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Erie Times-News

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Sister Margaret Ann Hardner dies at 95

Nun known for decades of service in Erie

Dana Massing and David Bruce
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Before Sister Margaret Ann Hardner taught Catholic schoolchildren and led an Erie hospital, she was a girl who loved swimming at the peninsula. She loved the water so much that long after she left the classroom and boardroom, she was still going to the YMCA. She loved traveling and climbed

Mount Kilimanjaro, boated down the Amazon, rode the canals of Venice and walked along the Great Wall of China. Hardner also loved recognizing people who had overcome adversity and helping people in India and the members of her religious community here. Hardner, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania and the former CEO of Erie's Saint Vincent Health Center, died Oct. 3 at the age of 95. "While she cared greatly for the hospital, she also had a great concern for

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Sister Margaret Ann Hardner, shown in 2009 when she celebrated her 60th anniversary with the Sisters of St. Joseph, has died. The former CEO of Saint Vincent Health Center was 95. PROVIDED BY SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

Community CONNECTIONS

Erie police bring back Citizens Police Academy, Police Explorers

Tim Hahn Erie Times-News | USA TODAY NETWORK

Erie police have resurrected two former programs in an effort to educate the community on what the department and its members do and to strengthen relationships with the people they serve. • Police Chief Rick Lorah told members of Erie City Council during a budget study session Sept. 10 that the department is re-launching its Citizens Police Academy, and that the Erie Police Explorers program is back for the first time in five or six years.

Lorah listed those items during a discussion with council on the city police bureau's community policing efforts, which he said includes the Erie Police Athletic League, ride-along programs and internships, and the Mayor's Council on Community Safety and Trust.

Bringing back both programs will help educate people on the functions of the department, where its members can explain the processes and policies and the reasons behind them, Lorah said, adding that there seems to be a lot of incorrect information out there

Citizens Police Academy

The Citizens Police Academy was created in 1996 and ran annually until 2014, when it ended due to lack of participation. It was then a 12-week program held over the winter months. The academy returned in 2015, but was moved to the fall and was reduced to five weeks. It ended again when the city and police

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The Erie Police Explorers, a program for those 14 to 20 who have an interest in pursuing a career in law enforcement, has relaunched under the guidance of city police officers.

PROVIDED BY THE ERIE POLICE EXPLORERS

GETTY IMAGES

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Nursing school returns to AHN Saint Vincent after 27 years

David Bruce
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

AHN Saint Vincent is opening a nursing school, 27 years after the Erie hospital closed its first one. A satellite campus of the AHN Citizens School of Nursing will open in January with 24 students, Saint Vincent officials announced Oct. 6. Unlike students in the early years of the former Saint Vincent School of Nursing, those who attend the new school will not live at the hospital. They also won't be full-time students. Members of the initial class are scheduled to graduate in 32 months as registered nurses, compared to 22 months for full-time students. "This is geared toward people who are already working full time or who are raising a family," said Jill Muir, R.N., Saint Vincent's chief nursing officer. "They will attend class one night a week and work clinicals every other weekend." Saint Vincent still suffers a nursing shortage, though staffing isn't as low as it was during the COVID-19 pandemic, Muir said. The hospital uses fewer agency nurses than it did four and five years ago, but would like to rely solely on employed nurses. UPMC Hamot was in a similar position when it opened the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot in 2021. It has since graduated 273 nurses, with 75% of them working for UPMC. "We are seeing more students going to nursing schools (nationwide) but we are seeing an increase in older nurses retiring," Muir said. "The shortage isn't

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