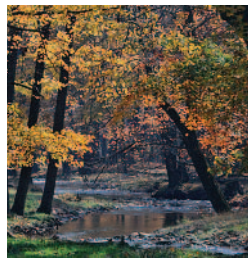




WWII VETERAN Trailblazer honored on her 97th birthday Local » A5



FALL FOLIAGE Leaf peeping is good in Berks Living » B1



PHILLIES Kapler fired as manager after two seasons Sports » B7

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TODAY'S WEATHER High: 66 Low: 47 PAGE A12

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CONSTRUCTION

NEARING THE END

Route 61: \$12.6 million upgrade scheduled for completion by the holidays
Shoemakersville Bridge: Project thwarts some drivers seeking detour



BILL UHRICH — READING EAGLE

Traffic crawls during ongoing roadwork on Route 61 in Shoemakersville. The \$12.6 million upgrade that has created driver headaches is nearing completion.

By Holly Herman Reading Eagle

For more than two years, Harry Steeley has witnessed motorists' futility in dealing with the Route 61 upgrade and a simultaneous bridge project on a side road next to his Shoemakersville house.

Steeley sees drivers daily taking back roads, trying to avoid heavy traffic from the major Route 61 project only to hit a complete stop when turning onto Miller Street, where road signs declare, "Road Closed, Detour," for a project to replace Shoemakersville Bridge, which connects the borough to Centre Township.

It has become a source of amusement for Steeley, who lives north of the bridge.

He's made friends with the crew, and he appreciates their work.

"I love this," Steeley, 73, said, looking over to the 34-foot-wide, 268-foot-long bridge.



BILL UHRICH — READING EAGLE

Equipment along Shoemakersville Bridge on Tuesday signals ongoing work in the span's \$3.6 million reconstruction project.

"With all of the extra cars on Route 61, they are coming here," he said. "They drive (east) on Shoey Road, and they think they can get out of the traffic. Then they get here, and they are stuck. There are so many people. It's been going on for two years.

"I live here. I just work with them (construction crews) rather than against them. They have a job to do.

My complaining isn't going to make them work any faster."

Jammed

To avoid getting backed up in one-lane traffic on Route 61 during a \$12.6 million upgrade, motorists apparently are detouring on side streets.

When they drive off the highway in Shoemakersville

to get to back roads, they hit another road-closed sign along Main Street, where crews are completing a \$3.6 million replacement of the 78-year-old Shoemakersville Bridge.

On any given day, smaller road projects and routine maintenance are also underway in the area.

On Tuesday, a PennDOT crew was repaving East Noble Avenue after a gas line was replaced, creating traffic backups in all directions for motorists attempting to avoid the heavy traffic.

End in sight

But drivers' frustrations over being late to work or to doctor's appointments and social events because of Route 61 roadwork will soon end.

The upgrade from the intersection of Gernants Church Road in Leesport to Zions Church Road in Perry Township is expected to be completed between late October

ROUTE 61 » PAGE 2

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

A call to notice and help teens

BCIU hosts event focused on what can be done to help kids who don't have a stable living situation

By David Mekeel Reading Eagle

Christine Folk could have told heartbreaking stories all afternoon.

Sitting at a table Thursday in front of a crowd of about 75 inside the Berks County Intermediate Unit, the executive director of Mary's Shelter limited herself to four.

There was Ricky, a teen who woke up one morning to discover a note on the kitchen table saying that his family had moved out and that the landlord needed him out, too, by 5 p.m. He ended up dropping out of school and began "making poor decisions."

Mary's mom passed away, and she moved in with her grandmother. When her grandmother was hospitalized, Mary ended up staying with her in the hospital room because she had nowhere else to go.

Andre's mom remarried, and his new stepfather didn't want him around. He was passed from relative to relative, eventually ending up on his own at 17 when one relative he was staying with went to jail.

Sophia was a great student, earning A's and B's in high school and on a path toward college. When her mother remarried, Sophia was kicked out of the house and suddenly stopped showing up for class.

Good kids in tough spots

"These are good kids," Folk said. "They're good kids who are faced with bad circumstances."

TEENS » PAGE 2

VICTIMS' RIGHTS

Lawsuit seeks to keep question off fall ballot

By Mark Scolforo The Associated Press

HARRISBURG » A lawsuit filed Thursday seeks to keep a proposed constitutional amendment question off the fall ballot, arguing it improperly combines a set of changes that should be voted on as separate amendments.

The state League of Women Voters and a registered voter sued Pennsylvania's chief elections official in Commonwealth Court in a bid to prevent voting on Marsity's Law on Nov. 5. The amendment would enshrine victims' rights in the state constitution. The ballot question passed the Legislature overwhelmingly and is widely expected to get voters' final approval. If it passes, it will take effect in January.

The lawsuit also argues the ballot question does not fully inform voters of the issues involved, describing its language as "a brief and incomplete summary" of the roughly 500-word proposed amendment.

LAWSUIT » PAGE 2

HEALTH

Tuberculosis cases on rise in the state

By Kent Jackson Standard-Speaker

Cases of tuberculosis, an ancient scourge diagnosed by a wracking cough and fatigue, increased by 10% in Pennsylvania from 2017 to 2018.

Pennsylvania was among 22 states that reported more TB cases, although the nation saw fewer incidences than in any year since record keeping began 1953.

The U.S. Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention says cases aren't dropping fast enough to eradicate tuberculosis by century's end, even though drugs to fight it have been available for 75 years.

Around the globe, tuberculosis is declining but not fast enough to reach goals set by the World Health Organization, which says in its 2018 report that TB is among the 10 leading causes of death worldwide.

Doctors and public health

workers emphasize testing people if they show symptoms of tuberculosis, especially if they have lived in a country with higher incidences, have been exposed to a patient or have weakened immune systems.

They tell patients to stick with treatments, which last for months, to kill stubborn bacteria. People who cut short treatment have contributed to strains that resist drugs. Now, doctors use as many as four drugs

in combination to treat patients.

Bacteria that cause tuberculosis are called acid-fast bacilli.

"They are notoriously very difficult to treat with conventional antibiotics," said Dr. Robert Kruklytis, vice chairman for the department of medicine for clinical programs, clinical care medicine and pulmonology at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

CASES » PAGE 2

HOCKEY

Optimism reigns as Royals start season

Reading takes on the Newfoundland Growlers tonight with a talented roster and lots of confidence. PAGE B7



SOCIAL SECURITY

Retirees will see slight increase in checks

A 1.6% cost-of-living raise will be added in 2020, amounting to an average of \$24 per month. PAGE A3

GOVERNMENT

Berks Heim to stay in county hands

Commissioners and two unions sign a collective bargaining agreement that lasts through 2025. PAGE A5

PET CARE

With business booming, veterinary clinic expands

Silver Maple's Richmond Township location features separate waiting and exam rooms for dogs and cats. PAGE A10

SOCIAL SECURITY

Retiree checks to rise modestly next year

Push being made to expand benefits

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldívar
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » Millions of retirees will get a modest 1.6% cost-of-living increase from Social Security in 2020, an uptick with potential political consequences in an election year when Democrats are pushing more generous inflation protection.

The increase amounts to \$24 a month for the average retired worker, according to estimates released Thursday by the Social Security Administration. Following a significant boost this year, the cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, for 2020 reverts to its pattern of moderate gains.

But seniors and advocates complain that the inflation yardstick used to de-

termine the annual adjustment doesn't adequately reflect their costs, mainly for health care.

The COLA affects household budgets for about 1 in 5 Americans, nearly 70 million people, and that includes Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and federal retirees.

Criticism of the COLA formula has been amplified by Democratic presidential candidates and congressional Democrats. That's helped to shift the Social Security debate from a near-exclusive concern with the program's solvency to a focus on expanding benefits, including but not limited to the cost-of-living adjustment.

"Most of the discussion about Social Security is about how can we promise more rather than how can we keep the promises we're already making," said conservative retirement policy expert Charles Bla-

POLL: FUTURE CLOUDY

Polling shows Americans have doubts about the future of Social Security.

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey from February found that 39% of Americans had little or no confidence the program will offer the current level of benefits in five years.

Just 24% said they were very confident it would, with another 36% saying they were somewhat confident.

— The Associated Press

hous, who as a former public trustee of Social Security once helped oversee its finances.

With the COLA, the estimated average monthly Social Security payment for a retired worker will be \$1,503 a month, starting in January. About 1 in 2 seniors live in households where Social Security benefits provide at least half the total income.

SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING

Germany investigating how suspect got weapons

By Geir Moulson and Pietro De Cristofaro
The Associated Press

HALLE, GERMANY » German investigators puzzled Thursday over how the suspect in a botched attack on a synagogue on Judaism's holiest day managed to amass nearly 9 pounds of explosives and acquire four firearms, an arsenal they said he planned to use in a massacre.

While many questions remained about the suspect, German officials sought to reassure a shaken Jewish community after Wednesday's attack in the eastern city of Halle. They invoked Germany's historical responsibility from the Holocaust as they vowed better security and urged the nation to stand behind its Jews.

The attacker, a German identified by prosecutors as Stephan B., tried but failed to force his way into the synagogue as up to 80 people were inside. He then shot and killed a German woman, 40, in the street outside and a man, 20, at a nearby kebab shop.

He fled the city, wounding another two people in

✚ Editorial: Attack is a reminder of several worrisome trends. Page A11.

a small town near Halle, where he abandoned his car and drove onward in a stolen taxi. He was arrested about 1½ hours after the attack as he got out of the taxi, which had been in an accident.

"What we experienced yesterday was terror," said Peter Frank, Germany's chief federal prosecutor. "The suspect, Stephan B., aimed to carry out a massacre in the synagogue in Halle."

Frank said the weapons were "apparently home-made" and the explosives were in "numerous devices" found in the car.

Attack livestreamed

The suspect livestreamed the attack on a popular gaming site while ranting in English about Jews and denying the Holocaust, and posted a "manifesto" online before embarking on it.

He "wanted to create a worldwide effect" by emulating attackers such as the man who killed 51 people in mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, in March

and by encouraging others to imitate his own actions in Halle, the prosecutor added.

Previously unknown to German authorities, he was being held on suspicion of two counts of murder, nine of attempted murder and other offenses, Frank said.

Frank said investigators "face a lot of questions," among them how the suspect became radicalized, how he acquired weapons and explosives or obtained materials to build them, and whether anyone else encouraged him or knew about his plan.

Prosecutors plan to sift through his communications and online activities.

The head of Halle's Jewish community, Max Privorozki, was among those observing Yom Kippur inside the synagogue during the attack.

The worshippers watched on monitors linked to a surveillance camera as the man tried to break into the building and fired at the door, he said.

"We saw everything, also how he shot and how he killed someone," Privorozki said, standing outside the damaged door. "I thought this door wouldn't hold."

S. CAROLINA MASSACRE

Report: Murderer got gun via background check gaps

By Joshua Eaton
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Dylann Roof got the pistol he used to kill nine people in 2015 at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., without a completed background check because of gaps in FBI databases, legal restrictions on how long the FBI can keep data on gun purchasers and other breakdowns in the system, according to an internal report.

Roof, an avowed white supremacist with a history of drug use, obtained a .45-caliber Glock pistol despite a drug arrest that should have blocked the purchase. The FBI began a review of how that happened not long after the shooting.

Recommendations in that 2015 report by the FBI's Inspection Division included expanding what databases the bureau used for background checks, updating how it requested records from local law enforcement agencies and revising strict internal pro-

cedures that the report said hamstrung the process.

The report also said that background checks are "complicated by statutory requirements" and recommended at least three separate times that the bureau "assess the possibility for legislative relief" to help fix the problems.

Many never done

Perhaps the most alarming revelation in the report is that 172,879 background checks were never completed in 2014 because they took longer than 90 days, a legal deadline after which the FBI has to stop researching and purge the background check from its systems.

That statistic suggests that the number of guns that wind up in the wrong hands each year because of delays in the background check system could be much higher than previously reported.

Because those uncompleted background checks were purged, there's no way to know how many hundreds or thousands of cus-

tomers should have been prevented from purchasing a weapon — or if a purchase was made.

It's not clear whether the number of purged background checks has improved since 2014. The FBI declined on Tuesday to comment on the report or to release more recent data.

Roof had confessed to drug possession months before the Charleston shooting and should not have been able to legally purchase a firearm under federal law. But the FBI didn't complete his background check within three business days.

A provision in the 1994 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act allowed the dealer to voluntarily proceed with the sale on the fourth day.

The FBI calls the three-business-day window before a dealer can make a sale without a completed background check the "Brady Transaction Period." But since 2015, gun control advocates have dubbed it the "Charleston loophole."

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Weird Seed Shocks Doctors by Lowering Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Levels 44% in Study

Average Person Also Lost 24 Pounds in 8 Weeks with No Change in Diet or Exercise

By Michael Plane
Health Sciences Press

A recent study published in *Functional Foods in Health* is taking the heart health field by storm. A weird seed from the tiny nation of West Cameroon could be Mother Nature's best solution ever for people who want to naturally lower their blood pressure, cholesterol level or body weight.

Dr. Eric N. Wood, N.D. a frequent guest on ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX NEWS and PBS says, "This delicious seed has been eaten by tribes since the 14th Century. They call it "the sweet healer". The Western world first discovered and began using it in 1816. Only recently have studies been done on it because of modern nutrient analysis."

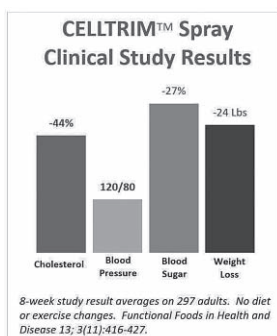
Scientists in Asia conducted a clinical trial on 297 people. They gave half the people this seed extract and half the people a placebo twice daily before meals. Both groups were instructed NOT to change their diet or exercise. The results shocked even the researchers:

Total cholesterol decreased by 44%. LDL cholesterol was reduced 49% and triglycerides were reduced 69.5%. The "good" type of cholesterol, HDL, increased an average of 55.5% after 8 weeks.

Blood pressure, both systolic and diastolic, which were elevated at the beginning of the study, were reduced to near normal level of 120/82.

Fasting blood sugar levels decreased by 27.7% while insulin levels dropped 10.4% after 8 weeks compared to the placebo group.

Weight loss: The average person lost 12.2 pounds after 4 weeks and 24.5 pounds at the end of the 8-week study. The people also saw a significant reduction in body fat at 4 and 8 weeks (5.6%, 11.3%), waist size (2.5", 4.2"), and hip size (1.75", 3.5"). Many people commented they noticed a large reduction in fat in their abdomen (stomach) area. That's equal to 3 pants sizes for men ... and 4 dress sizes for women lost.



"When I saw these study results from a natural product, I im-



Heart Breakthrough: U.S. doctors now recommending new oral spray derived from weird seed—lowers blood pressure and cholesterol safe and fast.

mediately recommended it to my patients. And every single one of my patients has gotten excellent blood test results from this with no side effects. It is very effective for blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, and weight loss," reports Dr. Wood, who has been interviewed on ABC, FOX, NBC, CBS and PBS and is the author of three books. The seed extract is now available to the public in the form of an oral spray under the name CELLTRIM Spray.

HOW IT WORKS

You press down the button to spray the mist into your mouth before each meal. It has a light pleasant mint taste. That's all you have to do.



The main nutrient in CELLTRIM Spray has U.S. Patent #8,361,523. It contains polyphenols that help enhance insulin sensitivity. This allows more blood sugar to be used for energy and less converted to fat. This completely reverses the metabolic syndrome cycle now occurring. The result is your blood sugar, cholesterol levels, blood pressure and body weight drop almost immediately.

CELLTRIM spray uses the breakthrough NutraMist Delivery System. The spray is INSTANTLY ABSORBED into your body. The tiny molecules bypass the digestive tract and enter your bloodstream ... compare this to a supplement pill, where much of an ingredient is NOT absorbed due to the digestive process.

DOCTOR RECOMMENDED

"CELLTRIM Spray is the right choice for individuals who want to lower their blood pressure or cholesterol levels or who are overweight. The test results show this supplement works, as do the results of my patients

and my own personal experience of using it," said Dr. Holly Marcelle, who has appeared on award winning TV shows like *The Doctors*, and PBS' *Healing Quest*.

"This spray works quite different than other products, so people who have tried other products before can finally find success with this. One couple who had tried everything before without success each lowered their blood pressure and cholesterol substantially and lost over 45 pounds and have kept it off" remarked Dr. Wood.

It is NOT sold in stores or online. The main nutrient in CELLTRIM Spray is Dyglomera™. It is all-natural.

There are no stimulants or dangerous chemicals. No side effects or interactions with medications have been reported.

BLOOD PRESSURE AND CHOLESTEROL RESULTS GUARANTEED

CELLTRIM Spray is GUARANTEED to work great for you – or you PAY NOTHING with a 90-day unconditional money-back guarantee. It is NOT sold in stores or online. No prescription or doctor visit is required.

This is the official release announcement of CELLTRIM Spray. A Regional Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try CELLTRIM Spray.

Starting at 7:00 am today, the order hotline will be open for only 48-hours for this special offer.

All you have to do is CALL NOW TOLL-FREE 1-888-309-1934 and provide the operator with the special discount approval code: CELL143.

Important: Due to CELLTRIM Spray's recent media exposure on ABC, CBS, and FOX NEWS, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not get through immediately, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 48-hour special discount offer must pay more for CELLTRIM Spray.

ADVERTISEMENT

The New \$1 Cream for All Your Neuropathy Discomfort

A cream, not a pill, may be the most effective solution yet for neuropathy sufferers; increases sensation in the legs and feet, relieving burning, tingling, and numbness

By Dr. Henry Esber, Ph.D.

BOSTON – An exciting clinical use survey study shows that a new cream can relieve leg and foot discomfort in just 15 minutes of applying.

And according to the study participants, burning, tingling, and numbness were the most common symptoms to be relieved.

The cream, called *Diabasens*, recently developed by scientists in San Diego and became an instant hit among those suffering with neuropathy.



A NEW WEAPON FOR FIGHTING NEUROPATHY DISCOMFORT: Diabasens increases sensation and blood flow wherever its applied. It's now being used to relieve burning, tingling, numbness among other discomforts.

Its patent pending formula works within minutes of contacting the skin, initiating two phenomena's in the body.

The first phenomenon is known as vasodilation which triggers arteries to expand, improving circulation in the extremities.

The second is called TRPA1 activation and this is what really has people excited.

Research Shows Correlation Between Nerve Damage and Sensation

Published research shows that neuropathy symptoms arise when the nerves in your legs and feet break down and blood flow is lost to the areas which surround them.

As the nerves begin to die, sensation is lost. This lack of sensation is a major cause of burning, tingling, and numbness.

Remarkably, *Diabasens* contains one of the few known substances to activate TRPA1, a special sensory pathway right below the skins surface which controls the sensitivity of nerves. It's these nerves that allow you to feel hot, cold, and touch.

And although this pathway has been known about for years, neither a drug or a pill has been able to target it successfully. That's why *Diabasens* is so impressive.

"It all comes down to sensation. When sensation is lost the foot feels constantly asleep. It may also burn and tingle. When sensation is increased, these nagging symptoms often go away", explains Dr. Henry Esber, one of the scientists behind *Diabasens*.

"That's why *Diabasens* performed so well in our clinical use survey study. It increases sensation and blood flow wherever it's applied. It's impressive to say the least"

A Brilliant Technology Most Failed to Consider

Until now, many pharma companies have failed to develop a means of TRPA1 activation to manage neuropathy. *Diabasens* is one of the first to take full advantage of this amazing discovery.

"Today's treatment methods have focused on minimizing discomfort instead of attacking its underlying cause. That's why millions of adults are still in excruciating discomfort every single day and are always battling effects" explains Esber

"*Diabasens* is different. Since the most commonly reported symptoms... burning, tingling and numb legs and feet...are caused by lack of sensation of the nerves, we've designed the formula increase their sensitivity.

And since these nerves are located right below the skin, we've chosen to formulate it as a cream. This allows for the ingredients to get to the site faster and without any serious side effects" he adds.

Study Finds Restoring Sensation the Key To Effective, Long Lasting Relief

With the conclusion of the human clinical use survey trial, the makers of *Diabasens* are offering it nationwide. And regardless of the market, its sales are exploding.

Men and women from all over the country are eager to get their hands on the new cream and according to the results study participants reported, they should be.

In the trial above, participants taking *Diabasens* as needed experienced relief in just 15 minutes after applying! Burning, tingling and numbness were the most commonly reported symptoms to improve.

Even more impressive, when asked if this was the best product they used for their legs and feet, 90% gave a resounding "Yes" with all participants concluding they would absolutely recommend it to someone else.

A breakthrough in neuropathy management and supportive care, Diabasens is shown to provide relief from:

- Discomfort
- Numbness
- Tingling
- Swelling
- Balance

Targets Nerves Right Below the Skins Surface

Diabasens is a topical cream that is to be applied directly the legs and feet. It does not require a prescription.

The active ingredient is a compound known as cinnamaldehyde.

Studies show that neuropathy and discomfort caused when peripheral nerves breakdown and blood is unable to circulate into your legs and feet.

As these nerves deteriorate, sensation is lost.

This is why you may not feel hot or cold and your legs and feet may burn, tingle and go numb.

Worse, without proper blood flow, tissues and cells in these areas begin to die, causing pain that seems to never go away.

The cinnamaldehyde in *Diabasens* is one of the very few compounds in that can activate TRPA1, a special sensory pathway that runs through your entire body.

According to published research, activating this pathway increases the sensitivity of nerves, relieving feelings of tingling and numbness in your legs and feet.

Supporting ingredients boost blood flow, support cellular health and stimulate the nerves for increased sensation.

Amazing Relief Exactly Where You Need It

With daily use, *Diabasens* users report remarkable improvements in their quality of life without of the serious side effects or interactions associated with prescription drugs.

Readers can now enjoy an entirely new level of comfort that's both safe and affordable.

Users have found it is also extremely effective, especially if nothing else has worked with 90% raving it's the best leg and foot product they've ever tried.

How to Claim a Risk Free Supply of Diabasens

This is the official release of *Diabasens*. As such, the company is offering a special discounted supply to any reader who calls within the next 48 hours.

A special hotline number and discounted pricing has been created for all Pennsylvania residents. Discounts will be available starting today at 6:00AM and will automatically be applied to all callers.

Your Toll-Free Hotline number is 1-800-997-1433 and will only be open for the next 48 hours. Only a limited discounted supply of *Diabasens* is currently available in your region.

Consumers who miss out on our current product inventory will have to wait until more becomes available and that could take weeks. The company advises not to wait. Call 1-800-997-1433 today.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Pa. rate is 9th highest in nation, study finds

By Rita Giordano
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Pennsylvania has the nation's ninth-highest childhood obesity rate for youngsters ages 10 to 17, according to a new countrywide report.

New Jersey comes in at 22nd highest for children in that age group, according to the study released Thursday by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The good news in the report is that both regionally and nationally, obesity rates for these adolescents have held steady in recent years after decades of increases.

However, "childhood obesity rates remain stubbornly and historically high, putting millions of young people at greater risk for serious health conditions," according to the study. Those health problems include high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, asthma and certain types of cancer.

What's more, the impact falls disproportionately on children of color and those living in poverty. The obesity rates for black children and Hispanic children age 10 to 17 were 22.2% and 19%, respectively. For white youngsters of the same age, it was 11.8%. The rate was 7.3% for Asian youth.

In households living below the federal poverty level, the childhood obesity rate was nearly 22%; families with incomes at least

400% of the poverty level have a rate of 9.4%.

The national obesity rate for children 10 to 17 is 15.3%, or about 4.8 million young people, according to the report, which is based on data from the 2017 and 2018 National Survey of Children's Health, as well as analysis by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

Pennsylvania's rate is 17.4%, or about 185,400 children. In New Jersey, the rate is 15%, representing 124,700 youngsters.

Childhood obesity is defined by the report as a body mass index at or above the 95th percentile for youngsters of the same age and gender — which means their BMI is higher than that of 95% of their peers. BMI is calculated by dividing a person's weight in kilograms by height in square meters.

Overweight is defined as being at or above the 85th percentile but below the 95th percentile for youngsters of the same age and gender.

For example, a 10-year-old boy who is 56 inches tall and weighs 102 pounds would have a BMI of 22.9, placing him in the 95th percentile, the obesity range, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"These new data show that this challenge touches the lives of far too many

children in this country, and that black and Hispanic youth are still at greater risk than their white and Asian peers," said foundation president and CEO Richard Besser.

Mississippi had the highest overall youth obesity rate at 25.4%. The lowest was Utah with 8.7%.

The foundation's report also contains recommendations on ways to address the continuing childhood obesity problem.

Among the report's suggestions are for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to rescind proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — also referred to as the food stamp program — which the authors say would cause millions of people to lose benefits.

SNAP is the nation's largest nutrition assistance program, helping to feed about 36 million people a month, about half of whom are children.

Higher obesity rates for poor families often reflect lack of access to nutritious foods or inability to afford fresh fruits and vegetables.

Other recommendations include making sure that any changes to the SNAP for Women, Infants and Children are science-based.

The CDC should also have enough resources to provide grants in all 50 states to implement anti-obesity campaigns.

HEALTH

Increase in babies born with syphilis prompts alert

By Binghui Huang
The Morning Call

Pennsylvania is on pace to have another year of historically high congenital syphilis cases, prompting the state Health Department to send a statewide alert to health providers Wednesday.

Last year, seven babies were born with syphilis in the state, the highest number of cases in more than 24 years. And in the first nine months of 2019, there have been five cases, which follows a national trend. The data do not include cases in Philadelphia.

The alert recommended health workers offer syphilis tests to pregnant women at the first prenatal visit, at

the third trimester and at delivery.

The department is also recommending that sexually active women of child-bearing age routinely take a test for sexually transmitted diseases.

Syphilis cases in general have shot up in Allentown, Bethlehem and across the state, where cases quadrupled from 2003 to 2017 to nearly 800 cases.

Women with untreated syphilis risk giving birth to stillborns, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Babies with congenital syphilis may suffer from bone damage, severe anemia, enlarged liver and spleen, jaundice, nerve problems causing blindness or deafness, meningitis or

skin rashes.

Across the country, congenital syphilis is rising. In 2015, there were 492 cases. By 2017, there were 918 cases.

Syphilis is transmitted through direct contact with an infected sore during sex. If left untreated, the sores will advance to rashes, swollen lymph nodes and fevers. The most serious symptoms include organ damage, paralysis, dementia and death. Syphilis can be treated with penicillin.

Health officials attribute the rise in syphilis and other STDs to declining awareness and concern, especially as medical advancements have made once deadly diseases such as HIV treatable.

Pennsylvania Digest

State says changes to Medicaid to yield \$85 million in savings

From wire reports

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania regulators have big change planned for the state's Medicaid program, which provides health and other benefits for 2.8 million people.

Starting Jan. 1, the Department of Human Services will require the eight companies that manage

pharmacy benefits under Medicaid in the state to use the same preferred prescription drug list, instead of eight individual lists.

The department estimated that the change in Medical Assistance (Pennsylvania's name for Medicaid, which is a joint state and federal program) will save the state \$85 million a year — with much of the money coming out of the pockets of the managed-care companies, provide more consistency for beneficiaries and ease the burden on doctors.

The eight companies — loosely organized as the Pennsylvania Coalition of Medical Assistance MCOs — had already released their own analysis in May with a diametrically different conclusion: The proposed change to the state-wide drug list would cost the state \$81 million more in the first year and make life harder for doctors.

Pennsylvania's Medicaid prescription-drug spending totaled \$1.5 billion in the year ended Sept. 30,

2017, that MCOs' report said. That figure is after rebates and does not include the federal share.

HARRISBURG

Navy to build ship named for capital

Trump administration officials say the U.S. Navy will name a ship that has yet to be built after the city of Harrisburg.

The naming of the future USS Harrisburg was announced Thursday in the Capitol Rotunda, in an event that included federal, state and local officials.

The \$800 million amphibious landing platform dock will be built in Mississippi and is expected to be ready for service in about two years.

Officials say the 684-foot USS Harrisburg will be used for amphibious and special operations efforts, as well as humanitarian missions.

A previous USS Harrisburg served as a troop transport during World War I.

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COLUMN

Please read before you post that comment

We live in a “hot take” society.

No matter what the topic, people love loudly sharing their thoughts about it. It doesn't matter whether or not their opinions are educated, whether their arguments are well thought out.

Particularly when it comes to the internet, our culture has become one of snap decisions, dug-in perspectives and yelling. Lots and lots of yelling.

Earlier this week, I was chatting with fellow reporter Mike Urban. He had written a story about a guy who was sentenced to life in prison without parole at age 16 on a second-degree murder charge.

As a result of a federal court decision that declared it unconstitutional to sentence juveniles to life in prison, the man was resentenced Tuesday.

He had already served 17 years. His new sentence calls for 10 more years.

The headline to the story that Mike wrote read, “Reading man sent to prison for life for murder as a juvenile gets new prison sentence.”

That's all many people needed to read to flip their “hot take” switch. Here are some of those takes, provided in comments to a *Reading Eagle* Facebook post linking to the article.

“It's nice that a person who killed another person on purpose can be set free but the victims family has to deal with never seeing them again!!!”

“TRASH should die in prison. The TRASH took a life.”

“Do you think it's ok for the murder (sic) to get out because he was 15. The person who was killed didn't know his killer was 15 an (sic) he never gets to say hello or good bye to his family because someone thought some money was more important then (sic) a human life!”

Here's the thing. The man in question, Edward C. Goudy, didn't actually kill anyone.

As the story, written by Mike and Karen Shuey, makes perfectly clear, Goudy served as a lookout during a robbery where two other men killed convenience store owner Raafat Abouomar.

He refused to testify against the others, which contributed to his life sentence.

Now, maybe you think that serving as a lookout during the commission of a crime that turned into a murder deserves a life sentence. Arguments can be made Goudy knew the risk associated with taking part in the robbery.

But the comments I quoted above aren't about that. They're comments made by people who clearly didn't read the story but wanted to make their opinions heard anyway.

In fairness, there were also several comments from people who pointed that out. People who actually did read the story and urged others to get all the information before commenting.

It would be one thing if this was a unique occurrence. But it's not.

Far from it, in fact.

And it's not just people commenting on the *Reading Eagle* Facebook page. The same phenomenon can be seen in comment sections all around the internet.

Listen, I'm not against people voicing their opinions. The internet has given us all an unfettered ability to do that, and overall it's a good thing.

But please, before you post, take a moment or two to make sure you know what you're talking about.

Contact David Mekeel: 610-371-5014 or dmekeel@readingeagle.com.

BERKS HEIM

New agreement hailed

Officials praise union for making concessions to keep facility in county hands through 2025

By Karen Shuey
Reading Eagle

After more than two years of tense negotiations, Berks County commissioners and representatives from the two unions representing workers at Berks Heim signed a new collective bargaining agreement that will ensure the county-owned nursing home remains in county hands through 2025.

“This is a good day for every-

one — the county, the workers, the community, and most importantly, the residents at the nursing home,” said Maryellen Nussbeutel, a licensed practical nurse and union president at the Heim.

When it was revealed that the nursing home was facing a projected \$18 million deficit over the next 10 years, county officials turned to the employees for help. The two unions were asked to make concessions in their up-

coming contracts.

Both unions — Service Employees International Union and United Food and Commercial Workers — voted to approve new five-year contracts that include some concessions. The pacts, which take effect in 2020, contain a provision promising the Heim will not be sold during the life of those contracts.

And on Thursday at their weekly board meeting, the commissioners sat down with union

representatives to approve and sign the new agreements.

Berks Chief Financial Officer Robert J. Patrizio said the unions' concessions will result in an annual cumulative savings of nearly \$2 million. He said that while the contracts include wage increases, the savings are the result of eliminating extra pay for weekend shifts and altering the paid-time-off policies.

SEIU Healthcare PA Pres-

HEIM » PAGE 6

HISTORY

Woman who served in WWII heralded



LAUREN A. LITTLE — READING EAGLE

Patrick McKernan of the Marine Corps League presents flowers to Pauline Klinger Rohrbach at her 97th birthday Wednesday at Chestnut Knoll, Boyertown. She was honored for her military service during World War II.

Polly Klinger Rohrbach, 97, is honored at her birthday party

By Ron Devlin
Reading Eagle

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's plea to women to serve in World War II, “Be a Marine. Free a Marine to Fight,” spoke directly to Pauline and Kathryn Klinger of Snyder County.

The Klinger girls, who were 20 years old at the time, ventured from the solitude of their rural Pennsylvania home to serve in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve when the world was at war in 1942.

Both served in clerical positions at Camp Lejeune, the Marine Corps base in North Carolina, throughout World War II.

Seventy-seven years after she enlisted, Pauline Klinger Rohrbach was heralded as a trailblazer for women in the military on Wednesday, her 97th birthday, at party in Chestnut Knoll senior living center, Boyertown, where she resides.

Her twin sister, Kathryn, who lives in Latrobe, Westmoreland County, was unable to attend.

“Thank you for paving the way for me,” said Pam Kubczak of Pottstown, representing the Women Marines Association. “If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be here.”

Kubczak, who served in the Marine Corps from 1977 to 1980, reminded Pauline women currently serve as commanders, fighter pilots and every other capacity, just as men do. Women account for about 14% of the Marine Corps component, she said.

Commander of a Women Marines Association chapter, Kubczak presented Pauline with a Marine Corps afghan embla-



SUBMITTED

Pauline Klinger Rohrbach, left, and her twin sister, Kathryn, in a publicity photo the Marine Corps used to recruit young women during World War II.

zoned with slogans “Once A Marine, Always A Marine” and “Semper Fi,” the Marine Corps motto, which translates to “Always Faithful.”

Pauline, known fondly as Polly, was visibly touched by the kindness shown her by Marine Corps comrades and 50 or so residents of Chestnut Knoll who sang “Happy Birthday.”

Her children, Linda Austerberry of Douglass Township, Montgomery County, and Thomas Rohrbach of Exeter Township, expressed pride in their mother's service in World War II.

“It was very adventuresome

on the part of my mother and aunt to leave their home and serve their country,” said Austerberry, 70, a retired Boyertown High School art teacher.

Rohrbach, 68, a retired Exeter Junior High School history teacher, said patriotism was at the root of his mother's and aunt's service.

“They had the feeling that they had to do something for their country in a time of war,” he said.

Polly said she and her sister chose the Marine Corps because their brother, Marlin Klinger, was already serving in the corps.

Polly said she understood the

seriousness of World War II, but she was confident the U.S. and its allies would prevail. In the faces of the young Marines training at Camp Lejeune, she saw a dedication and love of country that would sustain them in battle.

After the war, Polly enrolled in Kutztown State Teachers College to study elementary education. After two years, she left to marry Daniel Rohrbach, who would go on to become Boyertown High School principal and Berks County superintendent of schools.

Patrick McKernan, 72, who

VETERAN » PAGE 6

Your community

Robesonia council approves deal for police with South Heidelberg

Robesonia Borough Council this week agreed to pay \$874,353 for South Heidelberg Township to provide police services to the borough for three years beginning in January, joining neighboring municipalities that have opted for police coverage from South Heidelberg.

The intermunicipal agreement is automatically renewable for an additional three-year term.

The cost includes 80 hours of police service per week and 24-hour-a-day emergency coverage. Officers are not required to be within the limits of Robesonia during coverage hours, but will be on duty and within close proximity. Depending on need, the hours may be adjusted monthly to ensure 4,160 hours of coverage annually.

Borough Manager Lisa K. Heilman anticipates the 2020 budget will be completed by the end of October and ready for advertising in November.

Council also approved spending \$7,000 to purchase a new stainless steel V-plow from Storks Automotive, Bernville.

— By Geneva Aulenbach

WILSON SCHOOLS

Administrator OK'd for \$130,000 a year

The Wilson School Board this week approved the appointment of Dr. Andrew Hoffert to the new administrative position of director of student supports and services, with a start date to be determined.

Hoffert is currently the principal of Bradford Heights Elementary School in the Downingtown Area School District, in Chester County.

Hoffert will be paid \$130,000 annually.

In other business, the board approved several long-distance student field trips, including trips to:

St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, for 23 high school AP environmental biology students from Jan. 11 to Jan. 20, 2020. The cost for students is \$2,275, and the cost to the district is one substitute teacher for four days.

St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, for 23 high school AP environmental biology students from Jan. 25 to Feb. 2, 2020. The cost for students is \$2,200 and the cost to the district is two substitute teachers for five days.

The Chincoteague Bay Research Facility, Wallops Island, Va., for 22 AP biology/ environmental science high school students from April 3 to April 7, 2020. The cost for students is \$500 and the cost to the district is one substitute teacher for three days.

Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Annapolis, Md., for 60 concert choir, orchestra and band students from April 8 to April 10, 2020. The cost for students is \$590 and the cost to the district is four substitute teachers for one day.

Beijing, China for 12 Chinese language students in

grades 8-12 from March 26 to April 12, 2020. The cost to students is \$3,300 and the cost to the district is one substitute teacher for 10 days.

Australia and New Zealand for 24 technology education students from Dec. 19, 2020, to Jan. 2, 2021. The cost for students is \$5,995, plus transportation, and the cost to the district is three substitute teachers for three days.

— By David A. Kostival

TULPEHOCKEN TOWNSHIP

Solicitor gets OK to draft tax ordinance

The Tulpehocken Township supervisors on Wednesday approved a motion allowing the township solicitor to draft a local services tax ordinance.

If research determines the tax is permissible, the proposed ordinance will be advertised for enactment at the November meeting. If approved, a \$52 yearly tax will be levied on individuals working within the township who earn more than \$12,000 annually.

Chairman Gary Deck said the revenue from the tax will go toward emergency medical services, and current funds budgeted for those expenses would be allocated for recreation.

A special meeting will be held Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. to present the 2020 budget.

Supervisor Lester Feick was absent.

— By Geneva Aulenbach

WYOMISSING

Council weighs new hotel tax

Wyomissing Borough Council on Tuesday approved advertising a proposed ordinance to create a tourism improvement district in the borough.

A TID would allow an additional 2% room assessment fee on top of the 5% hotel tax already tacked onto the room charges of guests at Wyomissing hotels. The funds from the TID would be used for advertising and marketing of the Berks County area to increase tourism.

Borough solicitor Christopher Hartman said the TID would affect seven hotels in the borough.

The vote to advertise the ordinance came after a required public hearing, during which no one raised any objections.

Crystal Seitz, president of the Pennsylvania Americana Region, formerly known as the Greater Reading Convention and Visitors Bureau, told council a TID will allow the county to become more competitive in tourism.

"We've had conversations with all of the hotels and they understand our funding is limited," Seitz said. "With additional dollars, we will help fill their rooms and bring more business to the borough."

Seitz is also working with the townships of Spring, Muhlenberg and Caernarvon to establish TIDs in

those municipalities.

"The hotels will help us determine how the money is spent; it will not be spent broadly," Seitz said. "The hotels recognize that there are major attractions in Wyomissing."

Hartman said council could adopt the ordinance at its December meeting, but cautioned that if the borough receives written objections from more than 40%, or three of the seven, hotels, he would recommend the ordinance not be adopted.

In other business, council rejected a proposal from the fire and police committee that would have restricted parking on both sides of Cardinal Road near the addresses of 47 and 48, at the curved section.

The committee had identified the curve as being unsafe for maneuvering oversized vehicles.

— By David A. Kostival

COUNTY PLANNERS

Hydropower permit raises concerns

The Berks County Planning Commission on Wednesday agreed to send a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to raise concerns about potential hydropower technology to harness the water at Blue Marsh Dam.

Wayne Krouse, CEO of Hydro Green Energy LLC, Birmingham, Ala., has filed an application with FERC for a preliminary permit to study the feasibility of constructing the hydropowered facility at Blue Marsh.

The existing dam is owned by the federal government and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The proposal is to install the technology adjacent to the current outlet tower gate, and to use it to generate power from water resources.

The planning commission noted in its letter that while the hydropower concept is consistent with the county's comprehensive plan, it has concerns with specifics of the feasibility study, including:

Maintaining the original purpose of Blue Marsh (flood control, water supply and recreation).

The hydropower should not adversely affect the operation of the Western Berks Water Authority's water pipeline.

Appropriate streamflow, water temperature and oxygen levels should be maintained to protect fishery resources.

Recreational facilities and trails should not be adversely impacted.

The hydropower should not produce any sound levels or vibrations that would adversely impact the county's nearby north campus, which includes Berks Heim.

Sunoco pipelines, which run 1,855 feet from the dam, could not be impacted.

The estimated cost of going forward with a feasibility study is \$350,000.

In other business, the

planners agreed to remove two farm properties in Centre Township from designated future-growth areas in the county's proposed 2030 comprehensive plan.

The request to remove the properties from the new designation came from the property owners, who wanted their farms to remain designated as rural conservation so they can qualify for the county's agricultural preservation program.

— By David A. Kostival

CAERNARVON TOWNSHIP

Supervisors updated on area plan

Matt McGough of the Berks County Planning Commission provided Caernarvon Township supervisors with an update Tuesday night on changes proposed to the Southern Berks Regional Comprehensive Plan.

McGough said the plan — which includes Caernarvon, Robeson, and Union townships and Birdsboro Borough — is 15 years old, five years past the suggested threshold for updates.

According to McGough, 2016 census numbers show a combined population growth of 14% between 2000 and 2016, and a projected 11% growth by 2040.

The plan was developed to enact regulations for development and land preservation. The regulations are designed to elicit grants for multi-municipal projects, thereby reducing duplication of efforts.

Proposed changes to the plan include updates on demographics and housing data, and changes in zoning, economic development activity and the overall vision.

The updated plan will take into account future transportation developments, such as the \$650 million West Shore Bypass reconstruction, congestion on Route 724 in Birdsboro, multiple bridge projects, the former Crompton and Knowles property in Robeson Township, potential development with the current Geigertown sewer project in Union and Robeson townships, and the new casino in Caernarvon.

In other business, the township's administration is working on a Hometown Heroes banner program to honor military veterans along Main Street.

— By Keith Smoker

ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY



BEN HASTY — READING EAGLE

Emily Berret, a 2011 Alvernia University alumnus, and Steve Koons, a 2005 alumnus, stand to be recognized as two of the four under-40 award recipients at the school's President's Dinner on campus Thursday evening.

Weidenhammer, others honored at dinner

Franciscan college cites businessman's selfless service, sharing of talent and resources to help others

By Michelle N. Lynch
Reading Eagle

John P. Weidenhammer is vested in the greater Reading community.

Over the years, he helped lead and support several local nonprofit organizations, including Reading Hospital, Greater Reading Chamber Alliance, Berks Business Educational Coalition and Berks Alliance.

President and founder of Weidenhammer Systems Corp., Weidenhammer is this year's recipient of Alvernia University's prestigious Franciscan Award.

The award, presented annually for exceptional service to Alvernia, is given to those who selflessly give of their time, talent and resources for the betterment of others.

John R. Loyack, university president, presented the award to Weidenhammer at Alvernia's annual President's Dinner held Thursday in the campus Physical Education Center.

Two Alvernia alumni and a local business also were honored.

Mary Kay Bernosky, class of 2003, received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate valuable contributions to their professions, communities and the nation.

Bernosky, the CEO of Safe Berks, has been a longtime protector of Berks County men and women who are victims of sexual assault and domestic violence through her visionary leadership

of Safe Berks and participation with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

John D. Wanner, class of 1982, was this year's recipient of the Ellen Frei Gruber Award.

The Gruber award is given to an individual who has performed outstanding service to Alvernia, exemplified continued commitment and support of the university's mission and reflects its core values of service, humility, peacemaking, contemplation and collegiality.

Wanner, founder and president of Wanner Associates, is an Alvernia trustee emeritus. He served as chairman of multiple committees during his tenure as a trustee.

The DoubleTree by Hilton Reading was presented with the Pro Urbe Award.

The award is given to an organization or business that performs significant community service and contributes to a higher standard of living in Berks County and surrounding communities.

General Manager and COO Craig Poole accepted the award.

Under Poole's leadership the DoubleTree has invested heavily in local employees and become the top-rated hotel in the worldwide DoubleTree chain.

Contact Michelle N. Lynch: 610-371-5084 or mlynch@readingeagle.com.

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Glanville "Glenn" Sewer



Glanville "Glenn" Sewer, 74, of Reading, passed away Saturday, October 5, 2019, in Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Balbina (Ortiz) Sewer.

He was born in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, on April 5, 1945, a son of the late Emanuel and Marion (Georges) Sewer.

Glenn was an Army veteran, serving during Vietnam, and was employed by New York Transit as a clerk for over 35 years, retiring in 2008.

He was a great mentor to the Dewitt Clinton Men, and his daughter's friends.

He was an avid New York Yankees fan and always adorned a cap to show his loyalty.

Also surviving is his son, Charles V. Leonard and his significant other, Margaret Diggs, of Mohnton, and family, Jarahd Leonard, Emonie Black, Jordan Leonard, Shavon Price, Makayla Price; daughter, Marina Leonard, of Reading, Almena Leonard, of Reading and her son, Jamel Edwards; son, Isaac Quintance, of Oregon; daughter, Kristal Leonard, of New York; son, Bert and his wife, Corrine Fredericks and Jasmine Fredericks; grandson, Glenn Leonard and his wife, Teresa Gonzalez and family, Azzura Leonard, Paris Leonard, Addison Leonard; grandson, Johnathan White Jr. and his significant other, Cecelia Miller and family, Kyrie White, Jackson White, Zyell White; and grandson, Eric and his wife, Ali Rostic and family, Aliana Rostic and Natalie Rostic and many other family and close friends.

Services will be Saturday, October 19, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Theo C Auman Funeral Home, 247 Penn St., Reading. Burial to follow in Charles Evans Cemetery. A viewing will be Friday, October 18, 2019, 7-9 p.m. in the funeral home. Please pay respects at www.theocauman.com.

William Joseph Hallock



William Joseph Hallock, 89, of Hazleton, passed away on October 7, 2019 at his residence surrounded by family.

He was devoted to his loving wife, the late Rose Hallock. Together they celebrated 64 years of marriage.

He was born in West Hazleton to the late Frank Sr. and Elizabeth (DePretris) Hallock.

He is also preceded in death by his late brother, Frank Hallock Jr.

William served in the U.S. Army where he was selected to be a radar instructor stationed at Aberdeen, Maryland. He believed in being productive, taking pride in his inventions and designs that contributed to medical research. His career of 60-plus years was at Thoren, where he was still employed.

He was a strong family man, who freely shared his time and talents with those lucky enough to call him husband, dad, grandpa, or friend.

He is survived by his daughters, Joanne E. Collins, wife of Randy, of Shillington, and Janet T. Hallock, Albert Krebs Sr., of Hazleton. Also surviving are grandchildren, Dr. Jennifer K. Collins and Daniel R. Collins, husband of Kerri; great-grandson, Ryan William Collins.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at SS Cyril & Methodius Parish, 604 N. Laurel St., Hazleton, PA, on Monday, October 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in memory of William to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Office of Development at P.O. Box 27106, New York, NY 10087.

Bean Funeral Homes & Crematory of Sinking Spring is in charge of arrangements; online condolences may be made at www.beanfuneralhomes.com.

E. Louise (Schroeder) Tumolo



E. Louise Tumolo, 84, of Elizabethtown, Pa., passed away on Wednesday morning, October 9, 2019, at her home at Masonic Village.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, she was the daughter of the late Albert A. and Louise E. Page Schroeder.

She was the wife of John J. Tumolo Jr. for 65 years on February 11.

A homemaker, Louise was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mount Joy, a member of Episcopal Church Women, and involved with United Thank Offering. In earlier years, she taught Sunday school and was a Girls Scout member and leader.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by four children: John J. Tumolo III, husband of Cheryl Printz Tumolo, of Pricetown, Steven R. Tumolo Sr., husband of Cindy Abel Tumolo, of West Lawn, Susan L., wife of Scott Zerr, of Perryville, Md., and Norma J., wife of Kenneth Mayo, of Linden, Va.; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Jane Stauffer, of Landisville.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Margaret Anne Thomas.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday morning, October 12, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 209 South Market Street, Mount Joy, PA. There will be no public viewing. The family will receive guests on Saturday morning at the church from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Private interment will be at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville.

The family requests that flowers please be omitted. If desired, contributions may be made to Masonic Village Hospice, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. To express a condolence with the family or to watch a webcast of the service beginning Sunday morning, visit www.spencefuneralservices.com.

Allison M. (Moyer) Vega

Allison M. (Moyer) Vega, 50, of Blandon, passed away on Monday, October 7, 2019 at her home. She is survived by her daughter, Alexa; father, Gerald; brother, Jeff; and sister, Cindy. Full obituary at WalbertFuneralHome.com.

FATAL SHOOTING

Boy, 14, surrenders to face homicide charges

By Matt Miller
The Patriot-News

A boy, 14, has surrendered to police and has been charged as an adult with a Lancaster homicide.

City police said Rahmir Hopkins was accompanied by a parent when he turned himself in at their station around noon Thursday.

Hopkins is accused of killing Luis A. Perez, 25, at about 3:30 p.m. Wednes-

day in the 600 block of South Lime Street. Investigators said witnesses told them Perez was shot during an argument and fight between him and three men or boys.

Police said Hopkins is charged with homicide, carrying a firearm without a license and illegal possession of a firearm on a minor.

"The investigation into this homicide is ongoing," police said.

FUNDRAISER



BEN HASTY — READING EAGLE

Exeter football player Trever Moise, left, 15, a sophomore at Exeter serves rice and beans from Mi Casa Su Casa while Coen Kissinger, 15, selects a sandwich from Subway at the third annual Tastefully Berks fundraiser Thursday at Exeter High School. The event supports the school district's football program.

Event benefits Exeter football team

Reading Eagle

Ticketholders for the third annual Tastefully Berks event gave Exeter School District's football program a boost by sampling local restaurant fare.

The event Thursday at Exeter High School's cafeteria was presented by the Exeter Township Football Boosters.

"The Football Boosters saw this event as such an amazing opportunity to bring the community together to support local business, our football sponsors and our very own Exeter football program," Christa McCusker, booster club president, said in a statement. "Ticketholders really do have a unique opportunity to sample dishes from a growing list of over 20 local eateries."

Participating restaurants, including Andy Peppers, Beer Wall On Penn,



BEN HASTY — READING EAGLE

The third annual Tastefully Berks fundraiser, which raises money for the Exeter School District football program.

Bixler's Lodge, Boscov's Ala Carte Catering, Café Sweet Street, China Penn, Francesca's Pizza & Restaurant, Jakes of Mount Penn, Liberty Ale House &

Liberty Tap Room, Sweet Ride Ice Cream and more served their signature dishes.

Ticketholders also were eligible for special restau-

rant offers and a raffle with a grand prize basket valued at \$200.

All proceeds will benefit the junior and senior high school football teams.

MARIJUANA

Phoenixville police will ticket pot smokers

Borough council changes ordinance so offenders will avoid court process

By Evan Brandt
For Reading Eagle

Getting caught in Phoenixville smoking a small amount of marijuana in public will no longer earn you a trip to jail.

Instead, you'll get a ticket.

With a unanimous vote Tuesday night, Phoenixville Borough Council changed its ordinance, making that

offense a non-traffic citation subject to a fine of \$25 to \$100 for the first offense.

Previously, police who caught someone smoking marijuana in public arrested them, took them to the police station and put them through the court process.

"That takes officers off the street," borough Manager E. Jean Krack said.

Those caught smoking

in public with 30 grams of marijuana or 8 grams of hashish can be fined \$25 to \$100 for the first offense, according to officials.

Councilman Edwin Soto conducted a lot of the leg work in researching this matter, Councilman Richard Kirkner said before voting.

Krack said Phoenixville spent a year looking at 20 other municipalities in Pennsylvania with similar laws, including Philadelphia and State College.

"They're pretty consis-

tent across the board," he said.

However, it is unclear how the new ordinance would affect those who take their THC, the psycho-active ingredient in marijuana, through vaping it in liquid form with an electronic device.

"We might have to revisit this and take a look at that," Krack said.

Contact Evan Brandt: ebrandt@21st-centurymedia.com @PottstownNews on Twitter

5 CHILDREN KILLED

Day care fire blamed on extension cord

By Tim Hahn
Erie Times-News

An electrical failure in an extension cord set off a fire in a west Erie home and day care facility that caused the deaths of five young children on the early morning Aug. 11, authorities who investigated the fire announced on Thursday.

The fire at 1248 W. 11th St., which was a single-family residence that also housed the Harris Family Daycare, was determined to be accidental, according to information in a news release issued by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

"Based upon data collected during this investigation and the subsequent analysis of that data, it is the combined opinion of the fire scene investigation team that the fire was caused by an electrical failure associated with a routinely-used extension cord,"



GREG WOHLFORD — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Erie Bureau of Fire Inspector Mark Polanski helps investigate a fatal fire that occurred Aug. 11 in Erie.

according to the release.

The fire originated in the first-floor living room, investigators reported.

The fire was reported at the home and daycare on Aug. 11 at 1:12 a.m. Killed in the fire were Dalvin Pacley, 2, and siblings La'Myha

Jones, 8; Luther Jones Jr., 6; Ava Jones, 4; and Jaydan Augustyniak, 9 months, all of whom were staying at the daycare.

Homeowner Elaine Harris, who ran the day care, was injured in the fire and underwent treatment at

a Pittsburgh hospital. Investigators said two older boys who were also in the house and escaped the fire by climbing out a second-floor window and onto a roof suffered minor injuries, according to investigators.

Editorial

Another attack on the faithful

The first dictionary definition for “sanctuary” is “a holy place,” typically one where worship takes place. The second definition is “a place of refuge or protection.”

This is no accident. Historically houses of worship have been considered safe places for people to go when facing persecution or other troubles in the outside world. When people are there to pray, they expect a peaceful, welcoming atmosphere.

But apparently that’s not how some people see it. To them, a house of worship is a prime target, especially at times when large groups of people they deem enemies are gathered there.

The latest example of this extremely troubling trend took place Wednesday in Halle, Germany. A gunman attempted to lay siege on a synagogue there during Yom Kippur services. Thwarted by the synagogue’s locked, heavy wooden doors, he instead fatally shot a passerby and then killed another person in a nearby kebab shop. Two other people were injured. Prior to the attack the gunman expressed a variety of extremist views, with anti-Semitism at the heart of it all.

This attack is a reminder of several very worrisome trends. One is that extremists see houses of worship as easy targets. In the past year we’ve seen vicious attacks on two U.S. synagogues, two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, and several churches in Sri Lanka. What just happened in Halle contains echoes of all of them. To begin with, of course, it was an attack on a synagogue. The Sri Lanka attacks took place on Easter, the holiest day on the Christian calendar and one that draws large crowds to churches, ensuring a high casualty count. Yom Kippur is the holiest day on the Jewish calendar and typically draws large crowds to synagogues. And like the Christchurch massacres, the assailant came prepared with a camera so that like-minded individuals could watch the attack online as it happened.

These similarities point to the global nature of the threat involved. The use of the internet to spread poisonous ideology is of particular concern. It’s terrifying to think that there’s much of an audience for a bloody attack on innocent people, yet apparently there is. Wednesday’s attack was live-streamed on Twitch, an Amazon-owned live-

streaming platform. It was up on the site for about 30 minutes before it was flagged and removed. During that time 2,200 people viewed the video of the attack. And even after it was taken down from Twitch, the video quickly proliferated on other platforms. *The New York Times* reported that versions of the video reached more than 15,000 accounts on the messaging platform Telegram within a half-hour.

Companies that host video streaming are struggling to regulate the vast amounts of content delivered through their services. Until they solve the problem, we can expect more of these sorts of attacks.

The one piece of relatively good news here is that the attacker did not achieve his goal of slaughtering people in the synagogue. It is most fortunate that the building in Halle had sufficient security to thwart the attacker, who even tried to shoot his way into the building without success. But how sad it is that we live in a time when leaders of houses of worship here and around the world feel that they must lock their doors during their services, hire private security personnel and/or seek police protection just so they can pray for a few hours. After all, the inclination of just about any faith group is to have open doors and invite all to come in for spiritual comfort. How sad it is that many feel that’s no longer possible.

Of course, the specific nature of this attack demands attention. It serves as a horrifying reminder of the continued resurgence of anti-Semitism around the world. Last week we expressed the wish that the coming Jewish year would be free of the mourning and fear that marked the previous 12 months. We’re nearing the one-year anniversary of the Tree of Life synagogue attack in Pittsburgh, followed six months later by shootings during a Passover observance in Poway, Calif. It took just 10 days for the trend to continue into the Jewish year 5780.

Once again, we pray that people of good will around the world rally against the hate-mongers and make it clear that their poisonous views will not be tolerated. These unspeakable attacks must come to an end.

Cartoonist’s take



Letters

STEM education crucial to strong American future

Editor:

I was very surprised to read two professors from Penn State University, an institution that ranks fifth in the country in the number of graduating engineers, viewing the push for science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, careers as nothing more than a choice over a career in humanities (“There’s more to education than STEM,” *Reading Eagle*, Oct. 7). There are some important things that the professors overlook. First, a \$10,000 per year difference between humanities and engineering starting salaries is a substantial difference. Just ask any recent college graduate paying off student loans. In fact, at a moderate annual interest rate of 4%, an extra \$10,000 per year equates to more than \$1 million at retirement age.

Second, the focus on STEM has a profound economic purpose. Department of Labor statistics indicate that only 5% of our country’s population is employed in the technology sector, yet 50% of our future economic growth depends on this sector. Studies predict that the current shortage of engineers will translate to a potential loss of \$454 billion in economic output by 2028. These numbers should concern everyone, regardless of where their own personal or professional interests lie.

Yes, technology development relies on a multidisciplinary team. But scientists and engineers represent the backbone of this team. The STEM movement addresses a critical workforce shortage and will enable our country to maintain its international competitiveness

and prosperity. To think that the STEM movement is nothing more than a promotion of one field over another is missing the point.

James P. Cinelli
Reading

Setting the record straight on Exeter Township issues

Editor:

I’m writing to respond to “Exeter Township needs some new leadership” (*Reading Eagle*, Oct. 8), which did not tell the full story.

There are two items that Exeter supervisors have been planning since early 2019.

After a year of deliberation and planning, Exeter purchased the former Promenade shopping center to construct a multi-functional municipal complex to include a community center. The current municipal complex site may be ideal for age-restricted housing, a need in the community.

Meanwhile, a real estate firm was brought in to execute a two-step approach that will determine the future of the Reading Country Club and the current municipal complex. A process is in place to obtain a list of prospective buyers for the club along with their qualifications and intentions. We enlisted Larry Hirsh of Golf Property Analysts to help find a golf management operation to lease or manage the course. Once these are complete we will work with residents to determine the direction they want.

Considering the nostalgia people feel regarding the country club and the amazing natural environment that Exeter provides, it’s important that this is handled fairly and transparently. It’s also important to

recognize that some residents don’t want their tax dollars supporting the course. We must do our due diligence and look out for all residents in an objective manner.

This is the best long-term approach to solve the issue for all residents. Let’s work together as a community to make it a success and continue planning for a bright future.

John Cusatis
*Chairman,
Exeter Township supervisors*

What’s being done to keep Heim in county hands?

Editor:

I am writing out of concern that Berks Heim remain under Berks County ownership and management. The recent passing of 22-year Heim administrator Jerry Fudeman was a reminder of the attitude of care that existed while he was there and continues to this day.

When the county commissioners stopped their attempt to sell the Heim following give-backs by its employees, it was clear that additional steps needed to be taken to ensure the Heim will remain in county hands beyond the current labor agreement.

My question to the commissioners and state lawmakers is: What steps have they taken or do they plan to take to keep the Heim in county hands in the long term? I look forward to hearing what they have done or plan to do. Their lack of a public response will be even more telling.

Thomas W. Gajewski Sr.
Muhlenberg Township

Editor’s note: Gajewski is a former Berks County commissioner.

Commentary

Will Americans really choose four more years of this?

By Ann McFeatters

As we confront the 1,000th day of the Trump presidency, we see what it’s come down to — and you know this — the reelection of President Donald Trump.

Four more years of troubling tweets. Four more years of bloviating bliss for cable news. Four more years of exhaustion, U.S.-aided international turmoil and economic uncertainty. Total polarization for all of us.

That is what the weird Ukraine scandal is about. Trump withheld congressionally authorized military aid

for an ally at war to try to ascertain that it pursued bogus and provably unfounded corruption claims against Joe Biden. The former vice president may be boring, but as one of the least wealthy national politicians, he’s not, from everything we know, corrupt. Whereas Trump is and always has been provably corrupt. Americans knew that in 2016 and said, what the heck.

So what if Trump (a billionaire whose businesses are benefiting magnificently from his presidency) is actively encouraging foreign countries to interfere in our elections.

All U.S. intelligence agencies concurred that Russia worked to elect Trump president and will do so again in 2020. A two-year investigation proved that Trump obstructed justice during the

probe of Russian interference. What happened? Nothing.

Now, Trump has betrayed the Kurds, who fought with the U.S. against the Islamic State and the war against terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. How do those of us whose sons and daughters have fought in those wars reconcile that? The Islamic State may now be resurgent. Russia is thrilled that we threw away our claim as defender of human rights. Our goals in the Middle East are shredded.

What do freedom-loving Americans think about the bizarre affinity Trump has for dictators accused of murdering and imprisoning dissidents.

And guess who suggested that legally protected whistleblowers, holding back the curtain on his potentially illegal activities,

were guilty of treason, punishable by death? Yes, Trump.

Most bizarrely, the whistleblowers implicated Trump in a crime to which Trump himself admitted guilt. His White House released notes of his call with the president of Ukraine demanding that country manufacture evidence of corruption against Biden, with the clear implication that millions of dollars in aid were at stake.

What we have here is democracy at stake. When the White House says it will not concede congressional authority in the impeachment proceedings, it is saying that the executive office is all-powerful and may do whatever it wants. Do we no longer have three equal branches of government?

I know that many Americans

support Trump, convinced he has maintained a good economy, despite the trade wars, huge deficit spending and the dispiriting lack of growth in wages.

But Trump has not grown in office. His ignorance remains shocking. His arrogance is mind-blowing. He is not a model for children. In their hearts, Americans know this.

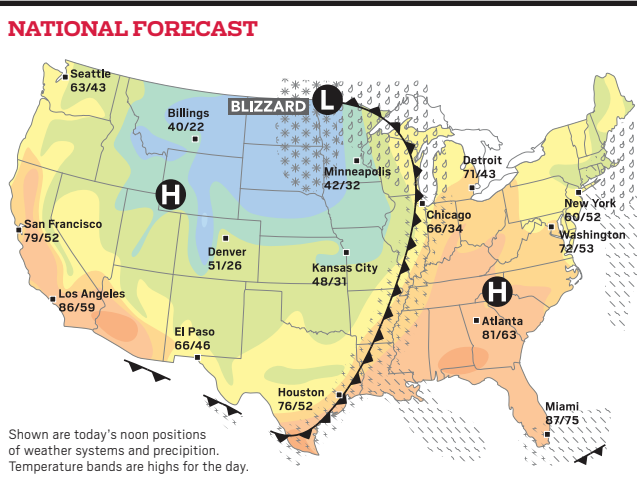
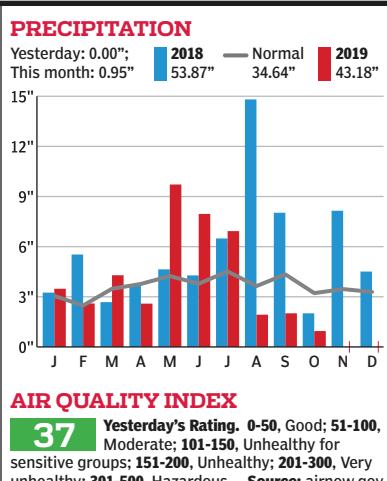
Today a mind-blowing number of Republicans have decided that Trump’s unconstitutional transgressions do not matter, that his narcissistic approach to power and amazing display of bravado are the price we should pay for business as usual.

In one year we voters must decide a major issue: Are presidents above the law or not? One thousand days under Trump have passed. How many to go?

6 A.M. 51°	SUNRISE: 7:0 A.M.	9 A.M. 55°	NOON 61°	3 P.M. 66°	6 P.M. 62°	SUNSET: 6:31 P.M.	9 P.M. 56°	MIDNIGHT 53°	SATURDAY 69°/48° Partly sunny	SUNDAY 68°/43° Mostly sunny and pleasant	MONDAY 71°/46° Clearing	TUESDAY 71°/50° A p.m. shower possible	WEDNESDAY 68°/46° A shower possible
TODAY: 66°/47°; RealFeel®: 65°/52° Partly sunny and not as warm; Wind: NE 6-12 mph RECORDS: 87°/28° YESTERDAY: 75°/52°													

REGIONAL OUTLOOK

City name	Today's High/Low forecast	Water temperature
Scranton	64/46	
Hazleton	62/45	
State College	64/46	
Pottsville	65/47	
Allentown	63/46	
New York	60/52	
Harrisburg	69/50	
Reading	66/47	
Philadelphia	65/52	
Baltimore	69/50	
Atlantic City	64/55	
Washington, D.C.	72/53	
Rehoboth Beach	67/56	
Cape May	65/53	
Ocean City	66/55	



NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi/Lo/W
Anchorage	45/34/c	
Boston	56/51/r	
Buffalo	69/52/s	
Cincinnati	78/42/sh	
Cleveland	78/49/pc	
Dallas	61/41/r	
Honolulu	88/76/t	
Indianapolis	72/36/pc	
Las Vegas	72/49/s	
Myrtle Beach	79/58/s	
Nashville	82/46/pc	
New Orleans	87/64/t	
Norfolk	69/58/s	
Omaha	44/31/c	
Orlando	87/67/pc	
Phoenix	90/65/s	
Pittsburgh	74/53/s	
Portland, Maine	58/47/c	
St. Louis	54/36/r	
Tampa	89/70/pc	

TODAY'S CONDITIONS

Allergies	Migraine	Sinus	Respiratory	Arthritis	Running	Lawn & garden
LOW	BENEFICIAL	BENEFICIAL	BENEFICIAL	BENEFICIAL	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT

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Across the Nation

Men tied to Giuliani arrested

The Associated Press

NEW YORK » Two Florida businessmen tied to President Donald Trump's lawyer and the Ukraine investigation were charged Thursday with federal campaign finance violations. The charges relate to a \$325,000 donation to a group supporting Trump's reelection.

Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman, associates of Rudy Giuliani, were arrested on a four-count indictment that includes charges of conspiracy, making false statements to the Federal Election Commission and falsification of records. The men had key roles in Giuliani's efforts to launch a Ukrainian corruption investigation against Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

Records show that Parnas and Fruman used wire transfers from a corporate entity they controlled to make the \$325,000 donation to the America First Action committee in 2018. But wire transfer records that became public through

a lawsuit show that the corporate entity reported as making the transaction was not the true source of the money.

Prosecutors also allege that Parnas urged a U.S. congressman to seek the ouster of the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, at the behest of Ukrainian government officials. That happened about the same time that Parnas and Fruman committed to raising more than \$20,000 for the politician.

The congressman wasn't identified by name in court papers, but the donations to "Congressman I" in the indictment match campaign finance reports for former Rep. Pete Sessions, a Texas Republican who lost his reelection bid in November 2018.

DENVER

Jury: Uber driver not guilty in death

A jury on Thursday found an Uber driver not guilty of murder in the fatal shooting of a passenger he said attacked him while driving on a freeway

in Denver.

Jurors sided with Michael Hancock, 31, who argued that he was defending himself against passenger Hyun (Huhn) Kim.

Hancock said Kim, 45, made unwanted sexual advances and attacked him when Hancock threatened to pull over during the June 2018 ride.

Prosecutors said Hancock stopped the car, went to the front passenger side where Kim was sitting, and fired 10 bullets from his semi-automatic handgun. At least five struck Kim.

Hancock, who was not seriously injured, then put a knife in Kim's hand to get his fingerprints on it, authorities said.

Hancock testified that he kept the knife under his seat and put it in Kim's hand to see if he was still alive.

EL PASO, TEXAS

Suspect pleads not guilty in 22 deaths

The man, 22, charged with capital murder in the fatal shooting of 22 people at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, pleaded not guilty Thursday during a brief initial hearing.

Police have said Patrick Crusius of Dallas confessed to the Aug. 3 mass shooting and that he targeted Mexicans.

Some two-dozen people survived the attack with injuries, and two of them remained in the hospital, officials said.

Local prosecutors have said they will seek the death penalty. Federal authorities are weighing capital murder and hate crime charges. The Department of Justice has called the shooting an act of domestic terrorism.

There were 2,000 witnesses at the scene of the massacre.

Crusius fled the scene of the shooting in his car but turned himself in less than an hour later, according to police. His arrest warrant says he declared, "I'm the shooter."

Police have said he published a racist screed a few minutes before the shooting, saying he wanted to kill Latinos to balkanize the U.S. along racial lines.

Washington Digest

Opioid tapering guidelines issued

From wire reports

The federal government on Thursday published new guidelines on how, when and whether the millions of patients who use the painkillers should be forced to cut back.

A main thrust of the new guidance on tapering is that clinicians should be slow, cautious and deliberate in reducing dosages, and should consult patients to ensure that they're tolerating the process.

The guidelines emphasize "personalized care tailored to the specific circumstances and unique needs of each patient," said Brett P. Giroir of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Meanwhile, an appellate court on Thursday rejected a request to halt a landmark trial on whether drug companies are responsible for the opioid epidemic, ruling the bid did not meet the strict test for such an extraordinary move.

The state of Ohio, supported by a number of other states, had filed the last-ditch request to postpone or dismiss the federal case. Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost argued the cities and counties suing drug companies have usurped

state authority to take on the drug companies.

ICE criticizes ruling on immigrant databases

The acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Thursday criticized a judge's ruling barring his agency from relying solely on databases that have at times led to the wrongful detention of American citizens.

Matthew Albence called the September ruling an example of "judicial overreach" that threatened public safety.

The ruling by U.S. District Judge André Brotté Jr. bars ICE from issuing requests known as "detainers" based solely on database searches considered to be unreliable. It applies to states that do not explicitly authorize civil immigration arrests using detainers.

ICE cross-checks jail rosters around the U.S. with federal databases that track people's nationality and immigration status. When it detects that a person is unauthorized to be in the U.S., ICE will issue a detainer asking the agency to hold the person until he or she can be taken into immigration custody.

Around the World

Turkey pressing assault on Kurds

The Associated Press

AKCAKALE, TURKEY » Turkey pressed its assault against U.S.-allied Kurdish forces in northern Syria on Thursday for a second day, pounding the region with airstrikes and an artillery bombardment.

Amid the fierce fighting, residents fled with their belongings loaded into cars, pickup trucks and motorcycle rickshaws, while others escaped on foot.

The U.N. refugee agency said tens of thousands were on the move, and aid agencies warned that nearly a half-million people near the border were at risk.

Many had fled the militants of the Islamic State group only a few years ago.

The Turkish air and ground assault was launched three days after President Donald Trump opened the way by pulling American troops from their positions near the border alongside their Kurdish allies.

Trump warned Turkey for moderation during its assault and safeguard civilians.

The Turkish Defense Ministry said its jets and artillery had struck 181 targets so far.

and Ireland said Thursday they had spotted a "pathway" to an elusive Brexit deal, keeping hopes of a breakthrough alive just three weeks before the U.K.'s deadline to leave the European Union.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Irish leader Leo Varadkar provided a status update on the issue after a private lunch meeting in northwest England that lasted for several hours.

"Both continue to believe that a deal is in everybody's interest," they said in a joint statement. "They agreed that they could see a pathway to a possible deal."

Britain is due to leave the 28-nation bloc on Oct. 31, and attempts to find a deal have foundered over plans for the border between E.U. member Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland.

The currently all-but-invisible border underpins both the regional economy and Northern Ireland's peace process.

Under a U.K. proposal, there would have to be customs checks on some goods, though not on the border itself. The E.U. says any customs checks are unacceptable.

There was little of substance in Varadkar and Johnson's statement indicating a breakthrough or whether the "pathway" was near or far off.

Leaders see 'pathway' to Brexit deal

The leaders of Britain

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