

Teacher pleads not guilty to child sex assault

Judge allows case against Freeport Area's Jared Lampus to head to court

BY JAMES ENGEL

Jared Lampus, the Freeport Area teacher and former volleyball coach accused of having sexual contact with a minor, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to the dozen charges leveled against him. His attorney, Kelvin Morris, asked District Judge Jack D. Ripper to throw out the charges — including rape — at the preliminary hearing in Saxonburg, but Ripper allowed the case to

proceed to Butler County Court. Family members and supporters of the victim were present at the hearing, in addition to representatives from UPMC's Child Advocacy Center. Lampus, 50, of Buffalo Township is a teacher at Freeport Elementary School and served as a coach at Pittsburgh Elite Volleyball Association until July. He has been suspended from his teaching position and resigned from the volleyball association. According to a criminal complaint filed against him, Lampus began sexually abusing the minor in July 2023. Police said Lampus and the girl had numerous forced

sexual interactions throughout Allegheny, Butler and Armstrong counties, often in Lampus' car in locations such as the Pittsburgh Mills, Harrison Hills Park and Starbucks parking lots. The alleged victim, who testified virtually at the hearing, stated Lampus also had sex with her in his Buffalo Elementary classroom, his Buffalo Township home and hotels in Indianapolis and Columbus, Ohio. Lampus has not been charged in Indiana or Ohio. Assistant District Attorney Laura Pitchford led the prosecution, asking the alleged victim to

LAMPUS · A2



Jared Lampus, 50, of Buffalo Township has been suspended from his teaching job at Freeport Elementary School and resigned from coaching at Pittsburgh Elite Volleyball Association. LOUIS B. RUEDIGER TRIBLIVE

SUMMER TAKES A BREATHER



LOUIS B. RUEDIGER | TRIBLIVE

Jeffrey Falkner trims and prunes his flower bed Tuesday along Cambridge Street in Harrison Township. A summer filled with stifling heat waves has given way to cooler temperatures in recent days, with highs mostly in the low 70s.

Menards seeks site plan renewal

Home improvement chain requests Dec. 31 deadline for possible Hempfield location

BY RENATTA SIGNORINI

Home improvement store chain Menards is seeking an extension to its site plan through the end of 2025, according to a letter sent to Hempfield obtained by TribLive. Township supervisors are expected to consider the extension during their September meeting, manager Aaron Siko said. "It's so exciting to know they're interested in our community, and we'll do what we can to work with them on their future plans," Supervisor Doug Weimer said. Menards was put on

notice last month that the site plan for a new store Hempfield supervisors approved five years ago was nearing its expiration date. The plan was approved by township supervisors Aug. 24, 2020, according to a separate letter obtained by TribLive through a public records request. The state municipal planning code sets the five-year limit. Headquartered in Eau Claire, Wis., Menards is the third-largest home improvement retailer in the U.S. behind Lowe's and Home Depot, with 341 stores in 15 states, primarily in

MENARDS · A2



AP

IT'S A LOVE STORY

Superstar Taylor Swift and Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, embracing after an AFC Championship game in January 2024, announced their engagement Tuesday in a five-photo joint post on Instagram. **Story, A10**

Legal battle brewing for Trump, Fed

Embattled governor says she'll sue to keep her job as president seeks greater influence

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Gov. Lisa Cook will sue President Donald Trump's administration to try to prevent him from firing her, her lawyer said Tuesday. The announcement makes it more likely that a high-stakes legal battle will ensue that probably will end up at the Supreme Court, and could redefine the limits of the president's legal authority over the central bank. Increasingly at issue is the Fed's independence from day-to-day politics, which most economists consider



Cook: Says Trump lacks authority to remove her from board.

a key factor in keeping long-term inflation and interest rates low. "President Trump has no authority to remove Federal Reserve Gov. Lisa Cook," said Abbe Lowell, Cook's lawyer and a longtime Washington figure who has represented prominent people from both major political parties. "His attempt to fire her, based solely on a referral letter, lacks any factual or legal basis. We will be filing a lawsuit challenging this illegal action." Trump, meanwhile,

FEDERAL RESERVE · A7

Independence crucial to Fed

TRIBLIVE

Tensions escalated Tuesday between the Trump administration and the Federal Reserve. After President Donald Trump announced on social media that he was firing an official on the Fed's chief governing body — something that hasn't happened in U.S. history — the official, Fed Governor Lisa Cook, said she had no plans to step down without a legal fight. Trump repeatedly has criticized Fed Chair Jerome Powell and the central bank's interest rate-setting

committee for not cutting rates, which the president argues will boost the economy and reduce interest payments on the government's debt of \$37 trillion. Here's a look at what the Fed is and what it does, and its unique independence among federal agencies:

What is the Federal Reserve?

Commonly known simply as the Fed, the Federal Reserve is the most powerful economic institution in the United States — and arguably the world.

INDEPENDENCE · A7

INSIDE



LOCAL

POSITIVE IMPACT

» Apollo teen **Colton Bureau** is remembered for his winning smile, kindness and love of fishing. **A3**

NATION

FUNDING IN DANGER

» Three states could lose millions of dollars in federal funding over their truck drivers' lack of English proficiency. **B5**



SPORTS

'GUTSY EFFORT'

» Fourth-ranked Franklin Regional overcomes Penn-Trafford's late surge to hold on for a 3-2 win in boys soccer. **B1**

WEATHER 71 · 48
Partly sunny, pleasant; partly cloudy tonight
Details, A2



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