



County fires jail security chief

Robert Fagan's exit comes 11 days after Warden Steven Pelesky's employment was severed

by RENATTA SIGNORINI

After a second firing in less than two weeks among leaders at the Westmoreland County Prison, county Commissioner Ted Kopas said a search for a new warden is forthcoming. Members of the Westmoreland County Prison Board on Monday

fired Deputy Warden of Security Robert Fagan, who was placed on paid administrative leave Aug. 20. Fagan's firing comes 11 days after Warden Steven Pelesky's employment at the Hempfield jail met the same fate. Board members have not offered a reason for the firings other than "employment issues." They have declined

to discuss specifics. "It's obvious this county is in need of new leadership at the jail," Kopas said. The move to fire Fagan came after a 90-minute executive session of the prison board that, in addition to the three county commissioners, includes Controller Jeffrey Balzer, District Attor-

ney Nicole Ziccarelli and Sheriff James Albert. Ziccarelli and Albert were not at the meeting Monday. They were represented at the meeting by First Assistant District Attorney Chuck Washburn and Chief Deputy Sheriff Jennifer Shipley.

JAIL · A2

No plan to send troops to polls, general says

Joint chiefs chairman responds to Democratic senator's request for reassurance as midterms near

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The highest-ranking officer in the U.S. military says there are no plans to send troops to polling places during November's midterm congressional elections, addressing concerns among Democrats that the Trump administration could use the military to interfere with the vote. Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made the statement in a letter to Democratic Sen. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan, who recently asked Caine and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to confirm they won't send troops to the polls. "The Joint Force has no plans to send Federal military personnel or Federalized members of the National Guard to polling places during the 2026 elections," Caine said in the letter to Slotkin, which was obtained Monday by the Associated



"The Joint Force has no plans to send Federal military personnel or Federalized members of the National Guard to polling places during the 2026 elections."

GEN. DAN CAINE
CHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MILITARY · A2



Jakob Michael Korber, who was arrested in the Aug. 30 death of his mother, Christin Hamilton, is led by authorities at the Pennsylvania State Police barracks in Greensburg. (Courtesy of WTAE)

Sewickley Township man charged in mom's death

Police: Cameras show Jakob Korber arguing with, beating mother

by RENATTA SIGNORINI
AND QUINCEY CATULLO

On Saturday, longtime friends Christin Hamilton and Donna Heltebran caught up by text message. Hamilton shared some photos of their 1991 graduation from Yough Senior High School, and the pair reminisced. They had been friends for about 40 years, since the first day of seventh grade in the mid-1980s. Heltebran said it was devastating to learn Hamilton died Sunday morning. The mother of three was beaten on the front porch of her home in Sewickley Township. Now, that weekend catch-up session means a lot. "She's the kindest person I've ever known," said Heltebran, of South Huntingdon. "Everybody's heartbroken. She was such a sweet person.



The exterior of the Herminie West Newton Road home where Christin Hamilton was killed Sunday. (Louis B. Ruediger | TribLive)

I'm just so thankful that we talked the day before." State police on Monday charged Hamilton's son, Ja-

kob Korber, 29, with a single count of homicide in her death. They recovered surveillance video from the home

that Trooper Steve Limani said shows Korber beating his

DEATH · A2

Jeannette man admits threats to federal agents

Dale Ankney, 72, pleads guilty, is scheduled to be sentenced to 18 months in prison in January

by PAULA REED WARD

A Jeannette man will serve 18 months in prison after pleading guilty Monday to threatening to kill federal agents from three agencies. Dale Ankney, 72, will be formally sentenced on his plea agreement Jan. 7 before U.S. District Judge Christy Criswell Wiegand in Pittsburgh. He remains in federal custody. Ankney pleaded guilty Monday to the trio of counts against him: threatening in online posts to murder agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the IRS in online posts; and threats to kill members of the FBI and its task force when they arrived at his home to speak with him earlier this year. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Brendan McKenna, Ankney posted threats on his Facebook page in March. In the first instance, on March 25, Ankney wrote ICE agents were evil and must be killed in public.

THREATS · A2

INSIDE



REGION

REHAB PROJECT

» Construction is scheduled to begin on the West Newton Bridge this week with daytime traffic restrictions on the span. **A3**

OPINION

GROWN-UP CONSEQUENCES

» Dragging children into court over the cost of broken playground equipment shows a lack of maturity on the part of Springdale officials. **A6**



SPORTS

LEMIEUX OUT

» Penguins legend **Mario Lemieux** no longer has a stake in the franchise he reinvigorated as a player and owner. **B1**

WEATHER **89** · **69**
Thunderstorms today and tonight
Details, **A2**

INDEX
Vol. 138 · No. 202
Two sections
18 pages

Almanac A8
Bridge A8
Business B5
Classified B6

Comics A9
Crossword A8
Editorials A6
Financial B5

Horoscope A8
Lotteries A2
Nation/World B5
Obituaries A4

Region A3
Sports B1
Sudoku A8
Television A10

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