

03-15-24-2

Police say the former treasurer of the Mercer County Girls Fastpitch Softball League has been accused of stealing nearly \$40,000. According to authorities, 54-year-old Brent Hanley of Sharpsville allegedly stole \$38,000 from the league for more than six years during his tenure by writing checks to his personal bank account between January 2017 and November 2023. The criminal complaint alleges that Hanley presented the league's president and other officers with falsified information to hide his thefts. He's charged with five felonies including theft by deception.

School administrators across Pennsylvania are working to make sure there are enough referees to cover all high school sports. One regional athletic director says he's struggling to find officials for all his school sports. The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association has struggled with staffing numbers for all sports.

Severe weather took a toll on a number of states Thursday, with reports of tornadoes in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. In Indiana, there were earlier reports of at least three deaths, but officials are now saying that may not be the case. Authorities said in an overnight press conference that they're still working to confirm if the weather led to any deaths.

03-15-24-3

Fire officials are investigating after a mobile home caught on fire in Beaver County. The fire broke out early Thursday morning inside the home on Route 151 in Raccoon Township. Officials say the mobile home was empty at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The Secretary of Health in Pennsylvania says the four-million-dollars the governor has allotted in his budget could serve as a pilot program for a wider medical debt relief effort. Governor Josh Shapiro has proposed using the four-million to cancel as much as 400-million in medical debt. The Department of Health estimates that PA residents carry just under two-billion-dollars in medical debt.

The highest-ranking Jewish lawmaker in the U.S. is calling on Israel to hold elections for a new government to deal with the threat of Hamas. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer issued some of his harshest criticism of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday from the Senate floor. While Schumer defended Israel's right to eliminate Hamas, he accused Netanyahu of being too willing to tolerate the civilian death toll in Gaza.

03-18-24-1

Local police are investigating a weekend shooting in Youngstown that left a woman hospitalized. Department sources say it happened around 2 p.m. on Saturday in the 16-hundred block of Tyrell Avenue. An as-yet-unidentified, female suspect remains at large. The victim reportedly was hospitalized in stable condition. No other injuries were reported.

Former Vice President Mike Pence is speaking out against his former boss Donald Trump. During an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation," Pence said he could not "in good conscience" endorse Trump in the upcoming general election for president. He said Trump is pursuing an agenda that is at odds with the conservative agenda. Pence also called Trump's comments referring to Capitol rioters as hostages "unacceptable." He said the violent attack was tragic and he'll "never diminish it."

The White House is taking steps to eliminate junk fees for college students and student loan borrowers. As part of the president's 2025 budget request, the administration is pushing to do away with student loan origination fees, which are the percentage of the loan amount that's considered a processing fee.

03-13-24-1

It was the discovery of a body that led police to shut down Interstate 80 from Mercer County to the Ohio line last night. Pennsylvania State Police say the body was identified as 37 year old Devin Habib of New Castle. Reports say he had been laying in the median of the highway for 4 days. They believe Devin had suffered fatal injuries after a hit and run either Friday night or Saturday morning. The interstate has reopened.

American missionaries are trapped in Haiti, and they're worried no one is coming to rescue them. The Caribbean nation has descended into chaos as gang violence has overtaken the country. One missionary, Jill Dolan, helps run an orphanage in the capital Port-au-Prince and says the U.S. Embassy hasn't been able to provide much help. At the embassy, non-essential personnel have been evacuated and additional Marines have been brought in for security.

It will be a rematch for the White House in 2024. President Biden and former President Trump each clinched their respective party's nomination Tuesday, setting up the rematch of the 2020 election. Recent polls show the two essentially dead even in the race for office in November, thought to be the longest general election campaign ever.



03-13-24-2

Attorneys representing Mahoning County and a former sheriff's deputy who was sexually assaulted while working at the county jail have agreed to terms on a financial settlement. The officer was assaulted by an inmate in May of 2022 and that prisoner was later convicted on charges stemming from the crime. He was sentenced to a term of 26 to 31 years in prison. Terms of the settlement between the former officer and the county, submitted to a federal court this week, have not been made public.

Americans with children could be getting a little more of a tax break when filing this tax season. That's because the Child Tax Credit increased for tax year 2023 and those who qualify can get up to two thousand dollars per child. Qualifying children include sons and daughters under the age of 17, stepchildren and eligible foster children.

A Florida man is recovering after getting tapeworm eggs in his brain. A case report published last week says the 52-year-old patient recently told doctors he had been suffering from persistent migraines. A CT scan found tapeworm eggs festering in the man's brain. Doctors believe the parasite infestation was caused by the man's habit of eating undercooked bacon.

03-13-24-3

In Mercer County, a 14-year-old boy has been arrested after authorities say he choked his mother. The incident happened Monday at a home in Findlay Township. Officers who responded to the scene say the boy put his hands around his mother's neck preventing her from breathing.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says his nation is ready for nuclear war. The 71-year-old leader made the claim on Russian television Wednesday, just days before the presidential election that will almost certainly give him another six-year term. When asked if Russia was ready for nuclear war, Putin said, "From a military-technical point of view, we are."

A top official from the National Institute on Drug Abuse is urging Americans to look at the kinds of cannabis products teens are using. That comes after a recent study reported high school seniors are using the psychoactive substance delta-8. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the study found that more than one in ten high schools seniors reported having used it in the past year.

03-14-24-1

A suspect charged in relation to a murder in Youngstown is pleading guilty. In February of 2022, 22-year-old Isiah Helms was found fatally shot inside the Mt. Hope Veterans Cemetery on Liberty Road, just days after he had been reported missing. In court Wednesday morning, 21-year-old Jamiyah Brooks pleaded guilty to charges which include involuntary manslaughter and tampering with evidence. He was sentenced to a minimum of 17-years in prison.

House Speaker Mike Johnson says that the House will apply "every amount of pressure" on the Senate to get the bill banning TikTok passed. The House on Wednesday approved the bill that could lead to the forced sale or nationwide ban of the social media app. It would require TikTok's parent company, Chinese-owned tech giant ByteDance, to sell the app within 180 days or see it banned from U.S. app stores.

There are no reports of injuries after an American Airlines flight made an emergency landing at LAX. The plane, which took off from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, landed safely Wednesday night. It's not clear what kind of mechanical problem the Boeing 777 experienced. Last week, a United Airlines plane, also a Boeing 777, made an emergency landing at LAX after losing a tire during takeoff in San Francisco.

03-14-24-2

The Pennsylvania Senate Ethics Committee is denying a request to investigate Senator Doug Mastriano for his actions after the 2020 election. The request had been made by fellow Senator Art Haywood. The six-member committee recently told Haywood they decided against conducting a formal investigation into what he said was the spreading of "lies and disinformation." He filed his complaint at the request of the Washington, D.C.-based Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics.

Western PA Walmart shoppers may want to check their pantries for cashews that fall under a just-announced recall. Honey roasted cashews sold under the Great Value label in 8.25-ounce plastic cans are being recalled due to the possible presence of undeclared coconut and milk. The cashews, with a 'best if used by' date of July 8th 2025, were sold online and at Walmart stores in thirty states including Pennsylvania. More specifics on the recall can be found at [fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov).

Senator Bernie Sanders is introducing a bill that would establish a four-day work week in the U.S. If passed, the bill would lower the threshold required for overtime pay from 40 hours a week to 32 over the course of a four-year period.



03-14-24-3

The Department of Justice reports an Ohio man has been found guilty for his actions in a conspiracy to traffic cocaine into parts of Western Pennsylvania. Investigators say that Norberto Castillo-Lopez organized the operation to traffic the drug from Columbus into Lawrence and Mercer Counties. Castillo-Lopez has been sentenced this week to serve 135 months in prison.

The U.S. Postal Inspector for Pennsylvania is supporting the Protect Our Letter Carriers legislation. Postal inspector George Clark says there have been increasing cases of carriers being attacked for their keys that open the big blue mailboxes. He says the thieves then take checks from the boxes and wash them, then enter new amounts to be cashed. The legislation would speed up the process of replacing the keys with electronic versions that criminals couldn't use. Nearly 650 postal carriers across the country were robbed last year.

Hunter Biden's federal gun case will be going to trial soon. On Wednesday, the judge presiding over the case declared a tentative trial start date of June third. The President's son has been hit with multiple charges tied to him possessing a gun while using narcotics.

03-19-24-1

The PA Department of Health reports that, of the more than 51-hundred drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth in 2022, 78-percent were opioid-related. In Western Pennsylvania, two counties are among the 19 statewide where the overdose death rate was higher than the state average of three-point-nine-six percent. The average in Mercer County is at four-point-three percent...and nine-point-eight percent in Lawrence County. The Lawrence County figure was the highest in the state.

Nearly a thousand Americans have reached out to the State Department for help in Haiti, where gang violence has plunged the nation into chaos. A State Department spokesperson says people have been filling out crisis intake forms online, as the U.S. tries to get them out on chartered flights.

The Environmental Protection Agency is banning the last form of asbestos used in the United States. The government agency called it a "major milestone" for chemical safety by banning the ongoing use, which has been linked to multiple types of cancer. It applies to a type of asbestos used in car parts.

03-19-24-2

Folks in Western Pennsylvania and around the state, hoping to pick up a ticket today for tonight's 875-million dollar Mega Millions drawing, will not be able to get that ticket in the Commonwealth. Lottery terminals across the state are out of commission today as systems are undergoing technical upgrades. The system is expected to be back online tomorrow.

Former President Trump's lawyers say he is unable to secure the 464-million-dollar fraud judgment against him in New York. Trump needs to post bond by next week or New York Attorney General Letitia James can start collecting during the appeals process. According to legal documents filed yesterday, his legal team is asking the appeals court to step in, adding finding a bond is "practically impossible."

Joann is filing for bankruptcy after over eight decades in business. The fabric and craft retailer said in a statement that it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and secured 132-million in funding to help reduce its debt.

03-19-24-3

A few power outages near the Lawrence County Courthouse and road closures were the result of a woman crashing her SUV into utility poles and signs yesterday morning in downtown New Castle. Reports say Jamala Hubbard was driving her Chevy Trax on East Washington Street near East Side Pharmacy when she hit a pothole and lost control of her vehicle. Hubbard was taken to the hospital. Power is back on and roads are open

Authorities say the search for an armed man in a Beaver County community is now over. At around 10:00 o'clock last night, 911 dispatchers confirmed that state troopers and other officials were looking to locate a man who was carrying an AR-15 rifle in the borough of Midland. Officials later said the search was ended but they did not say whether anyone has been arrested or charged. No injuries were initially reported in connection with the search, according to emergency operators. No additional details related to the situation have been released so far.

Three people have been charged in connection with a roulette scheme at Pittsburgh's Rivers Casino. Investigators say that one player and two casino workers were involved in the con that involved forcing game errors at an electronic roulette table game and payouts to the involved player that totaled more than 10-thousand dollars across the time of the illegal activity. Authorities were tipped off to the scheme by a letter that was sent in anonymously.



03-20-24-1

Administrators in the Hermitage School District report an 11-year-old student was found in possession of a handgun at school on Monday. Reports say the child showed the gun to two other students who then reported the matter to adults. Police were called to the school where officers took possession of the weapon. No one was hurt.

Former President Trump says he'll need to take extreme measures, including selling some of his properties quickly for cheap "fire sale" prices, to pay his 464-million-dollar bond in his New York civil fraud case.

There's an alert out for measles across the country. The CDC says so far this year, there are 58 cases in 17 states. That already equals the number of cases reported in all of 2023. Once eradicated, the CDC is once again urging families to make sure they get their measles vaccines.

03-20-24-2

At least one person was killed in a multi-vehicle pile-up on the Emlenton Bridge in Clarion County shortly after midnight on Monday night. The crash involved around eight tractor-trailers and a few passenger vehicles as well; authorities closed 11 miles of the eastbound lane of I-80 between exits 42 and 53 for more than 9 hours while investigating and cleaning the scene of the crash.

Authorities in Beaver County are releasing more details after officers spent the night searching for an armed man. Late Monday night, officers were dispatched to a home in Midland following calls of a domestic incident. A man then left the home carrying an AR-15 rifle and police spent hours searching for him. Officers eventually heard a single gunshot and found the man dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The man's identity has not been released.

Five states held presidential primaries Tuesday. As President Biden and Donald Trump have already secured the nominations of their respective parties and won all five states, the attention shifted to a handful of down-ballot races. In Ohio, Trump-backed Bernie Moreno is the projected winner of the GOP nomination for Senate as he looks to unseat Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown in November. The Senate race is key if Republicans want to take control of the chamber next year.

03-20-24-3

You'll hear tornado sirens across the state of Ohio today as part of Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Week. Outdoor warning sirens will be activated at 9:50 this morning as part of the drill. Officials are encouraging businesses, schools, and households to practice their severe weather responses during the exercise.

Two former police officers in Mississippi sentenced to years in federal prison for their involvement in the torture and sexual assault of two Black men. Former Rankin County Sheriff's deputy Hunter Elward was one of six officers, who are all white, involved in the attack in 2023. Elward pleaded guilty to shooting one of the victims in the mouth last summer. He was sentenced to 20 years behind bars. Jeffrey Middleton 7.5 years. The other four officers also pleaded guilty and are scheduled to be sentenced this week.

The top generals who oversaw the deadly withdrawal of Afghanistan say there was a lack of coordination and execution prep by the Biden White House in 2021. In a House hearing Tuesday, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley and former Central Command Commander General Kenneth McKenzie agreed, in their words, the planning was far too little, far too late. Thirteen American service members were killed in a terrorist attack at the Kabul airport in 2021.

03-19-24-2

In Butler County, a man has been charged in connection with a Friday stabbing. The incident happened at a location on Whitestown Road in Butler Township. The victim was taken from the scene to a local hospital for treatment and there has been no word on their condition. Forty-two-year-old Marcos Roman is facing charges in the incident.

The Biden administration says it's up to the Israeli people to decide if they'll have new elections and leadership. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby spoke with Fox News Sunday and commented on Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's speech criticizing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's approach to the war in Gaza. Kirby said President Biden recognizes Schumer was speaking for many Americans concerned about how the war is going. Schumer called for new elections in Israel, adding that Netanyahu is an "obstacle to peace."

North Korea is lobbing more missiles into the sea. South Korea's military reports the missile was fired Monday morning local time. Japan's coast guard also confirmed the launch and announced the missile had fallen. The missile launch also coincided with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to South Korea. Blinken was attending a conference on advancing democracy.



A former Mercer County sheriff's deputy has filed suit against the county, the sheriff and the sheriff's office after, he says, he was wrongfully terminated. Anthony Tedesco ran last year for the Republican nomination for sheriff and lost the contest to Tim Callahan who went on to win the office in the general election. Tedesco says he was suspended with pay on the date that Callahan was sworn in as sheriff and that he was later fired, according to Tedesco, because he ran for office and spoke out on matters of public concern. There has been no public response to the suit by either the county or Callahan.

It's not clear what the U.S. Senate will do with a bipartisan House bill that could ban TikTok. During an interview on CNN's "State of the Union," South Dakota Senator Mike Rounds said the chamber will likely "have to do something" to address national security concerns with the social media platform. The Republican said he supports the direction of the bill but stopped short of saying whether he would vote for it in the Senate. The bill that passed last week would force Chinese company ByteDance to sell its stake in TikTok to an American company.

03-18-24-3

A former Mercer County sheriff's deputy has filed suit against the county, the sheriff and the sheriff's office after, he says, he was wrongfully terminated. Anthony Tedesco ran last year for the Republican nomination for sheriff and lost the contest to Tim Callahan who went on to win the office in the general election. Tedesco says he was suspended with pay on the date that Callahan was sworn in as sheriff and that he was later fired, according to Tedesco, because he ran for office and spoke out on matters of public concern. There has been no public response to the suit by either the county or Callahan.

Ohio voters on Tuesday will head to the polls to choose a Republican candidate to challenge Democrat Sherrod Brown in the fall. During an interview with CNN's "State of the Union," Governor Mike DeWine says he believes state Senator Matt Dolan has the best shot at unseating Brown. He said it will definitely be a close race. This comes as former President Trump was in Ohio this weekend and endorsed candidate Bernie Moreno.

The Mega Millions jackpot is getting close to a billion dollars. Lottery officials say no ticket matched all six numbers drawn Friday night so the grand prize jumps to an estimated 875-million dollars for Tuesday's drawing. Meanwhile, there was no winner in last night's Powerball drawing, so that jackpot will be worth an estimated 645-million dollars for Monday's drawing.

03-26-24-2

Twenty animals are now being cared for at shelters following their removal from a home in Butler County. State police say they seized ten dogs, a cat, four ducks, and five chickens from "deplorable" conditions at a property on Pfeiffer Road in Prospect yesterday. The home there is uninhabitable, according to authorities. Officials have not shared any details on possible charges. An investigation is underway.

All freshmen and sophomores at Slippery Rock University have to live on campus starting this fall. Slippery Rock's chief Student Affairs Officer David Wilmes, says that studies show that sophomores who live on campus are less likely to underperform academically. The University expects to be over capacity by 1% to 3% this fall and is working to find alternative accommodations and build new dorm rooms.

There will be no delay in Former President Trump's hush money criminal case. A judge rejected Trump's request for an additional delay and said jury selection will start April 15th. The case is related to alleged hush money payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels. Trump's lawyers argued that Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg was late in turning over documents related to key witnesses and they needed more time, but the judge said Bragg was not at fault.

03-26-24-3

State police are reporting a scam in which a Lawrence County man lost 15-thousand dollars. In the con, the 67-year-old victim responded to a pop-up on his computer screen that ended with him FedExing 15-thousand in cash and 36-hundred dollars to a location in California to cover the cost of supposed online tech support. Authorities are reminding folks that no legitimate entity would ever request payment in the form of gift cards and no legitimate entity would ever direct you to withdraw cash and ship it in the mail.

Butler police are searching for two suspects who robbed a victim at an ATM. The incident happened on Sunday night at the PNC Bank at the Clearview Mall, when a vehicle pulled up behind the victim while they were depositing money into the ATM. A passenger got out of the vehicle holding an unknown object and walked up to the victim's car. The victim got spooked and fled from the scene without completing the cash deposit and then the suspects took the cash from the ATM and fled from the scene. No arrests have been made.

Shohei Ohtani [[ show-hey oh-tah-nee ]] says he never bet on baseball and never asked anyone to do it for him. The Dodger superstar spoke to the public for the first time Monday since allegations of illegal gambling and theft involving his former interpreter came out last week. Through an interpreter, he said he's very sad that someone close to him would be accused of theft and illegal sports betting.