

WALKING BACKWARD OFFERS MANY BENEFITS

HEALTH | PAGE C2



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LIFE & TIMES | PAGE C1

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN NEPA

## EARTH FIRST

Local companies focused on preserving paper goods



Diamond K Inc. owner Terrence Burke explains the process of compressing loose paper near the paper baler in a warehouse of his recycling facility in Scranton on Tuesday. PHOTOS BY SEAN MCKEAG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

By Robert Tomkavage  
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Two Northeast Pennsylvania-based companies with a passion for paper continue efforts to promote environmental sustainability.

As Earth Day approaches on Wednesday, Diamond K Inc. of Scranton — a paper scrap recycling company founded in 1955 — and American Paper Bag — a manufacturing company established in Sugar Notch in 2018 that produces customizable paper bags and mailers — remain committed to extending the life cycle of paper materials.

Terrence Burke, who took over ownership of Diamond K on Battle Avenue on March 1, noted the facility collects post-industrial paper clippings, books, cardboard and clean office paper.

“If individuals or small businesses don’t have access to recycling, they’re welcome to bring materials directly to us and we’ll make sure they continue through the proper channels in an environmentally responsible way,” he said.

Burke — whose family previously owned Northeastern Envelope Company in Old Forge — added that Diamond K’s processing center acts as the middleman between businesses within about a 100-mile radius that generate scrap and the mills that are turning the reusable paper back into usable paper products.

“We focus on keeping it in circulation instead of it winding up as waste,” he



Bundles of paper products take up space in a warehouse on the grounds of the Diamond K Inc. recycling facility in Scranton.

said. “We turn it into bales. We’re separating and making sure things are what each mill requires for their formula to reintroduce it into a pulping process to create the pulp and then create the finished paper product. It’s not consuming the resources that it would take to generate a brand new piece of paper material. Because of the steps these mills have taken, they can very efficiently reproduce paper products with paper waste. It’s more efficient than starting from nothing. The name of the game is to try to get the heaviest bale possible in order to maximize space on trailers.”

Diamond K receives about 300 tons

of product per day — approximately 60,000 tons a year, Burke added.

“Coming from the paper world, I always kind of thought there was just colored paper, white paper, and brown paper, but there’s a lot more than that,” he said. “We get a pretty good mix of materials from a lot of different companies that you almost wouldn’t expect. Amazon sort of changed the paper industry. The amount of cardboard being produced is outrageous. You used to get cardboard boxes to move. Now, everyone has a stack of cardboard at

See PAPER on Page A8

## HOUSE PASSES BILLS ON PA. DATA CENTERS

Locally sponsored proposals require reports on water, energy consumption, create guidance for zoning rules

By Frank Wilkes Lesnefsky  
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As data center proposals continue to emerge both locally and statewide, the state House of Representatives passed two data center bills from local legislators this month as part of a larger package aimed at regulating the controversial industry.

State representatives voted Monday to adopt both state Rep. Kyle Mullins’ House Bill 2150 requiring data centers to provide annual reports on water and energy consumption, as well as state Rep. Kyle Donahue’s House Bill 2151, which would establish an optional model data center zoning ordinance for municipalities to use for guidance. Mullins, D-112, Blakely, and Donahue, D-113, Scranton, co-sponsored each other’s bills. State Rep. Bridget Kosierowski, D-114, Waverly Twp., also co-sponsored both bills.

Although the House bills still have to pass the Republican-controlled state Senate, both Mullins and Donahue discussed their legislation in the context of a legislative pack-

See DATA on Page A8

### IRAN WAR

## Iran closes Strait of Hormuz over US blockade, fires on ships

By Sam Metz and Samy Magdy  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO — The standoff over the Strait of Hormuz escalated again Saturday as Iran reversed its reopening of the crucial waterway and fired on ships attempting to pass, in retaliation after the United States pressed ahead with its blockade of Iranian ports.

The strait is closed until the U.S. blockade is lifted, Iran’s Revolutionary Guard navy said Saturday night, warning that “no vessel should make any movement from its anchorage in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, and approaching the Strait of Hormuz will be considered as cooperation with the enemy” and be targeted.

New attacks on the strait, through which roughly one-fifth of the world’s oil normally passes, threatened to deepen the global

See IRAN on Page A12

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**TODAY** H: 52 L: 35  
**MON.** H: 45 L: 26  
**TUE.** H: 56 L: 44  
Full weather report B8

INDEX

Business ..... A10  
Classified ..... C4  
Comics ..... Inside  
Horoscopes ..... B6  
Lottery ..... A2  
Obituaries ..... A11-12  
Opinion ..... A13  
Sports ..... B1  
TV Weekly ..... Inside

