

# Latrobe Bulletin

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75¢ Newsstand

## You got this, big sis!



Brittany Loughry brought her 24-day-old son Mark to the Greater Latrobe-Franklin Regional girls' basketball game on Friday night so he could watch his big sister Samantha Burkhard play. The Lady Wildcats won their season opener 51-38.

PHOTO BY JIM BATES

## House urges Pence to help oust Trump; impeachment next

BY LISA MASCARO, ZEKE MILLER AND MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House rushed ahead Tuesday toward impeaching President Donald Trump for the deadly Capitol attack, taking time only to try to persuade his vice president to push him out first. Trump showed no remorse, blaming impeachment itself for the “tremendous anger” in America.

Already scheduled to leave office next week, Trump is on the verge of becoming the only president in history to be twice impeached. His incendiary rhetoric at a rally ahead of the Capitol uprising is now in the impeachment charge against him — to be taken up Wednesday — even as the falsehoods he spread about election fraud are still being championed by some Republicans.

The House on Tuesday night approved a resolution urging Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to the Constitution to remove Trump with a Cabinet vote, although Pence

had already said he would not do so. The resolution, passed 223-205 almost entirely along party lines, urged him to “declare what is obvious to a horrified Nation: That the President is unable to successfully discharge the duties and powers of his office.”

Hours before the vote Pence had said no. In a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, he said it would not be in the best interest of the nation and it was “time to unite our country as we prepare to inaugurate President-elect Joe Biden.”

Meanwhile, five Republican lawmakers, including third-ranking House GOP leader Liz Cheney of Wyoming, announced they would vote to impeach Trump on Wednesday, cleaving the Republican leadership, and the party itself.

“The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob, and lit the flame of this attack,” said Cheney in a statement. “There has never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath to the Constitution.”

(See **House urges Pence** on Page A12)

## Special election set to fill 59th Legislative District vacancy left by Reese's death

HARRISBURG — Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler, R-Lancaster, ordered a special election to coincide with Pennsylvania's primary election on Tuesday, May 18, to fill the vacant seat in the 59th Legislative District in Westmoreland and Somerset counties.

The vacancy was created by the sudden passing of Rep. Mike Reese, R-Westmoreland/Somerset, who died earlier this month of an apparent brain aneurysm.

Reese, 42, of Mount Pleasant Township, was elected to his seventh term in the House of Representatives in November. He ran

unopposed. He represented the 59th District, which encompasses portions of Somerset and Westmoreland counties, including Cook, Donegal, Fairfield, Ligonier, Mount Pleasant and St. Clair townships, along with parts of Hempfield and Unity townships and Bolivar, Donegal, Laurel Mountain, Ligonier, New Florence and Seward boroughs.

In early December, Reese was diagnosed with coronavirus (COVID-19) and had quarantined for several weeks. He had been on the mend when he recently fell ill.

(See **Special election** on Page A5)

## GL School Board to decide next week on instructional model

BY DAN SCIFO  
Bulletin Staff Writer

Members of the Greater Latrobe School Board are expected to decide next week on the district's instructional model.

Greater Latrobe superintendent Dr. Georgia Teppert said during Tuesday's Committee of the Whole meeting that the district's health and safety committee met on Jan. 7 to discuss the best instructional model to implement for students while navigating the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

It was decided at the Jan. 7 meeting that the district's newly-formed health and safety committee, which includes board members, administrators and local medical advisors, opted to reconvene Monday, Jan. 18, and further discuss the most appropriate instructional model moving forward. The school board is scheduled

to hold its regular meeting the following day, Tuesday, Jan. 19, prior to the health and safety committee's next meeting.

“(Meeting again) will allow the committee to have a full two weeks of post-holiday COVID-related data to assess in order to determine the extent, if any, of the post-holiday surge of COVID-related illnesses,” Teppert said, adding that Friday marks the second week after the New Year's Day holiday.

“The board of education will review the health and safety committee's recommendation from the Jan. 18 meeting at the regular board meeting next Tuesday and determine at that time if our instructional model should be modified to include time in a brick-and-mortar setting for our students.”

(See **GL School Board** on Page A3)

## Airport authority members lament lack of Fort Myers flights

BY NICK CAMMUSO  
Bulletin Staff Writer

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has currently put a hold on most flight offerings at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport.

Several Westmoreland County Airport Authority board members expressed concerns at Tuesday's virtual meeting about the lack of availability of flights from Unity Township to Fort Myers, Florida.

Flights to Fort Myers — one of the airport's regular Sunshine State destinations, along with

Orlando, Fort Lauderdale and Tampa, before the pandemic — haven't occurred at the airport since Jan. 4, airport authority executive director Gabe Monzo said.

“We were sending airplanes to Fort Myers with 30 people on them, but coming back, they were full,” Monzo said, with Smarto adding that a Fort Myers-bound flight she was recently on had just 18 passengers. “I just keep calling them and letting them know we're available.”

(See **Airport authority** on Page A5)

## Derry council tabs Phillips to fill authority board vacancy

BY NICK CAMMUSO  
Bulletin Staff Writer

Derry Borough officials are looking for a new voice on the Derry Borough Municipal Authority (DBMA) board, and borough council made it happen at Tuesday's virtual meeting by voting to appoint Barbara Thomas to fill the board vacancy.

Councilwoman Sara Cowan nominated Phillips to assume the authority board post for a five-year term expiring Dec. 31, 2025. Council tabbed Phillips over Richard Thomas via a 4-2 vote, with Cowan, Matthew Clever, Jim Ritenour and Jeremy Stein voting yes, and Grant Nicely

and Al Checca each casting dissenting votes.

Thomas, a former authority manager who recently served as board chairman, saw his term expire in 2020. Phillips, a Fourth Ward resident who dealt with another major flooding incident last summer, also currently serves on council.

During the public comment portion of Tuesday's meeting, authority manager Amy Forsha pushed for Thomas to remain on the board.

“Rich has gone above and beyond the call of duty,” Forsha said.

(See **Derry council** on Page A3)

## Public hearing for chicken issue in Unity to continue Thursday

BY ZACH D'AMICO  
Bulletin Staff Writer

A public hearing for a Unity Township couple seeking a zoning variance allowing them to continue raising backyard chickens will continue 6 p.m. Thursday.

Kristin and Jeff Kuhns will appear before the Unity Township Zoning Hearing Board to appeal

a zoning violation they received in July regarding the 20 chickens they raise on a 0.46-acre lot along Range Street in Lawson Heights.

The couple is seeking a zoning variance to a township ordinance that restricts residents from keeping fowl on properties smaller than two acres.

(See **Public hearing** on Page A5)

## Rebecca Salandro running for district judge in Unity Twp.

Rebecca Salandro of Latrobe has announced her candidacy for magisterial district judge in the Unity Township area.

Salandro worked her way through college, earning a master's degree in education from Seton Hill University in Greensburg and a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

She has dedicated more than 14 years of her career in human services helping some of the most vulnerable members of the community. For almost 10 years she has worked as a criminal justice liaison throughout Westmoreland County in the district court offices.



REBECCA SALANDRO

“My duties include encouraging individuals in their recovery while helping them regain their place in the community,” she said. “As a criminal justice liaison, I have experienced first hand the workings of the district justice system.”

She has been a member of Westmoreland County's Criminal Justice Advisory Board for the past several years.

If elected, Salandro said she will devote herself to the “pursuit of fair justice for all.”

“It is an honor to serve as district judge and this position deserves my complete dedication,” she said.

(See **Rebecca** on Page A5)

## HAPPY Birthday!

Torrance woman celebrates 100th birthday

Helen Peterson Thomas McClarren of Torrance turns 100 years old today, Jan. 13.

Born Jan. 13, 1921, in Lloydsville, Blair County, she is the widow of the late J. Quentin Thomas and Milton McClarren.

Her children include Robert Thomas of Millwood, Arlene Jones of Torrance, Richard Thomas of Derry, and the late Kenneth Thomas and Debby Simko. She is the mother-in-law of Sandy Thomas of West Mifflin, Norman Simko of Torrance and the late Jane Thomas.

Helen also has eight grandchildren, 15 great-



HELEN PETERSON THOMAS MCCLARREN

grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

After the death of Helen's first husband, she worked at the Pizza Barn, Blairsville Police Department and Torrance State Hospital. With her second marriage, she once again became a homemaker.

She held many positions in the Torrance United Methodist Church, during her 85 years of membership, before its closure. She is now affiliated with the First United Methodist Church in Derry.

Because of the current pandemic, Helen will celebrate quietly at home with immediate family.

Classified ..... A11  
 Comics ..... A9  
 Crossword/Sudoku ..... A9  
 Entertainment ..... A10  
 Health ..... A4  
 Lifestyles ..... A6

Local News ..... A1, A3, A5  
 Lottery Results ..... A3  
 Obituaries ..... A2  
 Sports ..... A7-A8  
 TV ..... A10  
 Dear Abby ..... A9



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TODAY'S WEATHER  
Mostly Cloudy

HIGH 42° LOW 32°