



Explore the history of the Christmas holiday

LIVING, 5D

PUBLIC OPINION WEEKEND

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025 | PUBLICOPINIONONLINE.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

PENN STATE MONT ALTO

Local officials explore future for campus

Amber South
Chambersburg Public Opinion
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

With Penn State Mont Alto slated to close at the end of the next school year, local officials are exploring how to use the campus in the future. A lack of information and communication from Penn State, however, has hampered the early effort to explore possibilities for redevelopment, accord-

ing to Franklin County Area Development Corp. President Mike Ross. “I think we have the opportunity to reimagine this campus and make it more impactful than it’s ever been,” he said in early November. A member of the general advisory board for Penn State Mont Alto, Ross said that since Penn State announced in May that Mont Alto and six other campuses will close local officials have struggled to obtain information about

the land and buildings on campus. “We don’t even know what we’re dealing with. I mean, you’ve never told us, you’ve never given us any of the vital statistics about the campus,” he said. “How big is it? How many buildings are there? What’s the operating cost? There’s a whole series of — I mean, can it be subdivided? What about the infrastructure? What are the conditions of transfer?” Ross said people with Penn State are

working on appraising the campus and identifying the value of the property. “What’s the value of the campus? And how do you as how did you create, essentially do an appraisal to come up with that? So allegedly they’re now doing that, and hopefully we get that information by the end of the year,” he said in November, and confirmed this month. **See CAMPUS, Page 3A**

Radon is the No. 1 cause of non-smokers’ lung cancer



Melissa Derrig opens a radon test kit in her new Akron, Ohio home after a cancer diagnosis believed to be connected to prolonged exposure to radon at her former home. ANDREW DOLPH/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

THE INVISIBLE KILLER

Amanda Garrett Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK – OHIO

AKRON, OH –

Lung cancer? • “But I never smoked,” Melissa Derrig said after doctors finally figured out what was causing her headaches, vertigo and the strange noise she heard deep inside her throat last year. • Melissa, a retired small-business owner, had always been so careful with her health. • She’s tracked everything she ate and drank since she was diagnosed with diabetes at age 10. After she turned 50, she never missed annual mammograms, skin cancer screenings or colonoscopies. • Yet lung cancer was growing inside her chest and it had already spread to her brain, where tests revealed dozens of tiny tumors. • The cancer diagnosis was, in a way, a relief because after four months of doctor visits, she finally knew what was causing her symptoms and could move forward, she said. **See RADON, Page 4A**

Treasurer’s office receives the cashVest award for 2025

Janis Reeser
AI-assisted reporter
Chambersburg Public Opinion
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

The Franklin County Treasurer’s Office has been honored with the 90+ cashVest Award for 2025 for its leadership in public finance liquidity management, according to a community announcement. The award marks the second consecutive year the office has received this recognition. The award is given through a collaboration between the National Association of Counties and three+one, a financial-technology firm that evaluates cash-management practices within the public sector.

A team effort in Franklin County

Franklin County Treasurer Melody Shuman, chief deputy treasurer Trina Panagos, chief financial officer Teresa Beckner and fiscal director Janelle Frieese were credited for their hard work in achieving this recognition. “I am privileged to work alongside such a dedicated team in driving financial success for Franklin County,” Shuman said in the announcement. To earn the award, the office maintained a cashVest score of 90 or above for four consecutive quarters, which demonstrates a commitment to effective cash management, improves financial stability and ensures responsible stewardship of public resources.

Leaders in financial management

Matthew Chase, CEO and executive director of the National Association of Counties, praised the recipients for their leadership in liquidity management. **See AWARD, Page 3A**

Roofing Done Right The First Time!

0% Financing

• Repairs and Replacement

New Roofing Special!

SAVE UP TO \$3000
On Your New Roof*

Save \$1000 on 10 sq. \$2000 on 20 sq. \$3000 on 30 sq. Restrictions apply.

• Lifetime Warranty

FREE Shingle Upgrade

• 45 Years of Excellence

• FREE Premium Shingle Upgrade

We do replacements and repairs right the first time!

4.8 Stars ★★★★★
19,935 Google Reviews

Scan for More Info

PJ Fitzpatrick
WINDOWS • ROOFING • SIDING • DOORS • BATHS

223-250-3754

*Financing offers a no payment - no interest feature (during the "promotional period") on your purchase at an APR of 13.99% in PA and 23.99% in DE, MD, DC, VA, NY, and NJ. No finance charges will accrue on your account during the promotional period, as set forth in your Truth in Lending Disclosures, and you will not have to pay a monthly payment until the promotional period has ended. If you repay your purchase in full before the end of the promotional period, you will not have to pay any finance charges. You may also prepay your account at any time without penalty. Financing is subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. Normal late charges apply once the promotional period has ended. Offers expire 09/30/25. MD HIC #130457 MD Licensed Plumber #98756 PA HIC #PA011323 DE HIC #2009603070 NJ HIC #13VH10727200 NJ Plumbing Lic David Geiger # 36B01232300 DC HIC #420223000113 VA HIC #2705189558 Suffolk NY# HI-61468 Nassau NY# 151702 NYC# 2128461-DCWP

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to publicopiniononline.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

Volume 157, Issue 130
Subscribe 717-264-6164
©2025 \$4.00