

For Station:WPKL Uniontown
City of License: Uniontown, Pa
Licensee: Forever Media Inc..

The following issues have been determined to have importance and concern within the Stations City of license during the past three months. These issues were found to be significant, and for these issues the (documented) Program issues. Responses were broadcast to inform, explain, promote/advocate a position on or report on these issues. The issues that were saved in this folder are listed in a time sequence because of the time sensitivity of the issues, not as a ranking by importance or significance to the listeners or station management.

* See WOOG for list of stories. Stories are the same
Compiled 12-31-15

11/02/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Authorities are investigating a car crash in Westmoreland County. A car crashed late Friday night on Route 136 in Rostraver Township, then reportedly burst into flames.

Washington & Jefferson College police officers are going to start carrying handguns and wearing body cameras. Officials announced the move Friday and say implementation procedures are underway. The school says the decision enables the officers to provide higher levels of protection and more effective response to threatening situations.

Changes are being made to the rules for jury duty. Governor Tom Wolf signed a bill into law on Friday which will allow breastfeeding mothers and people over the age of 74 to opt out of serving on Pennsylvania juries. Federal and state judges will now also be automatically excluded.

Police are investigating a fatal shooting in North Union Township. Witnesses say a large fight broke out inside the Double Vision Bar and Grille early Saturday. The dispute reportedly moved outside, which is when Billy James was shot and killed. The shooter has not been located.

Two men are most likely going to serve house arrest after pleading guilty in a pain medication scheme. Randell Rice Junior and Carl Santavicca entered the pleas Friday and will also be required to testify against the other defendants. Officials say the men were both patients of Dr. William Ainsley, a Uniontown podiatrist who allegedly prescribed thousands of painkillers for patients and then got some back in return.

A man is facing charges following a dispute at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Greensburg. Witnesses say Chris Coleman got into an argument with a man at the East Pittsburgh Street facility last week. Coleman had to be restrained by customers until officers arrived. Officials say he is also accused of stealing the Greensburg fire chief's portable radio to broadcast a drunken tirade over the emergency airwaves in September.

A Scottdale man is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to causing an accident that killed one of his friends. Evan Yuhouse was driving on Route 982 in Bullskin in April when he lost control on a curve and hit a sign. Yuhouse fled the scene, leaving his three injured passengers behind. William Romesburg Jr. died the next day. The group was reportedly drinking at the Hide Out bar before the crash. Yuhouse faces up to 37-years behind bars following the Friday plea.

11/3/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

It is Election Day 2015. Polls will be open throughout Pennsylvania from seven o'clock this morning until eight o'clock tonight. Any voter trying to find their polling place can use the Department of State's Polling Place Search.

Police are asking for the public's help with a homicide investigation in North Union Township. Billy James was fatally shot at the Double Vision Bar and Grille over the weekend after a bar fight moved into the parking lot. Officers say about ten people were involved in the fight, but claim no one will talk for fear of retaliation. About six "persons of interest" have been questioned, but no arrests have been made.

A Brownsville man is facing charges for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend. She was at her house with Anthony Cronin Sunday, and was arguing with him because she wanted to leave. Cronin allegedly blocked the door and assaulted her, leaving her unconscious for an hour. The victim told police when she woke up that Cronin was begging her not to leave him. He is also accused of slamming her face into the steering wheel of her car and threatening to kill her.

Officials are confirming that a missing Donora man is dead. Chris Megela's body washed up Sunday along the Monongahela River shore on the Rostraver side. Megela was reported missing on October 14th.

Officials are investigating a potential threat that caused a lockdown at Bentworth High School. The threat was reportedly found in a bathroom yesterday morning and Bentleyville police were called to the scene. The building was searched but nothing suspicious was found. Officers stayed on the property until noon.

Democrats are reclaiming the majority on the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners. Newcomer Democrat Gina Cerilli was elected last night along with Democratic incumbent Ted Kopas and Republican incumbent Charles Anderson. Tyler Courtney finished fourth.

Jonathan Held is getting another term as Westmoreland County Sheriff. Held beat out Democratic challenger Paul Cycak with about 53-percent of the vote. Cycak is the chief deputy coroner.

Three Democrats are victorious in the race for the state Supreme Court. Christine Donohue, Kevin Dougherty, and David Wecht all beat their challengers yesterday, giving Democrats a majority on the high court for at least a decade. Officials say this was the most expensive U.S. Supreme Court race in history with more than 15-point-eight million dollars spent.

A new government-backed retirement savings program starts today. The free, low-risk financial account is called MyRA. It's designed for lower- and middle-income Americans who don't have access to a 401(k) plan at work.

Greene County commissioners are looking strangely familiar. Voters returned incumbents Blair Zimmerman and Archie Trader to the board yesterday. They also elected former county commissioner Dave Coder.

California University of Pennsylvania is mourning the loss of a student. Twenty-one-year-old Mason Reiff was killed in a crash Monday night on Route 88 in California. Reiff and three other people were ejected from the vehicle. Officials have not revealed what caused the accident.

11/5/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

A Westmoreland County man is facing animal cruelty charges after allegedly kicking a dog. Zachary Gannon is accused of kicking an eight-month-old boxer in the back leg at a home on Newark Street in Hempfield Township last month. He reportedly kicked the dog so hard the dog had to have the leg amputated.

An Albert Gallatin High School senior is recovering following a traffic accident in Smithfield Township. Eighteen-year-old Kayla Darst is in stable condition after being flown from the scene by a medical helicopter Tuesday. Police say her vehicle hit a tree on Main Street.

More information is being released about the shooting death of a man in North Union. An autopsy has revealed Billy James was shot three times in the chest, and died from internal bleeding. James was reportedly shot last weekend during a fight at the Double Vision Bar and Grill on Oliver Road.

A Uniontown man is awaiting sentencing after being convicted of fatally stabbing a woman outside a bar in Fairchance. The jury found Darius Samuel guilty of third-degree murder yesterday after a three-day trial, during which Samuel refused to testify in his own defense. Prosecutors say he stabbed Rashaunda Fitzgerald outside the Goal Post Lounge in 2014.

Four people are recovering from stab wounds after being attacked on the University of California at Merced [[mur-SED]] campus. Two of the stabbing victims were students, one was a staff member and the fourth person was a contract worker on campus

A Fayette County prison guard is facing charges for allegedly beating an inmate. Robert Michael, Jr. was caught on surveillance video punching the inmate and knocking him down while he was handcuffed and shackled. Michael was charged Monday with assault and reckless endangerment.

11/6/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Travelers flying out of Pittsburgh International Airport will now be able to fly nonstop to Cancun, Mexico. American Airlines announced yesterday that they are offering new seasonal service to Cancun starting March 5th of next year. The flights will depart on Saturday's only.

In Westmoreland, A retired state trooper is facing charges for allegedly having inappropriate contact with a 13-year-old girl. James Boggs is accused of having sex with the victim and exchanging sexual pictures and videos with her last year. Boggs retired in 2011.

A Scottdale police officer is stepping down following charges related to a domestic dispute. Joseph Lane was charged with harassment and assault for the incident, which allegedly occurred last month when an argument with the victim turned physical. Lane is accused of throwing the woman to the ground and causing minor injuries.

11/9/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Authorities are investigating the cause of a fire at Inmetco, a battery recycling plant in Ellwood City. It fire started yesterday morning, creating a lot of smoke. firefighters reportedly suffered minor injuries. Inmetco is the leading recycler of metal bearing wastes in North America.

In Fayette County, the search a missing 17-year-old girl who allegedly ran away from home is on. Paige Smonsy of Uniontown ran away after meeting 24-year-old Shawn Ruby. Paige's parents are reportedly offering a reward for her safe return.

Two Uniontown men are facing charges for what police are calling a "large scale cocaine trafficking business." Semori Wilson and Nygel Saunders were arrested last week after a search of Saunders' home turned up more than a kilogram of cocaine and crack cocaine.

A Uniontown man is facing charges for allegedly trying to run over a woman with a truck. Police say Richard Schoch got into an argument with the victim while she was driving in Wharton Township over the weekend with her four-year-old son in the vehicle. The victim told police she pulled over near the Marathon gas station, and Schoch began punching her in the face. When she jumped out, Schoch allegedly drove the vehicle directly at her. The woman ran to the gas station and called police.

Brownsville officials are working on a plan to build a memorial for area military personnel who have been killed in action since World War One. A committee has been established to get all the names, which will then go on an honor roll at Snowden Square in downtown Brownsville.

A teenager is dead following an accident in Brownsville. Eighteen-year-old Andre Smith was involved in a criminal incident early yesterday and when officers responded, he took off. He was reportedly attempting to make a turn when he lost control and hit a building. He was pronounced dead a short time later.

A live bullet is being blamed for a lockdown at Hempfield Middle School. A teacher found the bullet Friday afternoon in the hallway and police were called in to search the building. No other ammunition was found nor were any weapons.

11/10/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Some changes are coming to the Connellsville Area School District. The school board announced at a meeting last night that they have accepted acting superintendent Kevin O'Donnell's request to retire. O'Donnell's retirement is reportedly effective December 31st.

Governor Tom Wolf says progress is being made on the state budget. Wolf announced yesterday that he has reached an agreement with Republicans for a 750-million-dollar increase in education funding. The increase would take place over two years and is the largest education funding increase in state history. A spokeswoman for Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman says Republicans are feeling positive, but the details are still being worked out.

A man is facing charges following a confrontation in Fairchance. Kevin Lake allegedly ran over Justin Detrick in the parking lot of the American Legion early Saturday. Witnesses say Lake purposely accelerated his car toward Detrick, hitting him in the legs. He is also accused of punching a woman in the face earlier in the evening at a home in Georges Township.

Police are investigating a death in Stewart Township. Few details have been released but officials think the incident, which occurred in a remote area along Dinner Bell Road yesterday, might have been farm-related. More information is expected to be released today.

11/11/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Trib Total Media is cutting 153 full and part-time jobs starting on December 31st. Trib President Jennifer Bertetto says the restructuring of the company reflects the increasing shift by readers from print to digital newspapers and other multimedia platforms. She says the decision to cut jobs was painful but necessary to adapt to the changing media landscape.

A man is facing charges after an incident at Uniontown Hospital. Michael Truax was getting treatment at the facility earlier this month, when he said he wanted to leave. Truax was reportedly cussing, would not allow medical staff to touch him and threatened to make officers bleed. One of the officers tackled Truax but could not subdue him and used a Taser to get him under control.

Homicide charges are being filed against a man who led police on a high-speed chase that killed a woman. Jonathan Switch was trying to elude officers in North Union last month when one of the patrol cars chasing him hit a vehicle, killing the driver. Police were trying to pull Switch over after he swerved into their lane. He was driving on a suspended license.

A group of homeowners in Dunbar are going to resume their Neighborhood Crime Watch program. The spokesman asked borough council for permission Monday night and Mayor Norm Gordon says he supports the program and will discuss it with the police department. The group wants to use walkie-talkies and a vehicle is being donated for patrols.

11/12/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Two teens are facing charges after calling in a bomb threat to a Fayette County Walmart. The threats were called in to the South Union Township Walmart yesterday. The store was evacuated and searched but nothing was found.

A wind advisory is in effect for parts of western Pennsylvania. The advisory is in effect from 10 am - 10 pm for counties including Allegheny, Armstrong, Washington, Westmoreland and Fayette. The National Weather Service says winds will be anywhere around 25 to 30 miles an hour with gusts up to 50 miles an hour.

Officials are investigating a fire that damaged a house in Rogersville. No one was home when the flames broke out in the Second Street residence yesterday. No injuries were reported but the extent of the damage is not yet known.

Officials are investigating a string of vandalisms in Lower Tyrone Township. Windows, mailboxes and pumpkins were smashed along Upper and Lower Hulltown roads early yesterday morning. Detectives are reviewing area surveillance video in an attempt to identify a suspect.

11/16/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Governor Tom Wolf is urging Pennsylvanians to be vigilant and alert following the terrorist attacks in Paris. Wolf released a statement on Saturday saying there's no imminent threat to the commonwealth, but asking people to report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

A fire is being blamed for an evacuation at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort. The flames broke out late Saturday night in the chimney at the original lodge building. No structural damage was reported and guests were allowed back in a short time later.

The number of drug-related deaths are increasing in Westmoreland County. Co-chairman of the county's drug overdose task force Dirk Matson spoke at an Excelsior Health System symposium Friday and said the numbers are on pace to rise by about 50 percent this year. The Deputy Coroner says he agrees with the figures and estimates upwards of 130 drug-related deaths by the end of the year as opposed to 87 last year.

Police are investigating allegations that a student was videotaped without her knowledge at Laurel Highlands High School. Officers say the victim was reportedly taped by another female student while she was dressing in the locker room, and the video was shared over social media.

11/17/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Pennsylvania voters are going to be asked to decide whether the state's judges should get an additional five years on the bench before being forced to retire. The measure was approved yesterday by the Senate and would raise the mandatory judicial retirement age from 70 to 75.

Governor Tom Wolf says Pennsylvania will continue to welcome Syrian refugees. Wolf released a statement yesterday saying, in part, "We must not lose sight of the fact that families leaving Syria are trying to escape the same violence and unimaginable terror that took place in Paris and Beirut."

More information is released in connection with a fire in Westmoreland County. The fire sparked Sunday night at a home on Low Street in Mt. Pleasant Township. A woman inside the home at the time was able to escape' however, her cat and dog died in the fire. The home is destroyed.

Republican Guy Reschenthaler's state Senate swearing-in ceremony is being postponed. Reschenthaler won the special election for the 37th District and was supposed to make it official on Wednesday but four challenged election ballots are holding things up. The four ballots won't change the outcome of the Senate race, but the Washington County Board of Elections can't give a final vote count until candidates have a chance to challenge provisional ballots that were tossed out

A Masontown man is going to prison for an armed robbery. John Bendishaw pleaded guilty to robbing the victim at gunpoint and was sentenced to three-to-six-years yesterday. Police say Bendishaw approached the victim with a gun in May and threatened to shoot him if he didn't hand over drugs or money.

Police are investigating an accident that killed one person and injured two others in Dunbar Township. Witnesses say two cars collided yesterday on West Crawford Avenue near West Crawford Elementary School. Richard O'Neil, a passenger in one of the vehicles, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of that car was airlifted to the hospital with serious injuries.

A Donora police officer is recovering after being bitten by a pit bull during an arrest. Joshua Rose was wanted on a warrant and officials received a tip that he was at his girlfriend's home Sunday. No one answered the door so police forced entry and found Jade Hewitt hiding under a blanket with the pit bull.

11/18/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

People in Westmoreland County are getting in the holiday spirit. community members in Greensburg are preparing for the 24th annual Holiday Parade. The parade will step off Saturday at noon starting at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art.

Two people are in custody in connection to a shooting outside a California apartment complex. Witnesses say a woman was shot in the face last night on Highland Avenue near Vulcan Village, which is off campus housing for California University.

Officials are investigating a bomb threat at Margaret Bell Miller Middle School in Waynesburg. The threat caused the evacuation of the building yesterday afternoon and students were taken to Waynesburg University's football field. Students are not allowed to bring book bags or purses to school today.

A railroad maintenance crew is being blamed for a brush fire that burned about 50 acres of land in northern Fayette County. The flames broke out near Dawson yesterday and spread across Lower Tyrone and Perry townships.

11/19/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

The Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville Airport in Fayette County is getting some support. During a meeting last night, Fayette County Commissioner-elect Dave Lhor announced that he plans to fully support the airport and its continued expansion.

Organizers are gearing up for the 55th annual Light Up Night celebration in Pittsburgh. The event will take place tomorrow night with the Highmark Unity tree lighting taking place at seven o'clock. There will also be live music including a performance by pop star JoJo.

The warden of the Fayette County Prison is confirming a security breach at the facility. Initial reports suggested an escape attempt but officials say the incident is being treated as a contraband problem until more evidence is gathered. The warden says a stone in the wall that borders the alley adjacent to the prison had been tampered with, but claims it's unlikely anyone could have escaped.

A kitchen accident is being blamed for a fire that destroyed a home in Connellsville. Theodore Keffer Jr. told police he was cooking in his Springfield Pike home Tuesday when his kitchen went up in flames. Keffer escaped unharmed but firefighters had to rescue his dog and use a pet oxygen mask to revive it.

A Brownsville man is facing charges after admitting to shooting a woman in California Borough. David Mounts was arraigned yesterday after telling police he fired at least five shots into a car Tuesday evening, near Vulcan Village, an off-campus apartment complex for California University. Tekeilla Stephens was hit in the face and arm but is expected to recover.

11/20/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Nearly 30 people are losing their jobs in Hempfield. Cable Manufacturing and Assembly is closing today and moving operations to Ohio. The company was known as Cabco prior to being sold in 2011. Employees were notified about the closure in June.

There's going to be twice-weekly year-round non-stop flights from Pittsburgh to New Orleans starting in February. Allegiant Air says it will also begin seasonal non-stop flights to West Palm Beach, Florida, from February through May. Allegheny County Airport Authority CEO Christina Cassotis says Pittsburgh is underserved with non-stop flights.

Several Westmoreland County elections are now final. Ties for seats on Latrobe city council and the Burrell school board were broken yesterday by random drawing. Democrat Robert Forish won the Latrobe council position and Pamela Key won the school board seat.

A former Fayette County middle school teacher is going to prison for trying to plan a sexual encounter with a teenage girl. Daniel McGarvey received the 46-month sentence yesterday after pleading guilty to contacting a 15-year-old girl through a website and then traveling to Bridgeport to take her to a hotel. The teen turned out to be a detective. McGarvey was a choral instructor at Laurel Highlands Middle School.

A vote on medical marijuana is scheduled for next week. Officials announced yesterday that the House will take up the bill on Monday. The measure would allow doctors to prescribe the drug for a short list of approved medical conditions. Governor Tom Wolf has previously said he will sign the bill into law.

A prison guard is recovering after being assaulted at the State Correctional Institution at Greene. The facility went on lockdown yesterday after the attack in a general population housing unit. The guard was taken to the hospital and was treated and released. The inmate is already serving a life sentence.

11/23/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Supporters of The Compassionate Use of Cannabis Act are rallying at the Capitol. The House plans to vote on amendments to the bill today so Pennsylvania patients and their families are calling for quick passage.

A Westmoreland County man is safe after becoming lost in the woods. Michael Wishard became disoriented in Wharton Township on Saturday while bear hunting and texted his parents to say he had lost his way. Police, firefighters, EMS workers and several local volunteers found Wishard later that night near Shepherd and Brethren Summit roads.

The driver of a sanitation truck is out of a job after slamming the vehicle into a building in Donora. Michael Zepp was fired by Big's Sanitation after last week's accident, which was his second in two weeks. Zepp reported to being distracted by a text message before he lost control and hit the building. Zepp was also the driver of a Big's truck that drove through a guardrail and into a creek in Rostraver.

A Uniontown man is facing charges for inappropriate behavior. Kenneth Morris, Jr. was charged last week and is being held in Fayette County Jail. He is accused of several incidents of indecent assault and indecent exposure in 2012.

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11/24/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Governor Tom Wolf says the ball is in the GOP's court. Wolf said yesterday it is unlikely the budget will be done by Thanksgiving like he wanted. He is demanding a new deal from Republicans by next Friday.

Officials are releasing more information about an assault at SCI-Greene. A corrections officer was jumped by a prisoner last week and police now say he was stabbed nearly a dozen times in the head and torso. The inmate, who is serving a life sentence for murder, reportedly attacked the guard with a "shank-type weapon."

The Connellsville Area Community Ministries Food Bank is asking for help. The organization says food supplies are low this month, and with the holidays approaching, they are even more in demand. Items needed include cereal, rice, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, canned tuna or chicken, canned soups and canned fruits and vegetables.

Chesapeake Energy Corporation is going to pay more than a million-dollars in fines for contaminating streams in Greene County. The oil and gas company received the fine from the Department of Environmental Protection for a landslide at a well site in Aleppo Township in 2011. The DEP says Chesapeake initially responded to the landslide but has not completed permanent stabilization.

11/25/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

A student is facing charges in connection to a bomb threat at Margaret Bell Miller Middle School. The building was evacuated yesterday after the hand-written note was discovered. The school was swept and nothing suspicious was found. A student reportedly confessed to investigators a short time later and also admitted to writing a similar note last week.

Police are investigating after two men allegedly broke into a home in Hempfield and stole a gun. Two men broke into a home on Mt. Pleasant Road late Monday night but were confronted by the homeowner who reportedly fought them off.

A new store is coming to Westmoreland Mall. H&M will open in the mall on December 11th. To celebrate the grand opening, the first 100 shoppers will receive a T-shirt and a discount shopping pass.

State Republicans are not going to try to override the Governor's veto on a short-term spending bill. Republicans yesterday dropped the plan that would have given out short-term state money and are back to working on the latest budget deal.

A man is facing charges for allegedly disrobing in a California Borough holding cell while making lewd comments to an officer. Jon Golden was arrested Monday for allegedly throwing a brick through a fraternity house window. Officer Garret Kurilko claims Golden took off his clothes and said "kiss me" while making lewd motions in the cell. Golden denies throwing the brick through the window.

A judge is soon going to decide whether the teen accused of stabbing 21 people at Franklin Regional High School, should be tried as a juvenile. Alex Hribal was originally being held in juvenile detention but was transferred to the Westmoreland County Prison on his 18th birthday. Several survivors testified at a hearing yesterday and all said Hribal should be tried as an adult.

The rink at PPG Place is opening for the season today. This year's rink is 25-percent bigger than the previous rink and 67-percent bigger than the rink at Rockefeller Center in New York. The rink was supposed to open last Friday but the warm weather delayed things. Go to Ppgplace.com for more information.

11/30/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

A man is facing charges for allegedly assaulting a child in East Finley Township. Daniel Fuller was arraigned last week and is accused of molesting a six-year-old boy beginning in 2009. The victim did not report the abuse until recently.

Plans for Penn Park are finally advancing. Mt. Pleasant Borough officials found out last week that they will be getting 69-thousand dollars from Westmoreland County Industrial Development to complete the project. The park will include eight parking spaces, a street light on Cherry Avenue, a bike rack, a retaining wall and a fountain.

All U.S. and commonwealth flags in the Capitol Complex are being flown at half-staff today. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf ordered the move yesterday in honor of Officer Lloyd Reed, who was killed while responding to a domestic dispute in Westmoreland County on Saturday. Wolf sent his thoughts and prayers to Reed's family and colleagues.

12/1/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

The race for Westmoreland County Judge is officially over. Judge David Regoli announced yesterday that he will not ask for a recount after losing to Tim Krieger. Regoli reportedly lost to Krieger by 111 votes.

A Westmoreland County business owner is dead following a motorcycle crash in Florida. James McMahan, who is the owner of Z&M Cycle Sales in Greensburg, was killed on Sunday when his motorcycle collided with another vehicle in Melbourne Beach.

It is deer rifle season in Pennsylvania. The season opened yesterday and continues through December 12th. Anyone looking to buy a license can head to the Pennsylvania Game Commission website.

Governor Wolf says a final budget is going to be ready for a vote this week. Wolf wanted a nine percent spending increase and a three-billion-dollar plan to reduce property taxes. Instead, the deal will likely include a six percent spending increase, no reduction in property taxes and a 350-million-dollar increase in education spending.

A man is facing drug charges following a traffic stop in Monongahela. Police reportedly saw Jacob Woods driving near the intersection of Mounds and Vine streets Sunday and knew he had a suspended license. As officers approached the vehicle, they saw Woods reaching into his pocket and trying to turn away. When questioned, Woods allegedly admitted to having drugs.

A man is facing charges for allegedly raping a woman in Uniontown. The victim told police she heard someone knocking on her Lincoln Street door early Sunday and thought it was a relative. When she opened it, Darian Harris reportedly threatened to beat her if she didn't call him "Daddy" and have sex with him.

Police are investigating an accident that injured a man in Connellsville. Thomas Vinoski was hit in a crosswalk along East Crawford Avenue Saturday night. The driver, later identified as Kathleen Leighliter, originally left the scene but then came back.

12/2/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

A Uniontown man is accused of raping a woman in her home on Sunday morning. Darian Harris is facing multiple charges and remains in custody at the Fayette County Prison. A preliminary hearing is set for later this month.

The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium were closed due to a power outage. Duquesne Light says about 50 customers in Highland Park were affected yesterday morning. It wasn't immediately known what caused the service disruption. A spokeswoman says the zoo and aquarium will reopen at 9 a.m.

Authorities are identifying the man struck by a vehicle in Fayette County over the weekend. 83-year-old Thomas Vinoski of South Connellsville died at the hospital on Monday night. Vinoski was hit Saturday while crossing East Crawford Avenue.

A Monessen lawyer is being disbarred for failing to respond to a subpoena. The disciplinary board of the state Supreme Court announced yesterday that Mark Galper's disbarment will go into effect at the end of the year. He has been suspended since February and previously said the suspension involved a failure to file reports in a timely manner. He was also found in contempt of court earlier this year for refusing to respond to the subpoena.

Smoking at Pittsburgh-owned parks may soon be prohibited. City Council approved the ordinance yesterday, saying it is designed to change park behavior, not penalize smokers. Opponents claim the legislation is unfair because alcohol is allowed in the parks.

A Westmoreland County man is suing the Department of Human Services. Gabriel Gamble's attorneys claim he is being held at Torrance State Hospital strictly because the state doesn't have any available assistance programs in which to place him. The suit, which was filed last month, claims Gamble was recommended for discharge from the facility in March. Gamble has autism spectrum disorder and other mental illnesses.

12/3/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

It's the most wonderful time of the year, unless you come down with the flu. MedExpress Urgent Care is offering free flu shots every Wednesday in the month of December. People can go to any MedExpress Urgent Care location to get the free flu shots.

Drivers in Westmoreland County may soon have to pay more to register their cars. The five-dollar hike will generate one-point-seven-million dollars a year for roads and bridge repairs in the county and is expected to be approved by commissioners today. The increase will go into effect on April 1st.

FBI statistics show that guns were a big shopping item on Black Friday. The FBI processed over 185-thousand background checks for gun purchases on the biggest shopping day of the year.

12/4/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Many police officers from all over the country are expected to attend the funeral of St. Clair Police Officer Lloyd Reed. Visitation took place yesterday at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Richland Township. His funeral will be held at 11 o'clock this morning.

Some more police officers may be coming to Greensburg in Westmoreland County. Four police officers who have either resigned or retired this year have left the Greensburg Police Department with only 24 officers. But that is about to change.

Officials are analyzing the Fayette County Prison. The president of the union that represents the county's corrections officers toured the facility Wednesday and was told by union members that it is unsafe. Corrections officers say the conditions will most likely eventually lead to a tragedy. About 100 union members and corrections officers rallied at the Court House after the tour to push for a new prison.

A Scottdale woman is facing child endangerment charges for allegedly allowing her children to ride with an unlicensed driver. Sarah Frye was charged Wednesday in connection to the September incident, when she and her children were in a car that was involved in a high-speed police chase. The car was being driven by Leeland Smalich when the pursuit began on the Turnpike near New Stanton.

A new Quinnipiac [[kwin-IP-pee-ack]] poll finds 58 percent of American voters believe homegrown terrorists are more of a threat than refugees. The poll also finds 83 percent believe a major terrorist attack is "very likely" or "somewhat likely" in the near future.

People in Fayette County are getting in the holiday spirit. An outside live Nativity is planned for tomorrow's "It's a Connellsville Christmas." The live Nativity will be set up in the lot adjacent to the CACM.

The Pollocks Mill Bridge is not going to be finished until next month. Crews are trying to reuse parts to save money, but the extra work is slowing down the project. The salvaged parts must be inspected to be sure they're safe for reuse, but the process is expected to save 30-thousand dollars.

A Uniontown man is going to prison for stabbing a woman to death outside a Fairchance bar. Darius Samuel was sentenced to eight-to-16-years yesterday after being convicted for the death of Rashaunda Fitzgerald in 2014. Samuel and Fitzgerald were at a party outside the Goalpost Lounge when an altercation erupted.

Things are back to normal following a chemical spill on Route 119 in Connellsville. The hatch on a tanker malfunctioned yesterday causing hydrochloric acid to leak out. About five gallons spilled. Crews neutralized the acid with soda ash.

A man is facing charges for allegedly trying to force his ex-girlfriend's car off the road in Latrobe. The victim told police Eric Ferrenberg starting yelling at her as they were driving near Mission Road and Route 982 last month. He then allegedly drove his car within inches of hers, running her onto the berm of the road.

12/7/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Bruce Springsteen is coming to Pittsburgh. Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band recently announced their 2016 U.S. tour dates. They will kick off their tour on January 16th in Pittsburgh when they play the CONSOL Energy Center. Tickets go on sale this Friday.

Governor Tom Wolf is calling on state Supreme Court justice Michael Eakin to resign. Wolf made the comment yesterday in regards to Eakin's involvement in the exchange of racist, sexist and derogatory emails on state computers. Wolf says Eakin should step down because there is concern he may not be impartial while presiding over cases.

The Westmoreland Athletic Club is closing. CEO Dennis Doyle announced last week that he is ready for retirement and will shut down on New Year's Eve.

Applications for concealed weapons permits are increasing in Fayette and Greene counties. Officials say this time of year is usually busy but the number of people applying has doubled in the past few weeks. Many are attributing the spike to the Paris terrorist attacks. Amendments to expand background checks and keep people on the terrorist watch list from buying guns were both defeated in the U.S. Senate last week.

12/8/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Residents in Fayette County are getting in the holiday spirit. Santa Claus is expected to come to South Connellsville on Saturday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the South Connellsville Playground.

Officials are releasing more information about a deadly pedestrian accident in Hempfield Township. Robert Yednak, Jr. was killed Friday when he and a friend were hit by a car crossing Business Route 66. Yednak had gotten married just hours before the accident.

The warden of the Fayette County Prison is suing the county and members of the board. Brian Miller filed the civil complaint last week, claiming Fayette County officials had personal reasons for suspending him without pay earlier this year. Miller says his support for a new prison led to the suspension, which he claims was actually retaliation.

12/9/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

A Hempfield man is facing charges after a psychedelic mushroom manufacturing operation was found in his home. Police were called to an apartment at Hempfield Towers on South Grande Boulevard Monday for a disturbance. David Kalb let officers into his residence, where marijuana and 70 mushroom plants were allegedly in plain view. The housing authority says Kalb is being evicted.

A man is facing charges following an alleged burglary in Fayette County. Twenty-year-old John Wayne Laws Jr. is facing several charges, including burglary and criminal mischief, after he and a juvenile allegedly broke into the Kountry Klub on Woodvale Street and stole more than one-thousand-dollars' worth of tobacco products late Monday night. The juvenile was also taken into custody.

12/10/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

A teenager is facing jail time in connection to a violent home invasion in Connellsville. Terry Nicholson the Third pleaded guilty yesterday for his role in the 2014 robbery. Officials say Nicholson, and two others rang the doorbell to a home and assaulted the elderly man who answered it. The trio then forced entry and pointed a gun at the man's daughter while stealing a safe, cash and some other items

Some Youngwood homeowners are looking for relief from the borough's fire siren. The group asked council for help this week, claiming the South Fourth Street station wakes people up and discourages businesses and families from moving in. The fire chief says the siren is necessary to alert firefighters and motorists to emergencies.

Governor Tom Wolf says he is still committed to his original budget plan. Wolf made the comments yesterday after House Republicans passed their own, smaller plan. Wolf says he is disappointed that both sides are not moving forward like they agreed to do.

A man and a juvenile face charges for allegedly breaking into a Dunbar convenience store. Police received a call Monday that two men were inside the Kountry Klub market after hours. When officers arrived, they found the glass in the front door had been broken and more than one-thousand dollars-worth of tobacco products were missing.

A new survey shows the middle class is no longer the majority in America. The Pew Research Center report found that as of early this year 120-point-eight-million people in the U.S. were in middle income households. Just over 121-million people were part of either lower or upper income homes.

Pennsylvania is not a very charitable state in a national survey. It's ranked 43rd among the 50 states. The WalletHub.com rankings were compiled using a number of factors including the volunteer rate, percentage of the population who donated time and money, and the median contribution to charity. The survey shows Utah to be the most charitable state.

12/11/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

One person is hurt following a two-vehicle crash in Fayette County. It happened near the Stone Quarry in Connellsville yesterday afternoon. One of the vehicles involved in the crash flipped several times.

There is a new place for veterans to hang out at Westmoreland County Community College. The school has designated a room inside Founders Hall as a lounge for students who are military veterans. The new lounge was made possible through a donation from the Rotary Club of Greensburg.

A state Supreme Court justice may soon be suspended. A judicial board said yesterday that Justice Michael Eakin will first have a chance to respond to charges he committed ethics violations by sending and receiving racist and sexist emails on state computers. A hearing has been scheduled for December 21st.

Police are looking for a Nemacolin man, accused of an armed bank robbery in Brownsville. An arrest warrant was issued this week for Michael Bowman in connection to the November theft. Police say he

went into the PNC Bank on Integra Street, displayed a gun and demanded money. He got away with more than 12-hundred dollars in cash.

A Uniontown counselor is facing charges for allegedly making 600-thousand dollars-worth of fraudulent insurance claims. Lisa Wally was arraigned Wednesday morning and is accused of billing Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield for thousands of fake appointments between 2011 and 2015.

12/14/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

One person is hurt following a rollover crash in Fayette County. The crash happened yesterday evening on Moyer Road in Bullskin Township near Bullskin Elementary School.

Officials are investigating a small plane crash in a heavily wooded area of Wharton. The four-seat plane came down soon after taking off from a private airstrip at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort Friday. Terry Carlson and Jason Willems were pronounced dead at the scene. Erick Carlson died yesterday from severe burns.

Pennsylvania is still without a spending plan after more than five months. Governor Tom Wolf and House Republicans met yesterday and both sides claim they want a budget this week. Wolf hosted a holiday open house at the Governor's Residence, but then left to go back to work because he claims they are "getting close."

Two people are facing charges after their children were found living in deplorable conditions in LaBelle. Police responded to the Crawford Street residence after a 911 hang-up last week and found the two children, who were both under the age of 12, home alone. Officers say the house was unsafe and unhealthy. Patricia and Rickie Conard came back about an hour later and were charged with child endangerment.

12/15/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 620

The state Interscholastic Athletic Association is being sued over its concussion policies. Three families of high school athletes filed the suit yesterday, claiming the PIAA failed to protect the athletes from concussions. The suit says the organization violated the Safety in Youth Sports Act concerning concussion testing, diagnosis and a safe playing environment.

A man is facing charges for allegedly putting another man's head through a wall in North Union Township. Shelby Salisbury allegedly got into an altercation with his father-in-law last week, punched him in the face and smashed his head into the wall.

After multiple complaints, a disturbing Christmas display is no longer visible from Route 40 in Farmington. Neighbors say a Santa dummy was hanging from a noose on the front porch of an area home. The homeowner claims he hung it to protest the commercialization and greed of the Christmas holiday and says he didn't mean to offend anyone.

12/16/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Santa is coming to Fayette County. Santa will be at Connellsville City Hall tomorrow for the Children's Trimming of the Christmas Tree from 3 to 5 p.m. Children will get the chance to decorate the Christmas tree at City Hall with a homemade ornament.

A Ligonier man is going to prison for indecent assault. Fred Harlan the third was sentenced to up to 23 months yesterday after pleading guilty to the crime. Police say Harlan admitted to giving alcohol to two 16-year-old girls and then touching them inappropriately and showering with them. Harlan says he pleaded guilty to save his family from having to go through a trial.

A driver is in critical condition following a one-vehicle accident in California. Eighty-year-old Kerrie Gill was found lying near the intersection of California Road and Edward Street Monday. Initial reports suggest Gill lost control of the car and hit a hill. Officials are not sure if Gill was ejected or crawled out of the vehicle.

The deadline to sign up for health insurance on Healthcare.gov is being pushed back a couple of days. Federal officials say they are extending the open enrollment deadline due to "unprecedented demand." Consumers in the 38 states that use the federal health insurance site now have until Thursday to sign up for plans that take effect January 1st.

Waynesburg Borough Council is moving forward with a plan to build a new post for the VFW on East Lincoln Street. Council voted Monday to proceed with the work, which will construct a new building beside the existing one and then tear the old one down. The new post will be above the flood level and will be bigger than the current space. There will also be a banquet hall.

Pittsburgh is Zagat's top food city of 2015. The Steel City was number one on the list this year, beating out Baltimore, Washington, DC, New York and Boston. The article claims Pittsburgh was always known for its Primanti sandwiches, but is now becoming a destination for more refined food.

12/17/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Two area newspapers will close on December 31st. Trib Total Media announced it's shutting down "The Daily News" in McKeesport and "The Valley Independent" in Monessen. President and CEO Jennifer Bertetto says the papers are being closed to improve the financial health of the company. The decision will cost 87 jobs, 51 at "The Daily News" and 36 at "The Valley Independent."

A photo of the suspect authorities are looking for in connection with a bank robbery in Fayette County, is being released. Authorities say the incident happened yesterday when a man walked into the PNC Bank on Memorial Boulevard in Connellsville, displayed a gun and demanded money.

The Meadows Racetrack & Casino is being sold. The facility's owner and the buyer finally resolved a legal dispute and the casino will be sold for 440-million dollars, which is 25-million less than the original offer. The buyer previously tried to kill the original deal, alleging the owner was dishonest about the casino's finances.

12/18/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

A Washington County man is facing charges in connection with a bank robbery in Fayette County. Michael Bowman was arraigned earlier this week on charges that include robbery and simple assault.

Governor Tom Wolf is warning Pennsylvanians to be alert. Wolf made the statement yesterday after a Harrisburg man was arrested for allegedly helping Isis. Wolf said the arrest "is a reminder that we must remain vigilant, strong and focused on anyone here in the state who may seek to harm Pennsylvanians."

A man is in custody in connection to a South Connellsville bank robbery. Larry Knopsnider, Jr. was arrested late Wednesday, just hours after allegedly robbing the PNC Bank at gunpoint. Knopsnider was caught on surveillance footage and tips from his family members led to his identification.

A former employee of the Connellsville School District is facing charges for allegedly stealing equipment. Patrick Maloy the Second was arrested this week and is accused of taking almost 375-thousand-dollars worth of network switches from several of the district's buildings. Some of the switches were reportedly replaced with lower-quality switches, which were purchased with district funds.

A man is going to prison after biting an EMS worker in South Union. Michael Harrell pleaded guilty to simple assault and drug possession yesterday and will serve three-to-12-months in prison. Harrell was also ordered to a drug and alcohol evaluation.

12/21/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Two people are hurt following a one-car crash in Westmoreland County. It occurred early yesterday morning on Route 819 near Forbes Road in Hempfield Township. Two men had to be extricated from the vehicle and were flown to a hospital.

A former YMCA swim coach is facing charges for allegedly having inappropriate contact with a team member. The Laurel Highlands coach was charged Friday with stalking and harassment. She is accused of sending the teen more than 38-hundred text messages in 2013 while she was a coach at the East Huntingdon YMCA. Police were notified after the victim's mother discovered the text messages.

Police are releasing more information on human remains found in Franklin Township. The body has been identified as John Raikes of Fairmont, West Virginia. Raikes was reported missing in June and his car was later found at a Franklin Township motel. A group of kids riding ATVs in a wooded area found the body in August.

Police are investigating a shooting at a Monessen bar. The victim was shot in the back early Saturday during a fight at the Chateau Lounge. Surveillance footage caught the altercation erupting between two groups of men. Detectives say a gun fell to the floor and a black male picked it up and fired it. The victim does not speak English and had no identification. He is in the intensive care unit.

Police are investigating a shots-fired incident in Brownsville. Few details have been released, but initial reports suggest there was gunfire early yesterday at the DVE Sports Bar & Grille on Water Street.

12/23/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

More information is being released about a deadly plane crash near Nemaocolin Woodland Resort. Federal investigators believe the pilot may have detected a malfunction after takeoff and tried to turn around to go back to the airstrip. The December 11th accident killed all three men on board.

The former mayor of South Connellsville is going to serve probation in connection to theft charges against him. Peter Casini received the 18-month sentence on Monday. He transferred ownership of a police department handgun to himself, but only paid half of the gun's value. The gun has since been returned. Casini must also complete 50 hours of community service.

There's no use crying over spilled milk, even if it creates a traffic hassle. A tractor-trailer carrying almond and rice milk overturned near the south junction of interstates 70 and 79 on Monday, spilling its contents.

Police are investigating an email scam that cost a Greensburg travel agency close to 30-thousand dollars. An employee at Scholastica Travel received two emails Friday that appeared to be from the company's CEO. The email instructed the employee to transfer close to 31-thousand dollars to a bank in Chicago. The money was then reportedly wired to a bank in Africa.

Some Waynesburg Borough police officers are driving around in a brand new 2016 Ford Police Interceptor. The vehicle was donated by Waynesburg University on Monday, and it wasn't the first one. Police Chief Rob Toth says the university has previously purchased several vehicles for the department.

12/24/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Officers in Westmoreland County are helping some kids do some shopping. Several officers participated in Shop With a Cop Day 2015 at the Walmart in Irwin yesterday. Shop With a Cop allows under privileged kids a chance to pick out some Christmas gifts.

A pedestrian is recovering after being hit by a car in Westmoreland County. Kenneth Alcott was crossing East Pennsylvania Avenue in New Stanton Sunday night when he was hit.

State Representative Tim Krieger's Greensburg district office is going to stay open, even after he leaves. Krieger is resigning from the state House on Tuesday in order to be sworn in as a Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas judge. A special election to pick a replacement has not yet been scheduled, but the Ehalt Street office will stay open for constituents.

Governor Tom Wolf has a budget, but not the one he wanted. The 30-point-three-billion dollar plan passed the Senate yesterday and gives 150-million to schools instead of the 350-million Wolf was pushing for.

A man is facing charges for allegedly breaking into a Connellsville woman's home and beating her. Police say Todd Hennessey forced entry into the South Street residence last week while the victim was sleeping and began punching her. She lost several teeth and suffered cuts and bruises on her face.

A Latrobe man is facing charges for allegedly robbing a woman he met online. Police say Lance Shell and the victim spent the night at a hotel last week after becoming acquainted on social media. The woman claims Shell threatened her the next day and took a thousand dollars from her purse before leaving.

A man is heading to trial for allegedly sexually assaulting a girl at her North Huntingdon bus stop. David Pennington was held for court yesterday after the victim testified against him. The girl says he told her he was looking for his cat and then touched her inappropriately.

A cleaning woman is facing charges in connection to the theft of thousands of dollars-worth of Christmas gifts meant for needy children. Sharon Buckley was charged Tuesday with taking the toys from Westmoreland County Action in Greensburg. Buckley was caught on video allegedly removing the gifts earlier this month and has since been fired from her cleaning job.

South Union Township is dissolving its sewage authority. Board members voted on the move Tuesday and will proceed with a plan to transition operations to the township. The change will make things more efficient and since the authority is financially secure, there will be no bump in sewer rates or taxes.

12/28/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Authorities are looking for an inmate who managed to escape from the Greene County Jail in Waynesburg. State Police say 27-year-old Waylon Hanlan escaped the facility around eight o'clock last night, then climbed a fence and ran into a wooded area.

A Yukon man is facing charges in connection to two robberies in Westmoreland County. Terry Korber, Jr. was arrested Saturday for allegedly holding up the Citgo station at the Smithton Truck Stop in South Huntingdon on Christmas Eve. He is also accused of a second robbery on Christmas Day, at the South Center Avenue BP service station in New Stanton.

A Dunkard Township man is going to prison for sexually assaulting two teenage boys. Gary Black pleaded guilty and received the four-to-eight year sentence last week. He abused the 14-and-16-year-old victims multiple times earlier this year.

A township fire chief is going to fill the empty seat on the Hempfield Board of Supervisors. George Reese, who is the chief of Carbon Fire Department, was chosen by the board last week. Reese was one of 14 candidates for the position, which was left vacant when Sherry Magretti Hamilton was elected Westmoreland County register of wills.

This year's mild weather is allowing renovations at Laurel Mountain Ski Resort to proceed ahead of schedule. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced over the weekend that the work is already 30-percent done, which should allow it to be finished ahead of the projected September date.

A fire that destroyed a repair shop near the Rostraver Airport is being ruled an accident. The flames broke out Christmas Eve in the Airport Road maintenance building. Multiple explosions were heard, most likely caused by bursting tires, but no injuries were reported. The fire marshal announced over the weekend that the blaze was non-suspicious.

Authorities are looking for an inmate who managed to escape from the Greene County Jail in Waynesburg. State Police say 27-year-old Waylon Hanlan escaped the facility around eight o'clock last night, then climbed a fence and ran into a wooded area.

12/29/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

The Connellsville Area School District is paying 64 thousand dollars in attorney's fees in connection with a lawsuit. The district hired lawyers to defend itself from a lawsuit regarding a monument on school property that has the Ten Commandments on it. The district lost the lawsuit.

A Green County woman is charged with helping a prisoner escape from the county jail. Waylon Hodge Hanlan scaled a fence Sunday night. Vanessa Hanlan of Dilliner conspired with her brother prior to his escape. He'd been jailed on a probation violation.

A fire is currently under investigation in Elizabeth Township. It started yesterday afternoon at a home on Industry Road.

A man is in custody for allegedly attacking a woman with a hatchet in his Monessen home. Police were not able to get much information from the victim due to her injuries but say she was reportedly visiting Lamont Jackson at his Second Street residence Sunday when he hit her in the head with the weapon. She was flown to the hospital and he was taken into custody at the scene.

A man is facing charges in connection to an unsolved murder. David Lint, who is in state prison on an unrelated charge, will be arraigned this week after allegedly bragging about killing Charles Johnson in 1981. Lint and Johnson reportedly lived next to each other in Dunbar Township when Johnson disappeared. Multiple people have since given statements alleging Lint bragged to family members "that he had killed a guy" by shooting him in the head with a rifle and then burning the body.

Governor Tom Wolf is expected to make an announcement on the budget this morning. The speech is planned for 10:30 but his spokesperson did not give any additional details. Wolf received the plan from Senate Republicans last week. He will sign it, veto it, or eliminate individual spending items.

12/30/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

Some people are still without power in Westmoreland and Fayette counties. West Penn Power is offering free bags of ice and water to those customers. The water and ice can be picked up at select Giant Eagle locations in the following areas: Belle Vernon and Uniontown in Fayette County and Hempfield, Unity and Ligonier in Westmoreland County.

Hidden Valley is shutting down due to the lack of snow. The resort shut down on Sunday and will remain closed until the temperature drops low enough for them to make snow. To date the resort has seen about three inches of snow for the season.

A man who escaped a Greene County prison is captured. Waylon Hanlan escaped from the Waynesburg facility where he had been since December eleventh on a probation violation. State police say Hanlan jumped a fence and managed to escape. Hanlan's sister, Vanessa Hanlan, is accused of helping him get away. Hanlan has since been returned to the Greene County facility he escaped from.

The attorney general of Pennsylvania is now being investigated by the state's Ethics Commission. AG Kathleen Kane was targeted by the group after a self-proclaimed "government watchdog" reported a complaint. Kane is already facing charges and is in danger of being removed from office.

Governor Tom Wolf says he's vetoing parts of a state budget. It was passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature just before Christmas. Democrat Wolf calls it "garbage" and says lawmakers should get back to work. The governor says he will release emergency funds to keep schools from closing. Pennsylvania has been without a state budget since July 1st.

12/31/15 PHIL / SCOTT / 104.3 NEWS 550

A father and son are facing charges in Westmoreland County for allegedly selling heroin. Anthony Canady and his son Terell Canady of Jeannette were arrested yesterday after they allegedly sold 50 stamp bags of heroin to an undercover informant in Greensburg. The pair is charged with possession with intent to deliver and conspiracy.

A Greensburg man is facing charges for allegedly assaulting his baby. Josef Michalak was arguing with his wife in their Division Street home earlier this week when he threw a mug in her direction and it hit the baby. The child was taken to the hospital but was not seriously injured. Michalak was charged with simple assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

Toll rates are going up before the Monday morning rush hour. Turnpike tolls are going up by six percent. The money is going to pay for roadwork repair. The new rate goes into effect beginning Sunday.

If you've ever had to decide whether to fly out of Philadelphia or Pittsburgh, a new survey may help you pick. J.D. Power has released its 2015 North America Airport Satisfaction Study, and it found Pittsburgh International Airport ranked near the top among medium-sized airports. The same survey, however, ranked Philadelphia near the bottom among large-sized airports.