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PRESS ENTERPRISE

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023 $1.50

Geisinger reports $842M loss

Pandemic, increase in expenses blamed

By GERI GIBBONS
Press Enterprise Writer

DANVILLE — Geisinger recently reported to borrowers it lost $842 million in 2022, a result of investment losses and increasing expenses, a release states.

The health system's losses resulted in a credit downgrade from the investment firm Moody's, but the rating company described Geisinger's financial outlook as "stable."

Geisinger blames the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and an uptick in expenses, according to a recently released financial report.

Geisinger brought in more money from patients and insurance in 2022 than it did the previous year, according to the report. In 2022, it made $3.072 billion in patient service revenue. That was up 7.8% from 2021's $2.862 billion. Its Geisinger Health Plan totaled $3.545 billion in insurance premium revenue, up 9.6% from 2021's $3.235 billion. Overall, revenue was up about 7% from the previous year, to $6.871 billion.

But it also spent more on everything from salaries to supplies to services. Expenses jumped 11.6% to $7.11 billion. Salaries increased from $2.6 to $2.9 billion, an 11.5% jump. Supplies cost $1.25 billion in 2022, a 15.1% jump from 2021's $1.085 billion.

That left Geisinger at an operating loss of $239 million for the year.

Combined with investment losses of $603 million, Geisinger posted an $842 million deficit for the year. That's a significant swing from last year's $547 million surplus.

The loss led to Moody Investors Services to downgrade its rating from A1 to A2, noting the health-

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Police: Abuser hit truck as mom, girls fled

Berwick man faces slew of charges

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ
Press Enterprise Writer

NORTH CENTRE TWP. — Charges say a man brutally beat his girlfriend then crashed into her father's vehicle when she tried to leave with their daughters.

A criminal affidavit states Seth R. McHenry, 37, told Briar Creek Township Criminal Investigator Jarrod Noss he was just trying to see where Tiffany Whitehair was going with their girls, ages 5 and 2.

Court papers state:

Noss was dispatched to Fowlersville and Shelhamer roads at 3:29 p.m. Jan. 31.

On nearby Schoolhouse Road, he found Tiffany Whitehair's father, Roy Whitehair, who called 9-1-1.

Roy Whitehair said he'd gone to see his daughter at 125 Hosler Road, Berwick, where she lives with McHenry. She told him about being abused, he said, and she wanted to leave.

She packed some clothes and loaded the girls into a white Jeep Renegade.

But as she and the girls were getting ready to drive away, McHenry, who'd been asleep in the basement, woke up, jumped in his black 2002 Chevrolet Tracker and chased after them.

Roy Whitehair, who was driving separately, said McHenry crashed into his pickup during the chase. His daughter and McHenry drove on toward Berwick, he said.

The father's black Ford F-150 pickup was badly damaged on the front passenger's side.

Cops: Woman strangled

The police affidavit continues: Before the officer left the

Please see BEAU page 7

Riding high on custom bikes

A dozen children get free adaptive bikes at Berwick Middle School

MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL and cheerleaders welcome children who got to ride new adaptive bikes with their families through the halls of Berwick Middle School on Wednesday morning.

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ
Press Enterprise Writer

BERWICK — Malani Hartman, 11, used to sit on the porch and cry as she watched other little girls pedal through her neighborhood.

After a brain injury, she uses a wheelchair to get around, explained her mother, Nicole Hartman. So Malani couldn't join them.

Until now.

On Wednesday, Malani and 11 other youngsters gathered in the varsity gym at Berwick Middle School to get brand-new, custom-made adaptive bicycles, free of charge.

"Riding a bike to me is a rite of passage," said Sherri Longenberger. She's a Berwick multiple disabilities teacher and the local coordinator for the Variety children's charity program. "Why shouldn't every child have that right?"

Variety was also giving away three strollers and three communication devices — iPads loaded with programs to help children who can't speak express themselves.

Customized wheels

The bikes, provided by Blackburn's medical supply company in Pittsburgh, are actually medical equipment in disguise, explained Charlie LaVallee, Variety's CEO. While they're free to the families, each costs the charity $1,800.

They have three wheels, and seat belts to keep riders safely on board. Foot straps help youngsters keep their feet on the pedals, and a long rod attached to the handle bars allows a parent to help them steer.

Each bike is fitted to the child, with whatever adaptations that youngster needs.

They also come with stands to temporarily convert them to stationary bikes, so children can use them to exercise regardless of the weather.

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Brandi Senkus, at left above, watches as **Leann Everett** puts safely equipment on Senkus' son, **Dylan DeFebo**, 6.

Tara Berlin, at right, helps **Aiden Steinbacher**, 13, steer his adaptive bike in Berwick Middle School on Wednesday.

Twelve area children received adaptive bikes, above, during a program Wednesday morning at Berwick Middle School.

Randy Prunty, at left in photo at left, helps **Malani Hartman**, 11, and her mother, **Nicole Hartman**, with the safety equipment on Malani's new adaptive bike Wednesday morning in Berwick. She picked out the color herself.

PHOTOS BY JIMMY MAY

Woman gets probation and fine for harassing boyfriend

Former diner owner can't contact man, must have evaluation

By the Press Enterprise staff

BLOOMSBURG — A Fishing Creek Township woman accused of throwing a pizza at her boyfriend and pushing him against a couch with a knife in her hand has pleaded guilty to harassment.

REIMILLER

Lorie Reimiller, 55, was immediately sentenced Monday to spend a year on probation and fined $300 in Columbia County court.

She was charged in the domestic fight with Robert Quinn during an argument in which he accused her of taking his cell phone near Stillwater last May.

She denied threatening him with a knife but admitted harassing him by using obscene or lewd language.

A charge of making terroristic threats was dropped by prosecutors as part of a plea agreement.

She was also ordered to have no contact with Quinn and undergo a drug and alcohol evaluation.

Reimiller operated Lorie's Farmhouse Diner along Route 487 for a brief time early last year. She was forced by the township to close her small eatery over sewerage permitting issues a few weeks before the domestic fight.

The costs of putting in a well and septic system to meet township sewerage requirements "stressed her to the max" before she closed the diner, she said at the time.

Police say driver faces charges after 'love tap'

Press Enterprise staff report

BLOOMSBURG — A woman rear-ended a man's vehicle after a fight and called it a "love tap" when questioned by police, papers say.

Police say they initially found no one around when they went to 808 Old Berwick Road after someone reported a man and woman fighting on the porch and throwing chairs.

They found a running car in front of the building and a neighbor said Angelica Houck, who lives in an apartment there, was inside, papers say.

Accidental bump

When police found Houck, she told them she and her boyfriend, Thomas Dorr, were arguing before she left the home for a short time.

Houck told them when she got back she accidentally bumped a car belonging to Dorr's brother with her own, calling it a "love tap," papers say.

Dorr later told police he was putting a child seat in his brother's car when Houck arrived and struck the vehicle from behind with her own.

The "bump" sent the car forward, running over Dorr's foot, papers say.

Charges say Dorr said Houck then went on the porch and threw chairs and ashtrays at him.

Dorr was treated at Geisinger-Bloomsburg Hospital for a cut on

Please see DRIVER page 10

WEATHER

TODAY: Sun, clouds
HIGH TEMP: 44°
PRECIPITATION: 0%
TONIGHT: Partly cloudy
LOW TEMP: 27°
PRECIPITATION: 0%

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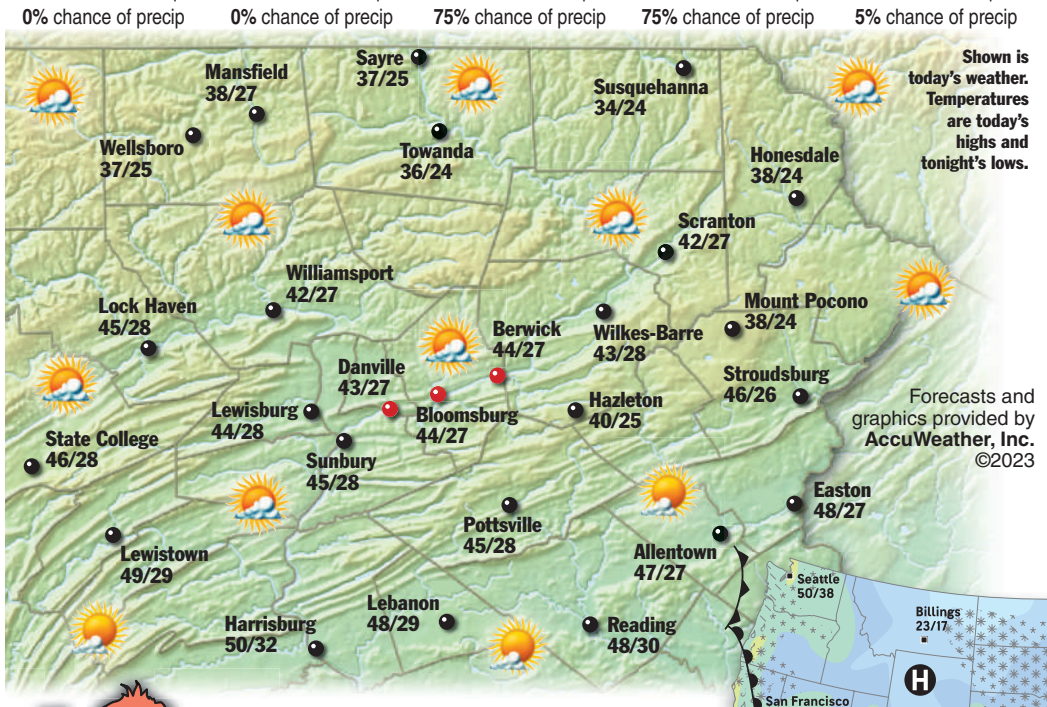
pressenterpriseonline.com

Regional Four-day forecast

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sun and some clouds	Partly cloudy	Snow and rain	Morning snow, 1-2"	Inc. clouds
High 44°	**Low 27°**	**41°/33°**	**43°/18°**	**44°/32°**
Wind: NNW at 7-14 mph	**Wind:** NNE at 4-8 mph	**Wind:** SE at 6-12 mph	**Wind:** NNE at 7-14 mph	**Wind:** E at 4-8 mph
0% chance of precip	**0%** chance of precip	**75%** chance of precip	**75%** chance of precip	**5%** chance of precip



"Since air from southern Canada is remaining over Pennsylvania, today will be partly sunny and dry. High temperatures will be in the mid-40s. Tomorrow will be variably cloudy, with highs near 40. Our next storm is arriving later in the day. Rain and snow will continue into early Saturday.

"In a few weeks, I would have reminded you our spring wildfire season was about to begin. But our unusually mild, dry February saw the season off to an early start. Last month, we recorded at least 15 brush, field, grass and wood fires. That's as many or more than we sometimes have in the whole season. As far as I can determine, we've never had such an active wildfire problem in February.

"My total moisture reading from the 4 inches of snow that fell Monday was .40 inch."

Thaddeus Quackus, PE weatherbird

Sun and Moon

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:30 a.m.	6:28 a.m.
Sunset	6:07 p.m.	6:08 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Mar 14	Mar 21	Mar 28	Apr 6

River Stages

As of 7 a.m. yesterday

Susquehanna	Current Stage	Flood Stage
Bloomsburg	6.79	19
Danville	8.02	20
Sunbury	12.11	24
Wilkes-Barre	7.08	22
Fishing Creek		
near Bloomsburg	3.52	——

AccuWeather

Go to AccuWeather.com

Almanac

Williamsport through 5 p.m. yest.

Temperatures

High/low	45°/31°
Normal high/low	45°/27°
Record high	81° in 2000
Record low	8° in 1989

U.S. Extremes

(For the 48 contiguous states)

High	96° in Zapata, Texas
Low	-25° in Daniel, Wyo.

Precipitation

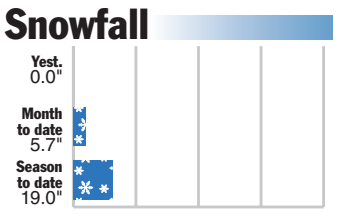
24-hour total	0.00"
Month to date	1.48"
Normal month to date	0.76"
Year to date	6.14"
Normal year to date	6.03"

Heating Degree Days

An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature fell below 65 for the day.

Yesterday	27
Month to date (normal)	205 (241)
Season to date (normal)	3930 (4553)

Snowfall



National Cities

	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W		Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Anchorage	33/32/s	36/23/s	Los Angeles	67/52/pc	56/54/r
Atlanta	62/50/r	66/40/t	Miami	80/67/pc	81/69/s
Atlantic City	49/34/s	45/40/r	Milwaukee	39/32/sf	35/27/sn
Baltimore	53/35/s	43/37/sh	Minneapolis	35/26/sn	34/25/c
Boston	44/31/c	46/34/pc	Nashville	61/48/r	56/37/r
Charleston, SC	66/52/pc	67/46/t	New Orleans	84/68/pc	80/61/t
Charlotte	66/49/pc	60/38/r	New York City	48/33/s	43/34/r
Chicago	41/32/c	36/27/sn	Oklahoma City	63/36/r	59/49/s
Cincinnati	53/39/c	43/29/sh	Orlando	80/60/pc	84/64/pc
Cleveland	40/32/pc	38/30/sn	Philadelphia	51/32/s	47/35/r
Dallas	71/47/t	67/55/pc	Phoenix	76/52/pc	80/60/pc
Denver	50/25/c	59/41/c	Pittsburgh	47/32/pc	40/28/sn
Detroit	42/31/pc	33/26/sn	St. Louis	46/36/r	46/31/c
Honolulu	80/66/pc	79/68/c	Salt Lake City	46/39/c	51/34/sh
Houston	86/66/pc	80/63/t	San Francisco	55/52/r	59/48/r
Indianapolis	50/36/c	39/29/c	Seattle	50/38/c	45/36/r
Kansas City	41/31/r	44/34/pc	Tampa	85/65/pc	80/68/s
Las Vegas	66/55/s	70/57/c	Wash., DC	55/37/s	44/35/sh

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

Bikes 'Our kids are left behind'

Continued from front page

But to Malani, those are mere details.

"I get to ride a bike!" she crowed as her mother helped strap her in to the bright green bicycle. She picked the color herself.

Crutches abandoned

Dylan DeFebo, 6, used crutches to make his way across the gym floor to his new bicycle.

He already had a bicycle with training wheels, said his mother, Brandi Senkus. But his cerebral palsy makes it hard to push the pedals completely around, she said. The old bike also tended to tip over when he rounded corners.

That's a problem, because what Dylan says he likes best about biking is "the speed."

Minutes later, his mother was hustling after him as he pedaled away, leaving his crutches behind.

Having a bicycle can be life-changing, LaVallee said.

"It gives them a sense of belonging," he declared. "Often, our kids are left behind. Now they can be right in the middle of everything."

Triumphant parade

On Wednesday, the new bicycle owners were indeed the center of attention.

The middle school cheerleaders were on hand to cheer them on. The life skills students and student council members teamed up to make and serve baked goods and hot drinks.

Each parent and child got one-on-one instruction on how to safely get on and off the bicycle; helpers also joined them at their vehicles to show them how to load and unload the bikes and strollers.

APPLY FOR EQUIPMENT

To apply for a bike, adaptive stroller or communication device, visit www.varietypittsburgh.org/applynow or call 724-933-0460.

Applications are accepted year round, and families can apply for more than one piece of equipment. Likewise, when children outgrow the equipment, families can apply for replacements.

But the highlight of the day was the parade.

The children took their new bicycles on a quick spin through the halls.

LaVallee said it was a last chance for therapists, teachers and Blackburn's staff to make sure the bikes were properly fitted and working well.

For the children, it was a victory lap.

"We never thought Malani would talk," Hartman remarked as the girl was strapped into her new bicycle seat. "We never dreamed she'd be riding a bike.

"But then, we were told she'd never do many of the things she's doing. Malani shows no one tells her what she can do."

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.

Driver

Continued from front page

his leg and pain in his foot.

Houck faces misdemeanor charges of simple assault and reckless endangerment and a lesser charge of harassment.

She's scheduled to appear before District Judge Russell Lawton on March 29 at 9 a.m.

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March 8 & 9, 2023

Raise the Region® is a unique 30-hour online giving campaign that starts at 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 8th, and ends at 11:59pm on Thursday, March 9th. Your generous contributions at **www.RaiseTheRegion.org** will get matched in support of our areas' nonprofits – organizations that provide human services, educate our children, promote the arts, and make our region the place that **we want to live.**

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