

COMEBACK

Steelers remain unbeaten with win over archrival Ravens. B1.



SPOTLIGHT

Forest Hills, United student-athletes share weekly honors. B1.



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NOVEMBER 2, 2020

MONDAY

\$1.50 NEWSSTAND

Historic voter turnout expected

BY DAVE SUTOR
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A historic level of voter turnout is expected locally this year. Election directors Shirley Crowl in Cambria County, Tina Pritts in Somerset and Debra Brown in Bedford anticipate more than three-quarters of registered voters in their counties may cast ballots, spurred on by the presidential race between President Donald Trump, a Republican, and Democratic Party nominee former Vice President

Joe Biden. "There is a lot of publicity obviously on this election," Pritts said.

When asked what turnout to expect in Cambria, Crowl said 80% was possible, but added, "I don't have a clue. This is not an election like any we've ever had."

Pritts estimated 85% might participate in Somerset, the same level Brown thinks could be reached



■ Biden makes push to court Black votes/A9
■ Senate Republicans fight to save majority/B9

for Bedford.

Those would be by far the highest turnouts in recent memory.

Brown advised individuals to avoid peak times and to expect to possibly wait in line for a while.

"I think everything is going to run

fine," Brown said. "I think the polls are going to be long, the lines are going to be long, but there's nothing we can do about it. I think it will be fine. We'll have everything and process it through."

As of Sunday, more than three-quarters of requested mail-in ballots had been returned in all three counties, according to electproject.github.io/Early-Vote-2020G/PA.html: Cambria (16,686 out of 21,486), Somerset (7,773 out of 9,536), Bedford (5,190 out of 6,704).

Cambria and Somerset plan to begin opening mail-in ballots at 7 a.m. Tuesday and hope to have a count of all votes by the end of the night. Bedford will start at 7:30 a.m.

Extra workers will be used in each county to help process the votes.

For example, in Cambria, six two-person teams will work together opening mail-in ballots.

"We will just keep plugging away until we get them done," Crowl said.

Please see **TURNOUT, A2**

Santa Fund drive begins

BY KELLY URBAN
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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

The Tribune-Democrat's Santa Fund, an annual project that provides holiday gifts to local children, is in full swing, and donation and application forms can be found in the pages of the newspaper and online at www.TribDem.com.

The fund is administered by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, which receives all donations and processes payments for the gifts.



Now in its 14th year, the Santa Fund helps children whose families may be facing financial hardships.

Last year, more than 1,200 youngsters ages 12 and under received Christmas gifts thanks to \$23,000 being raised through individual and corporate donations and the Santa Fund Soccer Classic.

The deadline this year to sign up is Nov. 16.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has left a lot of people out of work and facing financial challenges, so a program such as the Santa Fund might be more important this year than ever," said Chip Minemyer, editor of The Tribune-Democrat. "We expect to hear from people who would not have found themselves in hardship in past years."

Once again, Boscov's department store in The Galleria in Richland Township will be the provider of the toys.

"We want to help the kids in our community, that's paramount to us, and our co-workers really do look forward to

Please see **FUND, A2**

PUMPING OUT IRON



DAVE SUTOR/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

Nick Tomlin, a student at the Center for Metal Arts in Johnstown from Rhode Island, adds iron ore to the fire. See video at www.TribDem.com.

School using local ore for creation

BY DAVE SUTOR
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Seven blacksmiths worked together to crack open the base of a three-foot-tall, handmade clay furnace and carefully extricate a glowing orange iron bloom, weighing about 15 pounds, on Friday afternoon.

It was believed to be the first iron professionally smelted at the former Cambria Iron Works and Bethlehem Steel property on Iron Street, using ore harvested

from within the city, since the 19th century, according to Johnstown Area Heritage Association President Richard Burkert.

Out of the fire, the crew took the metal to a wooden stump and tapped the exterior a few times to test its forgeability and knock off impurities before rushing it to an industrial hammer inside the Center for Metal Arts classroom, which is located on the historic grounds.

"This is the first time in 150 years that iron has been made using local Johnstown ore," Burkert said. "That's why the

Cambria Iron Works came here in the 1850s is there was an immense deposit, three layers of iron ore on Prospect Hill that was being mined. It was particularly hard iron, and they were making railroad rails here, and so this was perfect.

"It was tough and it would last a long time. And before they figured out how to make large quantities of steel, hard iron was perfect. Again, though, later, in the 1870s, they quit using local iron ore

Please see **IRON, A2**

Virus closes Loretto school

BY DAVE SUTOR
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St. Michael School students will begin a two-week period of remote learning on Monday after an individual at the school tested positive for COVID-19.

In-person classes are scheduled to resume on Nov. 16 at the school in Loretto.

Other COVID-related cases also were reported by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in recent days.

The Rev. Matthew Baum, administrator of Prince of Peace Parish in Northern Cambria, has tested positive for COVID-19 and gone into quarantine until further notice. Communion services will be offered by the parish's deacon at the chapel site, 2410 Campbell Ave., in place of weekend Masses. The parish has postponed its turkey dinner scheduled for Sunday.

The Rev. Brian Warchola, pastor of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, had recent contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, so the priest is quarantining while waiting his own test results. A visiting priest is celebrating Masses.

"Bishop (Mark) Bartchak is monitoring the situations with Father Baum and Father Warchola," said the diocese in a press release. "He offers prayers

Please see **VIRUS, A2**

Greenhouse project beginning to sprout at Penn Highlands

BY JOSHUA BYERS
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Michelle Myers, an assistant professor at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, describes herself as an "over-sharer" and said that trait is what kicked off the campaign to install a greenhouse at the Richland school's campus.

After a class where she was telling her students about the benefits of a greenhouse to the

hydroponics and agricultural program, one of them approached her about it.

He then offered to make an anonymous donation in honor of his mother to get the project going.

"This is something that's needed in this area," Myers said.

Once up and running, the building will not only provide an additional teaching resource

Please see **GREENHOUSE, A2**



JOSHUA BYERS/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

Michelle Myers, assistant professor of biological sciences at Penn Highlands, tends to the hydroponic garden at the Richland campus.

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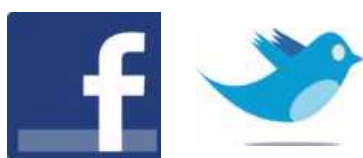
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WEATHER

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