



# The Patriot-News

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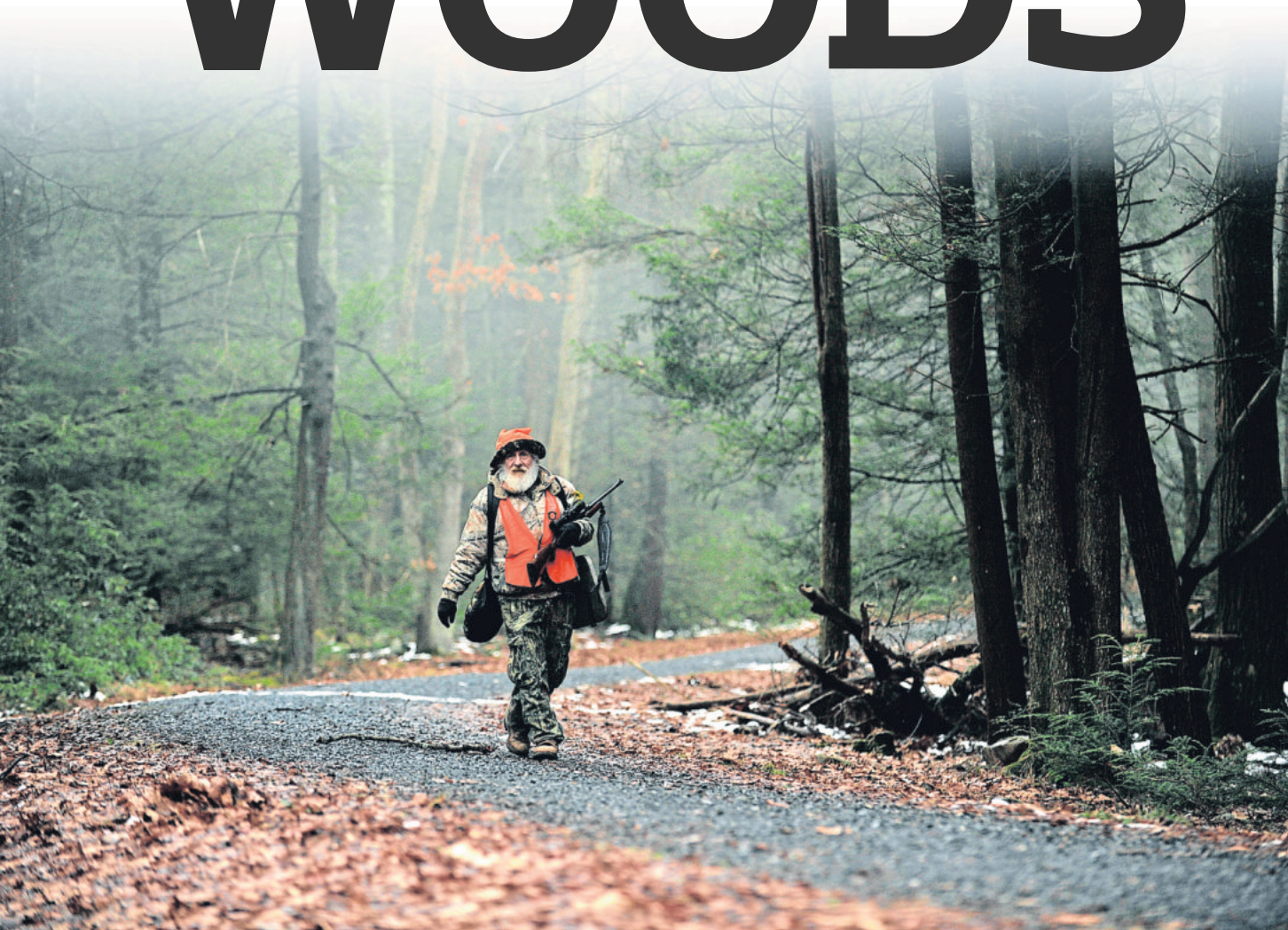
2014 PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



2012 PULITZER PRIZE FOR LOCAL REPORTING

2014 RIFLE DEER SEASON

# INTO THE WOODS



NABIL K. MARK, Centre Daily Times

Joe Young of Centre Hall walks to his hunting spot Monday in Rothrock State Forest in Huntingdon. Hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania hunters began tramping into the woods for the first day of the state's major deer hunting season.



KEITH SRAKOCIC, The Associated Press

Aaron Rech of Hampton Twp. holds his rifle after coming out of the woods on the state game lands in Butler.

## Despite crunchy snow under foot, deer season opens quiet, warm

The decision to spend the first day of the 2014 rifle season for deer hunting closer to home because of illness in the family paid off for Peter Thao of Lititz.

About 7 a.m. Monday, he connected with a nine-point buck on a ridge on State Game Lands 46. The land runs along the southern edge of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Middle Creek Wildlife Management area on the Lancaster-Lebanon county line at Kleinfeltersville.

Other than his two shots at the buck, Thao said, the woods were quiet in the first few hours. Several miles to the west, the season opened similarly, de-

void of much gunfire on State Game Lands 156, south of Cornwall, Elliott Adams of Lebanon said.

"It's been a silent and weird first day," he said. "There's crunchy snow on the ground that is really making it hard to sneak around. But the air is so warm that I'm already stripped down to just a shirt."

The Pennsylvania Game Commission expected about 750,000 hunters to be in the forests Monday. The season continues through Dec. 13, with no hunting Sunday.

— Marcus Schneck, mschneck@pennlive.com

**MORE ONLINE**  
For photos from the day's hunts, visit [PennLive.com](http://PennLive.com).

BALANCING THE BUDGET

## Wolf faces daunting deficit

With a transition team task force on the case, the governor-elect said he believes his education and economic priorities are secure.

BY WALLACE MCKELVEY  
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WOLF

Pennsylvania residents have a \$1.9 billion problem.

Years of declining revenue, ballooning costs and an aging population coalesced into a massive deficit that only will grow.

Last year, Gov. Tom Corbett managed to keep it at bay, at least on paper, through budget cuts and one-time maneuvers, such as shifting money from special accounts into the general fund. Previous administrations had federal stimulus dollars and rosier economies to cover the shortfalls.

But Gov.-elect Tom Wolf, who has until March to submit his budget plan, will need to find other ways to make ends meet.

He told PennLive/The Patriot-News that he recognizes the challenge he faces. He's formed a deficit task force in his transition team. But he believes the

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### DEFICIT TO GROW

The \$1.9 billion shortfall is part of a larger deficit that will grow to \$2.6 billion by 2019, according to the Independent Fiscal Office, a state agency created in 2010 to provide nonpartisan revenue projections.

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» Possible solutions to the state's budget problems. **Back Page**

» Tax revenues outpace budget projections. **Back Page**

GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

## Law protects calls for help in overdoses

A new law shields most people from prosecution who report or seek help for a heroin emergency.

BY CHRISTIAN ALEXANDERSEN  
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**6**

people died in Pennsylvania every day from drug overdoses in 2011.

**9**

out of 10 people nationwide cannot be treated for addiction because there's not enough money.

Anyone hesitant to take someone who is overdosing on heroin to the hospital or cooperate with police for fear of arrest is immune to prosecution on charges of drug use or possession.

The Good Samaritan Law, which went into effect Saturday, prevents law enforcement from prosecuting the person who called for help or the person who is overdosing. Police cannot act on information developed solely in response to the call for help.

Gary Tennis, secretary of the state Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, said a shocking number of people overdose every day in the state. In 2011, six people died every day from drug overdoses.

Tennis said the heroin epidemic is the "kind of thing that keeps you awake at night." If something isn't done to curb heroin and opioid use, the number of overdose deaths could continue to rise, he said.

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BLACK FRIDAY | CYBER MONDAY

## Holiday hits stores, senders

With online shopping and the mailing of gifts, package-delivery services are entering their busiest season of the year.

### Cyber Monday

By Monday afternoon, Cyber Monday sales were 8.7 percent higher than last year, IBM Digital Analytics reported. But the increase is far short of the 21 percent yearly growth seen last year. The pace of growth Monday follows a drop in retail sales during the Thanksgiving weekend.

### Black Friday weekend

Total spending fell an estimated 11.3 percent during the weekend compared with last year, as fewer people hit

the stores, and those who did shelled out less money, the National Retail Federation said Sunday. The retail trade group attributed the drop in large part to retailers starting their promotions earlier in the season.

### Online and in stores

The number of individuals who shopped in stores or online from Thanksgiving Day through Sunday fell 5.2 percent, to 133.7 million, from 141.1 million last year, falling short of expectations that turnout would be flat, a survey commissioned by



PAUL CHAPLIN, PennLive

U.S. Postal Service employees operate the automated package processing system Monday at the service's processing and distribution center on Crooked Hill Road in Susquehanna Twp.

the retail group said.

### Spending

People spent less, an average of \$380.95 per person, down 6.4 percent from last year. Total spending for the weekend is expected to drop

to \$50.9 billion, down from last year's \$57.4 billion.

That trend was true for online shopping, as well. Though 42 percent of budgets were spent online, the average online order value of \$159.55 was down 10 percent from last year.