

03-27-24-1

In federal court, a New Castle man yesterday was sentenced to 120 months behind bars after previously pleading guilty to drug and weapons charges. Sahire Walker was convicted on charges including possession of cocaine base with intent to distribute and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. His record includes five other convictions on drug trafficking charges.

The search for the six missing Baltimore Bridge workers was suspended Tuesday night because of diminished visibility and treacherous currents in the busy harbor. Divers will return to Baltimore Harbor this morning to look for the people presumed dead after a cargo ship hit the bridge. The head of the Institute of Export and International Trade says the suspension of the Baltimore Bridge could have a "significant ripple effect on global supply chains." Last year, over 47-million tons of foreign cargo passed through Baltimore Harbor.

NBC News is planning to drop former RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel after facing push back from some of its personalities over her hiring. During her time with the RNC, McDaniel questioned the 2020 presidential election results and took aim at journalists.

03-27-24-2

Sexual assault and rape charges filed against a Mercer County man have been dropped this week as part of a plea deal. Robert Hazen of Hadley had been facing 21 counts that included sexual assault. Previous reports had said that one of Robert Hazen's victims was 16-years-old and another was 13. Hazen has pleaded guilty to charges of escape and criminal use of a communication facility. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Governor Josh Shapiro has asked for 50-million-dollars to keep a house repair program going. It helps low-income people who can't afford the repairs they need. The 125-million-dollars from the previous program was funded federally and that money has dried up. The governor wants state funds to replace the program and supporters say that'd be most cost efficient and would beat trying to find other affordable options.

Pro-Palestinian protesters interrupted President Biden's remarks on healthcare in North Carolina yesterday. During an event in Raleigh, protesters shouted "what about healthcare in Gaza" and "hospitals in Gaza are being bombed." Biden responded to the crowd, saying the protesters have a point and "a lot more care" needs to get into Gaza.

03-27-24-3

Western Pennsylvania residents and others around the state this week will have the chance to begin the bidding in an online auction of unclaimed merchandise. State officials say the items going up for bids include jewelry, currency, precious metals and other items that have gone unclaimed in the state treasury's vault for three years or more. Should the owner of an item that gets sold ever come forward, they will always have the opportunity to collect the proceeds from the sale. The bidding begins tomorrow at [live-dot-pookandpook-dot-com](http://live-dot-pookandpook-dot-com).

Robert Morris University is giving their senior class an opportunity to make up for a missed experience. The university is hosting a prom for students who missed the dance during their final year in high school in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All RMU students are invited to attend the event on April 20th and they will be able to invite a guest from off-campus. A happy hour for RMU students who are graduating this year only is planned before the prom.

The American Red Cross is stepping up efforts to get local residents and others around the country to donate blood. The organization reports there is an immediate need for donors in order to keep the national blood supply from falling into shortage. The Red Cross is offering everyone who donates between now and April 7th an exclusive t-shirt celebrating the Red Cross and the new movie "Godzilla x Kong: The

New Empire." Shirts are available while supplies last and all of the details can be found online at [redcrossblood-dot-org](http://redcrossblood-dot-org).

03-28-24-1

Workers at a Lawrence County dairy have received word that they are losing their jobs. Ornu Ingredients North America in Scott Township had just one client left and announced last month that they had lost that contract. Some employees are being kept on until the company is completely shut down next month. A total of 66 workers are losing their jobs.

Officials in Baltimore say they have recovered bodies of two of the missing workers on the Francis Scott Key bridge when it collapsed. Maryland Governor Wes Moore said during a press conference on Wednesday that efforts will now shift to "salvage and recovery." He went on to add that the state has submitted a request to the Biden administration for emergency relief funds, and that he spoke with the president by phone.

Former Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman has died at the age of 82. Lieberman, who was the Democratic nominee for vice president in 2000 under Al Gore, died in New York City following complications from a fall. A four-term U.S. senator, Lieberman was the first Jewish American candidate on the national ticket of a major party.

03-28-24-2

In Mahoning County, a woman who took part in a 2020 Austintown arson has been sentenced to prison. Prosecutors say that Ashley Levin and two others left a local bar and went to a nearby home looking for drugs but went to the wrong home. While there, the trio set fire to a carport. No injuries were reported. Levin, who testified against a co-defendant and pleaded guilty to aggravated arson, was sentenced yesterday to serve two to three years behind bars.

State officials say over 90 people in Pennsylvania have been charged with public assistance fraud for the month of February. The Office of State Inspector General says 70 of those are facing felony charges, which carry a maximum penalty of seven years in prison. The fraud has consisted of misusing SNAP funds, cash assistance or subsidized care benefits. If all of the people charged are convicted, state officials say they would have to pay back more than 400-thousand-dollars

The Carnival Legend cruise ship will not be able to reach Baltimore's Cruise ship terminal due to the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The ship was scheduled to return on Sunday, but instead it will dock in Norfolk, Virginia and provide guests with free bus service to Baltimore.

03-28-27-3

Another wrongful death lawsuit is being filed against a Butler County nurse. That nurse, 41-year-old Heather Pressdee, is already facing several charges and lawsuits after she allegedly administered lethal doses of insulin to patients at five different facilities between 2020 and 2023. The latest lawsuit was filed by the family of 43-year-old Nicholas Cymbol, which claims Pressdee gave Cymbol a lethal dose of insulin while she was a unit manager at Sunnyview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Pressdee faces several charges, including homicide, attempted murder and aggravated assault.

A bill is advancing in the state House that would limit handheld cellphone use while driving. The House Transportation Committee voted 19 to 6 on the Senate-passed bill that would prohibit the use of cellphones and other hand-held devices while operating a vehicle. Drivers would still be able to use a phone but only through a Bluetooth connection or a speaker. A first offense would carry a 50-dollar fine.

Most Americans now believe marijuana should be legal. A survey from Pew Research Center found 88-percent of Americans think cannabis should be legal for recreational or medicinal use. While nearly six out of ten believe it should be legal for both uses, around three out of ten think it should only be legal for medical purposes.

03-21-24-1

In Trumbull County, a former Pennsylvania state trooper has pleaded guilty to charges in connection with a deadly vehicle crash. Joseph Yuran of Sharpsville was behind the wheel in November of 2023 when he caused an accident near US-422 and State Route 305 that resulted in the death of 23-year-old Tyler Richmond. Yuran has pleaded guilty to charges of aggravated vehicular homicide and OVI. His conviction comes with a mandatory prison term and he will be sentenced at a later date.

A new "tailpipe" rule that calls for the majority of new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. to be either hybrid or all-electric by 2032 is being announced by the Biden administration. The new rule calls for a target of 35 to 56-percent electric vehicle production by eight years, and a target of 13 to 36-percent for hybrids.

The first human to receive a brain implant from Neuralink, a 29-year-old quadriplegic, is speaking out. Musk recently announced the man was recovering and now the patient says the device lets him play online chess and video games with his mind.



03-21-24-2

A Sharon couple who distributed cocaine out of their apartment and were later convicted on federal charges have learned their sentence. Prosecutors say Zachariah Owens and Kayla Fair were dealing in October of 2021 out of the home where they and their children lived. Owens has been sentenced this week to 15 years in prison. Fair was sentenced to 16 months behind bars.

A state Senate panel wants to increase penalties for parents who leave their children while they gamble at casinos. The Judiciary Committee approved Senate Bill 1021 by a vote of 13 to 1 Tuesday. It would make leaving a child unattended to visit a casino a third-degree felony

The fourth officer who tortured two Black men in Mississippi is being sentenced to 40 years in prison. This is the federal judge's most severe sentence so far. Rankin County sheriff's deputy Christian Dedmon is part of a group of white officers who illegally entered the men's home and brutally attacked and tried to sexually assault them for nearly two hours while subjecting them to racial hatred.

03-21-24-3

Eastern Gateway Community College trustees have resolved to close the school by June 30th, if funding is not in place. At Wednesday's board meetings, the trustees approved a resolution that set May 31st as the fiscal deadline. The college had paused registrations in February, due to ongoing financial issues. Trustees also approved a resolution to explore possible collaboration with Youngstown State University.

An arrest warrant has been issued for former Pittsburgh Steelers star Cameron Sutton. Sutton, now with the Detroit Lions, is accused of battering a woman in Florida earlier this month. He is charged with domestic battery by strangulation and could face as many as five years in prison if convicted.

More viewers are turning on streaming services for entertainment, news and sports. According to a new Nielsen report called "The Gauge," February streamer viewership was at its highest in six months. It found that over a third of all TV viewership is on streaming platforms.

03-22-24-1

Nurses at four western Pennsylvania hospitals are rallying ahead of new contract talks. The Service Employees International Union is pressing for a new contract for 12-hundred nurses at West Penn, Heritage Valley Beaver, UPMC Western Psychiatric and Allegheny Valley hospitals. Nurses say staffing shortages have forced them to work longer hours and that patient care will suffer. Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey supported the nurses at last night's rally.

New York State lawyers have entered judgments in Westchester County, taking the first step in possibly seizing some of former President Trump's assets. Trump has until Monday to post a 464-million dollar bond in his civil fraud case or convince an appeals court to let him post a smaller amount until after he appeals the decision.

A lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice along with 16 state and district attorneys general claims Apple has monopolized the smartphone market by blocking competitors from accessing hardware and software features of the iPhone. No charges will be filed regarding a fight that occurred one day before the death of an Oklahoma teenager. Officials have ruled 16-year-old Nex Benedict's death a suicide.

03-22-24-2

A New Castle man is dead after a two vehicle crash Thursday afternoon. Randall Shropshire was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident on Falls Street. His red pickup landed up on the embankment outside of West View Terrace after a head on collision with a white sedan. Reports do not list the identity of the female driver of the car or the extent of her injuries. The police will be looking at surveillance cameras to determine how the crash occurred.

The UN Security Council will vote today on a U.S.-sponsored Gaza ceasefire resolution. The resolution warns against an Israeli military offensive in Rafah, and strongly condemns restrictions that prevent aid from entering the Gaza Strip. The resolution also calls for an immediate ceasefire in Israel's war against the Palestinian militant group Hamas, without a time limit, and condemns all acts of terrorism, including the Hamas-led attacks of October 7th.

A second flight of American citizens has landed safely in United States after fleeing Haiti. On Thursday, a flight evacuating 80 Americans arrived in Miami. The State Department has encouraged all U.S. citizens to leave Haiti as political unrest and gang violence escalates.

03-22-24-3

A Hermitage woman sentenced to 30 days in Trumbull County Jail after injuring a police officer after a traffic stop back in January. Tala Wimberly will also serve 3 years probation. She was stopped on Route 7 in Brookfield and became very argumentative with officers. Later in the booking room she punched an officer in the face, her handcuffs cutting his eye. Wimberly had five kids in the car with her when she was stopped on a warrant.

No charges will be filed regarding a fight that occurred one day before the death of an Oklahoma teenager. 16-year-old Nex Benedict, who had complained to parents and staff about being bullied, was involved in a fist fight at Owasso High School, and was found dead the next day. Officials have ruled Benedict's death a suicide.

The head of the Social Security Administration is warning against raising the retirement age. Martin O'Malley spoke at a House committee hearing on Thursday where he said Americans want their government to strengthen Social Security and expand it, not to "cut it, contract it, or gut its customer service."

03-26-24-1

A Western Pennsylvania pizza chain operator has been fined nearly 350-thousand dollars for its violations of child labor laws. The PA Department of Labor reports that NWPA Pizza Inc., who operates seven Domino's Pizza locations in Mercer, Erie and Crawford Counties, committed 715 such violations. They are accused of not giving juveniles a break in their first five hours of work, juveniles working beyond the number of hours allowed in a day or week and juveniles working before or after legal working hours.

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott is responding to the scene of a major disaster at the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The heavily-traveled bridge collapsed due to a ship strike overnight, sending multiple vehicles into the water. First responders, fire boats and emergency personnel are at the scene

Polls are showing the November rematch between President Biden and former President Trump is staying close. A survey shared with The Hill from a Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll shows Trump leads by two points over Biden, with around nine-percent undecided. The lead is down from a six-point lead in February.