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# REPUBLICAN HERALD

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**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY**

## SHAPING THE FUTURE

Youth Summit prepares students for roles in community, nonprofits



Students participating in the Schuylkill County Youth Summit pose for a group photo at Penn State Schuylkill on Monday. **HYUN SOO LEE/STAFF PHOTOS**

By **Hyun Soo Lee**  
 HLEE@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM

**SCHUYLKILL HAVEN** — Nearly 100 area high school students participated in the annual Schuylkill County Youth Summit on Monday, an interactive learning experience about nonprofits, community service and the county's future.

The event, held at Penn State Schuylkill, is designed to build future leaders in the local workforce, government and communities and to open their eyes to the myriad opportunities available to them in Schuylkill County after graduating from high school.

Sponsored by Schuylkill Connects and the Schuylkill County Commissioners, this year's Youth Summit drew students from 14 public and private schools. The theme was giving back to the community, said Mandy Fitzpatrick, executive director of Schuylkill Connects.

"With the whole goal of the kids spending the next year thinking about how they can give back through organizations that are doing that in the community, we're encouraging them to use their skills," she said. "Is it fundraising? Is it helping them with their social media? Taking pictures of them? Is it volunteering at their facility?"

Fitzpatrick said students had many opportunities to learn about the topics throughout the year, including at the Schuylkill County Youth Summit Volunteer Fair in November and through community service projects with their schools. They applied for mini-grants that they could use toward their projects, which included food pantries, sensory gardens and donations of feminine products, Fitzpatrick said.



Amanda Campbell, executive director of the Schuylkill Area Community Foundation, talks about the importance of philanthropy and volunteering for nonprofits during her keynote speech at Monday's Schuylkill County Youth Summit in the Student Community Center at Penn State Schuylkill.

County commissioners Gary Hess and Boots Hetherington, along with state Sen. David G. Argall, R-29th District, and state Rep. Tim Twardzik, R-123rd District, provided opening remarks in the Student Community Center.

Afterward, representatives from each school shared community service projects they worked on throughout the year.

The event proceeded with a series of workshops and a panel with four guests: Ben Forbes, an attorney with Williamsberg, Friedberg and Jones; Evelyn Datte, district coordinator for Congressman

Dan Meuser; Sabrina McLaughlin, regional representative for U.S. Sen. John Fetterman; and Becky Woods, director of marketing and programs at the Schuylkill United Way.

Forbes, a member of the United Way, spoke about public meetings and the experience of serving on a nonprofit's board of directors. Datte and McLaughlin's segments focused on bipartisanship, while Woods spoke about the United Way's Day of Caring, an annual volunteer initiative to support local organizations.

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**LANSFORD**

## Body found near No. 9 Coal Mine

Police are investigating

By **Olivia Schlinkman**  
 OSCHLINKMAN@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM

A person was found dead near Panther Creek and No. 9 Coal Mine in Lansford Borough on Saturday.

According to a press release, the Carbon County Coroner's Office received a report of a deceased individual found by the museum and adjacent Panther Creek around 2:44 p.m.

Upon arriving on the scene, the individual was located and pronounced dead at 5:22 p.m. The identity of the decedent is being withheld at this time.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with this family during their time of loss," the Coroner's Office posted to Facebook Sunday evening. "We respectfully ask that you keep their loved ones in your thoughts as they navigate this difficult period."

The Coroner's Office says the decedent has been positively identified through fingerprint analysis performed by the FBI's Disaster Victim Identification Squad.

Further information, including the cause and manner of death, will be available upon the completion of an autopsy, which is planned for April 21. Forensic Pathology Associates at the Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center in Allentown will conduct the examination.

The situation is currently under investigation by the Coroner's Office, Pennsylvania State Police, Lansford Borough Police Department and the Carbon County District Attorney's Office.

The museum, which opened for the season on April 1, is the site of a coal mine that operated from 1855-1972.

## Mother and 6 children killed in explosion and fire at Pa. home

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MILL HALL** — An Amish woman and her six children ranging in age from 3 to 11 were killed in a swift-moving house fire after an explosion that shook nearby houses in rural northcentral Pennsylvania, authorities said.

Firefighters responding to a report of an explosion and fire at a home in Lamar Township in Clinton County near Mill Hall on Sunday morning said seven people were trapped, but they couldn't search the house engulfed in flames, Pennsylvania State Police said in a statement.

All seven died. Police identified them as Sarah Stoltzfus, 34, four sons, ages 11, 10, 5 and 3, and two daughters, ages 8 and 6.

An obituary posted online by a local funeral home identified Stoltzfus as a member of the

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## Trump offers mixed messages about path ahead for US war against Iran

By **Aamer Madhani, Munir Ahmed and Russ Bynum**  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

**WASHINGTON** — President Donald Trump offered mixed messages Monday about the path ahead for the U.S. war against Iran, declaring that he was in no rush to end the conflict while also expressing confidence that further negotiations with Tehran will soon take place in Pakistan.

With the 14-day ceasefire set to expire Wednesday, Trump whipsawed in telephone interviews and social media posts between measured optimism that a deal could soon be reached and warning that "lots of bombs" will "start going off" if there's no agreement before the ceasefire deadline.

Trump indicated that he still expects to dispatch his negotiating team, led by Vice President JD Vance, to Paki-

stan's capital of Islamabad for a second round of talks, even as Iran insisted it would not take part until Trump dialed back his demands. Trump insisted he feels no pressure to end the war until Iran agrees to his terms.

"I am under no pressure whatsoever," Trump said on his Truth Social platform, "although, it will all happen, relatively quickly!"

Pakistani officials moved ahead with preparations for a new round

of talks between the U.S. and Iran as the tenuous ceasefire was further strained over the weekend by renewed conflict around the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump told Bloomberg News he was "highly unlikely" to renew the ceasefire.

**IRAN HOLDS OUT ON RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS**  
 Tensions flared after the U.S.

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A U.S. Air Force Boeing C-32 plane approaches landing at Nur Khan airbase ahead of second round of negotiations between the U.S. and Iran, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Monday. **EHSAN SHAHZAD/ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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