

To celebrate 225 years of Lancaster newspapers, we present this weekly series of 52 front pages from throughout our history. Many feature events that would shape the course of world history. Some feature events of great local importance. Still others simply provide windows into the long-ago lives of Lancaster County residents. Make sure to check in every week, and enjoy this trip through time with LNP.

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# LNP

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2018

**Yanks top Phils**  
Judge's home run helps New York win series opener  
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**SCHOOLS**  
Penn Manor group donates more than 2,600 books to Lancaster County Prison.  
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Harley-Davidson shifts production of motorcycles intended for Europe to Europe.  
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Wildfires continue to rage across stretches of northern California.  
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**HOME EXPLOSION**

## NTSB report: Gas-line part was installed incorrectly

*A tapping tee was to blame for last July's deadly explosion*

**LINDSEY BLEST**  
LBLEST@LNPNEWS.COM

The investigation into a deadly house explosion last July in Manor Township is focusing on a gas-line part federal authorities say was incorrectly installed nearly 20 years ago.

In the first major report since the blast that killed a UGI worker and injured three others, the National Transportation and Safety Board says a cause has not been determined, but it is urging the company that makes the part to make safety recommendations for correct installation.

The part, a PermaLock mechanical tapping tee, was incorrectly installed in 1998, according to the NTSB report released Monday. It was leaking gas before the explosion at the connection between the assembly and the main, plastic natural gas pipeline in front of the home.

The NTSB is urging that safety recommendations for correct installation be made by Honeywell, which makes the part, and by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

UGI Utilities employee Richard Boudier, 54, was killed by flying debris in the July 2 explosion. Three other workers were injured — two UGI employees and one Lancaster Area Sewer Authority employee — after responding to the single-family home at 206 Springdale Lane.

**Similar to 2006 explosion**

In 1998, UGI was relying solely on written installation instructions, according to the NTSB.

"When tee assembly involved in the accident was installed in 1998, federal regulation required that the tee be installed in a way that would prevent gas from leaking out of the tee," the report said.

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**MIRACK CASE**

# DA: WE CAUGHT HIM

**ABOVE:** During a news conference Monday, Lancaster County District Attorney Craig Stedman, left, announced Raymond C. Rowe, 49, also known as "DJ Freez," has been arrested for the 1992 murder of Christy Mirack. A sixth-grade teacher in the Hempfield School District, Mirack was found dead in her William Penn Way Greenfield Estates townhouse on the morning of Dec. 21. **AT LEFT:** An undated file photo shows Rowe, who was charged with criminal homicide Monday.

**SUZETTE WENGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

## Popular Lancaster DJ charged with killing school teacher 25 years later in county's most sensational unsolved homicide

**JEFF HAWKES AND TOM KNAPP**  
JHAWKES@LNPNEWS.COM  
TKNAPP@LNPNEWS.COM

The slaying and sexual assault of schoolteacher Christy Mirack stumped homicide detectives for 25 years until new genetic genealogy technology produced a DNA match that led them Monday to a Lancaster disc jockey they never suspected.

Police arrested Raymond "DJ Freez" Rowe, 49, without incident Monday afternoon at his 249 Whittier Lane home on a count of criminal homicide for the Dec. 21, 1992, slaying inside Mirack's East Lampeter Township townhouse.

Police interviewed over 1,600 people over the years, all leading to dead-ends. But investigators did not give up trying to find whoever battered and strangled the 25-year-old Mirack as she was about to leave for Rohrerstown Elementary School, where she taught sixth grade.

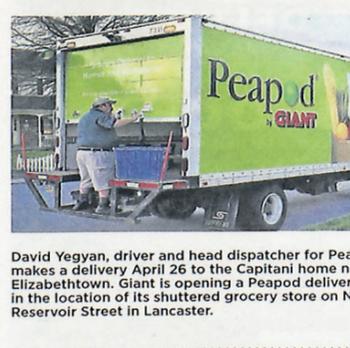
At a news conference Monday, Lancaster County District Attorney Craig Stedman, left, announced Raymond C. Rowe, 49, also known as "DJ Freez," has been arrested for the 1992 murder of Christy Mirack. A sixth-grade teacher in the Hempfield School District, Mirack was found dead in her William Penn Way Greenfield Estates townhouse on the morning of Dec. 21. **AT LEFT:** An undated file photo shows Rowe, who was charged with criminal homicide Monday.

**BLAINE T. SHAMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Police arrested Raymond C. Rowe, 49, at his home, 249 Whittier Lane in Lancaster on Monday in connection with the death of Christy Mirack. Rowe was taken to Lancaster County Prison on a charge of criminal homicide and is not eligible for bail.

**RELATED COVERAGE**

- Friends of victim, neighbors of suspect react to the arrest of Raymond Charles Rowe. **Page A4**
- Timeline of events from 1992 slaying until now. **Page A4**



**GROCERY**

## Peapod to take over former Giant site

*An online hub will open in the shuttered store on North Reservoir Street*

**TIM STUHLREHER**  
TSTUHLREHER@LNPNEWS.COM

The shuttered Giant supermarket on North Reservoir Street in Lancaster will reopen this fall as a hub for the Peapod online delivery service, company and city officials said Monday.

As an e-commerce site, the location will employ about 150 people, Giant said, doubling the 75 who worked there when it was a supermarket.

The plan also restores North Reservoir Street as a local source for groceries.

"This is a huge step forward for the northeast neighborhood and the city as a whole," Mayor Danene Sorace said.

Peapod partners with Giant to offer home delivery of groceries ordered online. It began service in Lancaster County in 2015. Last fall, it expanded to ZIP codes in and around Lancaster and East Petersburg.

The North Reservoir Street hub will allow the footprint to expand to additional ZIP codes in Lancaster, York and Berks counties, allowing the Giant-Peapod service to reach 40 percent more customers, Giant said.

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**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
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### WE CAUGHT HIM

On Monday, June 25, 2018, the long mystery of who murdered schoolteacher Christy Mirack was very likely put to rest — 9,317 days after the crime was committed.

Lancaster police arrested Raymond Rowe, known professionally as "DJ Freez," at his home. County residents, some of whom remembered Mirack and others who had heard the story told over the preceding quarter-century, were stunned. How did they get him?

And what took so long?  
On the morning of Dec. 21, 1992, Mirack was found dead by strangulation in her home. In the years that followed, hundreds of suspects were interviewed, as Mirack's parents, Vincent and Gerry, offered a \$10,000 award for information regarding the case. While family, friends and concerned citizens kept up the hunt, local police

would later say that the case had gone cold before a chance email from a company called Parabon NanoLabs. Offering a service known as Parabon Snapshot Genetic Genealogy, Parabon pitched Lancaster County officers on something akin to the popular 23andMe DNA collecting service, but for potential help with cold cases.

Using a DNA sample from Mirack's carpet the day she was murdered, police connected the familial match to Rowe.

In the quarter-century since the murder occurred, Rowe had built a successful and very visible career as a party DJ throughout Central Pennsylvania. Rowe even organized anti-violence efforts in the local hip-hop community.

Rowe clearly chose not to separate himself too many miles from the scene of the crime. In 1992, Rowe lived only four miles from Mirack.

After the DNA match was discovered, Rowe's next party gig would be the May 31, 2018, party for Smoketown Elementary Schoolers graduating to Conestoga Valley Middle School. Undercover officers gathered a water bottle and chewing gum to test against the rug samples and came back with an unrelated match probability of 1 in 15 nonillion, which translates to a 1 in 15,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 chance that the DNA didn't match.

According to District Attorney Craig Stedman, this was the first time this type of DNA technology was used to solve a homicide case in Pennsylvania.

With dozens of unsolved homicides still on the dockets in Lancaster County, it's only a matter of time until emerging technology leads to a resolution of the next closed case.

