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YORK COUNTY LIBRARIES' FUNDING FALLOUT



DISPATCH FILE PHOTO

Children listen to a story during a Reading Journey Celebration event in 2023 at Paul Smith Library in Shrewsbury. Paul Smith is one of the York County Libraries' member facilities, but its board voted last week to transition to a branch location. The move will reduce the library's weekly hours of operation.

Changes looming in wake of cuts

► **RESTRUCTURING:** Libraries across the county could soon cut operating hours and make other adjustments to "ensure financial stability."

MARK WALTERS
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Libraries across York County could soon cut operating hours — and one is primed to already — as the county's library system reels from a series of funding cuts.

The public library system, which increasingly doubles as a social service center, offering everything from children's activities to career development, is restructuring itself to "ensure financial stability while meeting the evolving needs of York County residents," according to a recent study.

"The hallmark of our library has been our consistent hours. The patrons know this. They know when they come, we'll be open. They don't have to remember on one day, we're only open (a few) hours."

— Jean Holley, a Paul Smith Library board member who voted against becoming a York County Libraries branch location, which will result in a reduction of library hours

Paul Smith Library's board voted Thursday to begin transitioning the Shrewsbury facility into a York County Libraries branch location, shedding its member status and reducing weekly hours of operation from 51 to 40.

The system's five member libraries operate independently with some YCL support, mostly through digital catalogs, computers and software. Branch libraries are fully integrated with centralized admin-

istration, funding and management.

The YCL's "service optimization study" cost \$20,000 — paid for by the York County Community Foundation several years ago — and hatched the plan to convert the library system's member facilities into branches while consolidating services.

"Paul Smith will continue

LIBRARIES ► PAGE A4

Housing prices up in county

► **'PRESSURE':** Median costs continue to break records in York County, but they are still not as high those in nearby markets.

CATHERINE ROSE
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Affordability is a major factor in York County's housing market. But just what is "affordable?" It depends on who you ask.

As median sold prices continue to break record highs, finding houses in the lower price range is becoming increasingly difficult. But the county's relative affordability continues to draw buyers to the area.

"You can continue to get more home for your dollar in York County than you can in the other regional markets," said Shanna Terroso, executive officer of the Realtors Association of York and Adams Counties.

The median sales price of houses sold in the first seven months of the year reached \$290,000, according to RAYAC data. That's up 6% from the same period last year. In July alone, the median sales price rose to \$305,000. It's another month-to-month increase from June, when the median sales price was \$300,000.

Highest ever: Those figures are the highest ever recorded by RAYAC, said Selina Robinson, the organization's president.

Houses sold in six days on average during July, which is well under the 60 days expected in a more balanced market. Robinson said houses are selling so quickly due to the lack of inventory.

HOUSING ► PAGE A6

Pa. Democrats garnering buzz for midterms

► **2026 ELECTIONS:** The party aims to take back control of the U.S. House, and Scranton Mayor Paige Cagnetti could play a role.

MARC LEVY
The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Scranton Mayor Paige Cagnetti on Tuesday announced a bid for Congress in Pennsylvania, adding yet another competitive Democrat to the 2026 midterm election lineup in a state that gives her party perhaps its best chance to gain multiple seats without redrawing congressional lines.

The ranks of Democrats now running for Congress in Pennsylvania include a prominent mayor and a state labor leader and give the party

DEMS ► PAGE A6

Friends make business of handling pups at nuptials

► **DOG DUTY:** Two Philadelphia women started Waggy Weddings to help clients wrangle furry friends that are part of the ceremony.

ERIN MCCARTHY
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — When Angela Agnes was planning her wedding, she knew she wanted Rylee, her pit bull-German shepherd mix, to be the canine flower girl.

But Agnes said that would require finding someone to bring Rylee to and from the ceremony, and to look after the pup while she was there.

"I was like, 'Anyone I would trust with my baby is going to be at my wedding,'" Agnes said, recalling how she described the dilemma to her lifelong friend, Oriana Principe.

Agnes and her husband wished they could outsource the task to a trustworthy third party, so none of their guests had to be on



TYGER WILLIAMS — TNS

Waggy Weddings founders Oriana Principe, left, and Angela Agnes, both of South Philadelphia, pose with Daisy, one of their client's dogs, in Rittenhouse Square recently.

WEDDINGS ► PAGE A6

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