

BEVERAGE
BUSINESS TO
MARK MAJOR
MILESTONE
LOCAL | PAGE A3



PREVIEWING
BOYS SOCCER
AS ACTION
KICKS OFF
SPORTS | PAGE B1

FIND THE
LATEST NEWS

www.thetimes-tribune.com

Breaking News
Features
Sports

The Times-Tribune

\$4.00 | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 | THETIMES-TRIBUNE.COM

EDUCATION

CRISIS IN CLASS?

Teacher shortages a concern statewide, across NEPA



North Pocono students are welcomed to Moscow Elementary School for the first day of school Aug. 24. CHAD SEBRING / STAFF PHOTO

By Christopher Doyle
CDOYLE@CITIZENSVOICE.COM

Much of Northeastern Pennsylvania has already ushered in the new school year. But are there enough teachers to welcome students back to the classroom?

The organization PA Needs Teachers — a coalition led by the advocacy groups Teacher Plus and the National Center on Education and the Economy — published a report earlier this month examining trends in Pennsylvania’s education workforce. The report depicts a severe teacher shortage, with the number of new teacher certifications issued plummeting and teacher attrition rates rising over the last decade.

Using statistics from the state Department of Education and a Pennsylvania State University analysis, the report examines this teacher shortage by county — and finds the shortage is having a particularly acute impact on Northeastern Pennsylvania.

PA Needs Teachers co-lead Emily Sagor said this eroding supply of teachers hurt school districts as they try to meet their unique needs. She noted that a shortage may grow class sizes, force teachers to lead additional classes, and have teachers assume extra administrative duties.

“When you have open positions that stresses the whole community, because education is an ecosystem,” Sagor said. “When we don’t have all of the people that we need for that ecosystem to run in a healthy way, it becomes very difficult for the individuals within it.”

This shortage of teachers could have a



PA Needs Teachers says programs have helped the Scranton School District reverse its fortunes in hiring teachers. TIMES-TRIBUNE FILE

particularly deleterious effect on students. Sagor said failing to recruit educators who can develop experience in a school and familiarity with its students. The effect of a teacher shortage can worsen across students’ time in school, creating a deficit that widens year after year.

“We know that the number-one in-school factor that determines how successful a student is going to be is their educator,” Sagor said. “So, when we have a revolving door of educators, students don’t have the consistency that they deserve to lead to the strong outcomes that they’re capable of.”

NEPA’S TEACHING NEEDS

Given these effects on teachers

and students, schools in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Schuylkill counties have some cause for alarm.

The PA Needs Teacher report found Lackawanna County schools were short 106 qualified teachers creating a “high” shortage level. One-hundred sixteen teacher certifications were issued in 2024, marking a 31% decline in certifications from a decade ago and rendering the county’s total teacher supply “very low.”

This fall in teacher supply has corresponded with a fall in teacher qualifications. Ten percent of Lackawanna County teachers are now “novice teach-

See **TEACHERS** on Page A5

MID VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT TO GAUGE SOUND LEVEL BEFORE ARRIVAL OF DATA CENTERS

Mid Valley School Board to assess ‘baseline’ ambient noise at campus in Throop now to detect changes later

By Jim Lockwood
JLOCKWOOD@SCRANTONTIMES.COM

A school district in Lackawanna County aims to measure the sound from its current surroundings before any data centers built nearby turn up the volume on noise.

The Mid Valley School District of Throop, Olyphant and Dickson City requested proposals from acoustical engineering or consulting firms to do a “Baseline Environmental Sound/ Noise Level Study” of the school complex on Underwood Road in Throop, according to a public notice in Saturday’s edition of The Times-Tribune.

The initiative comes in response to the proliferation of data centers and related power plant proposals in the region, which has included an onslaught in the Midvalley and Upvalley communities in Lackawanna County.

With large footprints, data centers and power plants would not only change their

See **SOUND** on Page A8

PENNSYLVANIA

Shapiro backs a state ban on Flock cameras

By John Cole
THE CENTER SQUARE

(The Center Square) — Regulating Flock cameras and other automated license plate reading systems, or ALPRs, has drawn the attention of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

On Friday, Gov. Josh Shapiro made his position on this technology clear.

“I would welcome bipartisan legislation to ban these across the state,” Shapiro said in response to a question from The Center Square. “This is not something I support.”

“This is not something in the public interest,” he continued. “I think law enforcement needs to have tools to keep communities safe. Flock cameras are not a tool that I support.”

The issue has drawn interest from both chambers, although there are a variety of proposals on how to address it.



Shapiro

See **FLOCK** on Page A5

U.S. POLITICS

Poll: Majority of voters concerned over socialism, communism

By Sarah Roderick-Fitch
THE CENTER SQUARE

(The Center Square) — A slew of candidates running as democratic socialists appears to be raising alarms with a majority of American voters, according to a new poll.

The Center Square’s Voters Voice Poll found 63% of Americans are concerned with the growth of socialism or communism in American politics, while 29% are not concerned.

Of the 63% concerned, 36% say they are very concerned, while 27% say they are somewhat concerned.

Only 13% of respondents said they are not at all concerned, while 16% said they aren’t too concerned about the rise of socialism in American politics.

The Center Square Voters’ Voice Poll was conducted by Noble Predictive Insights from Aug. 12-16 and surveyed registered voters nationally via opt-in online panel and text-to-web cellphone messages. The sample included 2,533 respondents, composed of 930 Republicans, 930 Democrats and 673 independents. Among independent voters, 330 respondents were classified as true independents, which are individuals who do not lean toward either major party when

given the choice.

Heading into the midterm elections in November, Republicans and several Democratic voices have warned against democratic socialists rising to power across the country, with the backing of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.

President Donald Trump recently warned against communism as he and his administration appear to be trying to drive home the threat as the campaign season gets into full swing.

“Communism is the greatest threat to

See **POLITICS** on Page A6



U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks Friday at the March on Washington rally at the Lincoln Memorial. MANUEL BALCE CENETA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUBSCRIPTION

Call 570-348-9190 for a subscription.
To place a classified ad, call 570-348-9157.
Copyright © 2026, The Times-Tribune
thetimes-tribune.com

GOOD MORNING

TODAY H: 84 L: 68
WED. H: 80 L: 69
THU. H: 85 L: 64
Full weather report B10

INDEX

Business B6
Classified B7
Comics B4-5
Horoscopes B4
Lottery A2
Nation/World A4
Obituaries A7-8
Opinion A9
Sports B1

