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CALIFORNIA

Charges filed against Cokeburg man in 2017 fatal accident

By MARK HOFMANN
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A Cokeburg man is facing homicide by vehicle charges in connection with a fatal collision in California Borough last year.

On Monday, Matthew Alexander Mance, 28, of 1 Grant St. was charged with homicide by vehicle and multiple counts of aggravated assault by vehicle, reckless driving, recklessly endangering another person and other traffic offenses in the death of Angie Givens.

At 2:50 p.m. March 25, police allege, Mance was driving a 2015 Kia along East Malden Drive in the borough when he failed to stop at a posted stop sign and drove into the intersection, colliding into the vehicle driven by Givens.

The force of the impact caused Givens' vehicle to be pushed across the intersection and turned on to its side, police alleged in court paperwork.

Police said Mance made no attempt to stop as a statement from a passing motorist said the vehicle "blew" through the stop sign.

Passengers in Givens' car, identified as Paisley Carney, Adam Carney and Amy Christner, each sustained serious injuries and were flown to Pittsburgh-area hospitals.

Cody Levine, Mance's passenger, sustained minor injuries, police said.

Mance was also flown to a Pittsburgh hospital for injuries he sustained in the collision.

Mance, who is free on \$50,000 unsecured bond, is scheduled for a preliminary hearing before Magisterial District Judge Joshua Kanalis at 10 a.m. Feb. 26.



Pictured is an artist's rendering of Uniontown Hospital's planned campus renovations. Uniontown City Council introduced an ordinance Wednesday that would approve the hospital integrating portions of several city streets into its growing campus.

Remodeling

Uniontown introduces ordinance allowing for hospital development

By MIKE TONY
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Uniontown council has introduced an ordinance that would vacate portions of several city streets to allow Uniontown Hospital to remodel itself and add new amenities, including a parking garage.

The hospital is proposing the construction of a parking garage for employees and the creation of a covered causeway to strengthen campus connectivity, according

to Uniontown Hospital CEO Steve Handy.

City Engineer John Over reported to council at their monthly meeting that the hospital is aiming to consolidate properties it recently acquired around the facility to allow for what he called a "significant remodeling of the hospital."

"Currently, the way the hospital is laid out, the majority of parking in the main entrance is on the left side of the hospital, and many patients have to travel a long distance to get to the service area within the hospital," Over said.

If adopted by council, the introduced ordinance would consolidate multiple parcels of land separated by rights of way to allow for development, vacating a portion of Delaware Avenue, a portion of Woodlawn Street, Hospital Alley and two other nearby unnamed alleys.

"They've already acquired all the properties," Over said. "They want these rights of way vacated so they can reorient the center of the hospital with the main entrance

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Monongahela to get tougher on bike riding through city

By MARK SOROKA
For the Herald-Standard

MONONGAHELA — In response to complaints from residents and business owners in the city, council members are considering a tougher ordinance to clamp down on children who are causing disruptions downtown.

During a meeting Monday morning at the municipal building, Police Chief Brian Tempest told council members that complaints are still coming in about kids who continue to ride through the downtown on bicycles, skateboards and scooters.

"These kids are jeopardizing their safety and the safety of drivers and pedestrians by weaving in and out of traffic," said Tempest. "Some of these kids are actually daring cars to hit them. When our police officers spot these kids riding through town, we pull them over, confiscate their bikes and explain



Monongahela council discussed a stricter bicycle ordinance during its meeting on Monday.

why we had to do that. We also notify parents about this problem but some of them tell us they can't control their children."

Tempest added that according to the state vehicle code, no one is permitted to ride a bike through a municipality's business district on roads and sidewalks. However, cyclists are allowed to push their bikes along on sidewalks.

"The problem is that Monongahela's existing ordinance doesn't go into the same amount of detail as the state code," said Tempest. "My recommendation is that you bring our local code up to date so it fully specifies our restrictions."

Tempest also noted that more leeway could be given to cyclists if the city had specially designated bicycle lanes.

Mayor Bob Kepics said the

MARK SOROKA

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Pictured is an artist's rendering of Uniontown Hospital's planned campus renovations. Uniontown City Council introduced an ordinance Wednesday that would approve the hospital integrating portions of several city streets into its growing campus.

COUNCIL

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again, develop a parking garage and other amenities associated with the hospital."

Mayor Ed Fike asked Over whether the hospital will compensate the city, and Over said that had been discussed due to the city's loss of tax revenue resulting from the hospital's property acquisitions. Over said an annual payment to the city has been discussed.

"That's an important component of this because the hospital sees itself as an important part of the community," hospital legal counsel Tim Witt said of possibly compensating the city through an annual payment.

"The city has to live too," Fike said. "While I sure appreciate having a facility like we have up there, I still think that the city has to be compensated."

"We are pleased that the city has embraced our request to allow the hospital the ability to integrate the city roads into the campus, as we continue to improve the campus for the convenience and safety of our patients, visitors and employees," Handy said.

Handy said the hospital enjoys a positive relationship with the city and appreciates the services that it provides.

"In this regard, we are very willing to entertain a conversation to help offset lost tax revenues that might have been realized through the assimilation of taxable properties into the

nonprofit structure of the hospital," Handy said. "Uniontown Hospital is committed to being an asset for the community, not a liability."

Over said that hospital administrators, including Handy, understand the city's position and would be willing to discuss hospital compensation to the city as soon as council members want to schedule a meeting.

"The sooner, the better," Fike said. Handy noted that the hospital began campus improvements with overhauling patient parking two years ago, also constructing a new main entrance and acquiring properties along Berkeley Street.

"However, these continued expansions are contingent not only on things like the city ordinance, but on

obtaining the necessary funding through grants, including a grant application for rural development through the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture)," Handy said. "We are taking all the steps necessary to continue to connect our campus to the people of Fayette County and invest in our community, provided the funding is approved."

The introduced ordinance now has to be sent to the city planning commission for its recommendation back to city council. The ordinance may be reviewed by the public at city hall or at K2 Engineering, Inc. at 234 Pittsburgh St.

Council approved introducing the ordinance by a 3-0 count, with members Blair Jones and Joe Czuchan absent from the meeting.

State ballot access eased for third-party, independent candidates

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Third-party and independent candidates will have an easier time running for office in Pennsylvania following settlement of a longstanding federal lawsuit.

The settlement approved by a federal judge earlier this month includes a provision that such candidates will need far fewer petition signatures to qualify for the ballot, The Philadelphia Inquirer reports.

Such candidates running for U.S. senator, governor or state row offices previously had to get at least 2 percent of the votes cast for the top statewide vote-getter in the last general election, which could total more than 30 times the number required for Democrats and Republicans.

The court agreement caps the signature requirement at 5,000 for third-party candidates, who also no longer will have to pay for legal challenges, which have run in the tens of thousands of dollars.

The Green Party of Pennsylvania on Monday issued a statement calling the decision "a major victory for democracy."

"This is a day that, not only our adversaries, but also our friends, never thought we'd see," said Carl Romanelli, a 2006 U.S. Senate candidate thrown off the ballot following a challenge. "It also shows that folks of varied political views can come together for the betterment of all."

Libertarian Dale Kerns also hailed the decision.

"If I'm not spending months on end trying to fight to get on the ballot, well then we can spend all of our time campaigning and talking about the ideas with voters and debating with each other, so that the election is actually what it's supposed to be," he told the Inquirer.

The Green Party said, however, that the ruling doesn't apply to congressional candidates, meaning third-party candidates for the U.S. House must still get 2 percent of the highest vote-getter in the previous election.

"We truly hope the Legislature will act and properly reform our state's election issues," said Jocelyn Bowser-Bostick, a member of the party's steering committee.

Democrats prepare to take turn at drawing US House districts

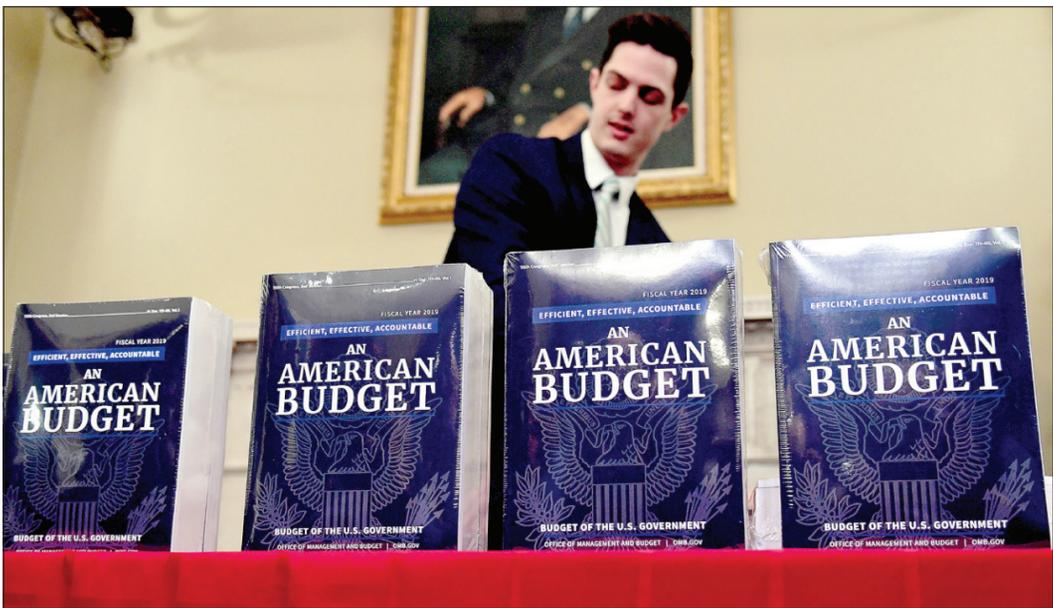
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Top Democratic state lawmakers say they want to work with Gov. Tom Wolf in presenting a consensus Democratic plan of congressional districts to Supreme Court justices who are poised to impose new boundaries.

Sen. Jay Costa and Rep. Frank Dermody said Monday that they hope to meet with Wolf, as early as Tuesday.

A redrawn map of Pennsylvania districts could boost Democrats nationally in their quest to take control of the U.S. House.

The Democratic-majority state Supreme Court threw out Pennsylvania's GOP-drawn congressional map because of partisan gerrymandering.

Justices have promised to produce a new map by Feb. 19 and could consider proposals by Wolf, lawmakers and other parties to the gerrymandering case.



James Knable helps to unpack copies of the President's FY19 Budget after it arrived at the House Budget Committee office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday.

Trump's budget moves deficit sharply higher

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.4 trillion budget for next year that heralds an era of \$1 trillion-plus federal deficits and — unlike the plan he released last year — never comes close to promising a balanced ledger even after 10 years.

The budget submitted Monday shows the growing deficits despite major cuts for domestic programs, largely because of last year's tax overhaul, which is projected to cause federal tax revenue to drop. This budget does not yet reflect last week's two-year bipartisan \$300 billion pact that wholly rejects Trump's plans to slash domestic agencies.

The president's budget proposes dramatic cuts to a wide range of domestic agencies from the Departments of Labor and Interior to the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Science Foundation. Unlike last year's submission, the 2019 Trump plan would cut Medicare by \$554 billion over the next 10 years, a 6 percent reduction from projected spending, including cuts in Medicare payments going to hospitals and rehabilitation centers.

Presidential budgets are often declared dead-on-arrival in Congress where lawmakers have their own ideas about spending priorities. But the documents do represent the most detailed elaboration of an administration's priorities.

Tax revenue would plummet by \$3.7 trillion over the 2018-27 decade relative to last year's "baseline" estimates, the budget projects. Trump is requesting a record \$686 billion for the Pentagon, a 13 percent increase from the 2017 budget enacted last May.

In remarks Monday, Trump focused on the spending increases he favors rather than the deficits he and other Republicans have pledged to reduce.

"We're going to have the strongest military we've ever had, by far," Trump said. "In this budget we took care of the military like it's never been taken care of before."

Also getting a boost would be border security. Trump's budget includes money to start building 65 miles of border wall in south Texas as well as money to bring immigration jails up to a capacity of 47,000 and add 2,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees and 750 Border Patrol

agents.

The spending spree, along with last year's tax cuts, has the deficit moving sharply higher with Republicans in control of Washington. Trump's plan sees a 2019 deficit of \$984 billion, though \$1.2 trillion is more plausible after last week's budget pact and \$90 billion worth of disaster aid is tacked on. That's more than double the 2019 deficit the administration promised last year.

All told, the new budget sees accumulating deficits of \$7.2 trillion over the coming decade; Trump's plan last year projected a 10-year shortfall of \$3.2 trillion.

"In one year of working together, we have laid the foundation for a new era of American greatness," Trump said in the budget message accompanying his spending document. "America is back to winning again. A great spirit of optimism continues to sweep across our nation."

The 2019 budget was originally designed to double down on last year's proposals to slash foreign aid, the Environmental Protection Agency, home heating assistance and other nondefense programs funded by Congress each year.

BIKES

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city's streets are too narrow to accommodate bicycle lanes.

"That might work in Pittsburgh, but we just don't have the space here," he said. "That would cut into the space we need for parking."

When asked how the new law would affect bicycle clubs that ride through Monongahela, Tempest replied, "There's always an exception."

Chad DeSantis, a Monongahela resident who attended the meeting, feels the council will find a workable solution for this problem.

"I'm proud to live in a city where bikes are our biggest concern," he said.

Also during the meeting, the council:

- Discussed plans to eliminate permit parking on the 100 block of Railroad Street. Currently, the city charges \$25 per month for each parking space in the lot. "We aren't bringing in much revenue from that lot so it makes sense to make that space available for people who come into the city for shopping and recreational activities," said Kepics. Council members will vote on this proposal at their next meeting.

- Announced dates for three upcoming events: the Pooch Parade will take place on May 26, a time capsule will be opened at Chess Park on May 28 (Memorial Day) and a 5K race will be held on Sept. 29.

The council will hold its regular meeting this coming Wednesday.

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