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WCU Museum of Anthropology & Archaeology

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West Chester University: Much Fanfare for 150th University

Bill Rettew

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EAST MARLBOROUGH

Double murder-suicide investigated

Two adults, one child dead, police say

By Fran Maye
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EAST MARLBOROUGH » The Chester County District Attorney's Office and East Marlborough Township police are investigating an apparent double murder-suicide that took place on Monday at a home in East Marlborough. Two adults and a child were found dead at the scene.

"This is an inconceivable tragedy for the victims' family, their loved ones, and our community," said Chester County District Attorney Deb Ryan. "You have my deepest sympathy. We will use all our resources to determine why this heartbreaking and senseless incident happened. This is an ongoing investigation, and we will update the public as soon as possible."

East Marlborough Township Police Chief Robert Clarke said, "We are doing a thorough investigation into the events that led up to this horrible incident. While residents may be feeling uneasy in light of this event, I assure everyone that community safety is our number one priority."

On Monday, police responded to a well-being check at a residence on Federal Walk, adjacent from the Shoppes at Longwood Village. When they arrived, police found a 55-year-old man,

a 50-year-old woman, and their 12-year-old child dead of apparent gunshot wounds.

Multiple cartridge casings were found at the scene. A semi-automatic handgun was observed on the floor near the male. Detectives learned that there had been a history of domestic violence.

Federal Walk is a townhouse community with units selling for about \$350,000.

According to the latest census, East Marlborough has 7,388 residents, with 66 percent of them

having a college bachelor's degree or better. Median annual household income is over \$124,000.

Contact Chester County Detective Christine Bleiler at 610-344-6866 or Sgt. Kevin Urbany at 610-444-5075 if you have any information about this investigation.

If you feel unsafe around someone you love, contact the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County's 24/7 hotline at 888-711-6270 or 610-431-1430. Call 911 if you are in immediate danger.

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

MUCH FANFARE FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY



West Chester University celebrates 150 years.

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By Bill Rettew
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WEST CHESTER » While approximately 700 staff, students and the members of the community celebrated the 150th Anniversary of West Chester University, Saturday, everyone is looking forward to the next 150 years at the 17,600-student college.

Faculty and students showed off what makes the largest university in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education special at displays set up around the Quad and other locations.

With a nod to the past, and a play on words concerning the former name West Chester Normal School, WCU President Chris Fiorentino elicited a giggle during the event marking the end of the 150th celebration with a nod to the pandemic and virtual learning.

"We are returning to West Chester normal school next year," Fiorentino said about virtual learning. "They took our buildings away from us but we continue to be WCU."

"A university is not a collec-



Science-inspired cupcakes.

BILL RETTEW-MEDIANEWS GROUP

tion of buildings, it's a collection of people."

Attendees could learn how a Geiger counter works while testing radiation levels, taste healthy and easy to make goodies and tour the brand new Sciences and Engineering Center and the Commons.

Mascot Rammy was on hand around the Quad, with Math Department professors taking turns tossing cream pies at each other.

Dietetics student Rachel Ne-

hila handed out delicious cups with a mix of ginger beans, spinach, almonds, coconut and apple syrup. She said that the concoction was easy to prepare, healthy, fresh and refreshing.

Amir Golmohamadi, Associate Professor of the Food Science and the Department of Nutrition, oversaw a hummus tasting competition.

The testing was a chance for participants to see how scientists gauge responses and conduct experiments. The winner,

called from more than 100 responses, was the College of Sciences and Mathematics.

Patricia Davidson, professor of Nutrition and a clinician said the school's nutrition programs combine clinical, science and culinary ideas.

Associate Professor of Nutrition Jeannie Subach said the new Sciences and Engineering Center and the Commons is a "culinary playground."

One classroom features more than a dozen gas stoves and food preparation areas where students can view a camera that shows every move made by a professor.

"I teach the concepts of culinary nutrition," Subach said. "We are equipped to prepare students for adventurous careers."

Don McCown is part of the Center for Contemplative Studies where the mind, body and mental health of students are addressed. The center is open for in-person or virtual visitors, from the 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for mindfulness meditation, yoga and walking, among a host of

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COURTS

As 'revenge' trial begins, one pleads guilty

By Michael P. Rellahan
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WEST CHESTER » The gunman in what authorities contend was a revenge shooting in Coatesville against a witness pleaded guilty Monday just as his trial was set to begin, while his alleged accomplice elected to go forward and contest the charges against him.

Ahmad Jamal Thomas admitted shooting a Coatesville man in 2020 who had cooperated with city police years before in an investigation of Thomas' cousin, Armon Jones, who is Thomas' co-defendant in the current case. The man lived, but is not cooperating with the prosecution of Jones, a prosecutor said.

According to the facts of the case as laid out by First Assistant District Attorney Michael Barry in the plea agreement with Thomas, he fired multiple shots at Dialo Marquis Smith in broad

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NEW GARDEN

Flying Field air show to return Aug. 30

By Jen Samuel
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NEW GARDEN » One of the biggest events in Chester County is making a comeback in 2022.

New Garden Flying Field Air & Car Show, also known as the Festival of Flight, is scheduled to make its grand return beginning at noon Aug. 30.

The event will end with a fireworks show at 9:30 p.m.

The New Garden Flying Field Air & Car Show was canceled in 2020 and 2021. In 2020, the event was canceled due to the pandemic. Last year, there was no special event due to President Joe Biden's home being within a 12-mile radius of the airport. Every time the president flies home for a weekend, flights at the New

AIR SHOW » PAGE 6

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WCU

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many other programs designed in part to help with loneliness.

Smiles were everywhere on Saturday.

"To celebrate 150 years in this new building allows us to showcase the quality programs in a state of the art facility," Scott Heinerichs, the Dean of the College of Health Sciences said.

John Vilella is Vice President for University Affairs, Chief of Staff and enjoyed the celebration.

"This is a testament to the will of so many students wanting to better themselves," Vilella said. "The beauty of it is seeing student success for over 150 years."

Abby Miller is marketing manager for dining services.

"The university keeps the history alive, but has newer technology," she said. "It's nice to see the changes."



Learning about math at West Chester University's 150th anniversary celebration

Provost Laurie Bernotsky and Michael DiGiovine, director of the Museum of Anthropology, and professor of Anthropology, talked about a time capsule filled by students and staff, that will be opened in 50 years, and the impact made from its Moonshot for Equity Program.

"The artifacts in the time capsule provide an important snapshot of the West Chester University community, and greater society, from a time in American history that will surely

be in the books for years to come," DiGiovine said. "Collectively, they paint a picture of resilience amid the uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic, political polarization and social tensions these past few years, and demonstrate the many successes West Chester University has enjoyed in research, academics, inclusivity, and community life."

"I hope that, 50 years from now, those who open the time capsule will feel the pride for our school that we feel today!"