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## A SUMMERTIME HAVEN

Pennsylvania's Chautauqua draws in lifelong learners



A sign on Pinch Road welcomes motorists to the town of Mount Gretna on Aug. 6. PHOTOS BY MARK SCOLFORO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Whistleblower: Shapiro admin retaliated over elder abuse system claims

High-level Department  
of Aging staffer to sue

By Angela Couloumbis  
SPOTLIGHT PA

HARRISBURG — A high-level Pennsylvania Department of Aging staffer claims the agency is retaliating against him for being a whistleblower and raising alarms about the state's failures in protecting older adults from abuse and neglect. He's now notified top Shapiro administration officials that he intends to sue.

In a demand letter sent to Gov. Josh Shapiro and other high-ranking officials, Aging Services Supervisor Richard Llewellyn alleges department brass thwarted his efforts to assist investigations by outside agencies, including the Office of State Inspector General, into the quality of older adult protective services around Pennsylvania.

Llewellyn also alleges that top department officials purposely suppressed or manipulated data to shield problems when responding to public records requests. One top aging official, Llewellyn contends, even bragged about his ability to exploit loopholes to dodge having to turn over complete and accurate data.

When he objected to and later reported the alleged wrongdoing to other state officials, Llewellyn said he was subjected to a "campaign of retaliation," including targeted administrative complaints and investigations. He said he was also stripped of work duties

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## Networking, adaptability can make a difference for new workers

By Cathy Bussewitz  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Growing up as the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica, Stacey Watson didn't see herself in the characters of the books she read. Now 28, she wants to be a book editor who helps promote a more diverse range of story protagonists so her nieces and other young people feel represented.

But an entry-level job in publishing has proven elusive. Two years after earning her master's degree, with four internships and several part-time jobs under her belt, Watson hasn't landed a full-time staff position. She lives with her parents in Brooklyn to make ends meet.

"You're hoping every year is the year you can tell your parents, 'I got the full-time job,

See JOBS on Page A2

By Mark Scoloro  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOUNT GRETNA — It takes a 54-page pamphlet to list all the classes, concerts, outdoor recreation and other self-improvement and entertainment going on at the Pennsylvania Chautauqua in Mount Gretna this summer.

The area springs to life every June, July and August, when a year-round population of about 1,000 more than doubles and thousands more crowd in for big events. The picturesque front porches that define the town are abuzz with energetic cottagers who punctuate their days with cooking lessons, nature walks, yoga, professorial lectures, music and plays.

In short, it's kind of a summer camp for the sort of people who want to fit in a lecture on the Marquis de Lafayette between a bird watching walk and a bluegrass duo performance on a random July day.

"Some people don't last, but most of the people who understand it, love it," said Bonnie Harvey, who has lived full-time in Mount Gretna since she and her husband, Dave, sold a bed-and-breakfast inn in a nearby town. "If you're bored, it's your own fault."

### AS MANY QUIRKS AS PEOPLE

Summertime get-togethers known as Chautauquas were practically a craze more than a century ago. A program for Christian Sunday school teachers along Lake Chautauqua in New York soon became a movement, energized by early alcohol prohibitionists, book club reading circles and a demand for scien-



Retired cardiologist Dr. Joe Bering teaches himself flute on the front porch of his cottage in the Campmeeting section of Mount Gretna on Aug. 6.

tific and literary awareness. Eventually they brought education, entertainment and a dose of religion to communities across the Northeast and Great Lakes, into Canada and beyond.

What they all had in common, said Jon Schmitz, an archivist and historian at the original Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York, was "the good use of leisure time."

Traveling "tent" Chautauquas soon developed, and by one account the programs reached millions of people before the movement peaked in 1907 and largely died out as priorities

changed during the Great Depression.

Although the great majority of the Chautauquas are long gone, Mount Gretna got a second wind in the 1970s with the establishment of a successful art show and a highly regarded chamber music and jazz concert series. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it's been thriving ever since.

These days, Mount Gretna can seem to have as many quirks as it does people. Described as "Culture Gulch"

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## Experts: This air conditioning strategy is the sweet spot for saving energy and money

By Kiki Sideris  
and Isabella O'Malley  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Having air conditioning at home is a luxury that keeps people comfortable during the hottest months of the year, and it's debated whether the AC should stay blasting or be turned off when people head to work during the day.

Some swear that turning off the AC when they're gone for a few hours is the most

energy-efficient, cost-saving method. Others say it's better to leave it running continuously, preventing the system from straining to rapidly cool the house down after the home has gotten warmer throughout the day.

Three experts interviewed by The Associated Press agreed that setting the thermostat a few degrees higher than normal while you're away is generally the best way to balance energy efficiency

against comfort and humidity.

While turning an AC unit off for several hours and turning it back on typically saves money and energy compared to continuously running it, that approach can lead to mold problems in humid environments as well as wear and tear that can cause more frequent repairs. The equation can also vary depending on other factors including comfort level, AC unit type and building insulation.

### AIR CONDITIONING STRATEGIES DIFFER IN HUMID OR DRY CLIMATES

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, adjusting your thermostat by 7-10 degrees Fahrenheit for eight hours a day can save up to 10% a year on heating and cooling. Experts say there are a lot of factors to consider when deciding what AC habits save the most energy and money.

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Total Refrigeration service tech Michael Villa works on replacing a fan motor on an air conditioning unit on July 19, 2023, in Phoenix. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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