



STEPS FORWARD Mitch Keller aims to be the anchor for Pirates pitching rotation **B1**

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MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

12 hurt in apartment collapse near IUP

Those inside helped out window after second-story floor falls through

BY RENATTA SIGNORINI

Twelve people were injured late Saturday after a second-story floor collapsed inside an apartment complex near Indiana University of Pennsylvania, state police said.

Five people were treated at the scene, and seven were taken by ambulance to a hospital for treatment of injuries ranging from minor to serious, Trooper Cliff Greenfield said. At least one person was taken by private means to a hospital.

Troopers were called to Elm by Tra-

verse Commons, about a mile from IUP along Medlar Drive in White, about 11:50 p.m. Saturday and found a person lying in the road. There was a large group of people outside the three-story building, and some reported a floor collapsed inside, Greenfield said.

"It is unknown exactly how many people were inside the apartment at the time of the floor collapse," he said.

Those remaining inside were helped out through a broken first-floor window, which caused many

of the injuries. Indiana Fire Association members searched the building, which has been secured by management.

Neighbor Charles Patterson said the community, which is a mixture of students, young adults and families, isn't typically rowdy on the weekends, but, every once in a while, there might be some party-related noise. He heard a lot of yelling outside Saturday night and estimated a crowd of 50 to 100 people.



COLLAPSE · A2

Damage can be seen Sunday at an apartment at the Elm by Traverse Commons complex near Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Twelve people were injured Saturday after a second-story floor collapsed inside, state police said.

RENATTA SIGNORINI
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Pandemic health care rules soon to tighten

Federal emergency's end to impact nursing home training, access to addiction treatment

KAISER HEALTH NEWS

The Biden administration's decision to end the covid-19 public health emergency in May will institute sweeping changes across the health care system that go far beyond many people having to pay more for covid tests.

In response to the pandemic, the federal government in 2020 suspended many of its rules on how care is delivered. That transformed essentially every corner of American health care — from hospitals and nursing homes to public health and treatment for people recovering from addiction.

Advocates for nursing home residents are pleased the training exceptions will end but fear the quality of care could deteriorate if staffing shortages are exacerbated.

Now, as the government prepares to reverse some of those steps, here's a glimpse at ways patients will be affected:

Nursing home training requirements to tighten

The end of the emergency means nursing homes will have to meet higher standards for training workers.

Advocates for nursing home residents are eager to see the old, tougher training requirements reinstated, but the industry says that move could worsen staffing shortages plaguing facilities nationwide.

In the early days of the pandemic, to help nursing homes function under the virus's

HEALTH CARE · A2

SLAIN BRACKENRIDGE CHIEF REMEMBERED



PAULA REED WARD | TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Five Alarm Flood performs a Garth Brooks song Sunday in New Kensington. About 800 people were expected for the Back the Blue concert at Quality Inn on Tarentum Bridge Road, organizer Daniel Leo said. Seven bands were on the bill for the event designed to raise money for the family of slain Brackenridge police Chief Justin McIntire, who was killed in the line of duty Jan. 2. "We just wanted to help the family in any way we could," Leo said. "It hits close to home." Former Pittsburgh Penguin Ken Wregget attended, donating a signed Bryan Rust jersey for an auction.

Report: Tick-borne illness rises

Testing to show if babesiosis, 'malarialike pathogen,' growing in Pa. as in other states

BY PATRICK VARINE

As a rare tick-borne disease is on the rise in the northeastern United States, a local professor is awaiting test results to see whether babesiosis is taking hold in the Keystone State.

Pennsylvania is among the worst states in the nation for Lyme cases, and concern about its prevalence has increased public campaigns to raise awareness about tick bite prevention.

Babesiosis — which also can be transmitted through a tick bite — isn't mentioned nearly as often. But the disease appears to be showing up more, according to a recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tracking trends in the U.S. from 2011-19, CDC scientists saw

instances of babesiosis increase "significantly" in Northeastern states.

"Three states (Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont) that were not considered to have endemic babesiosis had significantly increasing incidences and reported case counts similar to or higher than those in the seven states with known endemic transmission," the report reads.

Babesiosis is a parasitic disease that infects red blood cells. It is carried largely by the same white-footed mice that are also the primary vectors for Lyme, passing it on to ticks, which can then infect humans.

"It's caused by a protozoan par-



BABESIOSIS · A7

Route 30 patrols targeting crashes

Boosted enforcement along 'dangerous' 1.5-mile stretch in North Huntingdon plans

BY JOE NAPSHA

North Huntingdon police plan to step up traffic enforcement along a 1.5-mile stretch of Route 30 from Carpenter to Malts lanes in the western end of the township after numerous crashes there, including at least six fatalities in the past five years.

"That corridor is dangerous," North Huntingdon police Chief Robert Rizzo said. "There are people dying in that corridor. We have to do something."

The police department will take a "total approach" to traffic enforcement, including speeding, aggressive driving, distracted driving, enforcement of traffic-control devices and traffic light enforcement, Rizzo said.

"We are hoping to bring awareness to the dangers of driving this portion of Route 30 and to get motorists to just pay attention and slow down while driving on Route 30 in North Huntingdon Township," Rizzo said.

The grim statistics bear out the need for an increased police presence in that section of the road, which PennDOT says has an average daily traffic volume of 19,000 vehicles.

In February 2018, four people were killed in a head-on collision near the

ROUTE 30 · A7



JOE NAPSHA | TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Traffic flows on Route 30 at Carpenter Lane, looking eastward.

INSIDE

PENNSYLVANIA

WANING HOPES

» Rescuers are working up to 16-hour shifts in West Reading to find survivors of a chocolate factory explosion. **A8**

LOCAL

BLIGHT FIGHT

» Two blighted buildings are targeted for demolition as Leechburg continues the efforts of its late mayor, Wayne Dobos. **A3**



BALL IN THEIR COURT

» A former Unity fitness center is drawing interest after its conversion into pickleball courts. **A3**

WEATHER 55 · 33

Cloudy with a shower; cloudy tonight
Details, **A2**

INDEX

Vol. 135 · No. 48
Two sections
18 pages

Almanac B5
Bridge B5
Classified B6
Comics A9

Crossword B5
Editorials A6
Horoscope B5
Local A5

Lotteries A2
Nation/World A8
Obituaries A4
Sports B1

Sudoku B5
Television A10



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