

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

life×



★★ FINAL

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST NEWS TEAM



\$3.00 NEWSSTAND

COUNTY HOMICIDES JUMP

Eight deaths nearly triple previous year's total



TAMMY FOX
Died Aug. 22;
Car crash;
police say
brake lines
were cut.



NINA GATTO
Died April 20;
Injected with
fentanyl and
suffocated



ROBERT J. ORTIZ
Died April 6;
Vehicular
homicide



ROSEMARY SMITH
Died April 28;
Gunshot
wound to head



BRETT SWEETING JR.
Died June 25;
Carbon
monoxide
poisoning

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 2018, compared to three in 2017. Despite the rise, last year's homicide numbers aren't abnormal and the numbers often fluctuate, said Lackawanna County Coroner Timothy Rowland. There were three homicides in 2017, though the office ruled on two additional cases prosecuted in other counties; 13 in 2016; and nine in 2015. The number of criminal homicide and murder charges filed in county court also jumped last year compared to 2017, with six defendants facing charges stemming from three slayings in 2018. Three people face criminal homicide charges related to the death of Nina Gatto in April; two men face second-degree murder charges in

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Clifford Webster, with his niece Tammy Daniels, recently was diagnosed with lung cancer with the help of groundbreaking new technology.

JAKE DANNA STEVENS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOVERNMENT REOPENS

Federal workers back and relieved

Some fear another shutdown and are acting cautiously.

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.

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The sooner the better

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



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

JAKE DANNA STEVENS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY JON O'CONNELL
STAFF WRITER

Clifford Webster was at a truck stop shortly after his wife, Jenny, the love of his life, left the hospital 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.

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 pulmonologist 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 promise for detecting lung cancer earlier.

To determine whether the spot on Webster's lungs was cancer or something else, Dr. Bassel Nouri, of the specialty medical group Delta Medix, first used computer software to build a three-dimensional map of his lungs with high-detail CT scans.

At Moses Taylor Hospital in

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