

## BRIEFS

## SCRANTON

## Water main break disrupts service

A water main break disrupted service Thursday to Pennsylvania American Water customers in part of South Scranton.

About 35 customers were affected by the break in a 6-inch line at Pittston Avenue and Kane Street, utility spokeswoman Susan Turcmanovich said.

The company anticipated repairs would be completed by later in the afternoon, she said.

— DAVID SINGLETON

## SCRANTON

## Meal project gets \$20,000 grant

A \$20,000 grant from the Scranton Area Community Foundation will allow the Electric City Connection project to provide additional meals to residents facing food insecurity while supporting local restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Developed by the University of Scranton in partnership with Scranton Tomorrow and Friends of the Poor, the project purchases gift cards from local restaurants that are facing their own pandemic-related challenges and distributes them to residents in need.

The new grant funding will enable the project to provide more than 3,000 meals to people coping with food insecurity.

In addition to serving residents facing economic hardship this summer, the project will expand to include senior citizens and people with disabilities living in downtown high-rises, project partners said.

— STAFF REPORT

## CLARKS SUMMIT

## Club's pool reopens after virus issue

An employee at the Country Club of Scranton tested positive recently for COVID-19, prompting the brief shutdown and sanitation of the club's pool and facilities.

Those who came in contact with the employee, who tested positive last week, have since tested negative for the coronavirus, club President Joe Alu said.

The pool and the main building were closed last week for cleaning and sanitization, Alu said. Staff contacted state and federal health officials and were told they took the right action.

The pool reopened Wednesday. Alu said members must have their temperature checked before going in. The snack area remains closed for another week.

— JOSEPH KOHUT

## BROOKLYN TWP.

## Farm featured on PCN program

The historic Dennis Farm will be featured Sunday on the Pennsylvania Cable Network's "The African American Experience," farm officials said.

The episode about the Susquehanna County farm will air at 6 p.m., according to the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust. It will also be available on-demand with a PCN Select subscription.

The TV series explores Black history in Pennsylvania, according to the trust. Host Corey Clarke will interview Denise Dennis, the land trust's president and CEO, to showcase the long, unique history of the 200-plus-year-old, 150-acre farm, according to the trust.

— FRANK WILKES LESNEFSKY

## PITTSSTON

## Documentation issue cost district

The Pittston Area School District failed to retain documentation to verify \$4.9 million received in regular transportation reimbursements from the state and inaccurately reported transportation data, resulting in a \$24,036 net underpayment to the district, according to a state audit released Thursday.

The district complied in all other significant areas with applicable state laws, contracts, grant require-

ments and administrative procedures. The state auditor general's office reviewed Pittston Area finances from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2018, and evaluated performance in transportation operations, administrator separation and bus driver requirements.

The district provided a response in the audit report, citing training improvements and "a new set of checks and balances."

The district began changing transportation computer software in 2016, and the old software was not interfacing with district software. The district also noted it saved \$233,274 in 2017-18 by adding buses to its fleet so it would not have to contract out transportation for special needs students.

— MICHAEL P. BUFFER

## YORK

## Man breaks into, damages City Hall

A man broke into York City Hall, damaged computers and the phone system, and caused the temporary closure of the building.

Kevin Waller, 24, of Philadelphia was arrested Wednesday when police officers responded to a call that someone had used a fire extinguisher to break into City Hall, the Police Department said.

Police found damage to a computer server, the phone system, doors and the mail room, the York Daily Record reported.

## PHILADELPHIA

## Tugboats aid barge stuck under bridge

Tugboats have hauled away a barge that broke loose during Tropical Storm Isaias and lodged itself under a bridge.

The Vine Street Expressway Bridge reopened Thursday to Interstate 676 traffic in both directions after the barge was freed. The issue had forced drivers to find alternate routes in the city.

The Army Corps of Engineers was using the barge to dredge the Schuylkill River when it came loose in the

rain-swollen river Tuesday.

Inspectors have not found any serious structural damage to the span, transportation officials said.

## PHILADELPHIA

## 6-year-old shot while at cookout

A 6-year-old girl attending a neighborhood cookout was shot and wounded when gunfire erupted on a Philadelphia street, authorities said.

The shooting occurred around 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Witnesses said two cars pulled up around the same time and people inside each vehicle soon started shooting at each other. The 6-year-old girl was caught in the crossfire and was shot at least once in the chest. The girl was driven to a hospital in a private car and was listed in stable condition Thursday. Her name was not disclosed.

## NEW KENSINGTON

## Jury decides man intimidated witness

The father of a man convicted in the fatal shooting of a western Pennsylvania police officer has been found guilty of intimidating a potential witness in his son's trial.

A Westmoreland County jury convicted Gregory Baucum, 49, on two misdemeanor counts Wednesday but acquitted him on a felony charge. He faces up to four years in state prison when he's sentenced later this year.

Authorities said Baucum threatened the witness on social media, labeled her a snitch and published details online of her cooperation with law enforcement. The woman did not testify at the trial of Baucum's son, Rahmael Sal Holt. He was sentenced to death after being convicted last year of first-degree murder in the November 2017 shooting death of New Kensington Police Officer Brian Shaw.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FRANK WILKES LESNEFSKY / STAFF PHOTO

Jermyn Borough Council meets Thursday night in the council chambers at the Jermyn Community Center.

## JERMYN: Officials say trucks won't have to go through town

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an average of 277 trucks per day, but because it will be a 24-hour operation, that only amounts to under 12 trucks an hour. The company assured him that if truck traffic becomes an issue, R+L would do its best to work with the borough and state to develop a solution, Markey said.

Trucks won't have to drive through town to access the facility, zoning officer Robert Chase said. If the trucks had to go through town, they would definitely need a traffic impact study, he said.

Trucks will exit the Casey Highway onto Route 107 before turning onto Bonnie Drive. Bonnie Drive is the newest road in Jermyn, and they know it can handle the traffic, Mayor Anthony Fuga said.

Chase, who is also the borough's assistant fire chief, said he is looking into R+L's plans for water protection in

the event of a fire, including any water supply issues, fire hydrant locations and sprinkler locations.

The Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission already gave conditional approval to R+L, and the borough planning commission is expected to approve the plans this month, Markey said. The planning commission will be responsible for waiving the other SALDO requirements, he said.

Council will then likely make a formal motion to approve the project in September, Markey said. R+L also needs a stormwater permit, he said.

R+L hopes to begin construction immediately after receiving approval.

The site will bring up to 120 jobs to the borough, though some of the positions will be workers relocated from R+L's site in Pittston, Markey said.

"This is something that

maybe we didn't know we needed, but now that we realize that, there's no turning back," Markey said. "This is going to be a great benefit for the town."

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