

Happy New Year!

Daily Local News

TODAY'S WEATHER
High: 40
Low: 25
PAGE B4

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 \$2.00 FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYLOCALNEWS TWITTER.COM/DAILYLOCALNEWS

dailylocal.com

BUSINESS

Marijuana industry poised for growth

Analyst: Pot business grew 280% in Pennsylvania in 2019

By Lisa Scheid
MediaNews Group

In 2019, the medical marijuana industry in Pennsylvania grew by 280% despite a supply crunch, according to an industry analyst. That's not bad for a fledgling industry whose product is illegal under federal law, a fact that hampers access to banking services and insurance. Approved by the

legislature in 2016, the first permits were issued in 2017 and sales began in 2018. "That's really solid growth," said Maggie Cowie, data analyst for Marijuana Business Daily. "It's running more smoothly than other states. Having a responsible government that wants to make things work well is good (for the industry)." The fledgling industry grew

rapidly while tackling supply and security issues. In Berks County, one of the state's first permitted grower/processors has yet to ship any marijuana, according to Nate Wardle, a state Department of Health spokesman. The Franklin Labs facility is located at 1800 Centre Ave. in Reading and is operational, according to Wardle. A

MARIJUANA » PAGE 4



Cheri McFarland, dispensary manager, from left, Sarah Hassinger, pharmacist regional manager and Heather Wendel, assistant manager, pose for the camera at the new medical marijuana dispensary in West Goshen.

ALEXA WERRLEIN/
SUBMITTED PHOTO

KEEPING ROADWAYS SAFE

NEW YEAR WILL BRING TOUGHER DUI LAWS IN PA.



State Sen. Tom Killian, R-9 of Middletown, announces the introduction of a bill that would tighten DUI laws in the state.

MediaNews Group

The choices you make regarding drinking or using drugs and getting behind the wheel can impact not only your New Year's holiday, but your entire life and that of other drivers, state Sen. Andy Dinniman reminds residents and motorists. "With the New Year's holiday, I know there will be a lot of parties, get-togethers and opportunities for drinking. But please remember that when you decide to drive while impaired on drugs or alcohol, your entire life — your entire world — can change in an instant," Dinniman said. "Don't do it. And don't let others do it. Have a designated driver, call a taxi, Uber or Lyft, walk, or just stay home. There's no excuse to drive intoxicated — not now, not ever." Dinniman's remarks came leading up to the New Year's holiday, a period when state and lo-

"Sadly, what should be a happy and joyous time can turn to one of unspeakable tragedy when it comes to drinking and driving."

— State Sen. Andy Dinniman

cal police step up enforcement and hundreds of Pennsylvanians are arrested for DUI each year. Last year, Pennsylvania State Police arrested 406 people for driving under the influence during the four-day New Year's holiday enforcement period from Dec. 29, 2018 through Jan. 1, 2019. The total is an increase from the 284 DUI arrests made over the 2018 holiday weekend, which spanned three days. In addition, troopers investigated 642 crashes, of which 64 involved alcohol, 155 people were injured, and four people were killed in four fatal crashes. One of the fatal collisions in-

involved alcohol. In addition to DUI enforcement, troopers issued 6,370 speeding citations, 476 seat belt citations, and 115 child safety seat citations. "Sadly, what should be a happy and joyous time can turn to one of unspeakable tragedy when it comes to drinking and driving. The combination of more people traveling on our roads and more social events and drinking can be fatal, but it need not be. Drunk and/or drugged driving crashes, injuries and deaths are entirely preventable," he said. "And while we've made some great progress

in cracking down on repeat offenders in recent years, there's still more work to do." Those efforts, which Dinniman has consistently and strongly supported to keep our roads safe from drunk or drugged drivers, include:
▪ Act 33 of 2016, expanding the use of interlock ignition devices for DUI offenders and requiring interlock ignition devices for first-time DUI offenders with high blood alcohol content.
▪ Act 153 of 2018, targeting repeat DUI offenders with tougher penalties and longer sentences, including aggravated DUI and aggravated assault by vehicle while DUI.
Earlier this year, Senate Bill 773 (Deana's Law), unanimously passed the Senate Transportation Committee and is set to go to the Senate floor for a vote. The bill, introduced by state Senator

DUI » PAGE 6

WEST CHESTER

Local officials make predictions for 2020

By Bill Rettew
brettew@21st-centurymedia.com
@wcdailylocal on Twitter

WEST CHESTER » Several local movers and shakers have weighed in on what they thought 2010 might bring. "I want to do what I can to make a great county even better," Josh Maxwell, county commissioner-elect said. "Let's get the ball rolling on expanding public transportation and trails while also finding a way to decrease Chester County's debt."

PREDICTIONS » PAGE 6

YEAR IN REVIEW

Dispute between Chesco controller and sheriff continues

By Michael P. Rellahan
mrellahan@21st-centurymedia.com
@ChescoCourtNews on Twitter

WEST CHESTER » Longtime Chester County Sheriff Carolyn "Bunny" Welsh will leave the office she has held for more than a decade, her accustomed presence no longer a stable part of the fabric of the county courthouse community. Yet she is scheduled to appear at least one more time at the Justice Center, this time to contest a demand from the county Controller's Office that she pay the county more than \$67,000 in what it con-

DISPUTE » PAGE 6

FOOD

A look at some coming food trends for 2020

What food trends will we see in 2020? Area chefs make some predictions about what diners can expect. PAGE D1



BUSINESS

Trump signs law to stem tide of robocalls

A new anti-robocalls law is expected to help us dodge many of the billions of robocalls made each month. PAGE B1

OPINION

Do your part to make 2020 a happy year

There will be plenty of challenges in the coming year, and we call on everyone to adopt a constructive attitude. PAGE A5

GO MOBILE

Reading your e-paper just got a lot easier

Did you know you can read the e-paper on a smartphone or tablet? Download PressReader in iTunes or Google Play.

PENNSYLVANIA

Final county OKs new paper-trail voting system

Mark Scoloro
The Associated Press

HARRISBURG » A decision this week by Dauphin County to purchase new paper-trail voting systems means all 67 Pennsylvania counties have taken action under a state law that helps fund the upgrades, the Wolf administration said Tuesday.

Officials called the vote a milestone toward ensuring the integrity of the

state's future elections. A new state law appropriated \$90 million toward replacement of the existing machines, but counties had to act by the end of 2019 to be eligible for certain federal aid and to avoid potential litigation.

"Every machine will have a paper trail for every vote that's taken in 2020, which was the governor's goal," J.J. Abbott, press secretary for Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, said

Tuesday. The Dauphin County commissioners voted 2-1 on Monday in favor of a resolution to purchase new scanners and ballot marking devices.

That vote effectively reversed an earlier decision against replacing the existing machines, based on concerns the change was not needed and could result in problems with new machines, as occurred in Northampton County in

November. In Northampton, frustrated county officials have indicated they have no confidence in their new machines and are trying to determine what will happen going forward.

Dauphin County expects to have a contract in place in a few weeks for the commissioners to vote on.

A law Wolf signed in October authorized borrowing up to \$90 million to pay up to 60% of counties'

costs for new machines and related expenses. That followed \$14 million in federal and state funding that was devoted to new machines' purchase in 2018.

"We are going to work with the counties as much as necessary," so machines are ready for the April 28 primary, said Department of State spokeswoman Wanda Murren. "And of course, the vendors offer a lot of assistance and training as well."

The Department of State told counties in April 2018 it would not certify machines for use in elections if they do not provide an auditable paper trail and meet security and accessibility standards.

The Dauphin County decision followed a vote last week by Northumberland County to spend nearly \$1 million on 190 new machines for its 94 polling stations, the Daily Item of Sunbury reported.

NATION

U.S. seeks review of state DMV laws on immigration enforcement

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » The acting secretary of Homeland Security is taking aim Tuesday at new laws in New York, New

Jersey and other states that allow immigrants to get driver's licenses without proof they are in the U.S. legally, and restrict data sharing with federal authorities.

Chad Wolf sent a memo to all the components of Homeland Security, which include U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Coast Guard and the Transportation Security

Administration, requesting a department study on how the laws affect its enforcement efforts for both immigration and other investigations into human trafficking, drug smug-

gling and counterterrorism.

New York's law went into effect earlier this month, and migrants lined up to get documents. It was the 13th state to authorize licenses for driv-

ers without legal immigration status, and most of the other states also restrict data sharing. New Jersey lawmakers passed a similar bill in December.

Dispute

FROM PAGE 1

tends are improper overtime payments to her live-in boyfriend, who is a member of the sheriff's staff and supervisor of the office's K-9 Unit.

The dispute over the contested overtime payments is expected to be heard by a jury in April under the supervision of Lancaster County Senior Judge Joseph Madenspacher, who was appointed by the state to hear the dispute between Welsh and county Controller Margaret Reif.

The trial over the controller's demand that Welsh return the overtime payments made to Lt. Harry McKinney is expected to last between one and two days.

In July, Reif filed a court "surcharge" against Welsh demanding that she repay

\$67,335.25 in "exorbitant overtime payments" made to McKinney over a three-year period. The unusual filing, available under state law to collect inappropriate expenses by county elected officials, alleged that McKinney had routinely submitted overtime requests for hours he spent caring for the dogs he owns at home that were not permitted under county policy and practice.

The requests were normally for about 10 hours per week, but sometimes as high as 23 hours for one day, according to the controller's filing.

The claim also alleged that McKinney had been assigned a workplace classification that would allow him to claim overtime, even though he held the rank of lieutenant, and as an office supervisor was not technically eligible for overtime payments.

Welsh has countered



Chester County Controller Margaret Reif

that the payments were completely proper and allowed under federal law for the care of K-9 officers. McKinney took advantage of a policy that was put in place that allowed the time he spent caring for the dogs under his control to be compensated by the county.

She also maintained that McKinney's title of lieutenant was "honorary," that he was never officially pro-



Chester County Sheriff Carolyn "Bunny" Welsh

moted that that rank, and that his classification of DS-1, or Deputy Sheriff-1, is proper. McKinney and Welsh have been romantically involved for more than 20 years and own a home and a business together. He has worked in the office under her leadership since 2008.

According to the controller's action, beginning in 2016, McKinney was paid

several times more in overtime that he had been in previous years. He was paid \$20,014 in overtime in 2016, \$27,368 in 2017, and \$19,951 in 2018. In 2015, he was paid \$3,722 in overtime, according to the filing. No other K-9 handler was paid regular overtime for care of their dog, in accordance with a policy put in place in 2014 by former Chief Deputy Sheriff George March that determined such activity was a part of a deputy's normal work day, the filing contends.

Welsh, the longest serving elected official in the county government, announced last year that she would not seek a sixth term as county sheriff after drawing fire from some in the county for her robust support of President Donald Trump and other controversies.

Her successor, Sheriff-elect Democrat Fredda

Maddox, has promised to thoroughly review all of the staffing situations in the office and makes changes where necessary.

Reif, who was the first Democrat elected controller in the county's history, in 2018 began an investigation into the way in which the Sheriff's Office raised funds for a non-profit organization intended to support the K-9 Unit, and the purposes for which those funds were spent.

When auditors in her office raised questions about the propriety of those expenses, Reif turned their report over to the county commissioners and the District Attorney's Office, which in turn referred the matter to the state Attorney General's Office. That agency's review appears to be ongoing.

To contact staff writer Michael P. Rellahan call 610-696-1544.

Predictions

FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Jim Scanlon has been superintendent of the West Chester Area School District since 2009.

"I hope the economy stays positive," Scanlon said. "We're finishing up the start time task force in March."

"We have a lot of students doing a lot of community service and we want to keep that up and keep focused on community service."

He also said that district sparked "intergenerational conversations" between students and seniors is a plus.

Michelle Kichline was recently reelected to serve as county commissioner.

"I am excited to continue to represent the citizens of Chester county," she said.

"I will continue to focus on the addiction crisis in Chester county and expand its focus to mental health issues.

"In addition, our work is not complete addressing the challenges that have been imposed on our citizens by the pipeline industry. Finally, I will work to plan strategically to ensure that Chester County is not left behind as the region looks to different sources of funding for transportation and infrastructure projects."

Malcolm Johnston is president of the Business Improvement District and said the biggest ongoing redevelopment project in the borough is 44 West, the office and restaurant complex at the site of the former Mosteller Building, scheduled to open this spring.

Johnstone also pointed

to an expected groundbreaking for a new hotel and Gay and Walnut streets and the possible opening of the West Chester Co-op.

Marian Moskowitz will start as newly elected county commissioner in January.

"2020 will be a big year for Chester County as we turn over a new leaf with new leadership," she said. "My goals are to create an environmental sustainability plan for county government, bring municipalities together to work on common issues, find solutions to the shortage of volunteers for first-responders positions and begin to look at new transportation options."

"I am so excited to meet our employees and get their input on what we can do to improve county government."

Former Mayor Tom

Chambers talked politics.

"Whatever the choice is I hope we keep our country strong," Chambers said. "The U.S. always has a target on its back."

"I don't like to see the obsession either way. Take the obsession out and make it more objective."

Mandy Rhodes has spearheaded the drive to save Crebilly Farm in Westtown from becoming a housing development.

"I hope the public remains engaged because people need to show up to these conditional use hearings," she said. "Otherwise the township has little reason to say, 'No.'"

"The public has to keep up the pressure."

State Sen. Andy Dinniman anticipates a good year.

"I am very hopeful for the new year, the new decade, and all the opportunity in store for Chester County. In 2020, we will continue to work to balance growth and development with the importance of open space preservation, environmental protection, and transportation needs," Dinniman said. "The Mariner East pipeline project will remain a major issue in terms of health, safety, and ecological concerns, as well as the multiple pipeline projects that are slated to come this way."

"And at the state level, property tax and the need for real reform in Harrisburg will take center stage in a pivotal election year."

Ann Colby-Cummings is chair of GunSenseUS and hopes to see changes concerning the use of firearms.

"In terms of 2020, while some consensus legislation (supported by both firearm owners and non-owners) has been introduced at both the state and federal level e.g. enhanced background

checks and Extreme Risk Protection Orders, there continue to be roadblocks in both the US Senate and the PA House and Senate," she said.

"Therefore, the election is central to improving the picture for enacting change where there is existing common ground."

"In PA, we are advocating for Your Best B.E.T. for Gun Safety: Background check for every firearm purchase to keep prohibited purchasers from buying guns."

"Extreme Risk Protection Order, to provide a tool for law enforcement and families to request a court order the temporary removal of firearms where the owner has shown evidence of potentially harming themselves or others."

"Training, safety training before the first firearm purchase, building on the idea of the long-existing PA hunter safety training required to get a hunting license."

"Each of these ideas enjoys a majority support from firearm owners and non-owners, (www.gunsenseus.org has the polling info on our front page.)"

State Rep. Christina Sappay issued a release concerning the new year: "I believe that we will continue to see Democratic gains, particularly in the south-east. We picked up several seats here in 2018, which will be fiercely protected, and there's a good chance we will flip remaining seats too. In recent months we've seen Republicans here join us on some issues, but the fact is that their leaders have taken our commonwealth in the wrong direction over the last decade. For years they have repeatedly blocked efforts to protect our environment, prevent gun violence, end ger-

rymandering, adequately invest in our infrastructure and grow our economy for all Pennsylvanians. Our citizens are paying attention to state government now in a way they never have and they're not happy about that."

State Rep. Carolyn Comitta supports: Doing the Census right, buying new voting equipment, education, minimum wage, more work on justice reform, health care choice, and protecting ACA benefits.

She also supports: Transportation funding, NGL pipeline safety, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, is actively opposed to legislators representing Marcellus shale and fighting for climate safety, gun violence protection and ending gerrymandering.

Don Braceland is a borough councilman. He released the following statement: "The selection of a new police chief, hopefully the beginning of the Zukin hotel project, the opening of Eli's 44 West, Plaza Plan project which I've been an ardent supporter of, building some affordable housing on the Melton Center site, trying to improve some resurgent slow burning embers of racism in the borough relative to the east side which is an interest of mine, moving forward with Goose Creek flooding issues ... though we have no overnight fixes, WG, WC, PennDot and the state are working on it. Some of the pipes will need to be replaced with larger ones and they will need to be cleaned more often. The closing of S. Church St. through WCU is coming up and will likely cause local resident traffic concerns. Frankly, these resident concerns are generally unfounded based on available data."

DUI

FROM PAGE 1

Tom Killion and co-sponsored by Dinniman, calls for substantially increasing penalties for those who have multiple DUI convictions

and targeting offenders who repeatedly drive drunk with high Blood Alcohol Content levels in their systems.

Senate Bill 773 is named for Deana Eckman of the Delaware Valley region who was tragically killed by a repeat DUI offender ear-

lier this year. The man responsible for the DUI accident that took her life had five previous DUIs on his record in the prior 10 years, all with high rates of alcohol in his system. He was sentenced to 25 and a half to 50 years in state prison last week.



JOSEPH J.
McGETTIGAN PAINTING CO.
Since 1918

Specializing in:

Painting • Power Washing
Residences • Interior • Exterior
Property Management Companies
Condominium Associations
Commercial Facilities • Universities • Churches

Our Services include:

■ Painting • Interior • Exterior
■ Power Washing - Homes • Decks • Commercial Facilities
■ Stucco Repair
■ Stucco & Masonry Coatings - Elastomeric Coatings
Textures, Spray Clear Water Proof Coatings
■ Wood Replacement - Cedar Siding • Wood Trim • Hardie Plank • Concrete Siding • PVC Trim - never worry about rotting wood again • Stucco Repair

Free Estimates

Fully Insured

References Available Upon Request

Check out our Website!

mcgettiganpainting.com

McGettigan Painting Co., Inc.
1054 Saunders Lane
West Chester, PA 19380

Phone: 610-431-2050
Fax: 610-431-7383
Email: jj@mcgettiganpainting.com

10% Discount on Jobs Over \$1,000