



# PRESS ENTERPRISE

CALHOUN, HARTMAN, HESS, MILLER, PATTON, SOMERVILLE AND THOMAS OBITUARIES **PAGE 4**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2019

\$1

## Inquest set in inmate death

### Columbia coroner: Teen succumbed to meth, 'confinement'

By **SUSAN SCHWARTZ**  
Press Enterprise Writer

**BLOOMSBURG** — The county coroner is using a rare jury process to determine the manner of death for a 19-year-old inmate who died at Columbia County Prison in June.

Tyler Evans died of “complications of an excited state associated with methamphetamine toxicity and restraint chair confinement,” said Coroner Jeremy Reese in a prepared statement Wednesday night.

He worked with Dr. Rameen Starling Roney from Forensic Pathology Associates in Allentown to reach that conclusion, he said.

But he wasn't prepared to rule on the manner of Evans' death — whether it was homicide, accidental, suicide, natural, undetermined or pending investigation.

That will be decided by a coroner's inquest. The formal proceeding involves six jurors and two alternates chosen from the same pool of jurors used by the Court of Common Pleas, according to the Coroners Act.

Reese said he plans to subpoena evidence as well

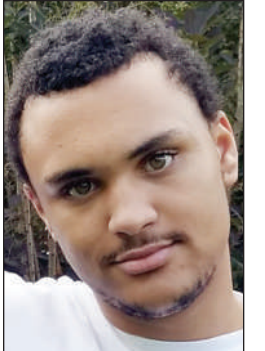
as witnesses to testify under oath.

The jurors could also be charged with determining if anyone is criminally responsible for the teen's death.

A date has not yet been set, said Reese, who said he consulted with his office's solicitor, Alicia Marinos, as well as the Pennsylvania State Coroners' Association attorney Susan Shanaman and coroners across the state.

#### Family reacts

Evans' family applauded the decision and thanked **Please see INQUEST page 10**



**TYLER EVANS**

## Town tree planting hits snag



Press Enterprise/Keith Haupt

**SIGNS** inform residents of Third Street in Bloomsburg that they were chosen to receive a tree from the Town Shade Tree Commission.

### Bloom commission 'selected' homeowners before following policy

By **JULYE WEMPLE**  
Press Enterprise Writer

**BLOOMSBURG** — Third Street resident Ron Singley was puzzled by the spray-painted circle that appeared in the grass in front of his home Friday afternoon.

The mystery was solved Monday morning when he awoke to find a stake planted in its place, revealing he'd been “selected” to receive a tree, courtesy of the Shade Tree Commission.

It was one of more than a dozen stakes planted along East Third Street, and part of a mass planting set for Saturday of nearly 50 trees throughout the town.

Now that plan might be on hold after town officials say it appears the commission didn't follow its own rules.

After learning the commission had failed to advertise the proposed plantings as required by the Shade Tree Commission ordinance, Mayor Bill Kreisher said he was likely going to call off Saturday's work crew.

Since the trees are being delivered today and are bare root, they have to be planted quickly, Town Manager Lisa Dooley noted. To save them, that might mean going door-to-door to get permission on properties that were staked, she said.

“I'm not sure why we haven't been following the procedure, but we will, moving for-

ward,” she said.

Extra or unwanted trees will probably be planted at the Town Park, where there is plenty of space, Dooley added.

#### Saw the sign

“Congratulations!” each of the signs reads. “You have been selected to receive a free tree from the Town of Bloomsburg Shade Tree Commission. Per Ordinance 996-25-106, the maintenance of any street trees is the responsibility of the property owner.”

Despite the cheery wording, the tree wasn't optional. And Singley said that left him feeling not so chipper.

**Please see TREES page 10**

## Cops: Son trashed house in tantrum

### Dad allegedly refused to buy him cigarettes

By the Press Enterprise staff

**BERWICK** — A Berwick man upset with his father because he wouldn't buy him cigarettes emptied bookshelves onto the floor and overturned furniture, police said. His action left his father emotionally distraught and fearing for his safety, according to a police affidavit.

Cody Turse, 25, 128 Willow Drive, is facing charges of stalking and harassment.

This is what police say happened:

At about 10:43 p.m. on Sept. 11, after calling police to come to the residence because of the behavior of his son, Gary Turse, instead met officers about a block away, telling them he had to get away from his son.

When officers went back to their shared residence, Cody Turse was no longer there. Gary Turse said that when he had refused to buy cigarettes for his son, Cody Turse got in his face and began screaming, “If you don't buy me f----- cigarettes, I am going to start destroying your house and steal all your s---.”

When Turse again refused and began calling police, Cody Turse threw a large chair into the wall.

Gary Turse then tried to leave the house, but Cody Turse “got in his face,” screaming and threatening him.

Gary Turse was eventually able to call police.

When officers got to the residence, they noticed that the basement was completely destroyed, with bookshelves emptied and other furniture overturned.

Police noted that Gary Turse was very upset and afraid.

Police then attempted to locate Cody Turse, but were originally unsuccessful.

**Please see SON page 10**

### WEATHER

TODAY: Windy, cooler  
HIGH TEMP: 51°  
PRECIPITATION: 0%  
TONIGHT: Clear, colder  
LOW TEMP: 29°  
PRECIPITATION: 5%  
**More, page 10**

### INSIDE

- Mill Street Beat .....3
- Movie reviews ..... 7-8
- Dear Abby .....9
- Going Out Guide .....9
- Classifieds ..... 17-20
- 30 Seconds .....22
- Opinions .....23
- Business .....24
- To Your Good Health 24
- TV listings .....25

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## Split House approves Dems' rules for Trump impeachment probe

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Democrats swept a rules package for their impeachment probe of President Donald Trump through a divided House Thursday, as the chamber's first vote on the investigation highlighted the partisan breach the issue has only deepened.

By 232-196, lawmakers approved the procedures they'll follow as weeks of closed-door interviews with witnesses evolve into public committee hearings and — almost certainly — votes on whether the House should recommend Trump's removal.

All voting Republicans opposed the package. Every voting Democrat but two supported it.

Underscoring the pressure Trump has heaped on his party's lawmakers, he tweeted, “Now is

the time for Republicans to stand together and defend the leader of their party against these smears.”

Yet the roll call also accentuated how Democrats have rallied behind the impeachment inquiry after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi spent months urging caution until evidence and public support had grown.

She and other Democratic leaders had feared a premature vote would wound the re-election prospects of dozens of their members, including freshmen and lawmakers from Trump-won districts or seats held previously by Republicans. But recent polls have shown voters' growing receptivity to the investigation and, to a lesser degree, ousting Trump.

**Please see PROBE page 10**



Special to Press Enterprise/Salem Township Police  
**A “SPEED TRAP” WARNING SIGN** and arrow warn passing motorists of an enforcement operation along Route 11 in Salem Township on Thursday.

## 'Speed trap' sign tips off motorists

### Salem chief says police had laugh over posting

By **HAYLEY ZAVISLAK**  
Press Enterprise Writer

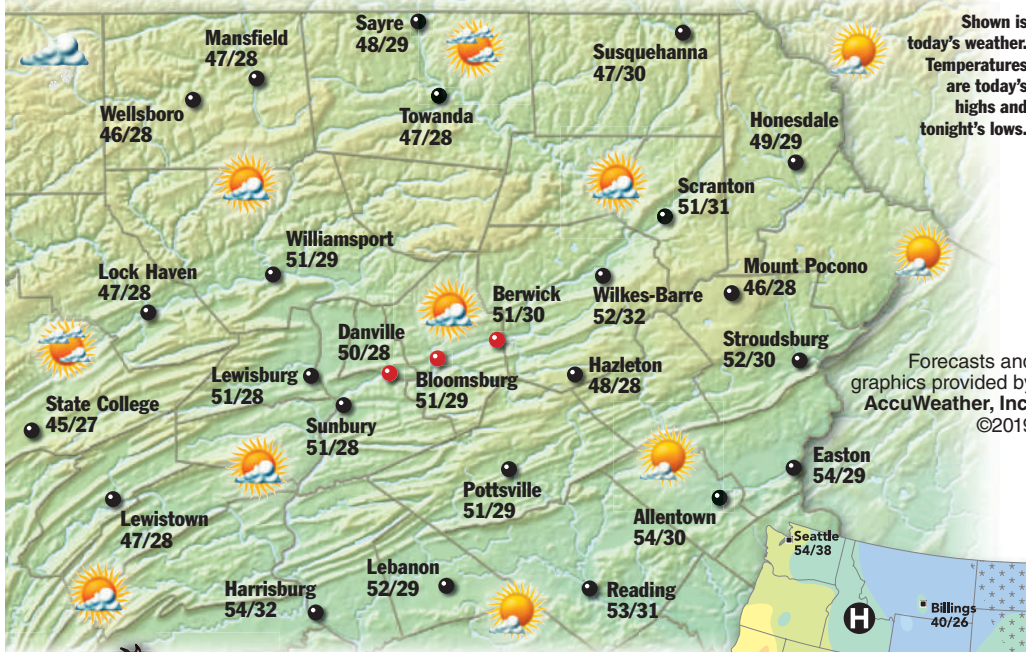
**SALEM TWP.** — Police gathered Wednesday on a stretch of road known for speeding drew the attention of one person bent on warning motorists, police say.

About six officers from the Salem Township and State Police were posted along Route 11 on Wednesday, issuing citations and warnings to drivers passing through the area from the Columbia-Luzerne line on north.

But someone put up a large plywood sign spray painted with “speed trap” and an arrow to warn **Please see SIGN page 10**

**Regional Four-day forecast**

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
<b>High 51°</b> Wind: W at 15-25 mph 0% chance of precip	<b>Low 29°</b> Wind: W at 3-6 mph 5% chance of precip	<b>52°/32°</b> Wind: S at 4-8 mph 10% chance of precip	<b>47°/28°</b> Wind: WNW at 4-8 mph 10% chance of precip	<b>53°/35°</b> Wind: S at 4-8 mph 10% chance of precip



"With Winter Storm Bessie having passed to our east, today will become partly cloudy, windy and much cooler. High temperatures will be near 50 degrees.  
"However, it's going to feel even colder as the wind-chill temperature will be in the 30s at times.  
"Since Bessie was an usually large and powerful storm, it used up much of the available atmospheric energy. It will be about Tuesday before the next significant rain event can arrive. This means Saturday, Sunday and Monday should all be dry.  
"When Bessie's cold front passed through our area last night, it agitated the atmosphere, which prompted a tornado watch here.  
"Even though we had no sun yesterday for the third day in a row, afternoon temperatures climbed into the low 70s, some 15 degrees above normal."

Thaddeus Quackus, PE weatherbird

**Sun and Moon**

Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise ..... 7:37 a.m.	7:39 a.m.
Sunset ..... 6:04 p.m.	6:03 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Nov 4	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26

**River Stages**  
As of 7 a.m. yesterday

River	Current Stage	Flood Stage
Susquehanna	5.41	19
Bloomsburg	6.78	20
Danville	10.48	24
Sunbury	5.43	22
Wilkes-Barre	3.66	—
Fishing Creek near Bloomsburg	3.66	—

**AccuWeather**  
DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

**Almanac**  
Williamsport through 5 p.m. yest.

**Temperatures**  
High/low ..... 72°/60°  
Normal high/low ..... 57°/37°  
Record high ..... 78° in 1933  
Record low ..... 21° in 1988

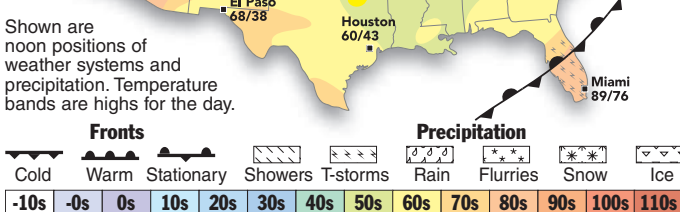
**U.S. Extremes**  
(For the 48 contiguous states)  
High ..... 93° in Immokalee, Fla.  
Low ..... -14° in Gothic, Colo.

**Precipitation**  
24 hours through 5 p.m. yest. 0.72"  
Month to date ..... 5.50"  
Normal month to date ..... 3.42"  
Year to date ..... 42.88"  
Normal year to date ..... 34.61"

**Heating Degree Days**  
An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature fell below 65 for the day.  
Yesterday ..... 0  
Month to date (normal) ..... 313 (415)  
Season to date (normal) ..... 347 (537)

**Snowfall**

Yest. 0.0"
Month to date 0.0"
Season to date 0.0"



**Fronts**  
Cold Warm Stationary Showers T-storms Rain Flurries Snow Ice

**Precipitation**  
-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

**National Cities**

City	Today		Sat.	
	Hi/Low	sh	Hi/Low	sh
Anchorage	45/40	sh	45/34	sh
Atlanta	57/37	s	60/37	s
Atlantic City	56/41	s	56/43	s
Baltimore	55/33	s	56/36	s
Boston	60/38	pc	52/42	s
Charleston, SC	65/44	pc	67/43	pc
Charlotte	60/34	s	64/35	s
Chicago	41/31	pc	38/29	pc
Cincinnati	48/32	s	47/28	pc
Cleveland	44/32	c	47/31	c
Dallas	60/36	s	59/38	s
Denver	35/18	s	46/26	s
Detroit	45/34	c	44/30	c
Honolulu	87/72	s	86/74	s
Houston	60/43	s	65/41	pc
Indianapolis	46/31	s	43/28	pc
Kansas City	48/29	c	48/34	pc
Las Vegas	69/46	s	72/47	s
Los Angeles	82/54	s	82/55	s
Miami	89/76	t	88/75	pc
Milwaukee	41/31	c	39/29	pc
Minneapolis	41/29	sn	41/30	pc
Nashville	51/29	s	54/32	s
New Orleans	58/46	s	63/47	s
New York City	56/39	s	53/41	s
Oklahoma City	59/30	s	54/33	s
Orlando	79/68	pc	84/61	sh
Philadelphia	55/36	s	55/39	s
Phoenix	80/55	s	85/59	s
Pittsburgh	45/28	pc	49/29	pc
St. Louis	54/34	c	48/32	pc
Salt Lake City	46/26	s	51/30	s
San Francisco	70/48	s	72/49	s
Seattle	54/38	s	55/41	pc
Tampa	79/67	pc	80/59	pc
Wash., DC	56/38	s	58/40	s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

**Inquest**

*Continued from front page*

the coroner's office for its work so far. They are anxiously awaiting the start of the inquest, said David J. Caputo, a Philadelphia attorney hired to represent Judy Evans, Tyler's great-grandmother and the executor of the teen's estate.

"Tyler Evans' death was needless and tragic," Caputo said. "Tyler's loved ones grieve his loss every day, and they will not rest in their pursuit of justice."  
"They want to know why Tyler died, they want anyone responsible held accountable, and they want no one at Columbia County Prison ever to suffer a similar fate. My law firm will work tirelessly for Tyler's family to help them achieve these goals."

**Questioned restraint**  
Methamphetamine users can fall into excited delirium, in which they become highly agitated and violent, and can show signs of unexpected strength, according to research papers posted at the National Institute of Health.  
Many of those in the condition die of respiratory arrest or fatal cardiac arrhythmia — an irregular heart beat — even if they aren't restrained, the paper said.  
Used properly, restraint chairs are safe, according to a review of 21 peer-review studies by the University of California.  
But nationwide, there have been a number of deaths associated with the use of restraint chairs, according to various news reports.  
Prison Legal News, a human rights organization, says studies indicate the chairs increase the risk of potentially fatal blood clots, especially when "physical trauma is followed by immobility."  
Inmates are often put in the chairs by force — they're generally placed there because they're combative.  
Prisons don't always follow the safety guidelines for the chairs, the report said.

**Policy changes**

That's should change, county commissioners said.  
Since Evans' death, the county has adopted a new policy regarding use of the restraint chair that resembles the state prisons' policies, said Chairman Chris Young.  
It has also adopted a new intermediate restraint system that allows more movement than the restraint chair, he said. The new option should mean the chair is used less, he said.  
The county is installing a new room with padded walls and floor to hold inmates who are acting out, he said.  
And CMSU, which provides mental health services to the county, is looking into changing its policy so it and the prison can better communicate, he said.  
Commissioner David Kovach, who heads the prison board, said the county is also training corrections officers to make sure they know how to safely restrain prisoners and recognize when inmates might be having health issues.  
"We're not a medical facility," he said. "Sometimes people come there that shouldn't be there."  
The prison isn't well designed to handle people with mental health or serious medical issues, he said.

**'Brought happiness'**  
The commissioners wouldn't release the results of the county's internal investigation into Evans' death, pointing to the coroner's ongoing investigation.  
Bloomsburg police are also investigating the death, Reese said. They did not return a call Thursday seeking an update.  
Reese said he wouldn't release any more details until the inquest.  
Family members previously said Evans was brought to the prison on a probation violation on May 31. He had been placed on probation in April after pleading guilty to disorderly conduct in exchange for the withdrawal of assault and resisting arrest charges.  
Relatives were told he was resting on a gurney about 30 minutes before he was found unresponsive, they said.  
He had been a student at New Story, which serves special-needs children. Family members remembered him as someone who loved skateboarding, fishing, and making his own music, and "brought happiness to all who knew him."

*Susan Schwartz covers the Berwick area. She can be reached at 570-387-1234 ext. 1306 and susan.schwartz@pressenterprise.net, or followed on Twitter at https://twitter.com/PESueSchwartz.*

**Sign**

*Continued from front page*  
passers-by.  
Salem Chief Mike McNeal said officers got a laugh out of the sign. "We thought it was hilarious."  
The police department even posted a picture of the sign on its Facebook page.

But while they did "thank" the sign maker, McNeal clarified the gratitude was meant sarcastically.  
And he said that a group of police cruisers isn't always a sign of a speed trap.  
"We could be sitting there looking for a bank robbery suspect," McNeal said.  
McNeal said the speed enforcement Wednesday was a co-operative initiative led by the State Police to help control driving speed on area roadways.  
Salem and the State Police monitored motorists Wednesday for around an hour and a half from 9 to 10:30 a.m.  
Salem Township Police issued two citations and nine warnings, McNeal said. Specific citation and warning numbers for the State Police weren't immediately available.  
But online court records

show the two departments filed 11 traffic citations in Salem, Hunlock and Union townships on October 30.  
In total, around six officers participated, with three officers from Salem and three troopers from the Shickshinny barracks of the State Police.  
Hayley Zavislak can be reached at hayley.zavislak@pressenterprise.net.

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**Probe**

*Continued from front page*  
That and evidence that House investigators have amassed have helped unify Democrats, including those from GOP areas. Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, said she was supporting a pathway to giving "the American people the facts they deserve," while Rep. Andy Kim, D-N.J., said voters warrant "the uninhibited truth."  
Yet Republicans were also buoyed by polling, which has shown that GOP voters stand

unflinchingly behind Trump.  
"The impeachment-obsessed Democrats just flushed their majority down the toilet," said Michael McAdams, a spokesman for House Republicans' campaign arm.  
Elsewhere at the Capitol on Thursday, three House panels led by the Intelligence Committee questioned their latest witness into the allegations that led to the impeachment inquiry: that Trump pressured Ukraine to produce dirt on his Democratic political rivals by withholding military aid and an Oval Office meeting craved by the country's new president.

Tim Morrison, who stepped down from the National Security Council the day before his appearance, testified — still behind closed doors — that he saw nothing illegal in Trump's phone call with the Ukrainian president that is at the center of the Democrat-led investigation.  
Yet, Morrison also largely confirmed much of what William Taylor, the highest-ranking U.S. official in Ukraine, said in earlier, highly critical testimony about the call, which Taylor said he and Morrison discussed several times.  
The Democrats are still waiting to hear if Morrison's

one-time boss, John Bolton, will testify. They have subpoenaed former national security adviser Bolton, who quit the administration after disagreements with Trump over his handling of Ukraine.  
In the House inquiry vote, the only Democratic "no" votes were by Reps. Jeff Van Drew, a New Jersey freshman, and veteran Collin Peterson of Minnesota, one of the House's most conservative Democrats. Both are battling for re-election in Republican-leaning districts.  
Also supporting the rules was independent Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, who left the GOP this year after announcing he was open to considering impeachment.  
Thursday's House debate was laced with high-minded appeals to defend the Constitution and Congress' independence.  
"What are we fighting for? Defending our democracy," said Pelosi. She addressed lawmakers with a poster of the American flag beside her and opened her comments by reading from the preamble to the Constitution.

**Trees**

*Continued from front page*  
There was no warning, he said, and no one asked for his input about the placement of the tree, even though he'll be the one responsible for its upkeep.  
"Should we have been able to voice our opinion beforehand?" Singley asked. "I think so."  
According to the town's shade tree ordinance, Singley's right.  
The commission is required to notify the public any time it wants to plant or remove trees, then post the time and date of the meeting when those proposed plantings will be discussed.  
But commission chairwoman Sylvia Costa says the list was created informally and completed without any public notice — at least not any she remembers.  
In an interview Thursday, she said she wasn't aware the ordinance requires a public notice specifying the streets where trees are proposed that must be published in advance of the meeting when those plantings are going to be discussed.  
"I haven't read that part," Costa said, of the ordinance.  
Some of the trees were requested by homeowners, while others are replacing dead or diseased trees that were previously taken down.  
For the other plantings, Shade Tree members Lauren Strausser and Pam Donovan canvassed the town looking for bare spots, Costa explained.  
The commission was the recipient of a \$3,500 Tree Vitalize grant from the Depart-

*"You'd think people would be happy to have beautiful trees. I can't see why they wouldn't be."*

**SYLVIA COSTA**  
Bloomsburg councilwoman



Special to the Press Enterprise

**TREE SMASHES SALEM PATROL CAR**

A Salem Township Police car is shown badly damaged after a tree fell on it during Thursday night's storm. Sgt. Thomas Hegland said he was on Verners Hollow Road helping volunteer firefighters clear another fallen tree. He had just pulled the car up 3 feet to block the road to traffic when another tree came crashing down. "If I hadn't pulled up, the tree would have come through my door or windshield," he said. Township Police Chief Mike McNeal said officers decided to close the road and clear the trees today.

**Son**

*Continued from front page*  
However, about two minutes after they left the residence, they were called back to the house because Cody Turse had returned, entering through the basement window.  
Police returned and took Cody Turse into custody.  
He is charged with stalking/causing emotional distress and harassment.  
On Sept. 30 the case was transferred to Columbia County Court.

ment of Conservation and Natural Resources, which was enough to buy 47 trees, mulch, and to pay the town workers for the labor. They bought a mix of trees, including small tree lilacs, medium-size yellowwoods, and large lindens.  
Most of the trees being planted on homeowners' tree lawns, which is the space between the sidewalk and the curb, will be small, Costa said. And all of the trees are on the town's list of trees approved for planting along residential streets. But the town can't guarantee trees won't damage a sidewalk, she said.  
The cost to fix that would be on the homeowner, as well as the cost to trim and maintain the tree, she acknowledged.  
Even if they don't want the tree, the commission has the right to plant it anyway, Costa pointed out.  
"You'd think people would be happy to have beautiful trees," she said. "I can't see why they wouldn't be."  
Julye Wemple can be reached at julye.wemple@pressenterprise.net, or at 570-387-1234, ext. 1323.