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BUCKS COUNTY
Courier Times

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 | PHILLYBURBS.COM

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Bucks park dedicated to girl murdered in 1986

Monsignor Michael P. McCormac, from Saint Frances Cabrini church in Fairless Hills, blesses the Tina Severns memorial before her family, community, and Falls Township police at the dedication ceremony to honor Tina's memory in Falls Township on April 24. DANIELLA HEMINGHAUS/BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Jo Ciavaglia
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The life of Tina Severns ended on a Bucks County roadside in the late summer of 1986 when a man pretending to be someone the 13-year-old was taught she could trust raped and killed her.

Forty years later, her family has learned many people still remember Tina and her tragic story.

People they didn't know, including a Falls Township police officer who only knew about Tina from what he read in old case files, but felt compelled to do something to make sure she is never forgotten.

After two years of planning, Falls Township capped National Crime Victims' Rights Week by unveiling the Tina Severns Memorial Park on April 24.

The rectangle-shaped lot sits at the corner of West Trenton Avenue and Sweetbriar Drive next to the Wellington Woods apartment complex. The Metz family, who operate Grand Affair Party Rental, donated the property.

A park bench faces West Trenton Avenue. Behind it stands a plaque with Tina's photo and her story. To the side is a metal sign with a butterfly.

This park is the first in the township dedicated to a crime victim, Falls Police

See DEDICATION, Page 2A

Tina Severns in her middle school picture in 1986. Tina was 13 when she was kidnapped, raped, beaten and left to die in a drainage ditch in Falls Township.
PROVIDED BY FALLS TOWNSHIP POLICE

Surreal scene in briefing room after DC shooting

Zac Anderson and Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Late on April 25, the White House press briefing room became a surreal refuge for its usual press corps – still dressed in tuxedos and evening gowns – after one of the year's most anticipated parties suddenly became a crime scene.

President Donald Trump in black tie had been evacuated from the Washington Hilton, where a gunman opened fire outside a ballroom filled with high-ranking officials and members of the media. Back safe at the White House, the president was flanked by Cabinet members who typically gather during business hours to discuss drier matters like tariffs or agriculture policy.

Vice President JD Vance, FBI Director Kash Patel, acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin joined Trump on the stage of the briefing room. First lady Melania Trump stood to the side with Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Reporters had rushed to the briefing from the White House Correspondents' Dinner – the women in colorful satin gowns, the men in black bow ties and shiny tuxedos – assembling to make sense of another story about political violence.

"I see so many tuxedos and beautiful dresses. It was a little different evening than we thought but we're going to do it again," the president said of the dinner, insisting another would be held within 30 days, bigger and better than ever.

"I am ready, willing and able,"

See SHOOTING, Page 2A

Months after leak found, jet fuel discovered in Upper Makefield wells

Jess Rohan
Bucks County Courier Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jet fuel has been detected in the well of another Upper Makefield home, local and state officials have confirmed.

A private well in the Mount Eyre area, where a jet fuel leak was discovered in a pipeline last year, tested positive for separate-phase liquid last month, a Department of Environmental Protection spokesperson said this week.

A second, monitoring well used by the pipeline companies as they clean up the leak — which may have been spilling petroleum into ground water for more than 16 months prior to its discovery — also tested positive for jet fuel April 1.

Since there's no acceptable limit for jet fuel in groundwater, any such contamination must be addressed, said Robyn Briggs, the DEP spokesperson.

At least a dozen wells that Mount

See LEAK, Page 2A

The new discovery of jet fuel in a private well shows the pipeline companies need to do more to clean up their leak, Upper Makefield's manager said.
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Volume 117 | No. 83
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