Juárez side. His visit did not include time at a Border Patrol station, where migrants who cross illegally are arrested and held before their release. He delivered no public remarks.

The visit seemed designed to showcase a smooth operation to process legal migrants, weed out smuggled contraband and humanely treat those who have entered illegally, creating a counter-narrative to Republicans' claims of a crisis situation equivalent to an open border.

But his visit was likely to do little to quell critics



President Joe Biden walks with U.S. Border Patrol agents along a stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso, Texas, Sunday.

from both sides, including immigrant advocates who accuse him of establishing cruel policies not unlike those of his hard-line predecessor, Donald Trump. In a sign of the deep tensions over immigration, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, lashed Biden a letter as soon as he touched down in the state that said the "chaos" at the border was a "direct result" of the president's failure to enforce federal laws Biden later took the letter out of his jacket pocket during his tour, telling reporters, "I haven't read it yet."

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy dismissed Biden's visit as a "photo op," saying on Twitter that the Republican majority would hold the administration "accountable for creating the most dangerous border crisis in American history."

El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego welcomed Biden's visit, but said a current lull in arrivals prevented the president from seeing how large the group of newcomers has been.

Elsewhere in El Paso where Biden did not visit, hundreds of migrants were gathered Sunday outside the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where they have been sleeping outdoors and receiving

three meals a day from faith groups and other humanitarian organizations. The migrants included several pregnant women, including Karla Sainz, 26, eight months along. She was traveling in a small group that included her 2-year-old son, Joshua. Sainz left her three other children back home in Venezuela with her mother.

"I would ask President Biden to help me with a permission or something so we can work and continue," she said. Juan Tovar, 32, one of several people in her group, suggested he also had political reasons for leaving his home country.

"Socialism is the worst," he said. "In Venezuela, they kill us, they torture us, we can't talk bad about the government. We are worse off than in Cuba."

El Paso is currently the biggest corridor for illegal crossings, in large part due to Nicaraguans fleeing repression, crime and poverty in their country. They are among migrants from four countries who are now subject to quick expulsion under new rules enacted by the Biden administration in the past week that drew strong criticism from immigration advocates.

Public Input Hearings Re: National Fuel Gas Rate Increase

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- Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

To participate in the hearing: (1) you must dial the toll-free number listed below; (2) you must enter a PIN number when instructed to do so, also listed below; and (3) you must speak your name when prompted. The telephone system will connect you to the hearing.

Toll-free Conference Number: 866.566.0649
Passcode: 83345259

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AT&T Relay Service number for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired: 1.800.654.5988

Sen. Dush to chair Senate State Government Committee

HARRISBURG — Legislation relating to campaigns and elections, ethics, transparency in state government, constitutional amendments, and state procurement and land sales.

The senator will remain on the Intergovernmental Operations Committee, but as vice chairman. Dush was chair of that committee during the 2021-22 session.

The State Government Committee has broad oversight over the executive branch, including the Office of the Governor, the Departments of State and General Services, as well as the Civil Service, Historical and Museum, and State Ethics Commissions. The committee is also responsible for developing and approving



Photo submitted

thoughtful and transparent manner. The committee will continue its efforts to review proposals to restructure and streamline all aspects of state government.

He will also return as a member of the Game and Fisheries and Veterans Affairs and Emergency Prepared-

ness committees, on which he was a member during the 2021-22 session, and the Local Government Committee, for which he was chairman during the prior session.

Additionally, he will serve as a member of the Appropriations and Judiciary committees during the 2022-23 session.

The Appropriations Committee reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in negotiating and developing the state budget. Each year, the panel holds a series of public hearings with leaders of state departments and agencies to study the governor's budget proposal and ensure taxpayer dollars

are being utilized properly.

The Judiciary Committee considers a wide range of issues pertaining to Pennsylvania's criminal justice system. The committee examines and addresses a heavy load of legislative proposals which are referred, and engages in efforts that increase justice, fairness, and the protection of fundamental rights.

The committee works closely with matters that involve the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Office of Victim Advocate, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Board of Pardons, Pennsylvania Parole Board, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, and Penn-

sylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The senator's newfound position on this committee will allow him to better advocate for his upcoming anti-human trafficking efforts.

Dush responded to the appointments saying, "I'm honored and humbled by the confidence Sen. Ward has shown in me by these appointments. The addition of the Appropriations and Judiciary committees to my plate, I feel, are a reflection of my commitment to the fiscal stewardship of the people's money and to the constitutional responsibility to protect the people of the commonwealth."

2023 photo contests announced for Pa. Great Outdoors

The Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce their lineup of photo contests for 2023. The five themes are Fantastic Food, Pets in the Outdoors, Family Outdoor Adventures, Fall Foliage, and Honoring History.

The Fantastic Food photo contest runs now through February 28, 2023. Pets in the Outdoors photos can be submitted from March 1, 2023, through May 31, 2023. Pictures of Family Outdoor Adventures will be accepted from June 1, 2023, until August 31, 2023. Snapshots of Fall Foliage in Pennsylvania's Great Outdoors region will be accepted from September 1, 2023, through November 30, 2023. The final contest period for Honoring History is from December 1, 2023, until February 29, 2024. Finalists' photos for each contest period will be posted online with the four entries receiving the most votes winning the following cash prizes: 1st Place \$100, 2nd Place \$75, 3rd Place \$50, and 4th Place \$25.

To enter complete the entry form and upload your photos at VisitPAGO.com/contest. The only requirements are that the photo meet the photo contest theme and must be taken in Jefferson, Elk, Clarion,



Forest, or Cameron Counties.

"Our photo contests are very popular with travelers and locals alike. These contests give people the chance to show off their photos highlighting the natural beauty, places, rich history, and events of the region during each season."

John Stratiff, Executive Director Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau.

The Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau is a membership-based travel promotion organization serving five counties in Northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Elk, Forest, and Jefferson Counties. The mission of the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau is to design and implement marketing strategies/programs with the specific intent of increasing overnight travel-related expenditures and awareness of the region as the home of "Endless Outdoor Adventure".

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Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2023. There are 356 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 9, 2015, French security forces shot and killed two al-Qaida-linked brothers suspected of carrying out the rampage at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo that had claimed 12 lives.

On this date:

In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew from Philadelphia to Woodbury, New Jersey.

In 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union, the same day the Star of the West, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements and supplies to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, retreated because of artillery fire.

In 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, California.

In 1914, the County of Los Angeles opened the country's first public defender's office.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Gallipoli ended after eight months with an Ottoman Empire victory as Allied forces withdrew.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing on the shores of Lingayen Gulf in the

Philippines as the Battle of Luzon got underway, resulting in an Allied victory over Imperial Japanese forces.

In 1951, the United Nations headquarters in New York officially opened.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his State of the Union address to Congress, warned of the threat of Communist imperialism.

In 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas to reporters in Hollywood, said a purported autobiography of him, as told to writer Clifford Irving, was a fake.

In 1987, the White House released a January 1986 memorandum prepared for President Ronald Reagan by Lt. Col. Oliver L. North showing a link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

In 2009, U.N. weapons inspectors said there was no "smoking gun" to prove Iraq had nuclear, chemical or biological weapons but they demanded that Baghdad provide private access to scientists and fresh evidence to back its claim that it had destroyed its weapons of mass destruction.

In 2005, Mahmoud Abbas, the No. 2 man in the Palestinian hierarchy following Yasser Arafat's rule, was elected president of the Palestinian Authority by a landslide.

In 2020, Chinese state media

said a preliminary investigation into recent cases of viral pneumonia had identified the probable cause as a new type of coronavirus.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden heard personal stories of gun violence from representatives of victims groups and gun-safety organizations at the White House as he undertook to draft the Obama administration's response to the shooting at a Connecticut elementary school. The Seastreak Wall Street, a commuter ferry, made a hard landing into a Manhattan pier, injuring 85 people. No one was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, for the second time in four decades.

Five years ago: Downpours sent mud and boulders roaring down Southern California hillsides that had been stripped of vegetation by a gigantic wildfire; more than 20 people died and hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed. Breitbart News Network announced that Steve Bannon was stepping down as chairman after his public break with President Donald Trump.

One year ago: Seventeen people, including eight children, died after a fire sparked by a malfunctioning space heater filled a high-rise apartment building with smoke in the New York City borough of the Bronx; it was the city's deadliest blaze in three decades. Comedian and actor Bob Saget, best known for his role on the sitcom "Full House," was found dead in a hotel room in Orlando, Florida. (A medical

examiner later determined that Saget died from an accidental blow to the head, likely from a backward fall.) Dwayne Hickman, an actor and TV executive remembered for his role as TV's Dobie Gillis from 1959 to 1963, died of complications from Parkinson's at his Los Angeles home; he was 87.

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College scam mastermind Rick Singer gets 3.5 years in prison

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

BOSTON — The mastermind of the nationwide college admissions bribery scheme that ensnared celebrities, prominent businesspeople and other parents who used their wealth and privilege to buy their kids' way into top-tier schools was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison Wednesday.

The punishment for Rick Singer, 62, is the longest sentence handed down in the sprawling scandal that embarrassed some of the nation's most prestigious universities and put a spotlight on the secretive admissions system already seen as rigged in favor of the rich.

Prosecutors had sought six years behind bars, noting Singer's extensive cooperation that helped authorities unravel the entire scheme. Singer began secretly working with investigators in 2018 and recorded hundreds of phone calls and meetings that helped authorities build the case against dozens of parents, athletic coaches and others arrested in March 2019.

Those sent to prison for participating in the scheme include "Full House" actor Lori Loughlin, her fashion designer husband Massimo Giannulli, and "Desperate Housewives" star Felicity Huffman. Coaches from schools including Yale, Stanford, Georgetown and UCLA admitted to accepting bribes. "The conduct in this case was something out of a Hol-

lywood movie," Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins told reporters after the sentencing.

Singer also was ordered to pay more than \$10 million in restitution to the IRS and forfeit millions more in money and assets to the government. He was ordered to report to prison in February. Although Singer's cooperation helped authorities secure the convictions of a slew of defendants, prosecutors noted that he also admitted to obstructing the investigation by tipping off several of his clients who were under government scrutiny. He was never called by the government as a witness in the cases that went to trial.

In seeking leniency for Singer, defense attorney Candice Fields told the judge that her client took great personal risk by wearing a wire to record meetings for investigators and "did whatever was necessary" to assist the government. Fields had requested three years of probation, or if the judge deemed prison time necessary, six months behind bars.

"The investigation only achieved the notoriety it did because dozens of influential and sometimes celebrity defendants were prosecuted, and that only happened because of Singer, Fields said. Singer apologized to his family, the schools he embarrassed in the public eye and the students he worked with over the years. He promised to spend the rest of his life working to make a positive impact in people's lives.

"My moral compass was warped by the lessons my father taught me about competition. I embraced his belief that embellishing or even lying to win was acceptable as long as there was victory. I should have known better," he said.

Singer pleaded guilty in 2019 on the same day the massive case became public — to charges including racketeering conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy. Dozens of others ultimately pleaded guilty to similar charges, while two parents were convicted at trial.

Authorities in Boston began investigating the scheme after an executive under scrutiny for an unrelated securities fraud scheme told investigators that a Yale soccer coach had offered to help his daughter get into the school in exchange for cash. The Yale coach led authorities to Singer, whose cooperation unraveled the entire scheme.

For years, Singer paid off entrance exam administrators or proctors to inflate students' test scores and bribed coaches to designate applicants as recruits in order to boost their chances of getting into the school.

Coaches in such sports as golf and tennis took bribes to pretend to recruit students as athletes, regardless of their ability. Fake sports profiles were created to make students look like stars in sports they sometimes didn't even play. The bribes were typically funneled through Singer's sham charity, allowing some par-

ents to disguise the payments as charitable donations and deduct the payments from their federal income taxes.

Singer took in more than \$25 million from his clients, paid bribes totaling more than \$7 million and used more than \$15 million of his clients' money for his own benefit, according to prosecutors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Frank told the judge that if she failed to impose a significant prison sentence, it would send a "devastating message that fund pays and obstruction of justice pay."

"This defendant was responsible for the most massive fraud ever perpetrated on the higher education system in the United States," Frank said.

Before Singer, the toughest punishment had gone to former Georgetown tennis coach Gordon Ernst, who got 2 1/2 years in prison for pocketing more than \$3 million in bribes.

Punishments for the parents have ranged from probation to 15 months behind bars, although the parent who received that prison sentence remains free while he appeals his conviction.

One parent, who wasn't accused of working with Singer, was acquitted on all counts stemming from Ernst to get his daughter into the school. And a judge ordered a new trial for former University of Southern California water polo coach Jovan Vavic, who was convicted of accepting bribes.

Daughter of former US intelligence director guilty of murder

THE WASHINGTON POST, WTOP-FM, WRC-TV
ROCKVILLE, Md. — The daughter of former U.S. intelligence director John Negroponte has been found guilty of fatally stabbing a 24-year-old man after a drunken argument inside a Maryland home.

A Montgomery County jury on Tuesday convicted Sophia Negroponte, 29, of second-degree murder in the February 2020 death of 'Yousof Rasmussen, news outlets reported. She faces up to 40 years in prison at sentencing on March 31.

Sophia Negroponte was one of five abandoned or orphaned Honduran children that John Negroponte and his wife adopted after Negroponte was appointed as U.S. ambassador to the Central American country in the 1980s, according to The Washington Post.

Sophia Negroponte and Rasmussen attended the same Washington high school and had been drinking, along with another person, on the night Rasmussen was killed, Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy said. They argued twice that night and Rasmussen left

When Rasmussen returned to get his cellphone, Negroponte "stabbed him multiple times, one being a death blow that severed his jugular," McCarthy said.

Defense attorney David Moysse had urged jurors to consider that Sophia Negroponte was intoxicated that night that she couldn't form specific intent.

"Alcohol pervades this case from the start; it pervades her life," he said, adding, "and it is absolutely at the heart of what happened there that night. And it's one of the major reasons that this is absolutely not a murder."

Jurors did not find Negroponte guilty of the most serious charge she faced, first-degree, premeditated murder, according to the Post. But they convicted her of second-degree murder, finding that she intended "to inflict such serious bodily harm" to Rasmussen that death would be the likely result.

Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Terrence J. McGann ordered her bond revoked, noting that Rasmussen was "taken from this earth, at a very young age with his whole life ahead of him, in such a horrific way."

Wisconsin man gets life term for killing relative with ax

SPARTA, Wis. — A judge sentenced a Wisconsin man to life in plus 120 years in prison on Wednesday for killing his step-grandfather with an ax and injuring two other people during an altercation at the step-grandfa-

ther's home. Monroe County Circuit Judge Todd Ziegler called prison on Wednesday for Aspetter a selfish, remorseless human being with almost no redeeming qualities before he sentenced him, the

La Crosse Tribune reported. "There is a struggle to find positive aspects of Mr. Aspetter's character," the judge said.

According to prosecutors, Aspetter had been staying with his 87-year-old

step-grandfather, Bernard Waite, but Waite wanted him to leave the home in Sparta, a community of about 10,000 people roughly midway between Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

Aspetter apparently re-

tuned to the home in June 2021 while Waite was at a family gathering in Waunakee and used a crowbar to get inside.

Waite and his brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Margaret Waite, returned

home to find Aspetter on the property. Bernard Waite told him to leave. An enraged Aspetter then hit Bernard and Michael Waite with the ax, striking both of them in the head, and struck Margaret Waite in the arm.

Stocks end higher after Fed meeting minutes, strong job data

By DAMIAN J. TRIOSE
AND ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writers

Stocks on Wall Street closed broadly higher Wednesday after wavering for much of the day as investors weighed the minutes from the Federal Reserve's latest meeting of policymakers and welcomed encouraging data on job openings.

The major indexes rallied following a government report showing that job openings increased more than expected in November. Stocks then shed some of their gains after the minutes from the Fed meeting last month underscored how the central bank remains determined to keep rates high to crush inflation. The S&P 500 rose 0.8% after having been down 0.2% in the early going. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.4% and the Nasdaq com-

posite added 0.7%. Small company stocks outpaced the broader market, lifting the Russell 2000 index 1.2% higher. The Fed raised its key short-term interest rate last month for the seventh time in 2022 and signaled more hikes to come. Still, the increase was smaller than those announced after its previous four meetings, reflecting signs that inflation, while still high, has been showing signs of easing.

The minutes from the mid-December meeting show that Fed officials remained determined to keep rates high and have taken little comfort from inflation's decline from a peak of 9.1% in June to 7.1% in November.

Stocks made higher gains after the 2 p.m. Eastern release of the Fed minutes after the government reported that the number of job openings in November was higher than

expected. While that could maintain pressure on the Fed to keep interest rates high to fight inflation, the resilience in the labor market also bolsters hopes on Wall Street that the economy can avoid sliding into a protracted recession.

"I think the market is trying to figure out if the recession indeed comes, will it be a bad one," said Jeffrey Roach, chief economist for LPL Financial. "I think investors are right, that if we do fall into a recession, it's not going to be a deep and prolonged recession."

The latest update on job openings is the first set of employment data that Wall Street will get this week.

The government will release its weekly unemployment report on Thursday and its closely watched monthly employment report, for December, on Friday.

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Cuban migrants flow into Florida Keys, overwhelm officials

By CODY JACKSON AND
TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

KEY LARGO, Fla. — More than 500 Cuban immigrants have come ashore in the Florida Keys since the weekend, the latest in a large and increasing number who are fleeing the communist island and stretching thin U.S. border agencies both on land and at sea.

It is a dangerous 100-mile (160-kilometer) trip in often rickety boats — unknown thousands having perished over the years — but more Cubans are taking the risk amid deepening and compounding political and economic crises at home.

A smaller number of Haitians are also fleeing their country's economic and po-

litical woes and arriving by boat in Florida. The Coast Guard tries to interdict Cuban migrants at sea and return them. Since the U.S. government's new fiscal year began Oct. 1, about 4,200 have been stopped at sea — or about 43 a day.

That was up from 17 per day in the previous fiscal year and just two per day during the 2020-21 fiscal year.

But an unknown number have made it to land and will likely get to stay. "I would prefer to die to reach my dream and help my family. The situation in Cuba is not very good," Jeyl del Toro Diaz told The Miami Herald shortly after coming ashore Tuesday in Key Largo.

The Department of Homeland Security said it would be

issuing a statement Wednesday, but had not yet done so. Dry Tortugas National Park, a group of seven islands 70 miles (110 kilometers) west of Key West, remained closed to visitors Wednesday as the U.S. evacuated migrants who came ashore there earlier in the week.

Normally, about 255 tourists a day arrive by boat and seaplane to tour the islands and Fort Jefferson, which was built 160 years ago. Officials did not know when it would reopen.

Ramon Raul Sanchez with the Cuban-American group Movimiento Democracia went to the Keys on Wednesday to check on the situation. He told The Associated Press that he met with a group of 22 Cubans who had just ar-

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Prison education program grants GEDs

By Eddie Trzino
Eagle Staff Writer

Matt Clayton estimates that about 30% to 40% of people in the Butler County Prison do not have a high school diploma or equivalent.

As the reintegration program coordinator at the prison, Clayton works with inmates to help form a treatment plan to help reduce the potential for recidivism once their sentence is up. Education is one way to reduce that potential, he said.

"Employment is one of the biggest barriers to reducing recidivism. A lot of times you don't qualify for jobs without a GED," he said. "The adult literacy program comes in twice a week. We put together a treatment plan where they can choose to take the plan or not."

Barb Gade, grant director of Butler County Community College's adult



BUTLER EAGLE FILE PHOTO

Butler County Community College started a prison education program about four years ago. The program has college professors enter the prison to lead regular classes to help inmates earn their degrees.

literacy program, said the school started a prison education program about four years ago. The program has college professors enter the prison to lead regular classes to help inmates earn their degrees.

She said it has been relatively popular with inmates.

"We have 19 going for a high school diploma outside of prison, 12 registered in prison," Gade said. "Prisoners can

choose to come to the program. People who get their GED in prison have less recidivism."

The Community Reintegration Program is an offender program that was established in June

2012 for inmates serving a sentence of at least three months at the Butler County Prison, according to the Butler County website. The GED program is separate from the reintegration program but has similar benefits to its participants.

Clayton said teachers come to the prison four times a week to teach up to 20 inmates at a time, a schedule that started in October. He said the class sessions operate in a manner similar to typical high school classes.

"I monitor the class for security purposes, but the instructor and inmates are respectful to each other," Clayton said. "It adds some structure to the day and they look forward to it."

Inmates can take classes for as long as they want while in the prison, and the GED test is available when they are ready.

test them when they feel like they're ready. We throw them a little bit of a graduation, we give them a diploma."

The process of preparing for the exam is different for everyone, Clayton said, because people in the prison can have vastly different backgrounds and life experiences.

He said many have been out of school for a long time, so the teachers and other personnel in the reintegration program "have to be a support person" to those who want to learn.

Clayton said there are several benefits for people in taking GED classes while in prison, because it demonstrates their drive to improve while serving their sentence.

"We try very hard to get them through," Clayton said. "It shows your judges and your treatment team you are taking the steps to improve your life."

\$5M in scholarships for state employees

By Steve Cukovich
Eagle Staff Writer

Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Foundation announced that the Wolf administration will provide \$5 million in grant funds for a new scholarship program for state employees and their dependents who are pursuing higher education at a state system university.

The PASSHE Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates in service of the State System of Higher Education, will develop and implement the scholarship program.

In the beginning of the spring 2023 term, commonwealth employees and eligible dependents will be able to apply to the PASSHE Foundation for a grant of

up to \$2,000 per academic year for full-time students and up to \$1,000 for part-time students. Scholarship funds may be used for expenses including tuition, room and board.

"I am proud to launch this scholarship program to support our employees and their families in achieving their dreams for a higher education," Wolf said. "An essential part of building effective government is supporting the employees who serve their fellow Pennsylvanians every single day. These folks do the hard work of the commonwealth, and I am proud of the ways that we have modernized state employment to ensure we can attract and retain great employees who do their best for their fellow Pennsylvanians every day."

IN BRIEF

State Police: Zero fatalities during New Year's holiday

The Pennsylvania State Police investigated 401 motor vehicle crashes during the New Year's holiday weekend from Dec. 30 through Jan. 1. None of these crashes included fatalities; 108 people were injured.

State troopers arrested 356 individuals for driving under the influence during the enforcement period.

Troopers also wrote a total of 12,445 citations for various traffic violations, including speeding, seat belt and child seat infractions.

In Butler County enforcement data from Troop D showed that officers responded to 16 crashes, none of which were fatal.

The data from Troop D also included 28 DUI citations, 149 relating to speed, 19 for seat belts and 282 other citations. There were 60 seat belt warnings issued and 35 self-initiated criminal arrests.

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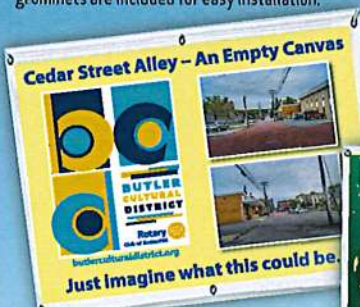
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Butler Eagle

Collapse of Bills' Hamlin deepens Buffalo's anguish, resolve

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

BUFFALO — Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown asked for a moment of silence on New Year's Eve to remember those lost to tragedy in 2022. It was a year that had heaped miseries on the city, including a racist mass shooting in the spring, a deadly blizzard the weekend of Christmas and, just that morning, a house fire that killed five children.

Then, looking ahead to what he hoped would be a better 2023, Brown predicted a Super Bowl victory for the hometown Bills.

Football and the winning Bills had been a reliable bright spot for Buffalonians through their recent travails — until Monday night, when team safety Damar Hamlin suffered a cardiac arrest after making a hard tackle during a nationally televised game in Cincinnati.

Suddenly, a team that had been a beacon of good news became another source of despair.

The anguish on the faces of Bills players as they watched medical workers restart Hamlin's heart was mirrored by legions of fans in a city



Joey Wotzler (left) and Johnny Wotzler (right) hold signs of support during a candlelight vigil for Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin on Tuesday in Orchard Park.

still recovering from the catastrophic Christmas storm that trapped people in cars, left them freezing in powerless homes and killed more than 40 people.

Many in Western New York had been looking forward to the game as a release after a week of

trauma. "The Bills are often like that warm hug," said Del Reid, who owns a local apparel business and is a well-known team booster. "This hit the thing that is what gives us so much joy."

The bond between Bills fans and their team grew particularly strong in the 1990s, as the region struggled with economic and population declines. That hardship coincided with the team's heartbreaking heyday — a period when the Bills made it to four consecutive Super Bowls, only to lose them all.

The team's recent run of success — they've clinched their fourth consecutive playoff berth — is reminiscent of that period, and expectations had been running sky-high before Hamlin's frightening injury.

As Hamlin remained hospitalized in critical condition Tuesday, Buffalo found itself rallying behind a team that had sought to be a source of resiliency for its community.

After the white supremacist supermarket attack that killed 10 Black people in May, Buffalo Bills players and staff — along with those from the Sabres hockey team

— arrived on buses to deliver meals, handshakes and hugs to the grieving neighborhood.

When as much as 6 feet of snow fell on some parts of the Buffalo region during a November storm, Bills players became the center of a feel-good story when they took to social media with accounts of neighbors digging them out so they could leave town to play — and win — their relocated home game against

Cleveland in Detroit.

"This team has embedded themselves in this city," Tom Calderone, chief executive and president of Buffalo/Toronto Public Media, which operates public radio and television stations in western New York and Canada.

While the NFL deliberates whether to reschedule the Bills-Bengals game, Bills supporters are focused on Hamlin's health and looking for ways to honor the team.

Mayor Brown announced the dome of City Hall would be lit in red and blue Tuesday, the Bills colors "to signify our collective prayers for Damar Hamlin, his family, the Bills organization and his complete recovery."

Canada's Niagara Parks announced that nearby Niagara Falls also would be illuminated in blue.

Fans gathered outside the Bills stadium in Orchard Park twice Tuesday for prayer services, including one organized by the wife of retired Bills quarterback Jim Kelly.

"Within the last year, we've been through so much together, it's just unimaginable," one person said at the evening vigil, where others voiced similar messages.

Buffalo Sabres players arriving before their overtime win against the Washington Capitals Tuesday wore shirts emblazoned with "LOVE FOR 3," Hamlin's jersey number.

"There's an emotional connection to the city from our team," general manager Kevin Adams said.

Mary Friona-Celani, who founded the Totally Buffalo website and stores to celebrate the region, said she's been inundated with requests for a No. 3 T-shirt from fans who want to show support.



Damar Hamlin

The Bradford Era

ANOTHER ERA

By MARGIE SCHELHAMMER
10 YEARS AGO

Port Allegany senior Matt Bodamer already has been named the Gatorade Player of the Year in Pennsylvania, Class A Offensive Player of the Year by Pennsylvania Football News, been featured in Sports Illustrated and voted first-team Class A All-State by the Pennsylvania Sports Writers — so what's one more award?

The record-breaking quarterback was named Pennsylvania's Mr. Football by the Pennsylvania Football News Friday, an award that, if possible, may be even more impressive than any of the others.

50 YEARS AGO

Charles P. Grow, a Bradford architect, has been elected chairman of the Kiwanis Housing Authority succeeding J. Michael Mitchell, who served in that capacity for two years. The board consists of nine members and assumes the responsibility of financing and supervising the 50-unit Kiwanis Court Housing project, which cost about \$1 million to erect on West Corydon and Dushnell streets, and today is fully occupied.

100 YEARS AGO

The value of war memories and the part they will play in the lives of veterans of the World War in the days to come were recited to members of Lieut. John C. Roche Post No. 212, Veterans of Foreign Wars and members of the Frances Sherman Auxiliary to the post gathered for the second annual banquet in honor of the auxiliary in the State Armory last night by J.W. Milligan, the principal speaker.

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LOCAL SPORTS ROUNDUP



Brad Reichard/PA

JAMESTOWN — Jamestown's Cameron Keyser drives to the basket against Cochran on Wednesday at Jamestown High School.

Jamestown's big second half gives them the win over Cochran

Record-Argus staff reports

Boys' Basketball

Jamestown 73, Cochran 65

JAMESTOWN — The Jamestown Muskies defeated the Cochran Cardinals in a high scoring non-region game at "The Tank" at Jamestown High School 73-65 on Wednesday.

In a high-scoring game, the Muskies' fourth quarter 14-15 performance at the foul line earned them the win, with Cameron Keyser securing eight of his game-high 27 points at the foul line to close the final frame.

Jamestown took an 18-14 lead in the quarter, however the Cardinals recorded four three-pointers in the second quarter to give them a 37-31 lead at the break.

See Local, Page B2

WRESTLING Commodore Perry tops Cambridge Springs 51-17

By MICHAEL LINDSAY
mlindsay@
recordargusnews.com

PERRY TOWNSHIP — The Commodore Perry Panthers wrestling team won its match 51-17 over the Cambridge Springs Blue Devils on Tuesday at Commodore Perry High School.

The Panthers improve their season record to 8-2 and their league record to 3-0. Cambridge Springs only had enough wrestlers for seven matches on Wednesday night.

Commodore Perry won four of the seven sets against Cambridge Springs.

"I always told our kids that we're never going to apologize for our wins, even if it's not as crisp as we'd like it to be," said Panthers' head coach Kevin Drew. "Cambridge has some good kids, and they rose up tonight and wrestled well against us. They definitely brought the fight to us, and we responded fairly well, but there are always areas for improvement, and we'll keep working on improving."

Owen Reynolds got things going in the right direction for the Panthers as he pinned Blue Devils' Dakota Newell in an impressive 38 seconds. Reynolds' pin was the quickest of the night; the only match that came close was Commodore Perry's Mitchel Tingley's pin in 47 seconds.

Leyton Zacherl and Hunter Geibel won their matches for the Panthers.



Michael Lindsay/PA

PERRY TOWNSHIP — Commodore Perry's Leyton Zacherl (top) seeks to pin Cambridge Springs William Marceau on Wednesday at Commodore Perry High School.

Zacherl pinned Blue Devils' William Marceau at 1:57 of the first period.

"Our wrestlers are excellent because they're excellent to each other and outstanding practitioners," said Drew. "All the kids, they want to improve, be better and be the best they can be, and that's what we preach."

They're all outstanding, even our backups, everything. I told them we win as a team and we lose as a team. So even kids that didn't wrestle tonight are still part of that as part of our success."

Commodore Perry's Shane Yeager may have lost his match, but he gave a spirited effort while on the mat.

Yeager got in trouble early in the first period and was in danger of being pinned. Yeager stretched himself to his limits arching his back upwards with his head and feet on the mat.

Before getting in play

See Tops, Page B2

CAVALIERS

Evan Mobley hits late jumper, Cavaliers beat Suns 90-88

CLEVELAND (AP) — Evan Mobley's 14-foot jumper with four seconds left — off an assist from Donovan Mitchell — helped the Cleveland Cavaliers rally for a 90-88 victory Wednesday night over the Phoenix Suns, who lost their fourth straight.

Mitchell finished with just 20 points two nights after scoring 71. But on Cleveland's final possession, he drove and fed Mobley, who calmly knocked down his shot in his return after missing two games with a sore ankle.

The Suns had a chance to tie it, but Mikal Bridges missed a jumper in the final second. Mitchell snared the rebound and fired the ball to the other end in celebration.

Caris LeVert scored 21 points to lead the Cavs, who spent most of the night chasing the Suns. Mitchell was just 6 of 20 from the field (3 of 12 on 3s) after his historic performance on Monday.

Chris Paul scored 25 points and Deandre Ayton added 15 points and 18 rebounds for Phoenix, which went just 1-5 on a trip and dropped to 4-12 since Dec. 5. The Suns have struggled without injured All-NBA guard Devin Booker, out with a groin strain.

Cleveland was without All-Star guard Darius Garland, who missed his third straight game with a sprained right

See Jumper, Page B2

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SPORTSCENE

Thursday, January 5
Girls' Basketball
Reynolds at Larksville, 7 p.m.
Commodore Perry at Fairport, 7 p.m.
Kennerly Catholic at Jamestown, 7:15 p.m.
Greenville at Marston, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, January 6
Boys' Basketball
Commodore Perry at West Middlesex, 7 p.m.
Rocky Grove at Marston, 7:15 p.m.
Jamestown at Larksville, 7:15 p.m.
Chick City at Greenville, 7:20 p.m.
Saturday, January 7
Boys' Basketball
Fosterville Christian at Jamestown, 2 p.m.
Sunday, January 8
Girls' Basketball
Reynolds at West Middlesex, 7 p.m.
Commodore Perry at Fairport, 7 p.m.
Lakewood at Kennerly Catholic, 7:15 p.m.
Jamestown at Marston, 7:15 p.m.
History at Greenville, 7:20 p.m.
Boys' Basketball
Lakewood at Vanango Catholic, 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday, January 10
Boys' Basketball
Reynolds at Rocky Grove, 7 p.m.
Lakewood at Commodore Perry, 7:15 p.m.
Marston at Kennerly Catholic, 7:15 p.m.
George Junior Republic at Jamestown, 7:15 p.m.
Greenville at Chick City, 7:20 p.m.

Wednesday, January 11
Girls' Basketball
Jamestown at Madison, 7:15 p.m.
Wrestling
Commodore Perry at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Greenville at Marston, 7 p.m.
Shippensburg at Reynolds, 7 p.m.
Thursday, January 12
Girls' Basketball
Marston at Reynolds, 7 p.m.
Kennerly Catholic at Commodore Perry, 7 p.m.
West Middlesex at Larksville, 7:15 p.m.
Fairport at Jamestown, 7:15 p.m.
Harbor Creek at Greenville, 7:20 p.m.
Wrestling
Greenville at Tri-Union at Howland High School, 8 p.m.
Friday, January 13
Boys' Basketball
Kennerly Catholic at Reynolds, 7 p.m.
Commodore Perry at George Junior Republic, 7 p.m.
Fairport at Marston, 7:15 p.m.
Jamestown at Shippensburg, 7:15 p.m.
Girls' Basketball
Commodore Perry at Olatheville Area, 7 p.m.
Wrestling
Commodore Perry at Marston at Marston at SUN-Knoxville Center, 10:20 a.m.
*Region/Conference contest

Local/State News

Marriages

Marriage Licenses

Nov. 4: Brian A. Blood, Jamestown, NY, and Melissa L. Means, Warren
 Nov. 7: Michael A. Anderson, Warren, and Carrie L. Wells, Warren
 Nov. 7: Dakota J. Mentzer, Warren, and Bridget R. Hamilton, Warren
 Nov. 8: Noah J. Byler, Sugar Grove, and Anna E. Yoder, Sugar Grove
 Nov. 10: Mackenzie L.

Franklin, Warren, and Kaysey A. Crane, Warren
 Nov. 14: Robert L. Hancock, Greatview, FL, and Baylee R. Govier, Grand Forks, ND
 Nov. 14: Jason P. Harkins, Warren, and Margaret C. Molloy, Warren
 Nov. 30: Matthew L.P. Mackay, Warren, and Roder M. Clarke, Warren
 Dec. 6: David M. Yoder, Sugar Grove, and Mary M.

Miller, Sugar Grove
 Dec. 7: Richard A. Perry, Warren, and Laurie A. Wilton, Warren
 Dec. 12: Daniel J. Lauffenberger, Cuddy, Pa., and Callen B. Copley, Sheffield
 Dec. 14: Jason E. Hale, Warren, and Bethine A. Coose, Warren
 Dec. 27: Gordon S. Smith, Bear Lake, and Wendy S. Hasbrouck, Bear Lake.

COVID...

Per 100 county residents, there have been 24.4 cases of COVID. There have been 233 COVID-related deaths in the county, with 53 of those occurring in 2022, and eight reported in the last two months of the year. Over the course of 2022, there were about 3,600 new, local cases of COVID-19. More than one-third of those new cases — almost 1,300 — were recorded in January. Still, there were almost 400 cases from the beginning of November to the end of the year. The recent high in terms

of number of new cases was on Dec. 13, when there were 25, according to the department. There were 19 new cases on Dec. 21. For the last week of the year, the county was listed as an area of low community transmission, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccinations rose slightly in 2022, from 17,168 full vaccinations a year ago to 18,948 as of Wednesday — adding about 4.5% of the county population to the ranks of the vaccinated. A total of 4,174 residents had received bivalent boosters since Sept. 2, according to the department. Over 9,500

had received boosters prior to the development of the bivalent booster. The Department of Health provides data on the vaccination situations at nursing home facilities. In Warren County, there are three facilities listed. The rate of full vaccination with booster among patients is 85.9% at both Kinzua Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center and Warren Manor and 90.3% at the Rouse Warren County Home. Among staff, the full vaccination rates are 74.7% at the Rouse, 77.4% at Warren Manor, and 86.7% at Kinzua.

Charges in Friday bust bound over at preliminary hearing

By JOSH COTTON

jcotton@timesobserver.com
An Edinboro man charged in connection with a controlled buy last week in Warren was held for court as a result of a Wednesday preliminary hearing.

Matthew J. Kemper, II, 27, was held on charges of possession with intent to distribute, five counts of criminal use of a communications facility and possession of a controlled substance.

The burden of proof at a preliminary hearing is a *prima facie* case — the Commonwealth must prove that a crime was committed and that the accused was likely the one who committed the crime.

Last week, Warren County Drug Task Force agents, assisted by officers from Conowingo Township Police, City of Warren Police, Warren County Sheriff's Office, Warren County Adult Probation, Warren County District Attorney's Office, and Department of Homeland Security investiga-

tions, arrested Kemper near Struthers Street in Warren after he allegedly drove there to sell drugs — M30 pills.

According to Chief Warren County Detective Tom Kibbey, the blue M30 pills are branded as Percocet (oxycodone) but are often counterfeit and could contain fentanyl.

He said M30 pills are suspected of being related to recent deaths in Warren County. Several other cases were also resolved during preliminary hearings on Wednesday:

• Joseph A. Krall, 40, Warren, was also held for court on a count of possession of firearm prohibited.

• Dylan R. Viglo, 26, Youngsville, pleaded guilty to a count of disorderly conduct — unreasonable noise. Charges were withdrawn against Herbert F. Schumann, 64, Warren. Schumann was charged with hindering apprehension. A count of disorderly conduct was re-categorized as a non-traffic offense.

Dangerous...

Though the bill passed several times in the U.S. House, it couldn't gain traction in the Senate. The bill failed to advance this session and was also left out of the omnibus spending bill. The Pennsylvania General Assembly passed its version of a SAFE Banking Act, but federal prohibitions on marijuana still keep away finance and insurance companies, who are wary of the risk that could follow from state leniency, but federal restrictions. In other states with more-developed cannabis industries, the crime threat isn't abstract. The businesses' cash-heavy models have attracted unwanted attention. A report from Stop the Drug War noted an "unprecedented surge in armed robberies at cannabis stores" that began in November 2021 in Washington state. All in all, 100 robberies over 5 months affected 80 cannabis stores and left three people dead.

Expanding banking access for cannabis businesses, it argues, can drive down those sorts of robberies. "Based on current incentives, there is little reason to believe that robberies targeting the back of a store will continue (as opposed to burglaries), or continue at the same level, if cash is removed from the equation," the report noted. "The great majority of such robberies are aimed at accessing cash in the safe, and without cash or with much less of it, that will no longer be lucrative." Most robberies were after cash, not the marijuana products on sale. Early police intervention could also play a role. "It's really about investigating and identifying the perpetrators because it's a relatively small number of people doing multiple robberies," said David Bonten, executive director of Stop the Drug War. "So if it (police) are not following up on events

low-priority robberies, they may be missing opportunities to stem the problem." Profit margins for businesses matter as well. If taxes are reasonable, businesses can invest in their security to make robberies less likely. "It really looks like the ability of the business to spend effectively on their security makes a difference," Bonten said. The west coast has had more robberies than the east coast. In Pennsylvania, no analysis has been carried out to determine the number of cannabis robberies, but one armed robbery occurred in October 2021 at a medical cannabis shop in Bethlehem Township. Federal action may happen during the next legislative session, and Township's retirement won't be a roadblock. His replacement, Democrat John Petterman, has been an outspoken advocate for marijuana reform and legalization.

Briefs

Retirees meet Friday

The Osram Sylvania lady retirees will meet at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 6, at Applebee's in North Warren.

Blood drive is Jan. 11

Community Blood Bank will hold a blood drive from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at Sugar Grove Fire Department, 11 Wilson St. "All blood types are needed, especially type O blood," according to a re-

lease from Community Relations Specialist Brika DePalma.

Outdoor Club to hike

The Allegheny Outdoor Club will hike the Tom's Run Trail at Heats Content on Sunday, Jan. 8. The group will meet at the parking lot at the corner of Musante Street and Pleasant Drive at 2 p.m. or at Heats Content at 2:15 p.m. Linda Ross will lead the hike and can be reached at (814) 688-5908 with any questions.

Man accused of helping immigrants on driver's license tests

By BROOKE SCHULTZ

Associated Press/Report for America
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A former Pennsylvania Department of Transportation employee accused by authorities of charging immigrants up to \$350 to help pass the knowledge test and ultimately obtain driver's licenses said Wednesday he was seeking to help them.

Angelo Carrion, 66, charged immigrants to furnish them with correct answers to get learner's permits and ultimately secure their licenses, according to an affidavit. He also submitted incomplete applications or applications that were not verified for immigration or citizenship status, the charging documents state.

Carrion was charged with 17 felony counts of bribery in official matters, one felony count each of theft by deception and criminal use of a communication facility, and 17 felony counts plus 35 misdemeanor counts of tampering with public records or information, Pennsylvania State Police announced Wednesday.

Carrion also allegedly would give up his personal cell phone number to Spanish-speaking PennDOT customers who would call his appointments, check on their license status or for referrals, according to the affidavit.

Police said everyone in the investigation was in the country legally and eligible to receive licenses.

Reached by phone Wednesday, Carrion said that he plays tennis and that 90% of those charges were unfounded,

without merit," he said. He said that he assisted "certain individuals" who did not speak the type of Spanish that appeared on the test.

"That was my motive, to help them," he said. Carrion said he did not currently have an attorney, and was waiting to see if he would qualify for a public defender.

Carrion was employed at two driver's license centers in Lancaster County where he worked as a driver's license examiner assistant starting in 2019; he resigned in April after an internal investigation found irregularities with 268 license or identification cards that Carrion allegedly handled between October 2021 and March 2022, according to the affidavit.

Police interviewed 35 of the applicants where it was suspected that Carrion had tampered with tests or failed to verify their immigration status, the affidavit said. In interviews with the customers, mostly identified as Spanish-speaking in the affidavit, some allegedly failed the knowledge test as many as 13 times before Carrion was the one to administer the test.

Police said that many of Carrion's customers were required to test again and many did not pass the re-testing process.

Brooke Schultz is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-reported issues.

Wortman...

"I am running for the WCSD Board to ensure that young people growing up in our community today have the same educational opportunities that my grandparents, parents, siblings, and friends had," Wortman said. "Education is not a partisan issue. It is about making our school system the best it can possibly be."

Wortman said he will continue to serve on the Warren City Council until "either the expiration of my term or if given the privilege, the beginning of my term on the school board."

He added that his council term is up at the end of this year and he is not seeking

relection at that post. "I work on the Warren City Council; demonstrates my ability to work with all parties involved to solve problems," he said. "Additionally, I have engaged with senators, House members, State Legislators, County Commissioners, business leaders, citizens, and municipal officials of all parties to make our community stronger."

Wortman said he also continued his studies at Penn State at the master's

level, where his graduate work was incorporated as part of Penn State's Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education initiative. "If I am given the privilege to serve, I will fight with senators, House members, State Legislators, County Commissioners, business leaders, citizens, and college preparedness, while ensuring fiscal responsibility," he said.

ATV...

The department's old trailer was designed for snowmobiles and the smaller ATV. It was long and narrow and not suitable for the new ATV. That trailer had also been serving the county beyond its expected life.

"The 2018, 7-by-18 V-Nose dual-axle heavy-duty lighting trailer equipped to become a mobile command center was also purchased," Felzeck said.

The command center provisions include wiring for computers and televisions, a whiteboard, and seating arrangements.

"The community bought this to serve the community," Zeybel said. "The graciousness of this community never ceases to surprise me."

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HI-ED Warren Forest Higher Education Council
 590 Hospital Drive, Suite F
 Warren, PA 16985
 www.Hi-Ed.org (814) 723-3222

PHLEBOTOMY
 February 2–May 1, 2023 Mondays & Thursdays
 6 p.m.–9 p.m.
 The focus of this course is to prepare students for a phlebotomy career, within a hospital, blood donor center, doctor's office, or other institution. The course will cover necessary skills to be a phlebotomist: blood collection, specimen processing and storage, professionalism in a clinical setting, and communication skills, clerical and courier as well as reception and other duties. To register for this course, visit: jcc.edu/continuing-education/courses/phlebotomy-3084
 For inquiries, please contact:
Workforce@mail.sunyjc.edu or 716.338.1005.

Public Input Hearings Re: National Fuel Gas Rate Increase

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) will hold a public hearing concerning the National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation request for an increase in rates. Telephonic public input hearings will be held on:

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
 Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

To participate in the hearing: (1) you must dial the toll-free number listed below; (2) you must enter a PIN number when instructed to do so, also listed below; and (3) you must speak your name when prompted. The telephone system will connect you to the hearing.

Toll-free Conference Number: 866.566.0619
 Passcode: 8345259

If you wish to testify at one of the telephonic public input hearings, please preregister by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. If you do not preregister and provide the information listed below, you may not be able to testify. Individuals will testify in the order in which they preregister. You may preregister by email or by phone.

To preregister by email, please email Judge Long's legal assistant, Daniela Albon, at dalbon@puc.gov, and provide: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, and (4) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

To preregister by phone, please call Judge Long's office at 412-565-3550 and leave a message providing: (1) your first and last name, (2) the date and time of the hearing at which you wish to testify, (3) the phone number you will be using to call into the public input hearing, (4) a phone number where you can be reached prior to the hearing if we need to contact you, (5) your email address, if you have one, and (6) if you require an interpreter to participate in the hearing, the language of the interpreter.

Requests for Interpreters: If you require an interpreter, please pre-register as soon as possible. If you register too close to the hearing date, we may not have enough time to arrange for an interpreter. If you request an interpreter, we will make every reasonable effort to have one present.

If you need assistance preregistering to testify, you may have someone register for you, but they will need to provide us all the information listed above. Additionally, if more than one person in your household would like to testify, one person may preregister for other individuals in the same household, but we will need the information for each individual.

If you do not wish to testify but want to listen to the public input hearing(s), please contact Judge Long's office by email at dalbon@puc.gov or phone at 412-565-3550 and provide your name and the hearing(s) you want to listen to so we can ensure we have adequate conferencing capacity on the conference bridge to accommodate all callers.

The deadline for signing up for the public input hearings is Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

If you intend to offer any exhibits at the public input hearing, you must email your proposed exhibit(s) to Judge Long at malog@puc.gov by Tuesday, January 17, 2023. In your email to Judge Long you must copy all individuals listed in the "full service list" in the attached parties' list. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in your not being allowed to present your proposed exhibit(s). Proposed video evidence must be submitted in the MP4 format and cannot exceed 2 MB. Proposed video evidence that does not meet these criteria will not be permitted.

ATA&T Relay Service number for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired: 1.800.634.5988

Biden agenda, lithium mine, tribes collide in Nevada

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Opponents of the largest lithium mine planned in the U.S. urged a federal judge in Nevada on Thursday to vacate the U.S. government's approval of the project until it completes additional environmental reviews and complies with all state and federal laws.



Dozens of tribe members and other protesters beating drums and waving signs rally in front of the federal courthouse in Reno, Nev. On Thursday as a court hearing began over a lawsuit seeking to block a large lithium mine planned near the Nevada-Oregon line about 200 miles north of Reno.

U.S. District Judge Miranda Du said after a three-hour hearing in Reno that she hoped to make a decision "in the next couple months" on how to proceed in the nearly two-year-old legal battle over the Bureau of Land Management's approval of the mine. The Nevada-Oregon line is near the Nevada-Oregon line.

Lawyers for the company and the Bureau of Land Management insisted the project complies with U.S. laws and regulations. But they said that if Du determines it does not, she should stop short of vacating the agency's approval and allow initial work at the site to begin as further reviews are initiated.

"Along with adjacent Oregon wild lands, it constitutes one of the last big blocks of the sagebrush sea free of development."

Katie Fite
WildLands Defense

about the potential impacts, the new 9th Circuit ruling halting the Arizona mine in July was a focus of Thursday's hearing on the lawsuit filed in February 2021. She told lawyers on both sides she was interested in "the extent to which (that case) controls the outcome of this case."

Lawyers for a Nevada rancher, conservation groups and Native American tribes suing to block the mine said that should not occur because any environmental damage would be irreversible.

and could have a bearing on disposal of waste rock at the lithium mine in the high desert about 200 miles northeast of Reno.

Dozens of tribe members and other protesters rallied outside the downtown courthouse during the hearing, beating drums and waving signs at passing motorists.

Lithium Nevada and the Bureau of Land Management say the project stop an ancient volcano is critical to meeting growing demand for lithium to make electric vehicle batteries — a key part of President Joe Biden's push to expedite a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Du has refused twice over the past year to grant temporary injunctions sought by tribal leaders who say the mine site is on sacred land where their ancestors were massacred by the U.S. Cavalry in 1865.

Opponents say it will destroy dwindling habitat for sage grouse, Lahontan cutthroat trout, pronghorn antelope and golden eagles.

But Thursday's hearing marked the first on the actual merits of the case. It will set the legal landscape going forward after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a ruling in Arizona that voided federal approval of a copper mine.

In addition to the cultural and environmental concerns

That potentially precedent-setting decision raises questions about the reach of the Mining Law of 1872

Two other housemates were at home during the Nov. 13 killings, but were not physically harmed.

One of the unpaired housemates told investigators that she was awoken by noises at about 4 a.m., and thought she heard another housemate say something like, "there's someone here."

The attack that occurred in the early morning hours of an off-campus home had spread fear throughout the university and surrounding areas for weeks, as authori-



Bryan Kobberger, who is accused of killing four University of Idaho students in November 2022, looks toward his attorney, public defender Anne Taylor, during a hearing in Latah County District Court on Thursday in Moscow, Idaho.

Police: Idaho slaying suspect's DNA found at crime scene

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Idaho police pieced together DNA evidence, cellphone data and surveillance video to charge a criminology graduate student with the November slaying of four University of Idaho undergraduates, according to an affidavit unsealed Thursday.

The affidavit says DNA matching that of 28-year-old Bryan Kobberger was found on a knife sheath recovered at the crime scene, just a short drive across the state border where he is a criminal justice doctoral student at Washington State University.

The affidavit also says that a cellphone belonging to Kobberger was near the victims' home on a dozen occasions prior to the killings, and that while it was apparently turned off around the time of the early-morning attack, cell tower data place his phone in that region of Idaho shortly afterward.

Kobberger made his first appearance Thursday in an Idaho court, where he faces four charges of first-degree murder. He did not enter a plea, and was ordered held without bail.

The affidavit details a chilling encounter between one of the victims' surviving roommates and a masked intruder the night of the slayings in Moscow, Idaho. But many questions remain unanswered, including whether Kobberger and any of the victims knew each other, and why police weren't alerted until nearly eight hours after the killings likely occurred.

Traces of DNA from a knife sheath determined to be Kobberger were found on the button of a leather knife sheath found in the rental home where the victims were killed, according to the affidavit written by Brett Payne, a police corporal in Moscow.

Investigators later chiefly matched the DNA on the sheath to DNA found in trash taken from Kobberger's parents' home in Pennsylvania, where he was arrested last week.

The sheath had a U.S. Marine Corps insignia on it, though there's no record of Kobberger having served in the military.

The attack that occurred in the early morning hours of an off-campus home had spread fear throughout the university and surrounding areas for weeks, as authori-

ties seemed stumped by the brutal slayings. Investigators made a breakthrough, however, after searching for a white sedan — later identified as a Hyundai Elantra — drove by the home three times in the early morning hours of Nov. 13, returning a fourth time at about 4:04 a.m.

The car was next spotted on surveillance cameras leaving the victims' home 16 minutes later "at a high rate of speed," according to the affidavit.

The same car was later spotted on a different camera headed toward Pullman, Washington — the town where Washington State University and Kobberger's apartment are located.

The affidavit connects some of the dots between the surveillance footage and cellphone data. Kobberger's phone pinged communications towers in the region at the same time and in the same area that the white Elantra was seen driving in the hours after the killings, the affidavit says.

The cellphone data included another chilling detail, the affidavit said: It pinged a cell tower near the victims' neighborhood hours after the attack, around 9 a.m.

Latah County prosecutors have said they believe Kobberger broke into the home with the intention of killing the victims: Kaylee Goncalves, 21; Matthew Nguyen, 21; Anna Kenan, 20; and Ethan Chapin, 20. But investigators have made no public statements about a possible motive, or whether any weapons have been found.

Two other housemates were at home during the Nov. 13 killings, but were not physically harmed.

One of the unpaired housemates told investigators that she was awoken by noises at about 4 a.m., and thought she heard another housemate say something like, "there's someone here."

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Toll-free Conference Number: 866.566.0649
Passcode: 83345259

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Baby

Continued from Page A1

Nothing was left to chance, either.

"We were prepping (for Colt's birth) for months before," said Dylan Thomas, Colt's father.

"We had everything in order before he was born," Swartz said.

Everything included a first name, but it wasn't Colt, she said.

"It was going to be Phoenix, but we changed it to Colt," Swartz said. "We grew away from it. His nursery has a western theme and I like the western name Colt."

a football player one day.

"Some people thought I was going to have a linebacker because of how big my belly was," Swartz said with a laugh.

Colt isn't the couple's first child.

"He's got an older brother, Michael Richard Thomas, who is with grandma right now," Dylan said. Colt's brother, Michael, will be turning age 2 next week.

The couple and Colt received a bag full of boy-related newborn gifts courtesy of the Meadville Medical Center Auxiliary before being discharged from the hospital Thursday.

Keith Gushard can be reached at (814) 724-6370 or by email at kgushard@meadvilletribune.com.