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SUNDAY

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Weather, Sports 12



Motorcyclists arrive for the last Tucker Toy Run for St. Luke's pediatric patients on Saturday at St. Luke's University Hospital in Fountain Hill. JANE THERESE/PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE MORNING CALL

Motorcyclists make one last ride for kids

Final Tucker's Toy Run brings donations to St. Luke's hospital

By Chris Dornblaser
The Morning Call

In 2011, Rick Nauman started a toy drive for St. Luke's University Hospital pediatric patients, named Tucker's Toy Run in honor of his friend Tucker Stuart, who died in a motorcycle crash that year.

In that first year, roughly 60 motorcyclists left from the Tri-Boro Sportsmen Club in Northampton Borough with a collection of about 100 toys to drop off at St. Luke's Bethlehem location.

On Saturday, Nauman led about 1,000 motorcyclists to drop off another load of toys for the final time.

"It's wild to me that there's this many people here to support this cause," Nauman told the crowd. "It's crazy, it's just overwhelming."

Turn to Toy run, Page 2



Volunteers help to unload toys during the last Tucker Toy Run for St. Luke's pediatric patients on Saturday.

DA relies on defense lawyer experience when distributing opioid deal money



Rachel Ellison, a social worker with the BRACE program, chats Oct. 21 with Seven James, 5, and Sharon Yehle, 12, at Family Wash Day in Allentown. LAURIE MASON SCHROEDER/SPECIAL TO THE MORNING CALL

By Laurie Mason Schroeder
Special to The Morning Call

To understand the impact of the \$2 billion opioid lawsuit settlement that has brought a flow of cash into Lehigh County since 2022, look to the floor of center city Allentown's busiest laundromat.

Tuesday is free laundry day at Family Wash Day on Linden Street, with nonprofits on hand offering counseling while a St. Luke's Hospital mobile unit provides medical services to the city's homeless and at-risk community. The weekly event is coordinated by the Loads of Blessings ministry.

Many of the people who stream into the laundromat carrying baskets and rolling suitcases full of dirty clothes bring their kids. And those children are not always well supervised.

"The first thing that stood out to me when I started coming here was the children," said Sheniqua Mitchell, outreach manager at Bloom For Women, a faith-based anti-human-trafficking organization. "They were sleeping on the floor under the tables. Some of the parents were using drugs and the kids were left alone, where they could be a target for sex offenders."

Turn to Settlement, Page 2

Government closure reaches inflection point

Millions in US face ACA price hikes as SNAP delays loom

By Stephen Groves, Ali Swenson and Susan Haigh
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The crises at the heart of the government shutdown fight in Washington were coming to a head Saturday as the federal food assistance program faced delays and millions of Americans were set to see a dramatic rise in their health insurance bills.

The impacts on basic needs — food and medical care — underscored how the impasse is hitting homes across the United States. Plans by the Trump administration to freeze payments to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on Saturday were halted by federal judges, but the delay in payouts will still likely leave millions of people short on their grocery bills.

It all added to the strain on the country, with a month of missed paychecks for federal workers and growing air travel delays. The shutdown is already the second longest in history and entered its second month Saturday.

"This is more than a crisis," said the Rev. John Udo-Onkon, who runs the Word of Life Christian Fellowship International food pantry in the Bronx, where hundreds more people than usual lined up in the New York City borough as early as 4 a.m. Saturday to collect groceries.

ies. "Right now, you can see the desperation, you can feel the frustration that the people are going through."

But in Washington, there was little urgency to end the impasse. Lawmakers are away from Capitol Hill and both parties are entrenched in their positions.

The House has not met for legislative business in more than six weeks, while Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., closed his chamber for the week-end after bipartisan talks failed to achieve significant progress.

The stalemate appears increasingly unsustainable as President Donald Trump demands action and Democratic leaders warn that an uproar over rising health insurance costs will force Congress to act.

The Department of Agriculture planned to withhold \$8 billion needed for payments to the food program starting Saturday until two federal judges ordered the administration to make them. Trump said he would provide the money but wanted more legal direction from the court.

On Saturday, U.S. District Judge John J. McConnell in Rhode Island ordered that the government needed to tell the court by Monday how it would fund SNAP accounts. McConnell, who was nominated by President Barack Obama, said the Trump administration needed to either make a full payment by Monday, or if it decides to only tap

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INSIDE

Liberty to the semis

Fourth-seeded Liberty football completes sweep of Freedom, advances to the 6A semifinals for first time since 2015. Sports, Page 1

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