

YORK SUNDAY NEWS

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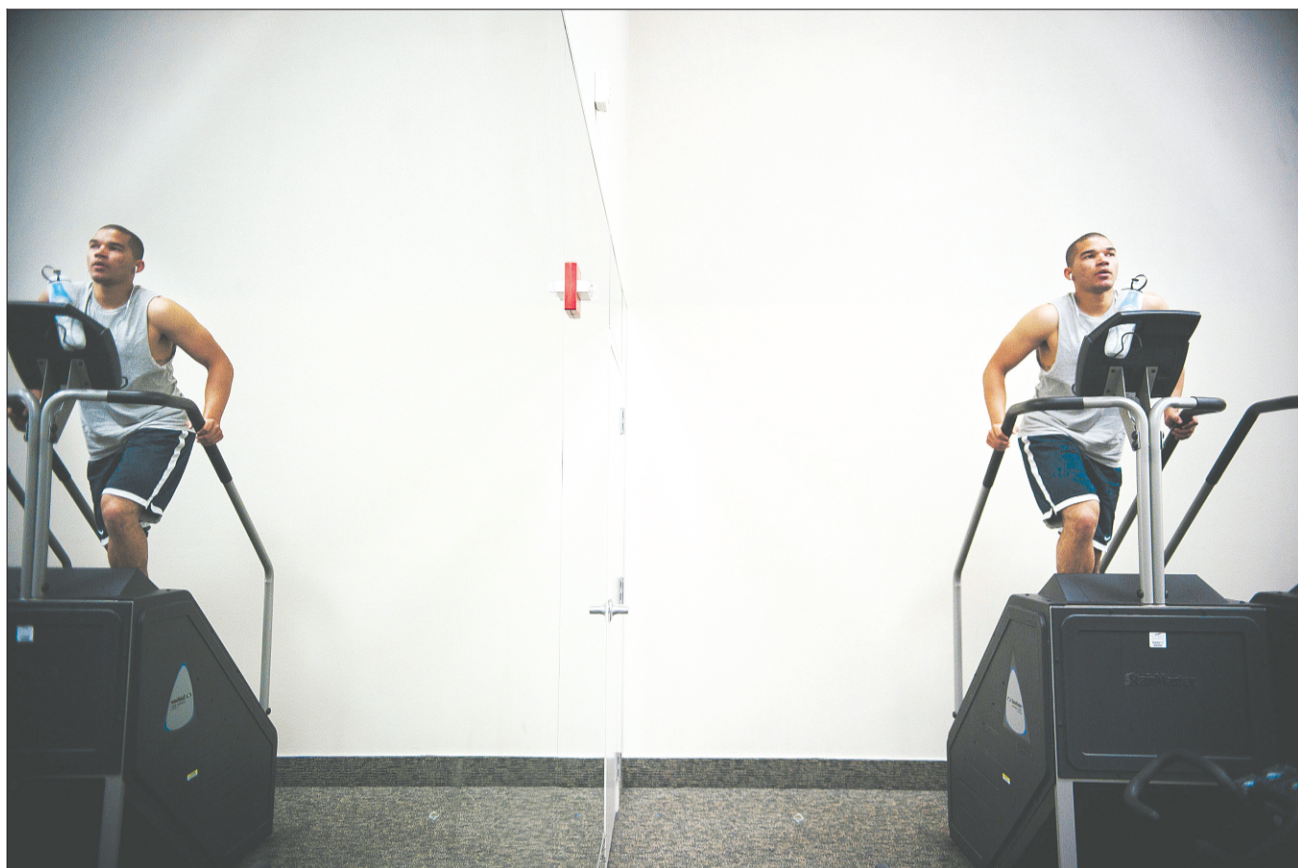
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American Homecomings



DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS — KATE PENN

Marine Corps veteran Darnell Rias of West York works out alone on a stair machine at L.A. Fitness in Manchester Township, working to regain some of the physical strength he had before he was wounded in Afghanistan. His truck was blown up by an improvised explosive device in October 2010, shattering one of his vertebrae. Now, he works out four times a week to rebuild his body, although some of his physical abilities will never be the same.

A West York man's tour of duty in Afghanistan was brief, but it changed almost everything.

Story by Mike Argento
Photos by Kate Penn
Daily Record/Sunday News

When Darnell Rias joined the Marine Corps upon graduating from West York Area High School in 2009, he knew that he would be going to war.

That's what Marines do.

He could not have predicted how he would come home — on a gurney, his back broken.

He was on patrol in Afghanistan's Helmand Province on Oct. 8, 2010, when the armored truck he was driving was blown up by an IED, an improvised explosive device. The blast shattered one of his vertebrae.

After emergency surgery in Afghanistan, he was flown home to begin a long recovery. He had to learn to walk again. At 22, he was beginning a new life, his second life.

Read Rias' story on Page 4A.

WOUNDED, he starts his NEW LIFE



Rias earned this Purple Heart in Afghanistan.

About the series

Darnell Rias' story is part of a national project called "American Homecomings" that will follow several returning veterans who are building their post-war lives. To see other stories, go to ydr.com

and click on the "American Homecomings" widget on the right side of the page. Rias' story, as well as a video of him as he begins crafting his new life, will appear on the site beginning Monday.

York post office

Man, city at odds

York City Council doesn't want Themis Sacarellos to buy the old post office because of unpaid taxes and fees. He said he can explain.

By EMILY OPILO
eopilo@ydr.com

He's the man who brought you Round the Clock Diner, Cheddar's Casual Cafe and the new Starbucks and Sheetz along Route 30.

He's the man who bought and renovated dozens of properties in York and beyond.

And he's the man who drew the ire of city officials for his plans to purchase York's historic post office — in part because he owes more than \$109,000 to the city for delinquent sewer and refuse bills and about \$75,000 in taxes.

Themis Sacarellos says he's gotten a bum rap.

Although the U.S. Postal Service has yet to confirm that Sacarellos' bid on the downtown post office was selected, city leaders didn't wait to contact U.S. Rep. Todd Platts, lobbying against the sale to a man who, records show, owes back taxes and fees to some municipalities. They encouraged residents to do the same, and all five members of York City Council are preparing to send a letter to Platts.

"This is not something that we want," said council Vice President Henry Nixon. "Frankly even if this guy makes good on everything, he has a behavior pattern of doing exactly that all the time."

Developer: Delinquencies can be explained
That pattern is well-known to local officials.

In 2010, Sacarellos's company MOLT LLC was delinquent in paying the taxes on at least 30 York County properties — a total of about \$74,000, including penalties, when Sacarellos paid them, according to York County tax records.

Another \$39,000 for properties in Sacarellos' name was paid late in 2011 after liens were filed against several parcels, including his York Township home. And \$26,000 in delinquent 2011 taxes in Sacarellos name were paid in May.

According to York County Prothonotary records, federal tax liens were filed against Sacarellos in 2006, and state liens against Round the Clock Diner in 2003 and 2004. Sacarellos is co-owner of the diner with his father, Dimos Sacarellos.

See CITY, page 5A

Twp.'s fluoride decision highlights ongoing issue

Dental health experts say fluoride has proven its worth. Some say it can be harmful.

By BILL LANDAUER and TRAVIS LAU
Daily Record/Sunday News

A decision in West Manheim Township to continue to fluoridate water gives proponents of adding the chemical to municipal supplies a victory in York County.

The township voted 4-1 Thursday night to require York Water Company to continue fluoridating its supply, reversing an earlier decision. West Manheim is the only municipality York Water Company services that receives fluoridation.

"I think that the township supervisors are really to be commended for their actions," said Robin Rohrbach, executive director of the Healthy York Coalition. "What I viewed in that meeting is a perfect example of strong public service."

Jeff Hines, York Water Company's president and CEO, said West Manheim's water supply will continue to be fluoridated at the same level until a public comment period on the decision ends this month.

After that, the water company will discuss with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection how best to comply with a recent recommendation that water authorities lower the amount of fluoride from 1.0 parts per million to 0.7 parts per million.

See WATER, page 5A

Sports

Deiter, Wingard lead volleyball All-Stars

York Suburban's Kody Deiter and Daltown's Barrett Wingard are co-players of the year for boys' volleyball. Read a Q&A with Wingard and find out which other athletes were named to the All-Star team. 1C, 2C



Weather

High 88
Complete forecast, 2A

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Reporting laws debated amid Sandusky scandal

Some wonder whether increasing the number of mandatory reporters might overload the child welfare system.

By JOANN LOVIGLIO
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — When the child sex abuse scandal at Penn State erupted last year, public anger was not only directed toward Jerry Sandusky, whose trial begins Monday, but toward the people around him who didn't report their suspicions to police.

In the months that followed, that anger led many states to re-examine and expand their so-called mandatory reporting laws that require people to report suspected abuse or

Inside on 1C

John Cleland has presided over a high-profile case before and is the best judge for Sandusky trial.

face civil and criminal penalties. Some state laws apply to professionals like doctors and teachers, while others apply universally to all adults.

Child advocates and academics are divided, however, about whether increasing the number of mandatory reporters will make the public more vigilant, or simply overload an already stretched-thin child welfare system and siphon limited resources from children who need help most.

See LAWS, page 7A



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