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Standard-Speaker

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021



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Colin Powell dies at 84

Powell, who spent four decades in public service as a diplomat, national security adviser and one of the country's top soldiers, passed away from COVID-19 complications.

BY ROBERT BURNS, ERIC TUCKER AND EILEEN PUTMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Colin Powell, the trailblazing soldier and diplomat, died Monday of COVID-19

complications. He was 84. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Powell spent 35 years in the Army and rose to the rank of four-star general before becoming the first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff. His oversight of the U.S. invasion of Kuwait to oust the Iraqi army in 1991 made him a household name, prompting speculation for nearly a decade that he might run for president.

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Former Secretary of State Colin Powell looks on during a ceremony for the Alexis de Tocqueville prize, a French literary award, in 2006.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



CRIME COLLECTORS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

New training program allows area officers to focus on forensics

Police from the area learn the best way to collect and preserve crime scene evidence from Robert Johnson, a latent print examiner for the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office Crime Lab, pictured standing in the back with a red shirt.

BY AMANDA CHRISTMAN
STAFF WRITER

A program to ensure crime victims get closure and police have the right tools debuted last month at the Butler Twp. police station.

Called the Latent Evidence Improvement Project, it trains officers to handle, collect and preserve evidence without contamination.

Police who don't specialize in forensics are taught the best practices for evidence collection, which will increase the quantity and quality of evidence submitted to crime laboratories, said Ken Zipovsky of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. That means justice will be brought to more crime victims.

The association offers each attendee an evidence collection kit worth approximately \$250 for their department.

The program is geared toward offi-

cers on patrol investigating crimes for which they normally wouldn't call a forensic services unit, such as minor assaults, change stolen from a vehicle, prescription medication theft and lower-level burglaries. Major crimes would still require officers with specialized training.

Zipovsky said the police chiefs association obtained a \$500,000 Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency grant to introduce the program around the state. The grant also pays for forensics training for police chiefs and prosecutors and encompasses many of the topics identified as best practices in the pillars of 21st century policing, he said.

Butler Twp. police hosted 16-hour trainings Sept. 21 and 22 for 18 officers from their department, Hazleton, Sugarloaf, Fairview, Hanover, Kidder, Plains, Whitehall, Wright, Bethlehem



Officers receive a crime scene evidence collection kit after completing the training.

and Dallas townships and Weatherly, Emmaus and Forty Fort boroughs.

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Bognet to announce run for Congress today

BY KENT JACKSON
STAFF WRITER

Jim Bognet plans to announce Tuesday morning that he will again campaign for Congress.

A Republican who lives in Hazle Twp., Bognet scheduled "a major announcement" at Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, at 11:15 a.m., according to a release.

Two years ago, Bognet lost an election to incumbent Matt Cartwright, a Democrat who has been in Congress



BOGNET

Wilkes-Barre and Scranton, but new district boundaries haven't been drawn since results of the 2020 census indicated that Pennsylvania will lose one seat in Congress.

since 2012 and currently represents the 8th District.

Currently the 8th District includes Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Scranton, but new district boundaries haven't been drawn since results of the 2020 census indicated that Pennsylvania will lose one seat in Congress.

To win the Republic primary in 2020, Bognet defeated five challengers.

Before campaigning for himself, Bognet worked as a consultant to other candidates and office holders, including former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. He also served with the Export-Import Bank of the United States during the Trump administration. He is a graduate of Hazleton Area High School and holds a law degree from UCLA.

At least one other Republican, Teddy Daniels, who narrowly lost to Bognet in the primary, has been campaigning so far this year. A former law enforcement worker, Daniels founded a security transport company after being wounded and receiving the Purple Heart while serving with the United States Army in Afghanistan.

Contact the writer: kjackson@standardspeaker.com; 570-501-3587

Biden plans to stop in Scranton on Wednesday

BY BORYS KRAWCZENIUK
STAFF WRITER

As President Joe Biden visits the city of his birth Wednesday for the first time as president, he will arrive at a pivotal time for him and one of Scranton's long-term goals.

With slumping polling numbers reflecting an administration struggling in the eyes of many, Biden wants Congress to pass, so he can sign, a massive infrastructure bill targeted at rebuilding the nation's roads, bridges, airports and other infrastructure.

Local officials want to revive passenger train service between Scranton and New York City.

The shortest path to that runs through the infrastructure bill.

Biden will likely make the connection during his visit, something he first did when he celebrated Amtrak's 50th anniversary earlier this year in Philadelphia.

"It's a distinct possibility," U.S. Rep. Matt Cartwright, D-8, Moosic, said Monday.

The Scranton stop is part of Biden's latest push to get the infrastructure bill passed and promote his Build Back Better agenda. The size and scope of the infrastructure bill and another spending bill that addresses climate change, child care and other matters remain the subject of great debate in the U.S. Congress. Nonetheless, it seems likely Biden will bring up the Scranton-to-New York City passenger train as part of what could happen if the bill passes.

"I would hope so, though I don't have any details from anybody," said attorney Larry Malski, president of the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority.

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Sergio Cossu, MD
Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

Register at LVHN.org/events

Lehigh Valley Heart and Vascular Institute

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