

CHAMBERSBURG
HOSPITAL

Strike set
for July 22

Amber South
Chambersburg Public Opinion
USA TODAY NETWORK – PENNSYLVANIA

Nurses and other key employees at WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital say frustrations over WellSpan’s Health’s investment priorities pushed them to pull the trigger on the hospital’s first strike in almost 50 years.

More than 1,400 nurses, radiology technicians, unit secretaries, custodial workers and other positions in the SEIU Chambersburg Chapter will go on strike starting at 7 a.m. July 22, registered nurse Gayle Alleman announced on July 11.

The strike is scheduled to last five days, with union members on the picket line day and night.

“As dedicated healthcare workers we never want to strike,” Alleman said at the union’s announcement at Franklin Fire Co. “This is our last resort after WellSpan left us with little to no choice. We have to take a stand to make Wellspan invest in our local community.”

Earlier in the week, WellSpan Health gave the union its “best and final” offer, and a statement highlighted the inclusion of annual raises of a least 3% in each of the three years of the contract “despite challenges related to government cuts to healthcare funding.”

WellSpan requested a meeting with the union to discuss the offer, but the union was already in the process of voting on it. An “overwhelming majority” rejected it, Alleman said. Nearly two weeks earlier, about 87% of union members voted for a strike to be authorized if necessary.

“WellSpan is deeply disappointed in SEIU leadership’s refusal to recommend the hospital’s strong offer and instead encourage union members to vote to strike at WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital,” the company said after receiving the union’s notification that the strike would happen in 10 days.

The notification period is required by law and gives management time to arrange alternate staffing. The strike will only affect Chambersburg Hospital.

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Area food pantries are
doing more with less

Director in Franklin, Adams counties has had to get creative



Maranatha Ministries CEO Craig Newcomer shows one of the storage areas for the organization’s food pantry in Chambersburg on July 9. While most shelves are full, more food and monetary donations are always needed to keep up with the constant output, which Newcomer expects will increase by at least 25% this year. AMBER SOUTH/PUBLIC OPINION

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USA TODAY NETWORK

She doesn’t pull a rabbit from a hat, but the director for a group of food pantries in south central Pennsylvania is a magician nonetheless.

Every month, Lisa Beaver goes to a regional food bank and, as of this year, grocery stores to fill the shelves at South Central Community Action Program’s food pantries in Franklin and Adams counties.

To do it, she gets \$10 for each person who uses the pantries. That is \$494 less than the average American spends on groceries each month, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“You have to perform magic to make this work,” said Beaver, who ran SCCAP’s food pantries in Adams County for 22 years before taking on Franklin County, too.

While never easy, somehow the items had to fill the shelves after local donations started getting more complicated last fall as grocery prices rose and cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program hit low-income households, Beaver said.

Not only did the number of families using SCCAP’s food pantries increase, but families were larger.

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Typically, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank is the primary source for items for the food pantries, but lately there have not been enough of the items that the South Central Community Action Program director is required to buy.

Public input sought on Hykes Road bridge replacement

Janis Reeser
AI-assisted reporter
The Record Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

A bridge replacement project is being planned for Route 3014 in Antrim Township.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is inviting

More inside

Input sought on Route 914 bridge and Tuscarora Mountain projects. 3A

the public to review and comment on plans for the Route 3014 (Hykes Road) bridge replacement over Interstate 81, located 1.9 miles east of the intersection

with Route 3001 and 500 feet west of Route 11, according to a community announcement.

The project aims to address the deteriorating condition of the bridge and maintain safe and efficient access on Route 3014 over I-81. The existing bridge, built in 1960, is a four span prestressed concrete I-beam structure with a span

length of 217 feet. It currently carries two 12-foot lanes and 2-foot shoulders. The replacement bridge will be evaluated for a two span, prestressed concrete bulb-tee or spread box beam design, carrying 12-foot lanes and 5-foot shoulders, according to the announcement.

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