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MORNING CALL

When will Bethlehem Co-op Market open?

Pandemic, inflation behind delay, as some voice concerns

By Lindsay Weber
The Morning Call

The Bethlehem Co-op Market, an initiative founded in 2011 and originally set to open in 2022, has yet to welcome customers to its

north Bethlehem store, despite millions of dollars raised for the community-owned grocery effort. The delays have prompted public questions and speculation about the co-op's finances, although market leaders say that financial challenges from the pandemic and inflation are behind the delays, and that money has been spent appropriately. The Morning Call toured the

co-op facility in 2024, at which point leaders said they plan to open their doors this year. However, the co-op has since pushed back its opening date indefinitely. A grocery co-op is a business model where anyone can buy a store "membership" and have an ownership stake in the store. Although anyone can shop there, not just members, a \$300 one-time co-op membership

grants discounts, voting rights on the store's offerings, and equity if and when the store is profitable. The store will offer products from brands that are exclusive to grocery co-ops, which also allows the store to source its merchandise at a lower price than regular grocery stores. It also will carry items from local farmers and producers. The Co-op's location, at 240 E Broad St. in the city's

"Northside Alive" neighborhood, is considered a food desert, so its opening will help increase its neighbors' access to fresh groceries. Domenic Breiningner, chair of the co-op market board, said the final hurdle the co-op faces toward setting an opening date is finding a contractor that can connect the

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AMY SHORTELL/THE MORNING CALL PHOTOS

ALLENTOWN ROADS

Center Square redesign begins

Construction takes place Wednesday at Seventh and Hamilton streets in Allentown. The city recently announced the start of lane restrictions as part of the redesign of Center Square. The initial phase of work involves waterline upgrades necessary to support the \$6.5 million project, which will reduce travel lanes and create a plaza-like space around the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.



Stop feeding cats, they said, but 'where else are they going to go?'

By Anthony Salamone
The Morning Call

For the last several years, Kathy Reidy has been in charge of meals for nearly a dozen cats. One is Paddy, her pet. The shy-around-strangers feline lives in Reidy's home, among loads of cat memorabilia. The other 10 or so live outside. Feeding them makes her a scoff-law in the eyes of the owner of the mobile home park where she lives. This month, management at Greenbriar Village in East Allen Township told Reidy to stop feeding the stray felines or risk being assessed a \$25 fine on top of the rent she pays for the ground beneath her mobile home. She said it was the first time the development threatened to impose a fee. Greenbriar Village is not alone in its stray cat problem: The Lehigh Valley is teeming with free-roaming, community cats at



Kathy Reidy and Larry Vandever, CEO and president of the Coalition for Feral Cats of Lehigh Valley, sit inside Reidy's home in East Allen Township on Friday. Reidy lives in the Greenbriar Village mobile home park, which has been inundated with feral cats. Vandever is trying to help Reidy address the problem. AMY SHORTELL/THE MORNING CALL

a variety of locations. Reidy said she tried numerous animal-rescue places for help getting the feral cats to find new

COALITION FOR FERAL CATS OF LEHIGH VALLEY
Contact Larry Vandever at 484-241-5981, p.vandever@yahoo.com, or go to the coalition's website, coalitionforferalcatsoflv.com.

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Fetterman sides with Republicans on ending the filibuster

Says goal is to reopen the government because everyday Americans are suffering

By Alfred Lubrano and Julia Terruso
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Sen. John Fetterman, D-Pa., said he'd back a Republican plan to override the Senate filibuster if it meant passing a bill to reopen the government. In an interview with The Inquirer Tuesday, Fetterman admonished fellow Democrats who balk at the notion of using the so-called "nuclear option" to end the filibuster: "When I ran for Senate, everyone including myself said we've got to get rid of the filibuster. I don't want to see any Democrats clutching their pearls about it now. "If we'd had our way, the filibuster wouldn't have been around for years." A traditional staple of the Senate that's long been debated, the filibuster requires 60 votes to pass most legislation in the Senate. Republicans have long vowed to protect the filibuster, noting that the 60-vote threshold presents a check on Democrats when they have the majority but it's now the rule standing in the way

of their government funding bill. And in recent months, leaders have made moves to further weaken the minority party's power, including bypassing the need to get Democratic support to confirm a slate of President Donald Trump's nominees last month. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., has thus far said he won't use the same tactic to reopen the government. Fetterman's comments on Tuesday followed several Republicans floating the idea of getting rid of the filibuster in recent days. Fetterman is one of three members of the Democratic caucus who voted with Republicans to reopen the government earlier this month, joining Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada and Angus King, a Maine independent. "If you look at my record, I've been voting the Democratic line, but this is different now. The tactic is wrong," Fetterman said. He said his main concern is the possibility that people in the state and across the country would face hunger if the federal government shutdown continues and Americans lose their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits beginning Nov. 1. "Nobody checks their political party when they're hungry," he said. "It's not about a political side

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US military expands boat strikes to Pacific

Official: 2 or 3 dead on suspected drug vessel off Colombia's coast

By Eric Schmitt and Charlie Savage
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military attacked another vessel that the government suspected was carrying drugs, but for the first time struck a boat in the eastern Pacific Ocean off the coast of Colombia rather than in the Caribbean Sea, a U.S. official said Wednesday. The strike, late Tuesday, killed two or three people on the boat, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss operational matters. This was the eighth known strike that U.S. Special Operations forces have conducted since Sept. 2, when the military, on President Donald Trump's orders, began killing people aboard boats believed to be smuggling drugs as if they were enemy combatants in a war rather than criminal suspects. The administration has previously acknowledged seven strikes, which it said have killed 32 people. It has not yet announced the latest strike, which was reported earlier by CBS News. The Trump administration's policy of attacking suspected drug runners began with a focus on Venezuela. Officials are also weighing whether to intensify an effort to remove Venezuela's president, Nicolás Maduro, who was indicted on drug trafficking charges in the United States in 2020 and whom the Trump team calls a cartel leader. But in the interim, the boat attacks have increasingly encompassed Colombia, which is a far greater source of narcotics smuggled to the United States than Venezuela. Colombian President Gustavo Petro has said several strikes had killed Colombians and accused the United States of murder. Trump has said he was cutting off foreign aid to Colombia in response.

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