

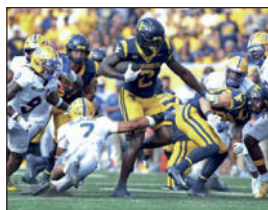
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Regional student-athletes from Forest Hills, Conemaugh Township schools get recognition in weekly feature. B1.



'DIDN'T EXECUTE'

West Virginia rallies in fourth quarter, scores 17 unanswered points to clip Pitt in rare overtime at Backyard Brawl. B2.



The Tribune-Democrat

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MONDAY

\$2.00 NEWSSTAND

Probe of Kirk murder moves forward

Utah gov: Too early to pin down motive, but suspect leaned left

BY NICHOLAS RICCARDI and JOSH BOAK

WASHINGTON – Family and friends of the 22-year-old accused of fatally shooting conservative activist Charlie Kirk described his politics as veering left in recent years as he spent large amounts of time scrolling the “dark corners of the internet,” Utah

Gov. Spencer Cox said Sunday. Investigators were still piecing together information about the suspect, Tyler Robinson, and not yet ready to discuss a potential motive. But Cox noted that Robinson, who is not cooperating with

Please see KIRK, A2



Gov. Josh Shapiro speaks April 13 about an arson fire set at the governor’s residence in Harrisburg.

Political leaders confronting security concerns – and fear

BY STEVE PEOPLES and MIKE CATALINI

MORRISTOWN, N.J. – Even before the killing of Charlie Kirk, Gov. Josh Shapiro was struggling with the emotional toll of political violence. In the middle of the night just

five months ago, someone broke into his home and set it on fire. Shapiro, who is also a likely 2028 Democratic presidential contender, was asleep with his wife and children. And in the weeks since his

Please see SECURITY, A2

Center for Metal Arts conference coming up

Historic hammer at old blacksmith shop slated to be restored

BY DAVE SUTOR

When guests participate in the Cambria Iron Conference Saturday, they will learn about the Center for Metal Arts’ history and mission, including a plan to restore an eight-decade-old, 2,000-pound Chambersburg Engineering Co. air hammer that likely played a role in the nation’s World War II manufacturing effort.

It was purchased by Bethlehem Steel Corp. in 1941 and has remained in the blacksmith shop ever since, including during the time between when the Johnstown mill closed in 1992 and when the CMA started offering classes in February 2018. The Center for Metal Arts recently raised \$50,000 to restore the hammer. That total was matched by a \$50,000 grant from the Arkansas-based Windgate Foundation, bringing the total for the project to \$100,000. “We succeeded very quickly due to the generosity of the greater forging community in America and abroad, and in the Johnstown community, certain people stepped up as well to contribute that understand the importance of what we’re doing from a preservation and

Please see METAL, A2

STEELERS STUMBLE



Seattle Seahawks running back Kenneth Walker III (right) scores a touchdown during Sunday’s game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, with Steelers safety Juan Thornhill in pursuit. The Steelers’ offense failed to find its rhythm, and the Seahawks took advantage of some sloppy play to pull off a 31-17 surprise win in Pittsburgh. Check out full coverage of the game in Sports/B1.

Pennsylvania communities urged to add 9/11 trail signs

Shapiro, state prepare to mark terror attacks’ 25th anniversary in ‘26

BY DAVID HURST

Gov. Josh Shapiro is encouraging communities along the September 11th National Memorial Trail corridor to designate on- and off-road segments, enabling visitors to travel through Pennsylvania toward the 9/11 terrorist attacks’ three main sites.

The state wants to be prepared for the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, next year. The national trail follows the Great Allegheny Passage into Somerset County before heading north toward Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville and proceeding through Johnstown, among other communities, on the way to the Washington, D.C., area and New York City. That includes communities such as Cresson, Richland Township, Hooversville and Windber.

With the 25th anniversary of 9/11 expected to draw increased interest in the event, Shapiro said he’s directed the state Department of Transportation and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to partner with local governments to ensure specific corridors and signs are in place.

The path was designed to follow pre-existing trails, add new trail miles and on-road routes that connect Flight 93 National

Please see TRAIL, A2

New generation of leaders wanted

BY DAVID HURST

For the past 21 years, Leadership Somerset County teams have launched projects across the area, hanging veteran banners in Somerset and refurbishing a Confluence park.

One team’s fundraiser supported efforts to rejuvenate Lake Somerset with a walking trail, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ron Aldom said. But the greater goal for the Chamber’s program is to build a new generation of leaders and change-makers across Somer-



Aldom

Chamber chief seeks program applications

set County, he added. Aldom said outreach efforts are underway encouraging local businesses leaders to sponsor employees for the eight-month session. He said 11 people are already enrolled, but previous classes have hosted as many as 24 people. The program includes one session a month exploring various aspects of Somerset County, including health care, heritage and economic development efforts. One overnight retreat is required as a team-building exercise at the Lodge at Indian Lake Sept. 24-25, he added. “The idea is to get them to learn about the county, network and build relationships,” Aldom said.

The group is divided into small leadership teams that identify needs in Somerset County and projects to address them, with the hope participants will continue serving in their workplaces and communities as civic-minded citizens in the future, he added. Aldom said enrollment in the program has dipped since COVID-19, and he said that is probably because local companies are working with fewer employees than they likely had a decade earlier. “We’ve structured it so they are only away from work one day a month,” in addition to the two-day retreat, Aldom

Please see LEADERS, A2

Candlelight vigil at courthouse honors troops from Somerset County

BY DAVE SUTOR

SOMERSET – More than 350 luminarias, each with the name of a current military member from Somerset County written on the white bag, flickered in the darkness from the Somerset County Courthouse steps Saturday. The tribute was part of the Somerset County Military Family Support Group’s annual candlelight vigil to honor the county’s active military service members.

Support group’s annual ceremony held for 22nd year

Dozens of residents gathered for the event that included speeches, prayers and music. “By your very presence, you demonstrate that the service of the men and women represented by the shining lights before us are remembered tonight and every day by their families, their community and their county,” said Somerset County Commissioner Pamela Tokar-Ickes, the vigil’s emcee, “and that their

service is honored and appreciated, and that although they are not here physically with us tonight, they are very much with us during this ceremony and by all we do.” It was the 22nd year for the annual ceremony. “It’s an honor for us to be able to do it truly and to be going this long. ... It’s a privilege – it really is – to be able to still honor them and recognize them for their ser-

vice,” said Kaylyn Brant, the support group’s vice president. Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Neil Hoffman delivered the keynote address, saying, “There’s absolutely no place more patriotic and more God-fearing than where we are right here in Somerset County.” “A veteran is someone who at one point in his life wrote a

Please see VIGIL, A2



Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Neil Hoffman delivers a speech during the Candlelight Vigil to Honor Somerset County’s Military Service Members Saturday at the Somerset County Courthouse in Somerset.

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FRANCES LECHAK!
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LOTTERY

Sunday’s Cash 4 Life
08-13-14-26-38
Cash Ball: 2
More Lottery numbers: B10

SPORTS

No. 2 Penn State rolls over FCS foe Villanova, 52-6. B2.

Public Notice inside today

Lower Yoder Township supervisors set meeting. B7.

And on our website at: <https://marketplace.tribune-democrat.com/johnstown-pa/public-notices/search>

WEATHER

Partly sunny and pleasant today. High 77, low 55. Five-day forecast/B10