SCRANTON WOMAN'S STORY OF FAMILY'S DARING PAST GOES FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE

life×



NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST NEWS TEAM

COUNTY HOMICIDES JUMP



TAMMY FOX



suffocated

NINA GATTO ROBERT J. ORTIZ Died April 6; fentanyl and Vehicular



ROSEMARY SMITH Died April 28; Gunshot wound to head



BRETT SWEETING JR. Died June 25; Carbon poisoning

Eight deaths nearly triple previous year's total

BY CLAYTON OVER
STAFF WRITER
HOmicides in Lackawanna
County nearly tripled last year, though authorities say 2018's numbers are in line with what the county has seen in recent years.
There were eight homicides in 2017, though authorities and 2018's numbers are in line with what the county has seen in recent years.
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There were eight homicides in 2017, though a 2018's numbers often fluctuate, compared to 2017, with six defendants facing charges stemming from three slagings in 2018. There homicides in 2017, though a 2018 along a 2018's numbers often fluctuate, compared to 2017, with six defendants facing charges stemming from three slagings in 2018. There homicides in 2017, though a 2018 along a 2018 along a 2018 and a 2018 along a 2018 along a 2018 along a 2018 and a 2018 along a 20



The sooner the better

A noninvasive technology holds promise for earlier detection of lung cancer.

GOVERNMENT REOPENS

Federal workers back and relieved

Some fear another shutdown and are acting cautiously.

BY AMY FORLITI

BY AMY FORLITI
ASSOCIATED PRESS
MINNEAPOLIS — Park
rangers were once again
greeting visitors at some
national parks across the
United States and flight operations at major airports were
returning to normal on Saturday, one day after a partial
government shutdown came
to an end.
While there were signs
that some government
machinery was grinding
back to life after a record 35
days without funding, many
federal workers and their
families approached the end
of the shutdown cautiously,
saying they were relieved
they would receive paychecks
again, but would continue to
restrict their spending amid
fears that another shutdown
could happen in weeks.

Please see OPEN, Page A11

Please see OPEN. Page A11



Dr. Bassel Noumi, who uses a navigational bronchoscopy at Delta Medix in Scranton.

↑ lifford Webster was at a truck stop shortly after his wife, Jenny, the love of his life, left the hospital ullet following a weeklong stay for lung disease. As he walked toward his truck, Webster patted his breast pocket, found it notably empty and started turning back for a pack of cigarettes.

for a pack of cigarettes.

It was in that moment he decided to never pick up another one.
"This just ain't going to work, buddy, get to it," he told himself. "I quit, boom."
For years, Webster, 86, of Spring Brook Twp,, smoked cigarettes and a pipe, but he blames smoking in concert with a long career of breathing some toxic stuff for what is now his second bout with lung cancer.

A Scranton interventional pulmonlogist confirmed Webster's cancer using tools brand new to Northeast Pennsylvania.

In a region that smokes about 6 percent more than the national average, navigational bronchoscopy, a noninvasive technique, holds romine for detecting lung cancer ardier. To determine whether the spot on something else, Dr. Bassel Noumi, of the specialty medical group Delta delta, france are using tools brand new to Northeast Pennsylvania.

At Moses Taylor Hospital in Please see LUNGS, Page A10



ADVERTISEMENT



Good morning M/cloudy, high 39

Weather, Page B12

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United

Methodist Homes

LUNGS: Helpful tool

FROM PAGE A1

depending now deep it is, a surgeon might extract a bit of tissue to study using a need all supped with a camera and electromagnetic resonator, down Webster's throat into his lungs.

The tip signaled the 3D map, which let Noumi chart his path in real time while guiding the catheter deeper into tighter airways.

Before navigational bronchoscopy, pulmonologists had few options to biopsy lung cancer. None are pretty.

If a CT scan shows a spot,

depending how deep it is, a surgeon might extract a bit of tissue to study using a needle slipped through the ribs. They could use a bronchoscope with a static map, but that's like driving deep into Manhattan with a paper map and no street signs, only increasingly vague landmarks. Such a iourney is much



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Clifford Webster sits with his dog, Bear, and cat, Stubby, in Spring Brook Twp.

the lung lobes connect to the windpipe, often they simply watch and wait. "Keeping an eye on it will stall the diagnosis," Noumi said. "And waiting advances the stage."

e stage." That likely would have been

the stage.

That likely would have been the case for Webster, whose age nixes the surgery option altogether Last week, he started on a rigorous chemotherapy and radiation regimen.

In a recliner at home with his niece, Tammy Daniels, by his side—he calls her his "secretary/treasurer"—he didn't dilute the severity of his diagnosis, but seemed unshaken. He beat cancer in his other hung before. He was also diagnosed with bladder cancer about a year and a half ago, which led doctors to discover the new spot on his lung, and he has multiple myeloma, a kind of bone cancer.

He served in the military desired the served in the military desired here we have the reserved in the military desired the served in the military desired here were served.

"Weird things happened in Korea — you had to be there to know it." he said, going on to explain how tensions rose after the cease-fire because troops worried that armed and bitter fighters might seek reverge.
"It was not good when the war was over," he said. "Then you have to keep peeking around the trees all the time."
He worked at Bethlehem Edwirden while an impact hammer flattened them into sheets.
That's where he met his wife, Virginia. Everyone called her Jenny.
They married young. He

called her Jenny.
They married young. He was 21; she was 17.
"They were inseparable,"
Daniels said. "I remember being a kid growing up, I used to say: 'I hope I can find a man who treats me like he doos aim! Genny."

and cement companies.

He also raced stock cars at the former Lake Moc-A-Tek Speedway in Paupack Twp. and later ran the place as president. Jenny was his secretary/treasurer then.

She died in 2015, the same year their home in Gouldsboro burned down.

Daniels opened her home to Webster after the fire, but he chose instead to keep his independence and bought a cozy powder blue trailer close to where she lives.

Pulmonologists started using navigational bronchoscopy in the early 2000s, but it's not universally embraced, and even as health research pushes he bounds with robotic bronchoscopy, providers outside of major metro areas are playing catch-up.

Some insurance companies balk at paying for it, and Noumi said he spends a lot of time on the phone explaining why if's necessary compared to other, traditional diagnostic tools. The second, more advanced CT scan needed to create the 3D map is part of the reason, said Dr. Sy Sarkar; director of

CT scan needed to create the 3D map is part of the reason, said Dr. Sy Sarkar, director of interventional pulmonology at MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center in Baltimore. Insurers get prickly when doc-tors ask for two similar tests, even though the one after the utital screaming is far move. initial screening is far more

"Not every insurance company sees it as being the standard of care," he said of navigational bronchoscopy.
"Some still refer to it as

dard of care," he said of nav-igational bronchoscopy.
"Some still refer to it as experimental."
Noumi is the only pulmon-ologist in the region who can do it. Geisinger offers naviga-tional bronchoscopy at its Danville hospital.
The technology has treat-ment implications, too, Nou-mi said.

ment implications, too, Noumi said.

Doctors can use it to place
markers for targeting radiation
treatment and assisting in surgery, though Lackawanna
County doesn't have a doctor
who can do those things yet.

Bronchoscopy has minor
side effects. Patients will likely cough up mucus, and there
could be a little blood in the
sputtum, Noumi said. A sore
throat from intubation usual-

throat from intubation usual

urical from intuotation usually clears up within 24 hours. Major complications are expected in 1 to 2 percent of procedures; minor complications are expected in 5 to 7 percent, he said.



Caring

February special events and community happenings

Silver Circle exclusive events

Residents age 55+ can participate in health and wellness initiatives through GCMC. To join Silver Circle for free, call 570-703-8947 or email SilverCircle@geisinger.edu and type "GCMC Membership" in the subject line.

Gentle yoga

When: Wednesdays • 9 – 10 a.m.
Where: Nay Aug Park –
The Greenhouse Project
200 Arthur Ave., Scranton Info: Call 570-703-8947 to register. Bring a yoga mat and water. Cost: \$2.

Tai chi

Info: Call 570-703-8947 to

Free support groups

Stroke support group

When: Tue., Feb. 12 • 4 – 5 p.m.
Where: GCMC Professional
Building Fourth floor, Conference Room 315 Colfax Ave., Scranton 315 Colfax Ave., Scranton Info: Call 570-703-7453 to register. Light refreshments provided

When: Thu., Feb. 14 • 5:30 p.m. Where: GCMC Professiona

Events

DETECT study

DETECT study
Geisinger and Johns Hopkins
University are teaming up to try to
find out if cancer can be detected
early through a simple blood test,
in the first study of its kind, 10,000
women will help us determine
if a blood test can be used as
a cancer screening method in
women without known cancer. This
research study is open to female
Geisinger patients, age 65 to 75,
with no prior history of cancer.
Appointments are required. Call the DETECT team at 570-387-24154
to learn more about this study, ask
questions and sign up for a visit.

When: Mon., Feb. 18 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Where: Geisinger Tunkhannock 10 Trieble Drive, Tunkhannock

When: Tue., Feb. 26

When: Tue., Feb. 28 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Where:** Cedar Point Apartments 509 Cedar Ave., Scranton

Scranton Half-Marathon

When: Sun., April 7 • 9 a.m Where: Valor Credit Union Field at Memorial Stadium Memoral Stadium
GS Munchak Way, Scranton
Info: Run with Team Geisinger
at the upcoming Scranton
Half-Marathon, sponsored by
Geisinger, to benefit the continue
development of the Lackawanna
River Heritage Trail. Visit
Scranton Half.com to learn more and to sign up

GCMC now offering robotic-arm-assisted joint replacement surgery

Available only at Geisinger in northeast and central Pennsylvania

Living with chronic joint pain can dominate your every waking moment and take away your independence. If you suffer from advanced stages of osteoarthritis or degenerative knee or hip problems, a Mako® robotic-arm—assisted joint replacement could be your saving grace—and it's now available at Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton.

Mako is a robotic surgical arm that helps perform partial knee, tota knee and total hip replacements. This state-of-the-art technology helps the orthopædic surgeon guide the placement of your knee hip implant with pinpoint accuracy. The surgery is minimally invasiv relieves pain, restores mobility and can help you return to an active lifestyle faster.

"The Mako robotic-arm surgery system improves our surgeons' accuracy to about 99 percent or better," said Michael Suk, MD, chai of Orthopaedic Surgery. "We know that better accuracy improves this fee of the limplant, as well as its feel and function," he added. "We a proud to have the only surgeons in northeast and central Pennsylva to offer this key enhancement to such a life-changing procedure."

If you haven't gotten relief from treatments like bracing, medicatior or joint fluid supplements, you could be suffering from advanced joint disease, and your doctor may recommend surgery. Generally, Makor obotic-arm—assisted joint replacement surgery is appropriat for patients who are healthy enough to undergo a hip or knee replacement procedure.

To learn more about this joint replacement solution, or to schedule an appointment, call **570-354-5049, option 4.**

Geisinger

egister or learn more about any event • geisinger.org/ever 800-275-6401 and ask for "CareLink" • @geisingerhealth

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