



FLOODING

Search continues for lost children

News » A6



RM PALMER CO.

Feds release details about explosion

Local News » A3



NASCAR

Truex Jr. ponders retirement

Sports » B1

FOLLOW US ON

TWITTER

To find breaking news and other information from the Daily Local News on Twitter, simply type "wcdailylocal" inside the Twitter search bar.

TWITTER.COM/WCDAILYLOCAL



TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 85

Low: 68

» PAGE B8

Daily Local News

Wednesday, July 19, 2023
 \$2.95
 FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYLOCALNEWS
 TWITTER.COM/DAILYLOCALNEWS

dailylocal.com

CHESTER COUNTY

LEGACY OF LENAPES

Program: Carrie Hawk featured speaker for Green Team summer series



PHOTO COURTESY OF BONDSVILLE MILL PARK

Bondsville Mill Park is seen here

MediaNews Group

The West Chester Green Team continued its Legendary Lenape Summer Program at Historic Bondsville Mill Park and Gardens in Downingtown on July 15. The program teaches children and their families about the Lenape tribes that lived in Chester County

Carrie Hawk, Environmental Educator with Stroud Water Research Center and member of Restore Our Roots, brought various animal skins and skulls and led activities to teach a group of families about the Lenape peoples and the animals that lived in Chester County in Lenape times. She showed the group turtle shells and how the Lenape used them as rattles and bowls. Hawk also explained how the toughness of turtle shells was based on the species, the diet and the amount of sunlight the turtle received

Hawk passed around different animal pelts and bones that the Lenape used as clothing, tools and weapons. The Lenape made bones and hooves into jewelry for ceremonial wear. With beaver pelts, the Lenape would use the waterproof fur to keep warm and dry in the winter.

A member of the group asked if beavers still live in Chester County. Hawk said, "Yes, there are some in Beaver Creek and along the Brandywine. Though beavers are considered to be a nuisance, they're beneficial to our ecosystem because if we disrupt one species, then we disrupt the whole ecosystem."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH-CUNNINGHAM

Carrie Hawk, Environmental Educator with Stroud Water Research Center and member of Restore Our Roots, brought various animal skins and skulls and led activities to teach a group of families about the Lenape peoples and the animals that lived in Chester County in Lenape times.

Hawk also discussed how remnants of Indigenous peoples are turning up in the Downingtown area. Tools and arrowheads are most common and typically found along rivers. "I know there's a cave near Bondsville Mill that has Native drawings on the walls. I'm sure there are still caves to be found and protected," Hawk said.

After a quick game of matching animals to their tracks, Hawk led the group on a hike around the park. The children were encouraged to forage, as the Lenape would. Hawk pointed out different species such as blueberry bushes, wineberry bushes, spruce and aspen trees. At the creek,

LENAPES » PAGE 6

PA. HIGH SCHOOLS

Website ranks top 25 and Chesco has a few

Tribune News Service

Pennsylvania's top 25 public high schools are mostly located near Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, according to Niche, a site offering data on schools and colleges across the country.

Reviews and data from sources like the U.S. Department of Education, Common Core Data, Civil Rights Data Collection and more fuel Niche's rankings.

The Pittsburgh-headquartered school search platform ranks public high schools through the following broad categories:

- Academics grade, which is based on state assessment proficiency, graduation rates, advanced placement courses, SAT and ACT grades, student-to-teacher ratios, college admissions and more.
- Diversity grade, which is based on a student racial diversity index, parent or student surveys on culture and diversity, economically disadvantaged percentages and gender diversity.
- Teachers grade, which is based on the academics grade, parent or student surveys on educators, teacher absenteeism, salary index, the portion of teachers in their first or second year of teaching, average salary and student-to-teacher ratio.

Niche breaks down its overall grades for public high schools into the following categories:

- Academics grade: 60%
- Culture and diversity grade: 12.5%
- Parent/student surveys on overall experience: 10%
- Teachers grade: 10%
- Clubs and activities grade: 2.5%

RANKING » PAGE 3

COURTS

Chester County man who stole lottery tickets given probation

By Michael P. Rellahan

mrellahan@dailylocal.com

WEST CHESTER » The Powerball jackpot has ballooned to \$1 billion this week drawing after Monday's drawing produced no winners of the full amount. And although someone in Delaware County reportedly purchased a ticket that would win \$1 million, the overall odds of winning a prize are still one in 24.9 million, and the odds of winning the jackpot are one in 292.2 million.

But in 2022, one Chester County man figured out how to cut his odds of losing in the lottery down, in a way.

According to a court proceeding Tuesday, Kyle Smith, while working as an assistant manager at a West Goshen beer distributorship, stole more than \$14,000 worth of scratch-off tickets, and

LOTTERY » PAGE 6

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Taylor Swift breaks record for No. 1 albums

Taylor Swift breaks record for Most No. 1 albums by a female artist.
 PAGE A2



POLICE NEWS

Crash on Route 202 claims second victim

19-year-old be Lucian Robert Popdan LI of Lititz, succumbed to his injuries from the crash at Paoli Hospital.
 PAGE A3

OPINION

Bud Light fights a losing battle

Columnist Kathleen Parker discusses Bud Light's use of a transgender influencer in a campaign.
 PAGE A4

COLUMN

The risks involved with cohabitation

Columnist Janet Colltion discusses the risks and considerations involved with cohabitation.
 PAGE A6

INDEX
 LotteryA2
 |
 Local NewsA3
 |
 BusinessA4
 |
 ObituariesA6
 |
 OpinionA7
 |
 Nation World ..A8
 |
 Sports..... B1
 |
 MediaNews Group



2023

TOP LAWYERS

OF CHESTER COUNTY



COMING FRIDAY

REGION

The search for children lost in Bucks flash flood continues into a fourth day

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA.» The search for a missing 2-year-old girl and her 9-month-old brother who were swept away from their car during flash flooding over the weekend carried into a fourth day, with officials acknowledging people seeking to volunteer to help but saying they won't be needed.

Upper Makefield Township police in a social media post Tuesday thanked the countless volunteers who've come forward to help but said their assistance isn't necessary. Some 100 officials, as well as drones and cadaver dogs, combed the area near the creek that drains into the Delaware River.

A news conference has been set for Tuesday afternoon.

Missing are Matilda Sheils, 2, and her 9-month-old brother Conrad Sheils, members of a Charleston, South Carolina, family who were visiting relatives and friends when they got hit by a "wall of water" Saturday, according to Upper Makefield Fire Chief Tim Brewer.

The children's father, Jim Sheils, grabbed their 4-year-old son, while the children's mother, Katie Seley, and a grandmother grabbed the other children, Brewer said. Sheils and his son made it to safety, but Seley and the grandmother were swept away. The grandmother survived, but Seley was among the five people who drowned, according to the Bucks County Coroner's office.

The others who died



Yardley Makefield Marine Rescue leaving the Yardley Boat Ramp along N. River Road heading down the Delaware River on Monday morning July 1, in Yardley, Pa. Search and rescue units are looking for two lost children caught in flood waters Saturday.

were Enzo Depiero, 78, and Linda Depiero, 74, of Newtown; Yuko Love, 64, of Newtown; and Susan Barnhart, 53, of Titusville, New Jersey, Bucks County Coroner Meredith Buck said.

The deaths and the search for the children have led to an outpouring of support, particularly in social media posts in the suburb about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of Philadelphia. A community vigil for those affected is set for Thursday evening.



TOM GRALISH/THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER VIA AP

Stonebridge Crossing Road is closed near near Houghs Creek in Upper Makefield, Pa., Sunday.

Lenapes

FROM PAGE 1

she talked about how the Lenape would boil black walnuts to dye their clothes.

Highlights of the hike included seeing frogs, slugs, mushrooms, spice berries and eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies. "My basket is full of edible berries that are delicious!" exclaimed Owen Mikesell of Downingtown as he popped more wineberries into his mouth. He vowed to pick more after the session

was over.

The Legendary Lenape Summer Program continues on July 22 with a canoe trip on Westtown Lake. All are welcome to join! The session is free. For information about the Legendary Lenape Summer Program and the West Chester Green Team, please go to www.wcgreenteam.com. For more information about Restore Our Roots please visit restoreourroots.org.

This article was written by Elizabeth Cunningham, West Chester Green Team's summer intern.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH WATTS

The West Chester Green Team continued their Legendary Lenape Summer Program at Historic Bondsville Mill Park and Gardens in Downingtown on July 15.



PHOTO COURTESY ELIZABETH CUNNINGHAM

The Lenape session.

Lottery

FROM PAGE 1

secretly played them. He then cashed out the "winning tickets" and pocketed the money.

The scheme played out from August 2022 until September 2022. The scam was discovered by the manager of Goshen Beverage, and Smith — a man with a record of arrests for burglary, drug possession, DUI, and assault while DUI — was

arrested by West Goshen police, charged with retail theft and receiving stolen property.

When fired after the discovery, Smith was asked if he knew why he was being let go. He said he did. "Money was tight," he said, according to the arrest affidavit filed by Officer Kyle Maye, who investigated the case.

On Tuesday, Smith 41, of Parkesburg, pleaded guilty to one count of retail theft and was sentenced to three years probation as part of a

plea agreement between the prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Brittany Kane and Smith's attorney, Randi Guzsa of Tredyffrin.

Accepting the guilty plea was Common Pleas Judge Lou Mincarelli. Asked if he wanted to say anything on his own behalf, Smith declined.

The total amount of the theft was \$14,600. Smith was ordered to pay \$13,600 restitution to the company's insurance provider, after he already paid Goshen Beverage \$1,000 for its de-

ductible. If he pays off the reminder of the restitution, his probation will be terminated, according to the plea.

It was not clear how much Smith won from his scheme.

The winner numbers in Monday's drawing were 5, 8, 9, 17 and 41, and the Powerball was 21. The estimated cash payout for the next drawing is \$516.8 million.

To contact staff writer Michael P. Rellahan call 610-696-1544.



DLN FILE PHOTO

Kyle Smith from Chester County was given probation for stealing lottery tickets from his employer.

Ranking

FROM PAGE 3

batch of standardized tests indicates about 94% of Central Bucks High School West's students are at least proficient in math, while about 83% are at least proficient in reading.

20. Bayard Rustin High School

Location: West Chester
Grades: A+ overall, A academics, A- teachers, A clubs and activities, B diversity, A college prep, A administration, A sports, B+ food and B resources and facilities

Roughly 1,215 students in grades nine through 12 give Bayard Rustin High School a 14-1 student-to-teacher ratio, Niche reports. Approximately 82% of the school's students are at least profi-

cient in math, while about 88% can say the same for reading.

21. Garnet Valley High School

Location: Glen Mills
Grades: A+ overall, A academics, A teachers, A clubs and activities, B diversity, A college prep, A administration, A sports, B food and B- resources and facilities

Garnet Valley High School has a 13-1 student-to-teacher ratio across a student body of 1,546 in grades nine through 12. Recent state test scores indicate roughly 84% of students are proficient in math, while at least 87% are proficient or better in reading.

22. Upper Dublin High School

Location: Fort Washington
Grades: A+ overall, A academics, A teachers, A clubs and activities, B+ diversity, A college prep, B+ administration, A+ sports, B food and B resources and facilities

Upper Dublin High School instructs 1,320 students in grades nine through 12, resulting in a 15-1 student-to-teacher ratio, Niche says. Roughly 73% of the school's students tested proficient or better in math, while 95% tested proficient or better in reading.

23. Central Bucks High School South

Location: Warrington
Grades: A+ overall, A academics, A teachers, A clubs and activities, B diversity, A college prep, A administration, A sports, B+ food and B- resources and facilities

Central Bucks High School South owns a 17-1 student-to-teacher ratio across 1,722 students in grades 10 through 12, Niche reports. Just about 91% of those students are at least proficient in math, while about 89% of students tested proficient or better in reading.

24. Plymouth-Whitemarsh Senior High School

Location: Plymouth Senior High School Meeting

Grades: A+ overall, A academics, A+ teachers, A clubs and activities, B+ diversity, A college prep, A administration, A sports, A food and B- resources and facilities

Plymouth-Whitemarsh Senior High School's 1,503 students in grades nine through 12 produce a 14-1 student-to-teacher ratio, Niche reports. Approximately 81% of the student body is proficient or better in math, while 87% is proficient or better in reading.

25. North Penn

Senior High School

Location: Lansdale
Grades: A+ overall, A academics, A- teachers, A clubs and activities, A diversity, A college prep, B administration, A+ sports, B- food and C+ resources and facilities

North Penn Senior High School instructs 3,138 students in grades 10 through 12 with a 15-1 student-to-teacher ratio. According to recent test scores, roughly 78% of its students are proficient or better in math, while 83% are proficient or better in reading.

Obituary policy

The Daily Local News publishes obituaries of local interest as part of its news report each day. Paid obituaries may be submitted by private individuals (subject to verification) as well as funeral homes. Payment may be made by Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. (Please do not include full credit card information in e-mails or faxes). Obituaries may be emailed to obits@dailylocal.com or faxed to 610-430-1180 ONLY. No obituaries will be taken over the phone. Deadlines for all obituaries Monday to Friday is 4:30 p.m.; you can call 610-235-2687 for confirmation of receipt. Deadline for obits on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays is 3:30 p.m.; you can call 610-235-2698 for confirmation of receipt only (you will NOT receive a proof or cost when submitting obituaries on weekends or holidays; you will be contacted with cost on Monday mornings). Cancellations of previously submitted obituaries will be accepted by 4:30 p.m. on weekdays only.

Serving Families,
For Your Funeral & Cremation Service Needs
Since 1954

DeBaptiste Funeral Homes, Inc.®

Uplifting life through service

p (610) 696-4812 • www.DeBaptiste.com
West Chester, PA • Bryn Mawr, PA • Ardmore, PA

Lillian L. DeBaptiste, FD, Supervisor
Dr. Clifford E. DeBaptiste, FD Founder
L. Elizabeth DeBaptiste-Hicks, FD