

SWIFT VICTORIES

Bishop McCort alum Forrest advances at NCAA Division I wrestling championships; two other regional graduates prevail. B1.



ON THE MARKET

Are you looking for a new house? Check out the properties listed in today's Real Estate section. B6.



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FRIDAY

\$2.50 NEWSSTAND

Golden win for Berlin

Girls' team repeats as champions in Class 2A

BY MIKE MASTOVICH
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HERSHEY - The Berlin Brothersvalley High School girls basketball team repeated as PIAA Class 2A champion in a 55-39 victory over Neshannock Thursday afternoon at the Giant Center.

The District 5 champion Mountaineers (26-5) used a tight defense and timely shooting to build a lead, then fought off the District 7 champion Lancers (26-4) in front of a large crowd that included plenty of blue-clad Mountaineers fans.

Find complete coverage of the Berlin Brothersvalley girls' state championship victory in the Sports section on Page B1.

"It's so special to have the community behind us," Berlin coach Rachel Prosser said.

"No matter what you're going through, they're there. Winning, losing. If something happens to a person, they back them. Our community is just wonderful.

"The sendoff (Wednesday) was wonderful. The community here in Hershey was wonderful. The girls do it for everyone. It's everyone's championship, not just theirs."

The Berlin girls program won its third state championship.

In addition to last season, the Mountaineers also earned gold in 2019.

The Berlin girls program has three of the four state championships won by Somerset County teams, joining the 2017 Meyersdale Area High School baseball team.

Four Berlin players scored in double digits, including a team-high 16 points by sophomore Sam Walker.

"I love my teammates so much," said Walker, who also grabbed six rebounds. "Our seniors are very special and I'm going to be very sad to lose them. Our juniors are amazing.

"(Sophomore) Bryn (Prosser), the fight in her today was awesome. Penny (Stoltzfus) just never gave up and kept scoring. Really, all together, it was a team win."

Sophomore Penny Stoltzfus

Please see **BERLIN, A2**



The Berlin Brothersvalley girls basketball team and the student fan section celebrate after the Mountaineers defeated Neshannock 55-39 in the PIAA Class 2A championship game Thursday at the Giant Center in Hershey, above. At left, Berlin's Samantha Walker (left) and Mercy Sechler celebrate with teammates after the game. Below left, Berlin's Madison Will (left) embraces Bryn Prosser. Below right, Walker celebrates the Mountaineers' victory. Find a gallery with more photos from the championship game online at www.TribDem.com.

PHOTOS BY JOHN RUCOSKY/
THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT



Probe into crash that killed two continues

Police ID victims as Somerset residents

BY DAVID HURST
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SOMERSET - A crash Monday in Somerset Township claimed the lives of two Somerset residents, state police said Thursday.

The crash occurred after their vehicle abruptly left North Center Avenue, swerved back onto the road and then struck a traffic pole, investigators said.

Curtis Green, 61, of Somerset, was listed as the driver of a Jeep Cherokee carrying two passengers early Monday.

State police said his vehicle sustained "major" damage in the accident and Green was pronounced dead at the scene.

Dorothy Green, 84, a front-seat passenger also from Somerset, also died in the crash, state police wrote in a media release.

Please see **CRASH, A2**

GJWA: Suit over sewage flood at Westmont home has been settled

BY RUSS O'REILLY
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The Greater Johnstown Water Authority has taken steps toward the closure of a lawsuit filed against it by a family who alleged that negligence by the GJWA resulted in the backup of a sewer main, causing damage to their home.

John and Anne McGrath, of Westmont, filed a federal lawsuit against the GJWA in October 2023 and later amended their lawsuit to include Snyder Environmental Services Inc. as a defendant, as well as the GJWA.

In the fall of 2022, while the McGraths were out of town, a neighbor with access to the house to water plants noticed the finished basement was "flooded with water containing raw sewage from a clogged sewer main running under Luzerne Street, 90 feet away

Please see **GJWA, A2**

Source: Pentagon seeks \$200B in additional funds for Iran war

BY LISA MASCARO
and KEVIN FREKING
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon is seeking \$200 billion in additional funds for the Iran war, a sizable amount that is certain to be met with questions from Congress, which would need to approve any new money.

The department sent the request to the White House,

according to a senior administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private information.

Asked about the figure at a press conference Thursday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth did not directly confirm the amount, saying it could change.

"It takes money to kill bad guys," Hegseth said. But he said "we're going back to Congress

■ Israel says it will hold off striking key Iranian natural gas field as war rattles energy markets/A2

and our folks there to ensure that we're properly funded."

It's an extraordinarily high number and comes on top of extra funding the Defense Department already received last year in President Donald Trump's big tax cuts bill. Such

a request would need to be approved by Congress, and it is not clear such spending would have political support. The nation's debt has surged past a record \$39 trillion.

Congress has been bracing for a new spending request, but it is not clear the White House has transmitted the request for

Please see **IRAN, A2**



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks during a press briefing Thursday at the Pentagon in Washington.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Public Notices inside today

Including:

■ Jackson Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet April 8 at the fire hall. B5.

■ And on our website at: <https://marketplace.tribune-democrat.com/johnstownpa/publicnotices/search>



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LOCAL
Co-working space in downtown Johnstown holds open house. A3.

NATION

Mullin's nomination for DHS chief moves ahead to full Senate. B7.

Coming Saturday

■ Fifth annual "Way of the Cross" exhibition will be displayed in Hornerstown.

■ Westmont arts center to hold Great American Auction.



WEATHER
Some rain and a thunderstorm today. High 57, low 37.
Five-day forecast/B8