



# Health Care Recap

May 4-10, 2018

## Contents

Bullet.in.Points ..... 1  
 Co-Sponsor Memos ..... 2  
 Bill Actions ..... 3  
 Upcoming Events ..... 4  
 In the News ..... 6

## Session Status

At 1:06 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 the Senate stands in recess until Monday, May 21, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

At 12:04 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

## Upcoming Session Days

### House

May 22, 23, 24  
 June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

### Senate

May 21, 22, 23  
 June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

## Bullet.in.Points

### [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: RULES AND REGULATIONS: MEDICAL MARIJUANA; DISPENSARIES; AMENDED TEMPORARY REGULATIONS](#)

The Department of Health published amended temporary regulations in Chapter 1161, relating to dispensaries—temporary regulations. The department amended the regulation for the sake of consistency, and to take into account the need for changes that have arisen as each new set of temporary regulations has been implemented by the department and from recommendations by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board. The changes are effective May 17, 2018, and will expire May 12, 2020. Comments can be submitted to John J. Collins, Office of Medical Marijuana, Department of Health, Room 628, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 547-3047, [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov).

### [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: RULES AND REGULATIONS: MEDICAL MARIJUANA; GENERAL PROVISIONS; GROWERS/PROCESSORS; AMENDED TEMPORARY REGULATIONS](#)

The Department of Health published amended temporary regulations in Chapters 1141 and 1151, relating to general provisions—temporary regulations; and growers/processors—temporary regulations. The department amended the regulation for the sake of consistency, and to take into account the need for changes that have arisen as each new set of temporary regulations has been implemented by the department and from recommendations by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board. The changes are effective May 17, 2018, and will expire May 12, 2020. Comments can be submitted to John J. Collins, Office of Medical Marijuana, Department of Health, Room 628, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 547-3047, [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov).

### [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: RULES AND REGULATIONS: MEDICAL MARIJUANA; LABORATORIES; AMENDED TEMPORARY REGULATIONS](#)

The Department of Health published amended temporary regulations in Chapter 1171, relating to laboratories—temporary regulations. The department amended the regulation for the sake of consistency, and to take into account the need for changes that have arisen as each new set of temporary regulations has been implemented by the department and from recommendations by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board. The changes are effective May 17, 2018 and will expire May 12, 2020. Comments can be submitted to John J. Collins, Office of Medical Marijuana, Department of Health, Room 628, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 547-3047, [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov).

### [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: RULES AND REGULATIONS: MEDICAL MARIJUANA; PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS; AMENDED TEMPORARY REGULATIONS](#)

The Department of Health published amended temporary regulations in Chapter 1191, relating to patients and caregivers—temporary regulations. The department amended the regulation for the sake of consistency, and to take into account the need for changes that have arisen as each new set of temporary regulations has been implemented by the department and from recommendations by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board. The changes are effective May 17, 2018, and will expire May 12, 2020. Comments can be submitted to John J. Collins, Office of Medical Marijuana, Department of Health, Room 628, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 547-3047, [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov).



#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: RULES AND REGULATIONS: MEDICAL MARIJUANA; PHYSICIANS AND PRACTITIONERS; AMENDED TEMPORARY REGULATIONS**

The Department of Health published amended temporary regulations in Chapter 1181, relating to physicians and practitioners—temporary regulations. The department amended the regulation for the sake of consistency, and to take into account the need for changes that have arisen as each new set of temporary regulations has been implemented by the department and from recommendations by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board. The changes are effective May 17, 2018, and will expire May 12, 2020. Comments can be submitted to John J. Collins, Office of Medical Marijuana, Department of Health, Room 628, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 547-3047, [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov).

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: RULES AND REGULATIONS: MEDICAL MARIJUANA; PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE; TEMPORARY REGULATIONS**

The Department of Health published temporary regulations in Chapter 1230, relating to practice and procedure—temporary regulations. The chapter pertains to growers/processors, dispensaries, laboratories, disappointed medical marijuana organization permit applicants and any other person choosing to challenge an action taken by the Office of Medical Marijuana under the act. The temporary regulations are effective May 17, 2018, and will expire May 12, 2020. Comments can be submitted to John J. Collins, Office of Medical Marijuana, Department of Health, Room 628, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 547-3047, [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov).

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM: MEDICAL MARIJUANA ADVISORY BOARD'S REPORT AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH'S DECISION TO EFFECTUATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Department of Health gave notice of the decision by the Secretary of Health to effectuate the recommendations of the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board as set forth in the board's Report, adopted at a public meeting on April 9, 2018. The recommendations can be found at [www.pabulletin.com](http://www.pabulletin.com). Comments can be submitted to John J. Collins, Office of Medical Marijuana, Department of Health, Room 628, Health and Welfare Building, 625 Forster Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 547-3047, [RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHMedMarijuana@pa.gov).

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM; CHANGE IN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The Department of Health announced a change in the method of reporting monthly aggregate data. As of July 1, 2018, the submission of monthly hearing screening aggregate reports mailed, faxed or e-mailed paper forms will be discontinued for all submitters utilizing iCMS to report hearing screening data. For more information, contact Stacey Gustin, Program Manager, Division of Newborn Screening and Genetics, (717) 783-8143.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: RARE DISEASE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Department of Health will hold a public meeting of the Rare Disease Advisory Council on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dixon University Center, 2986 North Second Street, Administrative Building, Conference Room A/B, Harrisburg. For more information contact the Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Room 1000, Health and Welfare Building, Harrisburg, (717) 787-6214.

### **Co-Sponsor Memos**

<a href="#">HCO3362</a>	<a href="#">Murt, Thomas(R)</a>	Raises the legal age to buy cigarettes and other tobacco products from 18 to 21.
<a href="#">SCO1434</a>	<a href="#">Boscola, Lisa(D)</a>	Ensures physicians have access to medical staff membership and can continue to provide appropriate care for their patients.
<a href="#">SCO1442</a>	<a href="#">Baker, Lisa(R)</a>	Requires the Department of Human Services to replicate the Community/School Based Behavioral Team Program as an option for school districts statewide.



## Bill Actions

[HB 1869](#) [Mackenzie, Ryan\(R\)](#)

(PN 2592) The Maternal Mortality Review Act establishes the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to conduct a multidisciplinary review of maternal deaths and develop recommendations for the prevention of future maternal deaths and provides for its powers and duties; provides for duties of the Department of Health; and imposes a penalty. Effective in 90 days.

**Bill History:**

04-25-18 S Signed in the Senate  
04-30-18 H Signed in the House  
05-01-18 G In the hands of the Governor  
05-09-18 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 24)  
08-07-18 G Earliest effective date

[HB 2266](#) [Cruz, Angel\(D\)](#)

(PN 3503) Amends the Mental Health Procedures Act requiring the notification of the Pennsylvania State Police of the identity of any individual who has been adjudicated incompetent or who has been involuntarily committed to a mental institution for inpatient care and treatment within 72 hours of the adjudication, commitment or treatment instead of the current within seven days requirement. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:**

05-02-18 H Filed  
05-07-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Human Services

[HB 2419](#) [Schlossberg, Mike\(D\)](#)

(PN 3514) Amends the Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act further providing for sexual assault evidence collection program and for rights of sexual assault victims by establishing protocol for health care facilities and law enforcement for anonymous submissions and anonymous reporters. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:**

05-07-18 H Filed  
05-08-18 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

[SB 1155](#) [Costa, Jay\(D\)](#)

(PN 1735) Amends the Independent Living Services Act further providing for definitions and for grants and funding. The Department of Labor and Industry shall provide grants to centers for independent living that provide services to individuals who are deafblind to be used to provide assistance to an individual who is deafblind who is working toward establishing and maintaining independence; and centers for independent living that train support service providers to be used to provide the necessary training to become a support service provider in this Commonwealth. The grant shall be at least \$250,000 and shall increase at the rate of inflation. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:**

05-07-18 S Filed  
05-07-18 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Labor and Industry



[SB 1160](#)      [Leach, Daylin\(D\)](#)      (PN 1744) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in dissemination of criminal history record information, further providing for expungement for information relating to the conviction for an individual convicted of an offense occurring prior to February 15, 2018, under section 13(a)(16) of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act who was diagnosed with a serious medical condition under the Medical Marijuana Act and whose serious medical condition existed on the date of the offense and who possessed the marijuana that was the subject of the offense solely for the purpose of treating the individual's medical condition. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:**

05-10-18 S Filed  
05-10-18 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

[SB 1165](#)      [Martin, Scott \(F\)\(R\)](#)      (PN 1746) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes & Offenses)& 42 (Judiciary), in assault, further providing for terroristic threats; and, in juvenile matters, further providing for detention of child and for investigation and report. The bill establishes that a child who is charged with the crime of terroristic threats shall be placed in a secure detention facility. The child shall be detained and may not be released until completion of a mental health examination and a home risk assessment, which shall include a visit to the primary residence of the child. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:**

05-10-18 S Filed  
05-10-18 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

[SB 1169](#)      [Killion, Thomas\(R\)](#)      (PN 1749) Amends the Medical Practice Act further providing for genetic counselor. The bill adds that a genetic counselor may provide genetic counseling to clients by ordering genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as appropriate for the genetic assessment. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:**

05-10-18 S Filed  
05-10-18 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

## Upcoming Events

### Department of Health

*May 14, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Family Health Council of Central PA, 3461 Market St., 3rd Floor Conf. Rm., Camp Hill*  
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1289

### State Board of Medicine

*May 15, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. 2601 North Third Street, Board Room C, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1400

### Department of Health

*May 16, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Shenango Valley Urban League, Inc., 601 Indiana Avenue, Farrell*  
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1289



**Department of Human Services**

*May 16, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. PA Child Welfare Training Center, 403 E. Winding Hill Rd., Mechanicsburg*  
Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Meeting. For additional information: (717) 346-8164

**State Board of Chiropractic**

*May 17, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7155

**State Board of Physical Therapy**

*May 17, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7134

**Department of Health**

*May 17, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County, Inc., 601 South Queen Street, Room 220, Lancaster*  
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1289

**Department of Health**

*May 17, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Fayette County Community Action Agency, Inc., 108 North Beeson Avenue, Uniontown*  
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1289

**State Board of Dentistry**

*May 18, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7162

**Press Conference**

*May 20, 2018 – 1:00 p.m. Main Capitol Steps, Harrisburg*  
Right to Live Rally

**Department of Health**

*May 22, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Allegheny County Health Department, Investment Building, 6th Floor, 239 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh*  
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1289

**Department of Health**

*May 22, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Allegheny County Health Department, Investment Building, 6th Floor, 239 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh*  
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1289

**State Board of Pharmacy**

*May 22, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. 2601 North Third Street, Board Room B, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7156

**Press Conference**

*May 22, 2018 – 1:00 p.m. Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
PA Homecare Association Advocacy Day



**Press Conference**

*May 22, 2018 – 1:30 p.m. Main Capitol Steps, Harrisburg*  
ALS Awareness Month

**Press Conference**

*May 23, 2018 – 11:00 a.m. Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg*  
DSP Workforce Rally

**Department of Human Services**

*May 23, 2018 - 1:00 p.m. Health & Welfare Building, Room 129, 333 Market St., Harrisburg*  
Consumer Subcommittee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee. For additional information: (717) 783-9916

**Department of Human Services**

*May 24, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. Temple University Harrisburg, Lecture Hall 246/248, 234 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg*  
Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC) Meeting. For additional information: (717) 772-6341

**Department of Human Services**

*May 24, 2018 - 10:00 a.m. PA Dept. of Education, 3rd Floor, E-Center, 333 Market St., Harrisburg*  
Children's Trust Fund Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 772-2098

**State Board of Optometry**

*May 24, 2018 - 9:00 a.m. 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-7155

**In the News**

- 05-10-2018      [Pennsylvania Emerges as National Patient Safety Leader](#)  
                    (Press Release)
- 05-10-2018      [DHS: Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee Meeting Agenda for may 16, 2018](#)  
                    (Press Release)
- 05-10-2018      [State Board of Medicine Meeting Agenda for May 15, 2018](#)  
                    (Press Release)
- 05-10-2018      [Attorney General Josh Shapiro Announces Felony Charges against Nurse in Death...](#)  
                    (Press Release)
- 05-10-2018      [Stateline Daily: Abuse of Opioid Alternative Gabapentin Is on the Rise](#)  
                    (Press Release)
- 05-10-2018      [PSNA Adds Medical Marijuana Training to Online Education Center](#)  
                    (Press Release)
- 05-10-2018      [Department of Human Services Hosts Mental Health Awareness Fair](#)  
                    (Press Release)
- 05-10-2018      [Distinguished Physician-Scientist Named Clinical Director of Aging Institute...](#)  
                    (Press Release)
- 05-10-2018      [State Board of Veterinary Medicine Meeting Agenda for May 11, 2018](#)  
                    (Press Release)



- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Mentoring Program for New Parents Expands Partnership with UPMC\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Former Gov. Tom Ridge 'doing great' as he continues his recovery from a heart attack\*\*](#)  
Wednesday marked 174 days since he suffered a widowmaker heart attack, but former Gov. Tom Ridge reported on Wednesday, "I'm doing great." Ridge, looking tanned and in good humor, said he is almost back to work full-time from what he refers to as "the incident" that occurred on Nov. 16... - [\*Penn Live, Patriot-News\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Volunteer groups remain essential to supporting Westmoreland County hospitals\*\*](#)  
A regional umbrella organization for hospital volunteers — most of them women — has shut down, but the local hospital volunteer groups remain strong and supportive, officials said. The Pennsylvania Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries was dissolved at the end of 2017 because of a drop-off in membership and participation in the... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Technology prescription saves money\*\*](#)  
High drug prices usually are attributed to pharmaceutical companies alone. But those drug developers and manufacturers are only the front end of the distribution chain. Before drugs reach the consumer at their retail price they, like most goods, go through a long distribution process that adds... - [\*Scranton Times\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Pennsylvania medical marijuana licensing process barrels forward despite ongoing legal challenges\*\*](#)  
The focus is on helping patients suffering from serious medical conditions. So says the Wolf administration in virtually every statement about Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program. It buttresses each with facts and figures showing how quickly the program has blossomed since the Medical... - [\*Allentown Morning Call\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Lawmakers introduce 6-week abortion ban bill\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG — A group of House Republicans have introduced legislation similar to a new law in Iowa that would ban abortions after six weeks. The legislation, authored by state Rep. Rick Saccone, R-Washington County, would bar abortions after the point at which the heartbeat of the fetus can... - [\*Sharon Herald\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Herschel: ACA needs fixed, not repealed\*\*](#)  
SUNBURY — A multi-faceted, problem-solving approach is needed to deal with the opioid epidemic that is wrecking so many lives in Pennsylvania and across the nation, said U.S. House Congressional District 12 candidate Judy Herschel, during a Daily Item editorial board interview Wednesday... - [\*Sunbury Daily Item\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Legislation expanding vets' access to Agent Orange benefits advanced by House committee\*\*](#)  
Rep. Tom MacArthur's Fairness for Korean DMZ Veterans Act was added to the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act on Tuesday prior to the committee's vote to send the amended measure to the full House for consideration. Federal lawmakers took a big step this week toward compensating more... - [\*Levittown Bucks County Courier Times\*](#)





- 05-10-2018      [\*\*State Drug and Alcohol secretary tours sober living house in Waynesburg\*\*](#)  
WAYNESBURG – After Lynn Bird lost two daughters to fatal heroin overdoses in 2014, she wanted to find a way to honor their lives while helping others battling addiction. She found it by working to launch the Bird Sisters Oxford House two years ago, one of two sober living houses in Waynesburg and one of the few in the... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 05-10-2018      [\*\*Casey report: Opioid crisis cost Pennsylvania \\$53 billion in 2016\*\*](#)  
While the human toll of the opioid crisis is incalculable, a new report released by U.S. Sen. Bob Casey has determined that the epidemic's economic impact on Pennsylvania exceeded \$53 billion in 2016. "This epidemic knows no bounds," Casey, D-Scranton, said in a... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 05-10-2018      [\*\*DNA sequencing will become part of routine care at Geisinger\*\*](#)  
Geisinger announced earlier this week that it plans to make DNA sequencing part of its routine clinical care. The health system's MyCode Community Health Initiative, a genomics research program, in collaboration with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, sequences the DNA... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 05-10-2018      [\*\*Local officials warn high rate of Lyme disease from tick bites\*\*](#)  
A woman walks through Brandon Park in the city with bare ankles on a nice spring Wednesday afternoon. Officials warn that tick bites and cases of Lyme disease are "getting worse" and encourage people to use DEET and cover their bodies with adequate clothing when outside.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 05-10-2018      [\*\*Rosewood ushers in new era in nursing with renovations\*\*](#)  
SCHUYLKILL HAVEN — A new era of caretaking has begun at Rosewood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. A \$1.5 million renovation project was unveiled to the public with an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday evening. In May 2015, Premier Healthcare Management LLC bought the building from Schuylkill County and... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 05-10-2018      [\*\*Kevin Kamenetz, a Democratic candidate for Md. governor, dies in Baltimore Co.\*\*](#)  
Kevin Kamenetz, the Baltimore county executive and Democratic candidate for governor, died early Thursday morning at University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center after a cardiac arrest, according to a county news release. He was 60. Kamenetz woke up at about 2 a.m. in his Owings Mills home, saying he felt... - [York Daily](#)
- 05-10-2018      [\*\*Getting to know the 12th District Democratic candidates\*\*](#)  
With the Pennsylvania primaries and the 68th District special election for state representative less than a week away, The Daily Review has reached out to candidates in the competitive House and Congressional races with a standard questionnaire so that our readers can better familiarize... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)





- 05-10-2018 **[Abuse of Opioid Alternative Gabapentin Is on the Rise](#)**  
Doctors who are cutting back on prescribing opioids increasingly are opting for gabapentin, a safer, non-narcotic drug recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By doing so, they may be putting their opioid-using patients at even greater risk.... - [Stateline.org](#)
- 05-10-2018 **[Kasich won't endorse Mike DeWine just yet](#)**  
Republican Gov. John Kasich won't endorse GOP gubernatorial nominee Mike DeWine. At least until the two-term incumbent finds out what DeWine intends to do with two beloved Kasich endeavors: JobsOhio and the Medicaid expansion, which has provided health care to 700,000 low-income Ohioans.... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 05-10-2018 **[Dangerous asbestos levels are in Philadelphia schools: Report](#)**  
There are dangerous asbestos levels in Philadelphia city schools, according to an investigative report in the Philadelphia Inquirer. In tests on 84 surfaces in 11 of the city's most rundown elementary schools, the Inquirer found "alarmingly high" amounts of asbestos fibers on... - [Penn Live. Patriot-News](#)
- 05-10-2018 **[Moms With Sick Children Treated To Day Of Pampering At CHOP](#)**  
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — There's a community of parents at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia who stay there as their children are being treated. You can imagine how difficult and upsetting that can be. On Wednesday, these moms got to take a little break with the glam squad.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 05-10-2018 **[Huge pollen counts in Central Pennsylvania are among highest in the nation](#)**  
This isn't the usual spring allergy season story. On Tuesday, certified pollen counter Debra Hunt recorded a pollen count of 9,229 at Allergy & Asthma Consultants Inc. in York, which is the tracking station closest to Lancaster County. That's the highest she remembers seeing in years of tracking counts in... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 05-10-2018 **[Nursing homes need regulation](#)**  
I watched the April Republican gubernatorial debate with interest. I was upset when the candidates agreed that they would reduce regulations on nursing homes. Several years ago, my husband was transferred from a hospital to a local nursing home. Within a few days, we realized that he was not receiving all... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 05-10-2018 **[Cancer warnings for coffee may be overkill, but Proposition 65 is not](#)**  
It's official: Coffee sold in California must carry cancer warnings, a Los Angeles judge ruled this week. The warnings are required by California law, Superior Court Judge Elihu Berle said, because of the presence of acrylamide, a chemical that is formed when coffee beans are roasted and that remains in the final... - [Los Angeles Times](#)



- 05-10-2018 [\*\*To Lower Drug Costs at Home, Trump Wants Higher Prices Abroad\*\*](#)  
President Trump, poised on Friday to unveil his strategy to lower prescription drug prices, has an idea that may not be so popular abroad: Bring down costs at home by forcing higher prices in foreign countries that use their national health systems to make drugs more affordable.... - [\*New York Times\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*F.D.A. Moves to Stop Rogue Clinics From Using Unapproved Stem Cell Therapies\*\*](#)  
The Food and Drug Administration said on Wednesday that it was seeking court orders to stop two clinics from using unapproved stem cell treatments that in some cases have seriously harmed patients. The clinics remove fat from patients' bellies by liposuction and then... - [\*New York Times\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Who should lead Veterans Affairs? Five veterans explain what they're looking for in a leader.\*\*](#)  
The top leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs is in turmoil, after President Trump ousted his first secretary and nominated his personal doctor, who dropped out of consideration amid controversy. Trump has yet to nominate anyone else. It's not an easy job to fill, as VA is second in size to only the... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Depression among teens, millennials on the rise, Blue Cross Blue Shield study finds\*\*](#)  
Diagnosed cases of depression have skyrocketed, especially among adolescents and millennials, according to a new study by one of the nation's largest commercial insurers. Nationally, depression diagnoses surged by 33 percent from 2013 to 2016, says a report on medical claims released Thursday by the Blue Cross Blue... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Some lose appetite after CDC tweets photo of ticks on poppyseed muffin\*\*](#)  
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ticked off some people as it attempted to convey a Lyme disease awareness message with images of a poppyseed muffin. In a tweet last week, the CDC posted a couple of photos with an accompanying question: "Ticks can be the size of a poppy seed. Can you spot... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Absent teachers hurt students - and taxpayers\*\*](#)  
A new report on teacher absenteeism in the School District of Philadelphia is enough to make you sick. Every day, more than 500 teachers are marked absent from school. The cost is staggering: Over the course of a year, the District spends more than \$59.8 million on teachers who are not working. That's right,... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Dangerous asbestos levels could pose risks to students, teachers in Philadelphia schools\*\*](#)  
At aging Philadelphia schools, asbestos is a lurking health threat to children and staff. Tests find alarming levels, even after repair work is done. The beloved teacher in Room 302 at Lewis C. Cassidy elementary school was out on medical leave. Entrusted to a revolving cast of substitute teachers,... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)



- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Saccone introduces bill to ban abortion after heartbeat detected, shaving 18 weeks off current law\*\*](#)  
Six months after floating a co-sponsor memo seeking support for a so-called heartbeat bill — which bans abortion if a doctor can detect a heartbeat from a fetus — Rep. Rick Saccone (R-Allegheny) has officially introduced the legislation. “I want to save baby lives,” Saccone said Wednesday. “I’m... - [\*Pennsylvania Legislative Services\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*St. Luke's starts construction on new Quakertown hospital\*\*](#)  
St. Luke’s University Health Network began construction Thursday on a new hospital in Milford Township, the latest in a string of expansion projects. “We’re seeing an increased need for inpatient beds and a growing community,” said Dennis Pfeiger, president of St. Luke’s... - [\*Allentown Morning Call\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Meeting scheduled to seek public input on WIC\*\*](#)  
Allegheny County Health Department is holding a meeting for the public to give input on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. The meeting is scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the department’s investment building, located on the sixth floor of 239 Forth... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Some lose appetite after CDC tweets photo of ticks on poppyseed muffin\*\*](#)  
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ticked off some people as it attempted to convey a Lyme disease awareness message with images of a poppyseed muffin. In a tweet last week, the CDC posted a couple of photos with an accompanying question: “Ticks can be the size of a poppy seed. Can you spot... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-10-2018 [\*\*Trump considering Army veteran Brian Mast for VA secretary\*\*](#)  
President Donald Trump is considering an Army veteran who is a Republican member of Congress for the position of Veterans Affairs secretary, part of a lengthening search for a nominee following the abrupt firing of David Shulkin in March... - [\*AP\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Planned Parenthood PA: Scott Wagner wants to ban abortion in Pa.\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*DHS The Impact: Expanding access to mental health services\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Wolf Administration Honors DHS for Excellence in Community HealthChoices Program\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Governor Wolf Ready to Veto Latest Dangerous and Unconscionable Attack on...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Mackenzie's Bill to Improve Health Outcomes for Expectant Mothers in PA...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Governor Wolf Signs Bill to Investigate Maternal Deaths\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)



- 05-09-2018 [\*\*DOH: Medical Marijuana Office Employees Receive Governor's Awards for Excellence\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*PHC4 Report Underscores Need for Financially Strong Hospital Community\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*PHC4 Releases 2017 Hospital Financial Report - Uncompensated Care Levels...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*HAP: National Rural Health Council Announces Rural Health Strategy\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Preventing Pregnancy-Related Deaths in Pennsylvania\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Medical marijuana producer soon could be in same neighborhood as new Pa. prison\*\*](#)  
SUNBURY - Marijuana soon could be grown near the new Northumberland County Prison in Coal Twp. outside Shamokin. The county commissioners Tuesday in a split vote agreed to sell 10 acres for \$1.5 million to a company that wants to establish a medical marijuana... - [\*Penn Live, Patriot-News\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Fran Dunphy, Ray Didinger and Inquirer readers on what Bill Lyon's story means to them\*\*](#)  
Bill Lyon established such a bond with his readers that retirement and illness can't sever it. The former Inquirer sports columnist's latest piece on his ongoing battle with Alzheimer's disease and my accompanying account of how he composed it drew enormous reader reaction.... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Two lawmakers determined to get Philly an indoor marijuana farm\*\*](#)  
Two veteran Philadelphia legislators want to make certain the city isn't left out of the cannabis green rush. The state awarded 12 permits last year to cultivate medical marijuana in Pennsylvania. Philadelphia was shut out. Councilman Derek S. Green (D., At-Large) and St. Rep. Jordan A. Harris (D., 186th) are seeking to keep... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Excelsior Health VP Jennifer Miele to become Diocese of Greensburg communications chief\*\*](#)  
Jennifer Miele, former WTAE television personality and Excelsior Health vice president of consumerism and innovation, has joined the Diocese of Greensburg as chief communications officer. This is a new position at the diocese. "It is vital that we continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Go outside and take a drag of the region's 'fresh' air\*\*](#)  
Air quality in the region has improved steadily over the years and dramatically if you go back to the belching smokestacks of the 1960s. But it seems there's still a way to go. A new, free app, called "(Expletive)! I smoke" puts air quality in an interesting perspective.... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)



- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Allegheny County Jail tweaks how it alerts inmate relatives to hospitalizations\*\*](#)  
Allegheny County Jail officials have changed the way they contact relatives of hospitalized inmates in an attempt to provide slightly more information after some families publicly criticized the process. Now, jail medical personnel, rather than a jail chaplain, will notify... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Our view: Prison eyes mental health care boost\*\*](#)  
Our prisons were not meant to serve as mental health treatment hubs. But that is what many have become as a regrettable fallout of changes in policy and law. The landmark 1999 U.S. Supreme Court ruling *Olmstead v. L.C.* barred unjustified segregation of those with disabilities. One consequence of that... - [\*Erie Times-News\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Berks County woman testifies at U.S. Senate committee hearing on diabetes, price of insulin\*\*](#)  
The retiree from Blandon testified about treating her Type 2 diabetes with lifestyle modifications. - [\*Reading Eagle\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Pottstown Hospital nurses march for boosts in staff, pay\*\*](#)  
Event was not a strike, owner Tower Health notes. Picketers also want Tower, a nonprofit, to make a payment in lieu of taxes for local schools. - [\*Reading Eagle\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Nursing home workers struggling to keep Skyline HealthCare facility operating, union says\*\*](#)  
Operator of Berks Heim now temporary manager of four facilities taken over by Pennsylvania Department of Health late last month. - [\*Reading Eagle\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*World-renowned surgeon got start from LVC's compassion for immigrants\*\*](#)  
Si Pham was studying to be a doctor in Saigon, Vietnam when his dreams became a casualty of war. Pham fled his home country on April 30, 1975 – the day Saigon fell into communist hands – on a boat, isolated from his family members and with only the clothes on his back.... - [\*Lebanon Daily News\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*New owners of Pleasant Acres will be under scrutiny\*\*](#)  
Story Highlights The York County Commissioners recently voted 2-1 to sell the Pleasant Acres Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Premier Healthcare Management will buy the facility for \$30.8 million. Premier vows patient care will not suffer and that 95 percent of... - [\*York Dispatch\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Pa. is a leader in Lyme disease: Expert gives tick-prevention tips\*\*](#)  
BUTLER TWP. — As the weather improves and more people spend more time outdoors, they become more susceptible to tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease, an expert explained Tuesday. According to the state Department of Health, Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed cases of Lyme disease for the past several years.... - [\*Wilkes-Barre Times Leader\*](#)



- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Commissioners approve sale of county land to medical marijuana grower\*\*](#)  
SUNBURY — Northumberland County Commissioners Rick Shoch and Sam Schiccatano on Tuesday voted to sell 10 acres of county-owned property to a company that wants to build a medical marijuana growing and processing facility on the same 168-acre property as the future county prison in Coal... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*'Ready to do something different': Addicts seeking treatment can go to police for help\*\*](#)  
When an addict makes the decision to seek treatment, the need to assist the person immediately is imperative, lest temptation intervene again and derail the best of intentions. So, beginning Wednesday morning, an individual looking to enter rehabilitation will be able to go into the Somerset Borough Police... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Comitta to host Senior Expo on May 19 in West Chester\*\*](#)  
West Chester >> State Rep. Carolyn Comitta will host a Senior Expo this month to help older adults access the services and opportunities available to them. The Expo will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 19 in the Bayard Rustin High School gymnasium, 1100 Shiloh Road.... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*C.D.C. Director's Salary Is Reduced to \\$209,700 From \\$375,000\*\*](#)  
The new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is taking a pay cut after Senate Democrats and watchdog groups criticized the use of an exemption to pay him nearly double the rate of his predecessors. Dr. Robert R. Redfield assumed the top post in March at a salary of... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Needle by Needle, a Heroin Crisis Grips California's Rural North\*\*](#)  
The dirty needles can be found scattered among the pine and brush, littering the forest floor around Eureka, a town long celebrated as a gateway to the scenic Redwood Empire. They are the debris of a growing heroin scourge that is gripping the remote community in Northern... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Just in time for the primary, Pa. House Republicans launch another attack on abortion rights\*\*](#)  
Good Wednesday Morning, Fellow Seekers. Apparently convinced that they can get along just fine without having women vote for them, Republicans in the Pennsylvania General Assembly have launched a primary season attack on abortion rights. A bill referred to the House Judiciary Committee last week would ban... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Delaware advocates call for addiction recovery HS, opioid tax\*\*](#)  
Jennifer Sliney knows what addiction looks like. She sees it every day in her job as a registered nurse, as does her husband, who works as a New Castle County paramedic. But when addiction hit their home last June, it took a much more personal face. Sliney's 17-year-old son, Jeffery, was using prescription medication, and... - [Wilmington News Journal](#)



- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Are Republicans really proposing to cut funding for poor kids' health insurance?\*\*](#)  
The Trump administration is asking Congress to approve a \$7 billion cut to the Children's Health Insurance Program as part of a package to reduce a range of previously agreed upon federal spending. Republicans say none of the money being cut was going toward helping... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Google I/O: Android P phones get "wind down" and "shush" modes to help curb smartphone addiction\*\*](#)  
Google has some ideas to make your phone a little more humane. On Tuesday, it introduced features for its coming Android P operating system designed to help consumers and parents curb smartphone addiction and detox from our beloved glowing screens. The features, unveiled at Google's I/O developer conference in Silicon... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*The Health 202: Top opioid makers apologized for pill dumping...sort of\*\*](#)  
Today's technology could have tempered the landslide of opioids into several small West Virginia communities, the executives of top drug distributors tried to tell incensed members of Congress yesterday. It was quite the scene Tuesday morning at the House Energy and Commerce... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Commissioners approve option for company to purchase 10 acres for \\$1.5 million for proposed marijuana growing facility\*\*](#)  
SUNBURY — Following a lengthy, emotional and impressive "sales pitch" by officials and employees of Keystone Center of Integrative Wellness, Northumberland County commissioners voted 2-1 Tuesday to grant an option through Nov. 30 to the company's holding company, Yinyanor LLC,... - [\*Shamokin News-Item\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Report: Opioid epidemic costing Pa. nearly \\$54B\*\*](#)  
A new report from the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions shows that the opioid epidemic has cost Pennsylvania more than \$53.77 billion in 2016, with more than \$50 million attributed to opioid-related fatalities. The report's methodology was based on a November 2017 report from the... - [\*Towanda Daily Review\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*CHOP docs: Fund gun violence research so we can honestly say 'we did everything we could' | Opinion\*\*](#)  
"We did everything we could." The refrain echoes in our minds weeks, months, even years after we perform the horrifying task of telling a mother that her child has died. As physicians in pediatric emergency medicine and critical care medicine, we have trained for years to master the intricate dance of a trauma... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Three more Pennsylvania cities on track to decriminalize marijuana\*\*](#)  
Three Lehigh Valley cities are considering decriminalizing marijuana, which would add them to a growing list of Pennsylvania cities that have minimized penalties for possessing the drug. The Allentown City Council voted Tuesday to advance a decriminalization... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)





- 05-09-2018 [\*\*PA hospitals voice concern over Wolf's budget plan\*\*](#)  
(Harrisburg) -- The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania is raising some alarm over a fee hike Governor Tom Wolf wants to include in next year's budget. Right now, hospitals pay \$220 million annually to the state's general fund under the Quality Care Assessment law, which started as a partnership to... - [WITF](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Panel established to study pregnancy-related maternal deaths\*\*](#)  
A new law in Pennsylvania will help officials gather information about the causes of deaths of women during pregnancy or within a year after they are no longer pregnant... - [AP](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Wolf says he'll veto GOP's primary season 'heartbeat' abortion ban bill\*\*](#)  
Gov. Tom Wolf said Wednesday that he'll veto a House Republican's primary season attempt to chip away at abortion rights, calling it a "dangerous and unconscionable attack on women's healthcare." The legislation sponsored by Rep. Rick Saccone, of Allegheny County, would... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*As pollen storm video goes viral, allergy sufferers endure soaring pollen in central Pa.\*\*](#)  
Pollen levels in the Harrisburg region took an upward turn last week and are expected to remain moderate to very high for another week or more. As of late Wednesday morning, the Weather Channel was listing York, Pa. as having the highest pollen level in the United States, well ahead of... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*LVHN expands Memorial Sloan Kettering clinical trials to Pocono campus\*\*](#)  
Pocono residents will soon have access to Memorial Sloan Kettering cancer clinical trials at Lehigh Valley Hospital — Pocono, Lehigh Valley Health Network announced Wednesday. The two organizations are still planning the details of the program expansion, such as when patients can expect to enroll in a trial at the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*CDC: Most Lyme cases are in PA; tick, mosquito and flea illness on the rise\*\*](#)  
No where is Lyme disease more common than Pennsylvania, according to the Centers for Disease Control. There were 8,988 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Pennsylvania in 2016, more than 5,000 more than New Jersey, which had the second highest number of confirmed cases.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-09-2018 [\*\*Medical marijuana clinic to open June 7 in Harrison\*\*](#)  
A medical marijuana clinic serving the Alle-Kiski Valley is scheduled to open June 7 on Freeport Road in Harrison. The opening will mark the sixth statewide location for Compassionate Certification Centers, which also has offices in Pittsburgh and Butler. The... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Culver Dedicates Week to Women's Lung Health in PA\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Wolf, Casey Oppose White House CHIP, Health Care Cuts\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)



- 05-08-2018 [\*\*HAP: National Hospital Week Provides Opportunity to Celebrate PA Hospitals\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Eichelberger Introduces Bill to Save Billions, With a "B"\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*CF: Medicaid is Broken, Work Requirements Can Help\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Casey Unveils New Analysis Showing Economic Impact of Opioid Crisis in PA\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*New revelation about deer-killing chronic wasting disease\*\*](#)  
The mysterious infectious agents responsible for chronic wasting disease - the always fatal disease in deer and related species - have been found in wild, naturally occurring soil. According to researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, it's the first time that CWD prions have been detected in samples collected at sites... - [\*Penn Live, Patriot-News\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Raw milk sold in Lancaster County tests positive for potentially harmful bacteria: Pa. Ag. Department\*\*](#)  
Raw milk sold at three locations in Lancaster County has tested positive for the bacteria *Listeria monocytogenes*, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. "Consumers who purchased raw, whole milk from Pool Forge Dairy between April 25 and May 7 should immediately discard it. The milk was sold in... - [\*Penn Live, Patriot-News\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*WVU hires UPMC transplant surgeon to head its research effort\*\*](#)  
UPMC transplant surgeon and entrepreneur Paulo Fontes has been hired by West Virginia University in Morgantown as the director of research and innovation. Dr. Fontes, who was also deputy director of the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, came to the University of Pittsburgh 37 years ago.... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Shenango Coke Works smokestacks coming down\*\*](#)  
The Shenango Coke Works smokestacks that for years belched toxic pollution into the air over Neville Island and nearby communities are scheduled to come down at noon Tuesday. But some local local government officials and residents are worried that a final burp is possible.... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Jeannette doctor settles case alleging improper payments\*\*](#)  
Three doctors, including one from Jeannette, separately agreed to settle allegations that they received improper payments for referrals from Hempfield-based Universal Oral Fluid Laboratories, and caused false claims to be submitted to Medicare for drug testing services, federal authorities... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Oxford Athletic Club program designed to 'knock out' Parkinson's\*\*](#)  
When George Parris was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's disease two years ago, he thought he was down for the count. But, through Rock Steady Boxing, he's fighting back. The national nonprofit organization uses a non-contact, boxing-based fitness curriculum to help people with Parkinson's disease, or PD, improve... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)



- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Ross Elementary School students raising autism awareness\*\*](#)  
Ross Elementary fifth-graders are on a mission to make their school and their city more sensory-friendly. Students are researching ways in which their favorite places — including museums, stadiums, theme parks and stores — can be more inviting to people with autism and other sensitivity issues.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Trespassing and blockades surge at abortion clinics: Report\*\*](#)  
Trespassing, death threats and obstruction increased sharply at abortion clinics across the country in 2017, according to a National Abortion Federation report. The group attributes the jump in activity to a change in the political climate. “We know that hostile rhetoric, including rhetoric from anti-abortion... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Geisinger Wyoming Valley posts highest operating margins in Luzerne County\*\*](#)  
Geisinger Wyoming Valley had the highest operating margin — the difference of income over costs — among Luzerne County’s three General Acute Care (GAC) hospitals, according to a new report. The annual report from the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Scranton council responds to commissioner's misgivings on medical marijuana\*\*](#)  
SCRANTON — Despite Lackawanna County Commissioner Laureen Cummings’ misgivings about medical marijuana, city council is solidly behind the burgeoning industry, Councilman Wayne Evans said Monday. Council welcomes medical marijuana’s dispensaries, growing facilities,... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Geisinger to add DNA to list of screenings\*\*](#)  
Mammograms, colonoscopies and cholesterol checks are just a few of the routine screenings saving lives by detecting cancers and heart disease early. Geisinger Health System soon will add DNA sequencing to that list. Geisinger President and CEO David T. Feinberg announced that the health... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Assess pot in terms of harm/benefit\*\*](#)  
Given that the state government has been overseeing the medical marijuana industry since 2016, it’s remarkable that Lackawanna County Commissioner Laureen Cummings did not know that the Legislature had approved the enterprise. She recently declared, incorrectly, that no research has been done on the... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Pennsylvania school funding lawsuit survives again\*\*](#)  
A Pennsylvania school funding lawsuit survived another challenge after a state court rejected Gov. Tom Wolf’s and lawmakers’ attempts to toss it. Seven parents and six school districts, including Panther Valley School District in Carbon and Schuylkill counties, are suing Wolf and the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)



- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Erie County Prison exploring telepsychiatry\*\*](#)  
A trained forensic psychiatrist could soon 'meet' with inmates through a computer screen to expand the availability of mental health treatment. When Erie County Prison inmates go to visit with a psychiatrist, some could soon be sitting down across from a computer screen.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Italian medical students to study at Gannon this summer\*\*](#)  
New partnership will offer foreign students human dissection experience. Gannon University will host more than 100 Italian medical students and professors for a summer anatomical conference. Visiting students and professors from about 10 Italian medical schools will... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Schools must strategize on e-cigs\*\*](#)  
Area school districts should set aside time this summer to deal with the issue of electronic cigarettes. For those districts that already have implemented policies and actions, the summertime task should consist of evaluating what's been done so far and the success of those efforts, plus ascertaining what further steps... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*K-9 cop receives health insurance grant\*\*](#)  
The newest K-9 officer in Upper Moreland will receive health insurance coverage thanks to a grant from Petplan and National Police Dog Foundation. The newest member of Upper Moreland's police force will be sticking his nose into some dangerous situations. And thanks to a health insurance grant, K-9 Officer Max will be able to... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Area hospitals get mixed reviews in statewide study\*\*](#)  
Acute care hospitals statewide experienced a decrease in the amount they spent on uncompensated care in fiscal year 2017, according to a report released today by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. The four hospitals in Washington and Greene counties had mixed marks on... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Halvorson: 'Christ is the answer' to problems facing United States\*\*](#)  
Art Halvorson, a 13th Congressional District candidate, feels the United States, in many ways, has created a "culture of death" that has caused the country to stray from the founding fathers' original vision. "Much of what is happening in America is a spiritual battle," said... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Joyce says politics, medicine similar in service to people\*\*](#)  
EBENSBURG – Dr. John Joyce sees an important similarity between his desire to become a United States congressman and the years he has spent as a medical professional. "I've always been interested in politics, and I've served people as a doctor for over 26 years," Joyce said during an interview... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)



- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Geisinger expands genomic research to preventative care\*\*](#)  
DANVILLE — Geisinger is expanding its genomic research program to preventative care, offering patients DNA sequencing as part of routine screening system president and CEO Dr. David Feinberg said Monday. Feinberg made the announcement at the HLTH Conference in Las Vegas, noting... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Democratic candidates field questions, address concerns\*\*](#)  
LEWISBURG — The two Democratic candidates running to represent their party in Pennsylvania's U.S. Congressional District 12 race this fall, answered a barrage of questions posed by a large crowd of more than 90 people Monday night in the East Buffalo Township meeting room.... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Congressional candidate: Government is 'force for good'\*\*](#)  
SUNBURY — Advocating for a single-payer healthcare system, sensible changes in gun laws, and a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, Democratic hopeful Marc Friedenberg, vying to be his party's Congressional District 12 nominee, made a case for "government as a force for good," in a Monday... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Gary Wegman hopes to bring healthcare reform to D.C.\*\*](#)  
Gary Wegman, a Democratic Congressional candidate for the 9th district, said he's heard people say Congress needs more nurses, farmers and small businessmen, and he's all three wrapped into one. Wegman, 61, has spent his life in Berks County, where he lives with his... - [Shamokin News-Item](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Dyslexia Reading Center Helps Kids Overcome Challenges\*\*](#)  
Elayna Howell has only been receiving tutoring from the Dyslexia Reading Center of Central Pennsylvania since September, but after years of struggling she's improved by about two grades worth of reading and caught up to her fifth grade level. Her mother, Jennifer Howell, said Elayna has always done well in school,... - [State College News](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Nurses share view of vocation choice\*\*](#)  
LEWISTOWN— On the second day of National Nurses Week (May 6-12,) registered nurses (R.N.s) Sherri Ard and Janelle Rhodes both still believe there is no more rewarding vocation for either of them. Ard began her nursing career in 1994. After working as a Certified Nurses... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Marijuana facility interested in space\*\*](#)  
Council members in Hazleton will consider repealing local regulations pertaining to the medical marijuana industry now that a pair of Landsdale residents look to open a growing/processing facility in an industrial district in the Heights neighborhood. PAMJ LLC applied to the zoning hearing board for a variance for operating... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)



- 05-08-2018 [\*\*You already have to be 21 to drink. It's time to raise the tobacco purchasing age in Pa. | Opinion\*\*](#)  
More than 50 years after the first Surgeon General's report alerting the public to the health risks of tobacco products, cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Brian Jenssen (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia photo)... - [\*Penn Live, Patriot-News\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*County working to better deliver human services\*\*](#)  
That was the question at the heart of the first Human Services Summit, a planning event put together by Commissioner Jeff Eggleston and supported by a grant from Systems of Care, which seeks to help providers get their consumers — families and children they work with — more engaged.... - [\*Warren Times Observer\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Gnawing Away at Health Care\*\*](#)  
At the beginning of 2017, Republicans promised to release the kraken on Obamacare — to destroy the program with one devastating blow. But a funny thing happened: Voters realized that repealing the Affordable Care Act would mean taking health insurance away from tens of millions of... - [\*New York Times\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Walmart Sets New Restrictions On Opioid Prescriptions\*\*](#)  
Walmart is tightening its opioid prescription policies. The retail giant announced on Monday that Walmart and Sam's club will restrict initial acute opioid prescriptions. Creed II Filming: Sylvester Stallone Spotted In Point Breeze Walmart is limiting the lengths of such prescriptions and will require that... - [\*KYW News Radio 1060\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Billboards warning against prescription painkillers hopefully will combat opioid addiction in Lancaster County\*\*](#)  
THE ISSUE The Joining Forces Coalition now is employing billboards in its mission to prevent opioid and heroin deaths. The coalition launched publicly last August to coordinate the programs and services across Lancaster County battling the opioid epidemic; it has members ranging "from county... - [\*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Chet Beiler apologizes for past campaign tactics, lobs new allegations in meeting with LNP Editorial Board\*\*](#)  
Republican congressional candidate Chet Beiler ratcheted up his attack on U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker's character and voting record on Monday. In a meeting with LNP's Editorial Board, Beiler apologized for his own "distasteful" campaign tactics in his 2016 battle with Smucker,... - [\*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*The Health 202: No one wants to be the big, bad wolf of drug costs\*\*](#)  
Who's going to be portrayed as the big, bad wolf when President Trump is expected to deliver a major speech on drug costs later this week? Drugmakers, pharmacy middlemen and insurers are all determined it won't be them – and in case it is, they're readying their defenses.... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)



- 05-08-2018 [\*\*The FDA should let e-cigarettes help adults — but not hook kids\*\*](#)  
ABOUT A decade ago, the e-cigarette industry began to boom in the United States, largely unregulated. Vaping was much safer than conventional smoking, and the devices helped some longtime smokers to moderate their highly deadly habit, but e-cigarettes also addicted a generation of new... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Opioid crisis: Drug executives to testify before Congress on Tuesday, one is ?deeply sorry?\*\*](#)  
Five current and former executives with pharmaceutical distributors that are accused of flooding small U.S. towns with prescription painkillers are scheduled to testify before Congress on Tuesday, a hearing that could be a defining moment for the opioid industry.... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*'You haven't seen this before.' A new place to attack the opioid crisis\*\*](#)  
New Jersey's opioid problem has led to a crime problem. People who are drug addicted often commit crimes and land in prison, and if these individuals don't address their addiction they're likely to commit more crimes and cost society more money, experts say.... - [\*Trenton Times\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Dauphin County residents offered free training, free dose of overdose reversal drug\*\*](#)  
Instruction on how to use the overdose reversal drug naloxone will be offered during a free session Wednesday afternoon at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Dauphin County residents who participate in the training will be offered a free dose of naloxone to take home with them.... - [\*Penn Live, Patriot-News\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Cooper surgeon helped with world's first genital transplant\*\*](#)  
An Afghanistan war veteran who lost his genitals and both legs above the knee due to injuries from a roadside bomb recently received the first full penis-scrotum transplant ever performed. The 11-surgeon team at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore included Steven C. Bonawitz, head of plastic... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Smaller, rural hospitals still feeling financial strain\*\*](#)  
At first glance, a new statewide analysis of Pennsylvania hospitals' financial health seems a mixed bag. There was a slight dip in operating margins, from 6.02 percent to 5.15 percent, among the state's 169 general acute care hospitals even as patient revenue increased 3.9 percent... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Therapy adds faster thinking skills to the autism toolbox, researchers say\*\*](#)  
Faster thinking skills and techniques to understand the perspective of other people, when added together, may give adults with autism more success on the job and in personal relationships, say University of Pittsburgh researchers who are developing interventions to make that happen.... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)





- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Skyline Healthcare: Scenes from the collapse of a nursing-home operator\*\*](#)  
A nursing-home administrator in a supermarket buying 20 loaves of bread for residents, workers forming a chain to pass food trays up three flights because the elevator was broken, and a manager handing out his credit card and pass code to a van driver who needed gas to transport patients.... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Evans City under boil-water advisory as broken main gets repaired\*\*](#)  
Most Evans City Water and Sewer Authority customers had their water service restored Tuesday, but were under a boil-water advisory until Wednesday afternoon following a major water-main break early Tuesday morning. Authority office manager Laura Kamiensky said crews had isolated the break... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Big Bank concert to raise money for breast cancer research\*\*](#)  
Leechburg's Pink Day this September will benefit from a fundraiser that will be music to the ears of people pledged to fight breast cancer. An inaugural big band concert will be held at the Leechburg Elks on Saturday, July 21, said Pink Day organizer Sherry Price.... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Are you sure you want that 1,700-calorie Jimmy John's double roast beef sandwich?\*\*](#)  
Customers can no longer say they didn't know the frozen coffee at Dunkin' Donuts is 900 calories or the Wendy's Baconator is 950 calories: This week, the final piece of the 2010 Affordable Care Act has taken effect that requires all chain restaurants with 20 or more stores to... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Philly area investment firm doubles down on marijuana\*\*](#)  
A Philadelphia-area investment firm is doubling down on its bet into medical marijuana. MainLine Investment Partners, which controls about \$1 billion in assets, first entered the cannabis world with the birth of Solterra Health LLC, a company created from scratch to grow, process and sell medicinal cannabis... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Lawmakers: Drug distributors missed suspicious opioid sales\*\*](#)  
Lawmakers of both parties accused wholesale pharmaceutical distributors on Tuesday of missing signs of suspicious activity that resulted in hundreds of millions of prescription opioid pills being shipped to West Virginia, a state disproportionately ravaged by deaths caused by the addictive drugs..... - [\*AP\*](#)
- 05-08-2018 [\*\*As vaping gathers steam with students, school districts struggle to keep up\*\*](#)  
For some students, dismissal time at Emmaus High School means congregating at a corner known as "Smoker's Island" to do what generations of American high schoolers have done: fire up an after-school cigarette. But the tradition has changed. Acrid clouds of tobacco smoke are... - [\*Allentown Morning Call\*](#)



- 05-08-2018 [\*\*Shenango Coke Works smokestacks imploded on Neville Island\*\*](#)  
Two brick smokestacks and one bunker of the former Shenango Coke Works plant were imploded Tuesday afternoon on Neville Island. The plant was a frequent source of air pollution violations until its closure in January 2016. Many of the residents in the communities across the Ohio River from the... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Rep. Watson: Lawsuit Threatens Important Medical Marijuana Research\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*DHS: Wolf Administration Visits Community Behavioral Health Clinic\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Insurance Commissioner Applauds U.S. House Passage of FAA Re-Authorization...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Harris advocates for funding to find a cure for sickle cell disease\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Leach Proposes Bill to Expunge Marijuana Convictions for Medical Marijuana...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*DOH Alerts Public of Possible Measles Exposures in Williamsport, Port Trevorton\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*PITTSBURGH MARATHON: It's not just running that makes a successful marathon\*\*](#)  
Heavy rain would have given the thousands of runners participating in Sunday morning's races another thing to worry about. Luckily, outside of a little drizzling toward the beginning of the races, it soon cleared and Pittsburgh stayed mostly dry, giving the runner who... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Lyme disease sufferer, advocate: 'You have to fight this'\*\*](#)  
DUNCANSVILLE — Lisa Worrell had been sick for about a decade. She felt tired and weak to the point where she couldn't stand. The symptoms were followed by seemingly endless doctors visits and hospital stays. But they yielded no results. "They did a variety of tests," she said. "They sent me home..." - [\*Altoona Mirror\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Bedbugs a 'part of your future'\*\*](#)  
Bedbugs, unlike mosquitoes, don't spread illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — nor are they found only amidst squalor. Nonetheless, most people recoil at the idea of finding the little creatures in their homes. So it's understandable that city Fire Chief Tim Hileman last week urged... - [\*Altoona Mirror\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*New 14th Congressional District features choices on both Democratic, Republican ballots\*\*](#)  
Half the candidates running in the newly created 14th Congressional District won't see their names on the ballot if they go to their home polling places to vote Tuesday, May 15. Certainly, candidates who live outside the 14th can write in or type in votes for themselves in the 17th or 18th Districts rather than choosing... - [\*Washington Observer-Reporter\*](#)



- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Bill proposing work requirements for Medicaid recipients drawing reaction\*\*](#)  
Having recently passed the state House of Representatives, a bill to institute work requirements that “able-bodied” Medical Assistance (Medicaid) enrollees must fulfill to keep their health insurance coverage has elicited strong reactions both for and against it... - [\*Uniontown Herald-Standard\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Secure Schools: Evaluating solutions to school violence\*\*](#)  
Creating solutions to school violence first requires consideration of the cause of the violence itself. The knee-jerk reaction is to look for a single trigger — to blame guns for being too easy to get, the lack of a cohesive mental health system, disengaged parents, the speed of the first responders and violent video... - [\*Carlisle Sentinel\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Marino faces primary challenge in redrawn 12th\*\*](#)  
Four candidates are vying to represent the newly redrawn 12th Congressional District, which now includes all of Perry County, in the May 15 primaries. The ballot includes a Republican challenger to Rep. Tom Marino (Williamsport), who now holds the seat in the U.S. House of... - [\*Penn Live. Patriot-News\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Sharon Regional sponsors CPR class at West Hill\*\*](#)  
SHARON — There may have not have been a single sixth-grader Friday morning at West Hill Elementary who had heard of the Bee Gees, but “Stayin’ Alive” was the theme of the day, in more ways than one. As a part of the Healthy Kids Program, Sharon Regional’s behavioral... - [\*Sharon Herald\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*State Department of Heath issues alert for possible measles exposures\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG — The Wolf Administration today alerted employees, customers and visitors to two locations in Williamsport, Lycoming County and Port Trevorton, Snyder County, that an individual with a confirmed case of measles visited two local stores and may have exposed others to the... - [\*Sunbury Daily Item\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Hennessey bill would pay for tax loss from hospital sale\*\*](#)  
POTTSTOWN >> In addition to co-sponsoring a bill that would speed up the implementation of the fair funding formula and generate more state aid for Pottstown schools, state Rep. Tim Hennessey, R-26th Dist., has proposed another that bill aimed at filling school district budget gaps.... - [\*Pottstown Mercury\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Flesh-eating bacteria: terrifying, but rare\*\*](#)  
DEAR DR. ROACH: What do you know about flesh-eating bacteria? After going to a hospital to get a mole checked, I developed an itchy rash that won’t go away. I am worried. —  
H.W. ANSWER: Let me reassure you that this isn’t flesh-eating bacteria. Itchy rash around a mole can be due to eczema, or it might be a fungal... - [\*Lock Haven Express\*](#)



- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Correspondents' dinner comedian's comments on abortion. Sanders sick\*\*](#)  
Politicians, and that includes their appointed aides, are expected to have thick skins. For that reason, jabs at presidential Press Secretary Sarah Sanders during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner, despicable as they were, are, sadly, to be expected.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Nursing home to pay \\$6.75M to settle case of 86-year-old sexually assaulted\*\*](#)  
A Lancaster County nursing home has agreed to pay \$6.75 million to the family of an 86-year-old woman with dementia who was sexually assaulted by a fellow resident. The owner of Maple Farm Nursing Center in Akron last week agreed to settle a lawsuit last week filed by two of the woman's family members, Lancaster... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Garden Spot Village to pay \\$6.75M to family of woman who was sexually assaulted at Akron nursing home\*\*](#)  
The owner of an Akron nursing home will pay \$6.75 million to family members of a woman who was sexually assaulted by another resident at the facility. Instead of appealing a jury's decision Thursday to award \$7.5 million in the case, Garden Spot Village agreed Friday morning to settle the case for... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Trump Says He Got Rid of Obamacare. The I.R.S. Doesn't Agree.\*\*](#)  
At a rally in Michigan a little over a week ago, President Trump assured his supporters that he had kept his promise to abolish the Affordable Care Act — even though Congress had failed to repeal the Obama-era health law. “Essentially, we are getting rid of Obamacare,” Mr. Trump said,... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Romaine Riddle: Why the E. Coli Outbreak Eludes Food Investigators\*\*](#)  
Scientists searching for a toxic strain of E. coli that has raced across 25 states, sickening 121 people and killing one, have been able to identify the general source as the Yuma, Ariz., growing region. But as the outbreak enters its second month, they still cannot find the contamination itself... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Autism Awareness: Mother helps parents connect\*\*](#)  
June Young, of Northumberland, was a wife and working mom when her family's life would be forever changed. Her son Bobby was in his senior year when he was critically injured in an automobile accident. Bobby suffered a brain injury so severe it left him non verbal and non mobile and requiring constant care.... - [Milton Standard](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*How many calories are in that pizza? Chain restaurants now have to tell you.\*\*](#)  
Consumers can no longer plead ignorance when ordering that deep-dish pizza or triple-patty burger. That's because, beginning Monday, federal rules will require restaurant, grocery and convenience store chains to post calorie counts for all standard items on their menus.... - [Washington Post](#)



- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Americans are starting to suffer from Trump's health-care sabotage\*\*](#)  
IT IS a tribute to the resilience of the United States' public and private institutions that, despite President Trump's incoherent management, the country has, by many measures, continued to improve, notching its lowest unemployment rate since 2000 in the latest federal... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*The Health 202: Guess what's in the farm bill? Funding for health plans pushed by Trump\*\*](#)  
Tucked into the massive House farm bill are millions of dollars for health plans structured similarly to the nonprofit plans that failed so dramatically under Obamacare. As part of a little-noticed provision, associations of ranchers, farmers or other agribusiness owners could obtain grants or loans from the government... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Delaware pays 10th highest ACA marketplace premiums\*\*](#)  
Delawareans enrolled on the Affordable Care Act marketplace are paying some of the highest marketplace premiums in the country — more than \$100 higher than the national average, state officials said. Residents enrolled in Obamacare plans are paying an average of \$750 every... - [\*Wilmington News Journal\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*School and health officials work with students to curtail vaping as e-cigarette use continues to climb\*\*](#)  
It was only a year ago when Adrianna Rivera, now 14 years old, was addicted to nicotine. Her friends warned her about it, but she didn't listen. After all, she wasn't smoking cigarettes. She was inhaling flavored water vapor through a vape pen. The sleek design and assortment of flavors — from Swedish candy to... - [\*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Billboard is latest weapon in the fight to prevent opioid & heroin deaths in Lancaster County\*\*](#)  
The latest weapon in the battle to prevent opioid and heroin deaths in Lancaster County is a billboard. "Serious addiction can start with a simple prescription," it says. "Help is here: LancasterJoiningForces.org." That message was posted May 1 along Route 30 near the Greenfield Road exit... - [\*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Agency committed to ending opioid abuse\*\*](#)  
Drug overdose deaths and opioid-involved deaths have been increasing in the United States. In 2016, more than 42,000 people died from an opioid-related overdose – about 116 people each day. It is estimated that more than 2 million Americans will suffer from addiction to... - [\*Tioga Publishing\*](#)
- 05-07-2018 [\*\*Late spring and rain propels a rise in pollen, allergies\*\*](#)  
A late spring and rainy weather propelled an increase of pollen in the air around Western Pennsylvania this week, leaving people with seasonal allergies suffering later than usual. Dr. Ellen Lu, allergy immunologist with West Penn and Allegheny General hospitals, said she has seen a lot more patients experiencing allergy... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)



- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Race, gender, location disparities found in county study of death rates\*\*](#)  
Depending on whether you are black or white, male or female, in Allegheny County there remain big differences in what likely will kill you and when. For example, the homicide rate is more than 23 times higher for blacks compared to whites, and 9.6 times higher for all men than for females. The... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*UPMC therapist uses fishing for a therapeutic workout\*\*](#)  
Susan Kim was 65 when she caught her first fish. It didn't break any records, but it was a phenomenal catch. A week after enduring 7 1/2 hours of back surgery in August, 2017, Kim's physical and psychological therapists at UPMC had her casting a line into the Allegheny River from a wheelchair rolled to the edge of a... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*PWSA touts cheaper lead line replacements — with less lawn damage\*\*](#)  
A technique that relies more on pulling — and less on digging up lawns — promises to save time and money as the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority removes thousands of lead service lines. “We don't want to disrupt people's yards. We don't want to disrupt trees that have been there for probably 50, 60 [or] more... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Medicare for more: After midterms, a chance to improve on Obamacare\*\*](#)  
While the Mueller soap opera continues, so does ordinary life. People keep raising their kids. They keep going to work. And they keep dealing with life as it is, with very little help from the federal government. There are two obvious areas where government could help, and has pledged to... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*I received wonderful care at the Charles Morris nursing and rehab center\*\*](#)  
I received wonderful care at the Charles Morris nursing and rehab center I read in the PG that the state Health Department reduced the fine imposed on Charles Morris Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Squirrel Hill (April 28, “Pa. Slashes Large Fine in Man's Death at Nursing Home”).... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Dialogues on disability: Let's keep talking until we make disabilities boring\*\*](#)  
What are the chances that a blind person, who forgets to turn the bathroom light on, receives an uninvited guest? Pretty good. My 13-year-old nephew barged in on me while I sat in the tub. This detail and others came up recently in a Dialogues on Disability evening at Chatham University. Two other disabled people and I read and... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Trump appoints supporters, including former Eagles player Herschel Walker, to presidential sports council\*\*](#)  
President Trump has appointed one of his supporters, former Eagles player Herschel Walker, to the President's Council on Sport, Fitness, and Nutrition, which creates initiatives to encourage Americans to stay healthy and exercise. Trump also appointed Samuel James Worthington, Jr., the owner of an... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Moms, it's safe for your newborn if you eat the placenta\*\*](#)  
New mothers who eat the placenta after birth pose no harm to their newborns, contrary to a recent warning from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, concludes the largest-ever study of “placentophagy.” The study by researchers at Oregon State University and the University of... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Our view: Some reminders to keep your spring safe\*\*](#)  
Doubtless for some area residents the calendar seems to have skipped spring altogether, as cool temps clung to the region for what felt like a month too long. Forget April showers, this year seemed to lean toward April shivers. But delayed though it may have been, spring clearly came a-calling this... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Gov. Wolf leads charge for reforms to criminal justice system\*\*](#)  
Gov. Tom Wolf this week joined legislators and advocacy groups in a call for criminal justice reforms to refocus the system on rehabilitation while providing consistency and uniformity. “The debate about how we can fix our criminal justice system is complicated, and over time that debate has changed to reflect the modern... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Hazleton chief warning heroin users about bad batch causing fatal ODs\*\*](#)  
The police chief here has a dire warning for heroin users — a bad batch of the drug that’s circulating “will kill you.” There were two deaths and three “near deaths” in a recent 12-hour span in the Hazleton area, according to a release sent late Friday by Hazleton Chief Jerry Speziale.... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*National Nurses Week: Honoring Michael Walsh\*\*](#)  
Michael Walsh made a decision a few years ago to follow his dream. Walsh, 37, of Pittston Township, decided he wanted to become a nurse and his reasons were both simple and admirable. “I like to interact with people — help people,” Walsh said. “It’s something that I’ve always wanted to do.”... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Efforts pay off for home visiting programs\*\*](#)  
One of the most important resources we have is our children. I go to work every day to help families and children build a foundation for a healthy future. However, ask any parent and you will hear that parenting is the most rewarding, but also the most challenging, job they’ve ever had.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Letters to the Editor 5/5/2018\*\*](#)  
Editor: For most of us, our first experience in this world occurred in a hospital — when a doctor’s hands gently placed us into our mother’s arms for the first time. Throughout our lives, hospitals and the compassionate people who staff them are available day and night, every day of the year, to care for us during... - [Scranton Times](#)





- 05-06-2018 [\*\*NAMI looks to spread its message\*\*](#)  
Part of erasing the stigma surrounding mental illness is exposure. So this year NAMI Scranton and Northeast Region moved its annual Walk for Mental Health Awareness and Information Fair from Nay Aug Park to the heart of downtown Scranton at Lackawanna County Courthouse Square.... - [\*Scranton Times\*](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Coroner: Overdose deaths continue decline\*\*](#)  
Fewer drug overdose deaths were reported in the first quarter of this year than in the previous two years, according to statistics released Thursday by the Beaver County coroner's office. There were 10 deaths in the first three months of this year, said Coroner... - [\*Beaver County Times\*](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Berks Cardiologists to join Penn State Health\*\*](#)  
Berks Cardiologists Ltd. announced Thursday that it had reached an agreement to join Penn State Health Medical Group. The agreement between the two organizations — which could take effect as early as Aug. 1 — means that the 112 Berks Cardiologists employees,... - [\*Reading Eagle\*](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Here's what you need to know efforts to fight flu drug shortages | PennLive letters\*\*](#)  
The flu season! A hurricane! What aren't healthcare group purchasing organizations responsible for? Unfortunately, a recent op-Ed published on PennLive, "Medical supply middlemen made the winter flu crisis even worse," leans heavily on a conspiracy theory and collapses under the weight of actual supply chain... - [\*Penn Live, Patriot-News\*](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*What's happening at former Golden Living nursing home in Lancaster\*\*](#)  
State officials have provided few additional details on what's happening at nine nursing homes, including one in Lancaster city, that they announced Wednesday had been put temporarily under new management. At issue was former operator Skyline Healthcare, which officials said they... - [\*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal\*](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*V.A. Medical System Stagers as Chaos Engulfs Its Leadership\*\*](#)  
At first, it was one doctor quitting the tiny Ukiah Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Northern California. Then another left, and another, until of the five doctors there a year ago, only one remained. The Veterans Choice Act, passed by Congress amid scandalous stories of... - [\*New York Times\*](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*V.A. Medical System Stagers as Chaos Engulfs Its Leadership\*\*](#)  
At first, it was one doctor quitting the tiny Ukiah Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Northern California. Then another left, and another, until of the five doctors there a year ago, only one remained. The Veterans Choice Act, passed by Congress amid scandalous stories of... - [\*New York Times\*](#)



- 05-06-2018 [\*\*DEA issues first immediate suspension of opioid sales to a wholesaler since 2012\*\*](#)  
The Drug Enforcement Administration said Friday that it had immediately suspended opioid sales by a wholesale distributor, accusing a Louisiana company of failing to report unusually large shipments of narcotics to independent drugstores “with questionable need for the drugs.”... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-06-2018 [\*\*Republicans cheer Trump as attacker-in-chief — but will it work in Montana?\*\*](#)  
President Trump’s unrelenting attacks on this state’s Democratic senator have landed with a boom, drawing the attention of voters and those fighting to keep GOP control of the Senate. Trump’s fierce criticism — calling Sen. Jon Tester “dishonest and sick,” saying he knows things about the senator that would make him... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*UnitedHealthcare Donates Drug Disposal Kits to Local Health Clinics and...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*PHCA Response to Wolf Administration Installing Temporary Management in Nine...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Clearing Kensington heroin encampments is a good first step: what comes next matters more\*\*](#)  
You could smell it before you saw it. For weeks, pedestrians walking along the 700 block of Market Street — an area supposedly being revitalized to reconnect East Market with more vibrant areas of Center City — were greeted by the stench of two mattresses, left overnight by homeless people.... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Westmoreland County Senior Games bring more than sport for competitors\*\*](#)  
Dalona Leonard gained about a foot each time she hurled a 6-pound shot put Thursday at Mammoth Park in Mt. Pleasant Township. Her best distance was a little over 13 feet. It may have been far from the longest effort recorded, but Leonard was just getting warmed up for several... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Home health care worker accused of raping Greensburg client\*\*](#)  
The attorney for a male home health care worker accused of raping a female client in her Greensburg apartment in February disclosed at a preliminary hearing Thursday that the alleged victim and worker had a previous consensual relationship. During the hearing, Ryan H. James, the private attorney for Roy L. Marks... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*5 local doctors charged with illegally distributing drug used to treat addiction\*\*](#)  
Five doctors working for a company that runs addiction treatment centers in western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia have been indicted on charges of illegally distributing a drug used to treat people hooked on heroin and other narcotics, federal law enforcement officials announced.... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Utz recalls some tortilla chips over possible milk allergen\*\*](#)  
HANOVER, Pa. — Pennsylvania-based chips and snack food maker Utz is recalling some of its tortilla chips because they may contain milk... - [\*AP\*](#)



- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Race, gender, location disparities found in county study of death rates\*\*](#)  
Depending on whether you are black or white, male or female, in Allegheny County there remain big differences in what likely will kill you and when. For example, the homicide rate is more than 23 times higher for blacks compared to whites, and 9.6 times higher for all men than for females. The... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Berks Cardiologists to join Penn State Health\*\*](#)  
Berks Cardiologists Ltd. announced Thursday that it had reached an agreement to join Penn State Health Medical Group. The agreement between the two organizations — which could take effect as early as Aug. 1 — means that the 112 Berks Cardiologists employees,... - [\*Reading Eagle\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*After Berks County senior complex fire, dozens find temporary housing\*\*](#)  
Dozens of residents of The Heritage of Green Hills senior living complex are being temporarily housed at area hotels or with friends and family members after an apartment fire that severely burned a resident, officials said Thursday. Wednesday evening's fire caused extensive smoke and water damage in... - [\*Reading Eagle\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Health expert tells Lehigh Valley business leaders Medicare for all may be coming\*\*](#)  
Unless Republicans come up with a viable proposal to replace or fix the Affordable Care Act, business leaders should expect a Democrat-led effort to pass a bill that looks a lot more like universal health care, health policy expert Robert Laszewski told Lehigh Valley business people at a... - [\*Allentown Morning Call\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Coroner: Overdose deaths continue decline\*\*](#)  
Fewer drug overdose deaths were reported in the first quarter of this year than in the previous two years, according to statistics released Thursday by the Beaver County coroner's office. There were 10 deaths in the first three months of this year, said Coroner... - [\*Beaver County Times\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Doctors charged with illegal distribution of medication\*\*](#)  
Five local physicians have been charged with unlawfully distributing opioid addiction treatment medication in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. According to a statement released by the U.S. Department of Justice, Krishan Aggarwal, 73, and Madhu Aggarwal, 68, both of Moon Township; Parth... - [\*Beaver County Times\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Pa. health official discusses dangers of e-cigarettes with students\*\*](#)  
WILKES-BARRE — State Deputy Secretary for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Dr. Loren Robinson told students Thursday e-cigarettes may be popular, but they are not safe. Robinson addressed students at Pequea Valley Intermediate School in Lancaster County, urging them to consider the dangerous effects... - [\*Wilkes-Barre Times Leader\*](#)



- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Lackawanna commissioner doubts benefits of medical marijuana\*\*](#)  
Pennsylvania's burgeoning medical marijuana industry isn't growing on Lackawanna County Commissioner Laureen Cummings. At Thursday's commissioners meeting, Cummings railed against the notion that medical marijuana might help address the opioid crisis ravaging the... - [\*Scranton Times\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Nonprofits to receive grants during ceremony\*\*](#)  
A total of 46 nonprofit organizations will receive grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$45,000 during Lee Initiatives Health and Wellness Endowment ceremony at 10:30 a.m. May 10 in the Crown Ballroom at the Holiday Inn Johnstown-Downtown. The event is the culmination of the 12th annual grant cycle of Lee... - [\*Johnstown Tribune-Democrat\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Northumberland County to vote on letter of intent with medical marijuana grower\*\*](#)  
SUNBURY — The Keystone Center of Integrative Wellness hopes to enter into a deal with Northumberland County to establish a medical marijuana business at the future Northumberland County Prison site owned by the county, according to a public agenda obtained by The Daily Item.... - [\*Sunbury Daily Item\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Participants: Drug court represents second chance\*\*](#)  
POTTSVILLE — For many participants in the Schuylkill County Drug Treatment Court, the program represents the difference between life and death. "Drug court has saved my life," Jennifer said Thursday while reading from her required essay during the court's weekly session over... - [\*Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Carlisle medical marijuana dispensary to open Saturday\*\*](#)  
One of Pennsylvania's first medical marijuana facilities will be opening its doors to patients on Saturday in North Middleton Township. Dubbed Rise Carlisle, the location at 872 Harrisburg Pike will be one of three Rise dispensaries. A Steelton location opened Thursday morning, and a... - [\*Carlisle Sentinel\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Late blooming leads to allergy season 'explosion'\*\*](#)  
This April was cooler than normal, so everything is blooming at once in the Delaware Valley, meteorologists and doctors said. Spring arrived all at once this week, bringing with it sun, warmth and an "explosion" of allergies, according to meteorologists and area... - [\*Levittown Bucks County Courier Times\*](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Bristol Township business gets low-interest loan through state program\*\*](#)  
BRISTOL TOWNSHIP — A Bristol Township company is among eight businesses statewide that will benefit from a new round of low-interest loans through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority. Home Healthworks Inc., which provides medical equipment like respiratory... - [\*Levittown Bucks County Courier Times\*](#)



- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Why was head of CDC given such an exorbitant pay increase?\*\*](#)  
Dr. Robert Redfield Jr., the new head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, thinks his pay ought to be cut. The fact it was set where it was by the Washington machine speaks volumes. Redfield took office in March, at an annual salary of... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*New owner of Pleasant Acres promises to maintain high level of care\*\*](#)  
Pleasant Acres Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will soon join a growing list of nursing homes in Pennsylvania that used to be county-owned. A receptionist at the center's main entrance Thursday was wearing a "Save Pleasant Acres" pin emblematic of the campaign to keep the home under... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*New Revelations Suggest a President Losing Control of His Narrative\*\*](#)  
As of last week, the American public had been told that President Trump's doctor had certified he would be "the healthiest individual ever elected." That the president was happy with his legal team and would not hire a new lawyer. That he did not know about the \$130,000... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*De Blasio Moves to Bring Safe Injection Sites to New York City\*\*](#)  
Mayor Bill de Blasio is championing a plan that would make New York City a pioneer in creating supervised injection sites for illegal drug users, part of a novel but contentious strategy to combat the epidemic of fatal overdoses caused by the use of heroin and other opioids.... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Caltrans workers protest having to clean human waste, needles from homeless camps\*\*](#)  
Arguing that picking up used hypodermic needles and cleaning up human waste is not in their job description, Caltrans workers have filed a grievance with the state over the conditions they face when clearing homeless camps. "After we met with several groups of them, they said, 'You know, we didn't...' - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Developers see a healthy future for 'wellness' amenities\*\*](#)  
Just as concepts of wellness have infiltrated travel, food and fitness, they're now reaching into residential real estate. In a so-called wellness community, a diverse, multigenerational population of mixed-income residents are encouraged to interact in beautified and... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Report finds mold, asbestos, lead dust in Philly schools\*\*](#)  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — More than half of the Philadelphia's public elementary schools have serious environmental hazards like lead dust, mold spores and asbestos fibers, a newspaper investigation has found... - [AP](#)
- 05-04-2018 [\*\*Hawaii volcano sends more lava, sulfur gas into communities\*\*](#)  
The Kilauea volcano sent more lava into Hawaii communities Friday, a day after forcing more than 1,500 people to flee from their mountainside homes, and authorities detected high levels of sulfur gas that could threaten the elderly and people with breathing problems.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)



Health Care Recap is a weekly report on legislative and executive actions on health care related legislation and is compiled and edited by PLS.

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