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THE EVENING SUN

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026 | EVENINGSUN.COM

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Teen firefighters show off skills at academy



Junior firefighters check their equipment prior to family night at the 2026 Adams County Cadet Academy at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services, July 23, in Straban Township. PHOTOS BY HARRISON JONES/THE EVENING SUN

Harrison Jones
Hanover Evening Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

The next generation of local firefighters demonstrated their skills to family and friends during the 2026 Adams County Cadet Academy’s family night at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services on Thursday, July 23, 2026.

Twenty junior firefighters from fire stations in York and Adams counties, along with Maryland’s Frederick County, participated in the 2026 iteration of the

annual program. The program is open to any members of fire departments between the ages of 14 and 17 that have school-issued work permits.

Designed as a combination of a high school summer camp and of a fire academy, the week-long program includes daily physical fitness training, uniform inspections, classroom lectures, hands-on drilling, and plenty of team building exercises for the youth.

Near the conclusion of the week, the junior firefighters show off their skills to

See ACADEMY, Page 2A



A junior firefighter waves to family and friends from a ladder truck during family night for the 2026 Adams County Cadet Academy at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services.

J&K SALVAGE

Scrapyard violated child labor laws

Commonwealth Court: Minor employees faced danger

Mike Argento
York Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

J&K Salvage and its owner Joe Darrah have been found to be in violation of labor laws by permitting four York School of Technology students who were employed by the salvage yard “in a hazardous industry, without the required approvals, approved safety training and oversight by the school they attended,” according to a Commonwealth Court ruling.

A hearing examiner for the state Department of Labor and Industry wrote in a report quoted in the ruling, “This is one of the most serious violations under a law meant to protect minors.”

The examiner noted that the seriousness of the violation was underscored by the fact that the day Labor and Industry inspectors showed up at the salvage yard to conduct their investigation in September 2023, a propane cylinder had exploded in the shredder. Investigators were deterred from inspecting the shredder that day because of the explosion, according to the court ruling.

“The need to protect minors in hazardous industries was coincidentally, but amply, borne out on the day of the Bureau’s inspection by the explosion in the shredder machine — a machine several of the minors regularly repaired,” the hearing examiner wrote. “Setting up, repairing, operating,

See CHILD LABOR, Page 2A

Vandals damage Kids Kingdom Playground; police seek info

Anthony Maenza
Hanover Evening Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

Penn Township Police are seeking the public’s help as officers investigate a vandalism incident at the township’s Kids Kingdom Playground.

According to a police statement, the vandalism happened between 8:20 p.m.

and 8:40 p.m. Sunday, July 26, at the Kids Kingdom Playground in the Penn Township Community Park in the 4600 block of Grandview Road in Penn Township.

Police say serious damage was done to the shrubbery and playground equipment at the playground.

Witnesses reported a white Dodge pickup that was occupied by two teens,

a boy and a girl, was in the area.

More than 20 bushes were ripped from the ground stuffed into the playground slide and parts of the playground equipment were disassembled., police said.

At the park on Tuesday morning, July 28, the remains of a row of bushes were visible along the edge of the park, and playground equipment appeared to

have been repaired following the vandalism.

Anyone with information about the teens involved, vehicle details, photos, video, or any other details related to this incident is asked to contact Penn Township Police detectives at: cid@pennpolice.com.

All tipsters may remain anonymous, police said.



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