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GET READY TO SKI

Season underway, approaching for Northeast Pennsylvania resorts



Snow machines cover the slopes at Montage Mountain Resorts in Scranton on Wednesday. PHOTOS BY REBECCA PARTICKA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Robert Tomkavage
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After a fresh coat of natural snow blanketed the region Tuesday, one area ski resort opened for the winter season Wednesday and two others moved closer to welcoming customers.

Charles Jefferson, part-owner of Montage Mountain in Scranton, felt grateful for the 4 inches of snow that fell on the trails as officials aim to open the resort this weekend.

“God’s helping us out a lot,” Jefferson said.

Jefferson envisions opening by Saturday, if not earlier, barring anything unusual, he said.

“We’ve had some great snow production,” he said. “We started picking up again over the weekend and we’ve been going around the clock since then.”

Camelback Resort in Pocono Twp. opened Wednesday, Director of Marketing Marissa Boyd said.

Two trails and a terrain park will be available from the start, with another trail opening shortly, officials said. The snow tubing park is scheduled to open



A snow machine in operation at Montage Mountain Resorts in on Wednesday.

next week.

Camelback added 32 auto hydrants and 32 stick guns to ensure faster, more consistent snow coverage across the mountain, officials said. The resort’s high-speed Stevenson lift also received major mechan-

ical and electrical improvements for smoother, more reliable operation, resort officials announced.

“Our team has been all-in, and with our new snowmaking enhancements, we’re committed to making as much snow as

possible to deliver a great experience from day one,” Camelback Resort Vice President and General Manager Jason Bays said. “Guests will also notice exciting upgrades around the

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City man charged in Freeland homicide

Provided transportation to one of the other suspects, police allege

By Gregory Adams
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A Hazleton man has been charged in a Freeland shooting that caused the death of an 18-year-old man and injured a 15-year-old early Tuesday in the borough.

Edgar Polanco, 24, is charged with conspiracy to commit criminal homicide as both a principal and accomplice after police determined he provided transportation to one of the other suspects in the shooting.

At approximately 2:22 a.m. Freeland police were called to the Fly Monkey Vape Shop located at 513 Centre St., for reports of shots fired and people running in the street. Upon their arrival, no one was found in the area but numerous shell casings were discovered on the ground.

Shortly after, the Hazle Twp. Fire Company was working a fire in Forest Hills Acres when they were approached by a 2012 Honda Odyssey. The driver informed the fire personnel that he had multiple gunshot victims in his vehicle. Those victims were later identified as Jonas de Jesus Rodriguez and Rafael Sanz, who was later pronounced deceased.

Through security camera footage provided by American Legion Post 473 located directly north of the vape shop and separated by a small alley, State Police at

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Hazleton Area School Board recognizes new members

By Kent Jackson
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HAZLE TWP. — Three new members sworn in to Hazleton Area School Board look familiar.

Wister Yuhus Jr., Jared O’Donnell and Carmella Yenkevich, winners in the Nov. 4 election, all returned to the board after taking time off.

Yuhus left the board two years ago and has been working as Hazleton Area’s security director, a job he left to rejoin the board.

O’Donnell last served on the board in 2017 while Yenkevich has

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