

LNP



Got a gator

Police apprehend a rogue reptile in Denver Borough

Local, Page A3

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SCHOOLS

St. Anne's Retirement Community residents hold a senior prom with Columbia students.

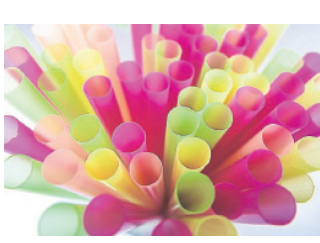
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BUSINESS

Seattle bans single-use plastic straws and utensils at public restaurants and bars.

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SPORTS

Neymar leads Brazil over Mexico in knockout round of the World Cup.

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MANHEIM TOWNSHIP

Collector of school taxes isn't collecting

District says the woman who sued to do the job isn't bonded

ALEX GELI
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Dozens of Manheim Township residents were turned away Monday when they attempted to pay their school property taxes at the municipal tax collector's office.

Instead of handing a payment to collector Patricia Kabel, who was supposed to take over school tax collection duties July 1, unsuspecting homeowners were handed a slip of paper directing them to take their bills to Bucher Elementary School.

School district officials said they got dozens of unexpected visitors with tax bills in hand at Bucher — which, according to the district, was the wrong destination because only the district office is equipped to accept payments.

As of 4 p.m. Monday, the district had collected 61 bills.

In a statement, district spokeswoman Marcie Brody said Kabel did not file the necessary surety bond required by the Local Tax Collection Law, making it illegal for her to collect taxes. The district, she said, is working with its attorney to determine what happens next.

Last month, a judge granted Kabel the authority to take over tax collection duties from the school district.

Kabel had sued the district in November for collecting school taxes without Kabel's consent. She is still seeking an unspecified raise as part of her original complaint and disputing the district's policies and procedures in another lawsuit.

When contacted at her office Monday afternoon, Kabel confirmed she was "dis-

TAX COLLECTOR, page A4

THAILAND

Lost boys and coach found alive in cave

Safe after 10 days trapped, but rescue will be tricky

WIRE SERVICES

MAE SAI, Thailand — The scrawny boys were huddled on the floor of the cave when the British divers emerged from the murky water.

As his bright light flickered from one boy to another, one of the divers called out, "How many of you?"

"Thirteen," one of them answered.

"Brilliant," the diver said.

After 10 days trapped in a flooded cave complex in northern Thailand, and after an enormous search effort that had transfixed Thailand, the missing 12 boys and their soccer coach had finally been found.

In a brief video filmed by one of the divers, which was posted on the Thai navy SEAL Facebook page, the boys and their coach seemed in good condition. Some of the boys sat and some stood as they spoke with their rescuers.

The group had been the focus of a

CAVE RESCUE, page A4

TEEN SUICIDE

Third in a three-day series looking at suicides among teens and the emotionally packed stories beyond them.



DAN MARSCHKA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lisa Tearney, photographed in November, lost her son, Damien, to suicide 10 years ago. "I miss everything about him, but I miss his bear hugs in particular," she said.

LEARNING TO COPE

Loved ones share stories of love, loss and hope after suicide

Those who have experienced it say the pain felt after a loved one dies by suicide pierces the heart in a way no other loss does.

AT RISK FOR SUICIDE

You can't predict suicide. But there are warning signs and risk factors, said Gerald Ressler, social worker and executive director of Samaritan Counseling Center in Lancaster.

Here are three things family and friends can look for in teens at risk of harming themselves:

INDICATION OF DEPRESSION OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

First and foremost, parents should take note of any change in mental health in their kids, Ressler said. Typical signs of depression include sadness; feelings of worthlessness; negative changes in behavior, outlook and attitude; lack of energy; and a dip in school performance. Teens could resort to drugs or alcohol to help shield these feelings and prevent them from surfacing, Ressler said.

QUESTIONABLE VERBAL STATEMENTS

Less obvious warning signs, Ressler said, are comments, oftentimes subtle, that hint at declining self-esteem. Such comments include, "I wish I wasn't around," "I don't feel good about myself" or "I feel like nobody likes me." Morbid statements that point to a newfound fascination with death also should be a red flag.

TRAUMATIC LIFE EVENT

Stressful situations often are magnified in a teen's developing brain. That's why a major life event, such as losing a loved one, ending a long-term relationship or receiving a serious medical diagnosis, can shatter a teen's already fragile mental state, Ressler said.

Add to that pain the stigma, shock and guilt of a loved one's death by suicide, and the toll to a family can be overwhelming.

Substance abuse, divorce, separation, anxiety and depression all increase dramatically in a family after a loved one dies by suicide, studies show.

Family members often blame themselves for "missing" the signs or not being physically present to stop the suicide. Sometimes they feel they're being judged by others for not parenting well enough or having a strong enough family to have prevented the suicide.

The following stories of three strangers suffering from an all-too-familiar tragedy examine how they learned to cope despite their worlds flipping upside down.

Counseling and support by friends and family, even sometimes by strangers, have kept these three families from crumbling in the face of immense heartbreak.

These stories don't have a happy ending; they are stories of love, loss and hope.

TEEN SUICIDE, page A6

This series was reported by Alex Geli and Susan Baldrige, who conducted numerous interviews with families, health experts and teens over the course of several months. Geli is an education reporter for LNP and LancasterOnline. Baldrige, a former staff writer, now serves as director of the Partnership for Public Health in Lancaster County.

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