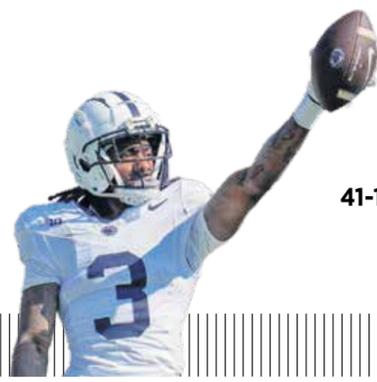


# SUNDAY LNP

LancasterOnline



## Fine finish

Penn State defense makes up for offense's stumbles in 41-13 victory over Northwestern

• Sports, Page C1

### NATION

Both chambers of Congress pass 45-day stopgap spending bill with broad bipartisan support, send it to president.

• Page A3



### LIVING

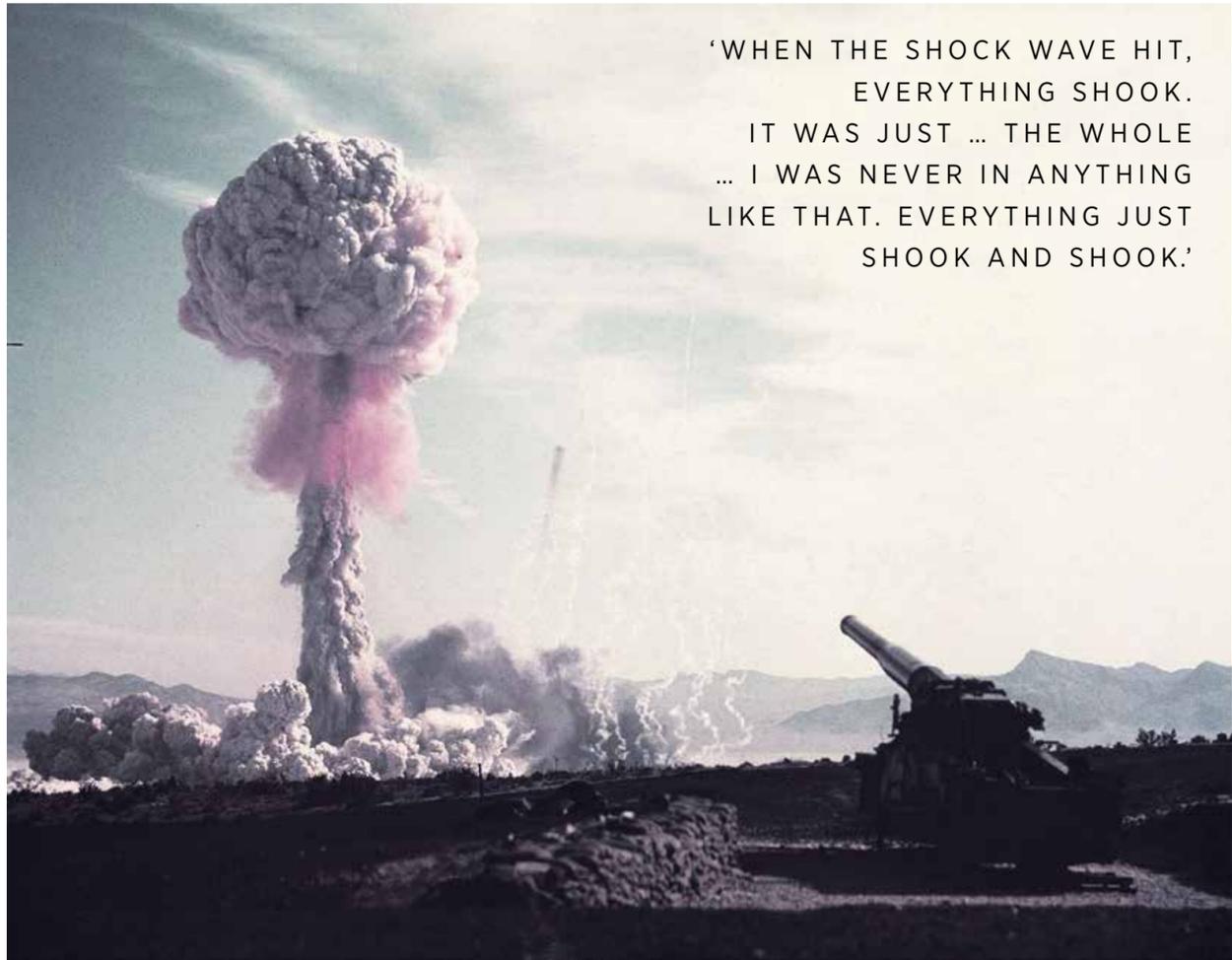
Outstanding in the Field, a traveling tasting event, returns to Lancaster County, setting up at Central Market.

• Page E1



### Today's coupon value

**\$133** • See Page A2 for details.



'WHEN THE SHOCK WAVE HIT, EVERYTHING SHOOK. IT WAS JUST ... THE WHOLE ... I WAS NEVER IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT. EVERYTHING JUST SHOOK AND SHOOK.'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ABOVE:** The U.S. Army fires its atomic cannon, dubbed "Atomic Annie," on May 25, 1953, in the Nevada desert. The Atomic Energy Commission set up a series of 11 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests from March 17 to June 4, 1953. It was dubbed Operation Upshot-Knothole. Among its goals was to improve military tactics and training, as well as civil defenses. **BELOW:** On Aug. 10, Tom Lambert, father of WITF special projects editor Tim Lambert, holds his Atomic Veteran medal he received for taking part in Shot Grable, the nuclear cannon test. He might be one of the last living witnesses.

### EDUCATION

# Policies enliven races

Hempfield board attracts full slate from both major parties

**ASHLEY STALNECKER**  
ASTALNECKER@LNPNEWS.COM

Meredith Hilt started attending Hempfield school board meetings three years ago when schools began to reopen after the COVID-19 pandemic and the debate over whether to mask students while in school was a hot topic among parents.

For Hilt, a respiratory therapist, it was important to be tuned in to the discussions on masking and to offer her professional opinion.

But when masking mandates were lifted and school began to feel normal again, Hilt, a registered Republican and Hempfield parent, was intrigued by the school board's role in setting budgets and continued to attend.

"I realized that there were more issues than just COVID," Hilt said.

Hilt is one of many parents in her district and across the county whose growing awareness of the politics of education has steered the focus of this year's municipal elections

HEMPFIELD, page A4



# 'ATOMIC ANNIE'

In 1953, a nuclear cannon was fired for the first and only time. Central Pa. man is one of last surviving witnesses.

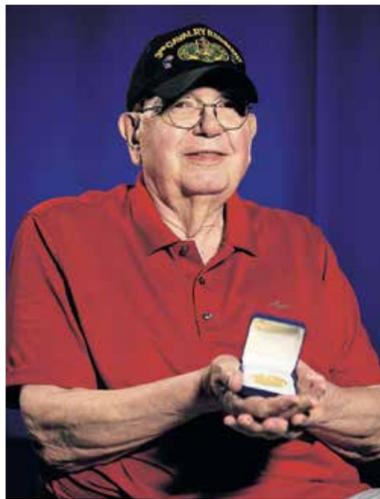
*Reporter's note: Ever since I was a kid, my dad — who lives in New Cumberland, Cumberland County — would tell me how he watched two atomic bombs explode when he was in the military. But last winter, over a late breakfast at Denny's, he mentioned the year — 1953. I did a little bit of digging and learned that on May 25, 1953, he was part of a mostly forgotten historic event that had immense foreign policy implications. Seventy years later, he may be one of the last living witnesses to what's known as Shot Grable. This is his story.*

**TIM LAMBERT**  
WITF

The clock ticked toward 8:30 a.m. The Nevada desert air was comfortable, around 58 degrees. The countdown blared from loudspeakers: "Ten. Nine. Eight. ..." Army Pvt. Tom Lambert tugged at his helmet as he hunched down in the trench. The 20-year-old from Shanksville, Somerset County, was one of 2,670 soldiers positioned around Frenchman Flats outside Camp Desert Rock, a remote testing ground about 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. It was May 25, 1953. Many likely had no idea they were about to become part of a pivotal mo-

ment in the early days of the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Lambert was ordered to get ready. The nervous chatter was suddenly dwarfed by a distant blast from an artillery cannon. Only, this wasn't an ordinary cannon, nor was this an ordinary shell. Seconds passed. Some held their breath. Then, a massive explosion echoed in the desert. An officer yelled, "Get up! Get up! Look at the mushroom!" It was 2.8 miles away. Within minutes came another command. "Move out!" Lambert clambered out of the dirt shelter and walked toward no man's land.

ATOMIC, page A6



Tom Lambert poses in his Army uniform in this undated photo.

### RELATED COVERAGE

To read a deeper dive into Shot Grable — including on the ground details and its larger geopolitical impact — go to [witf.org/atomic-cannon](http://witf.org/atomic-cannon). Find multimedia pieces including the following:

- Interactive graphic showing the specifications of the cannon.
- Watch an interview with Tom Lambert, featuring historical photos and videos from the U.S. government.
- Listen and download the Morning Agenda podcast [witf.org/news/the-morning-agenda](http://witf.org/news/the-morning-agenda).



BLAINE SHAHAN | FILE PHOTO

Bella Naples, left, and Maurielle Courtois, both 17 of East Hempfield Township, walk with signs in support of transgender student-athletes during a protest outside Hempfield High School on July 13, 2021, before a school board meeting.

### CRIME

# Person dead in shooting

City police still investigating; victim's identity not released

### STAFF

A shooting in Lancaster city early Saturday morning left one person dead.

Lancaster city police responded to the 900 block of South Duke Street around 1:19 a.m. for a report of a shooting.

Officers discovered a male victim with a gunshot wound, police said. The victim was transported to a local hospital.

Lancaster County Coroner Dr. Stephen Diamantoni said his office pronounced the man dead at the hospital. The name of the victim hadn't been released as of press time Saturday.

Police are investigating the shooting. Anyone with information is asked to contact Lancaster city police at 717-735-3300.

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### TODAY'S WEATHER

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FORECAST, PAGE A2



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