

## 9 area wrestlers capture gold medals

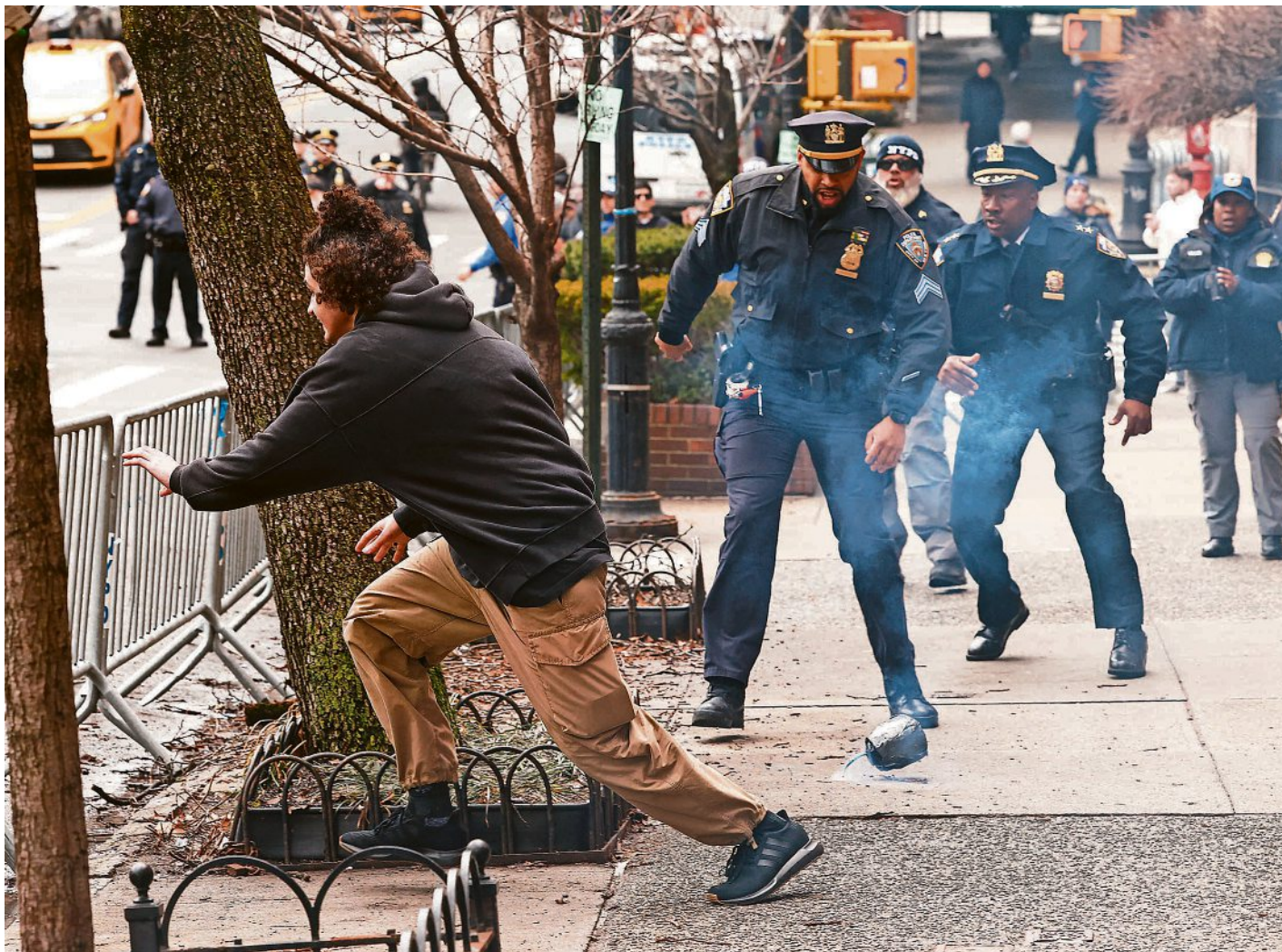
SPORTS, 1B

# BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

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## 2 Bucks men suspected in 'ISIS-inspired' plot



A person flees after throwing a suspicious device during a protest organized by far-right influencer Jake Lang in New York, in front of Gracie Mansion, New York mayor Zohran Mamdani's official residence, in New York on March 7.

CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## FBI raids Bucks homes with possible links to explosives identified at NYC mayor's mansion protest

Jo Ciavaglia and JD Mullane

Bucks County Courier Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

New York City Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch has confirmed that two Bucks County teens are being held as suspects in an "ISIS-inspired act of terrorism" that occurred March 8 at pro-

tests outside Gracie Mansion in the city.

Emir Balat, 18, and Ibrahim Kayumi, 19, are in custody for allegedly attempting to ignite the devices. Tisch said that criminal complaints for the two are expected to be released later Monday.

Tisch said that FBI and NYPD specialists had analyzed the two homemade devices ignited during the a clash

between an anti-Islam group and counterprotesters just outside the New York City mayor's residence and preliminary testing confirmed they are no smoke bombs, but improvised explosive devices, "that could have caused serious injury or death."

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## PA mourns loss of state trooper killed in line of duty

Bucks County Courier Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Pennsylvania State Trooper was shot and killed in the line of duty Sunday night during a traffic stop in West Caln Township in Chester County.

Cpl. Timothy O'Connor was a 15-year-veteran of the force and is survived by his wife and daughter, officials said.

An unidentified man shot and killed the trooper after O'Connor stopped the vehicle for a report of erratic driving near Honey Brook around 8:25 p.m. Authorities said the 32-year-old Chester County man then got out of the car and shot and killed himself with a semi-automatic pistol, authorities said.

"Within seconds, as he approached the car, the driver opened fire from inside the vehicle, struck him, just as he approached the driver side fo the vehicle," said Lt. Col. George Bivens, acting commissioner of the state police.

Gov. Josh Shapiro called a O'Connor a hero and said the state police family had lost a son and Pennsylvania lost a dedicated public servant.

"There are many questions that will go unanswered but the one thing we absolutely know for certain is that their son, their husband is a hero," Shapiro said he told the family. "He died protecting others. That is something we're profoundly grateful for today."

The State Police and the Chester County Detectives are continuing to investigate the shooting at Route 10 and Michael Road. Law enforcement from around the state, including Bucks County, have posted condolences to social media.

"Our hearts are heavy this morning as we learned overnight that Pennsylvania State Police Corporal Tim O'Connor passed away after being shot during a traffic stop in Chester

See **TROOPER**, Page 2A

## Why assisting in a suicide is a rare charge in Pennsylvania

Jo Ciavaglia

Bucks County Courier Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

In Pennsylvania it is not a crime to stop someone from completing suicide, but helping someone do can lead to charges.

Assisting in suicide has been a crime in Pennsylvania since 1973; the law was updated in 2021 to create enhanced penalties when the victim is under 18 or has an intellectual disability. It can also apply to survivors of a suicide pact.

But it is a rarely used felony charge. Convictions are exceptionally rare for

defendants accused of aiding in the death of another, according to available state sentencing data.

Last month a Bensalem man was charged with aiding in his elderly mother's 2023 suicide, along with felony drug distribution and theft related offenses in her death.

Bensalem police allege Lawrence Huber purchased heroin at the request of his mother, Anne Huber, 76, which she allegedly used to fatally overdose, according to court records.

Huber allegedly told police that his

See **SUICIDE**, Page 2A

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