

SIRIANNI:  
I NEED TO  
HELP MORE  
ON OFFENSE  
SPORTS | PAGE B1



DISNEY ON  
ICE SHOWS  
SET JAN. 8-11  
AT ARENA  
WEEKEND | PAGE A4

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# The Citizens’ Voice

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## SEAFOOD SALES REMAIN STEADY

New Year’s Eve staples stable; king crab leg price skyrockets



Wyatt Cooper works behind counter at the outdoor seafood market at Cooper’s Seafood House in Scranton on Tuesday. PHOTOS BY SEAN MCKEAG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## POLICE: SUSPECT HAD BIG WEAPONS CACHE

Authorities say rape suspect possessed weapons of mass destruction, machine gun

By Bob Kalinowski  
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During a manhunt in September for a rape suspect from Ross Twp., state police discovered a cache of pipe bombs, grenades and other weapons, including a machine gun, according to charges filed.

Ryan McDermott, 40, is now facing charges of possession of weapons of mass destruction and related crimes.

Police launched a manhunt for McDermott in September on allegations he raped and impregnated a 17-year-old girl who he supplied with alcohol and marijuana in local hotels.

In that case, he is charged with rape, rape of an impaired person, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, sexual assault, unlawful restraint, recording child sex acts, possessing and disseminating images depicting child sexual abuse, corruption of a minor and criminal use of a communication facility.

While awaiting a preliminary hearing in that case, state police on Monday charged



McDermott

See WEAPONS on Page A7

## CRESTWOOD New-look board adds another new member

By Christopher Doyle  
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WRIGHT TWP. — To find its sixth new school board member in three months, Crestwood is turning to a leader at a neighboring school district.

The Crestwood Board of Education appointed Patrick Patte III, an assistant to the superintendent at Hazleton Area School District, to its vacant board seat at a special meeting Monday night. The vote for Patte was unanimous among all eight remaining members of the school board. Contacted Tuesday afternoon, Patte said said his priority on the school board would be “to give the students of the district the best opportunities possible.”

“Whether it’s academically or facility-wise, (my priority) is to make sure they have great opportunities and that we provide them the

See BOARD on Page A7

## Where are the wackiest New Year’s Eve drops in the US?

By John Seewer  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Why let New York City have all the fun with its Times Square ball drop on New Year’s Eve?

Dozens of places across the U.S. will ring in 2026 by dropping a quirky assortment of fruits, vegetables, sea creatures and balls of all shapes and sizes.

Many have a hometown flair. There’s the giant cheese wedge in Plymouth, Wisconsin, a chile pepper in Las Cruces, New Mexico, a pinecone in Flagstaff, Arizona, and

a conch shell in Key West, Florida.

Pennsylvania is home to a bonanza of bizarre New Year’s Eve events — the bologna drop in Lebanon, the pickle drop in Dillsburg and the potato chip drop in Lewistown.

It’s a New Year’s tradition that goes back to 1907 when a 700-pound ball measuring five feet in diameter debuted in Times Square.

Copycat celebrations have surged coast to coast over the past few decades and around the beginning of the new millennium.

FRUITY TRADITIONS  
ON NEW YEAR’S EVE

It’s said in some cultures that eating fruit on New Year’s Eve brings luck and wealth. Perhaps that’s why many cities mix fruit into their celebrations. Miami has its “Big Orange” drop, while Sarasota, Florida, features a pineapple. There are cherry drops in Milwaukie, Oregon, and Traverse City, Michigan. Brightly lit grapes plunge from above in Temecula, California. Atlanta this year is replacing its peach drop with a “digital drone peach in the sky.”

BEACH BALLS  
AND FLIP-PEPS

It’s tough to beat ringing in the year while watching a pair of sparkly flip-flops diving into Folly Beach, South Carolina. In Panama City Beach, Florida, there’s an evening-long bash where 15,000 beach balls are dropped above revelers just hours before a giant beach ball descends a tower at midnight.

MOONPIES AND  
A GIANT PEEP

What could be better than

See PARTY on Page A6



The PEEPS® Chick rings in the new year at the 7th annual PEEPSFEST® at SteelStacks on Dec. 31, 2015, in Bethlehem, Pa. (JEFF FUSCO/AP IMAGES FOR JUST BORN QUALITY CONFECTIONS)

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WEATHER FORECAST  
TODAY H:29 L:17 THU. H:24 L:11 FRI. H:27 L:19  
Full weather report B6

### INDEX

Business .....C1  
Classified .....C2-6  
Community ..... A2, A8

Crossword ..... B4  
Horoscopes..... B4  
Lottery..... A2

Obituaries .....A9-10  
Opinion .....A11  
Sports ..... B1-6



6 09064 32459 8