



COMMUNITY | A8  
**DOYLESTOWN'S 100TH**  
 Columnist Carl LaVO looks back on the extraordinary week in 1938 when Doylestown relived its first century



SPORTS | B1  
**MARCH MADNESS**  
 Villanova nabs a No. 1 seed. Check out the rest of the field, plus, fill out your bracket!

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Monday, March 12, 2018

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# Bucks students to join walkout

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Hundreds and perhaps thousands of public and private school students from throughout Bucks County plan to participate in Wednesday morning's national walkout.

The event, starting at 10 a.m. and lasting 17 minutes, is being staged in support of stronger gun laws and other safety measures

in the aftermath of the Feb. 14 shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The duration is in honor of the 17 students and staffers killed in Parkland.

At most county schools, administrators and teachers are supporting the action and are working with students to stage the event in a way that allows for free expression but also ensures safety.

The one exception is the

county's largest school district, Central Bucks, where Superintendent John Kopicki said the school board and administrators are not supporting the walkout, but do not intend to discipline students who participate.

"We're here to support our kids, but I cannot recommend or endorse our kids walking out of school," he said. "That would put them in an environment where it would very difficult to guarantee safety, and that is our

first responsibility."

Officials from the Bristol Township, Centennial, Council Rock, New Hope-Solebury, Palisades, Pennridge and Pennsbury school districts said they are supporting the students participating in the walkout and have organized events with a eye toward safety, though they didn't want to disclose too many specific measures for fear of compromising safety.

Walkouts at Council Rock's

two high schools, Council Rock North in Newtown Township and Council Rock South in Northampton, will be confined indoors for safety reasons, district spokeswoman Susan O'Grady said.

"Student activity will be proactively organized and fully supervised by CRSD administrators, teachers and safety personnel," she said.

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# Charter Day



Hannah Pothen, 14, left, her sister Divya, 11, and their mother Elizabeth, of Philadelphia, watch as Valerie Long, of Bensalem, demonstrates how to produce wool at Pennsbury Manor in Falls on Sunday during Charter Day festivities. [PHOTOS BY DAVE HERNANDEZ / PHOTOJOURNALIST]

## Pennsbury Manor hosts rare look at PA's first governing documents

Visitors to Pennsbury Manor on Sunday were able to take in the sights and sounds of 17th-century Pennsylvania as part of Charter Day. The event featured the display of "The Great Law," a rare six-page document written by William Penn in 1682. The pages, handwritten by William Penn, are the first governing documents of Pennsylvania and allow for freedom of religion.

Penn's recreated country estate in Falls borrowed "The Great Law" from the state's archives to display on Charter Day as part of the manor's year-long commemoration of the 300th anniversary of Penn's death.

Charter Day celebrations are staged throughout the state each March to celebrate the 45,000-acre land grant Penn received 337 years ago from English King Charles II. The acreage later became the foundation of the state of Pennsylvania.

During Sunday's event, visitors met with Penn, participated in colonial demonstrations like blacksmithing

See **CHARTER DAY**, A2



Blacksmiths Bob Whalen, right, and Max Peysakhov, both of Langhorne, demonstrate how to repurpose a horseshoe and how to make tools at Pennsbury Manor in Falls on Sunday during Charter Day festivities.

## Helpline workers aim to inspire others

Suicide prevention volunteers encourage others to donate time

By **Christian Menno**  
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Maria Wilson says her life has been marked by periods of darkness and light.

The brightest lights come from her husband and two teenage sons.

Three moments, however, made her wonder if her life would remain forever shrouded. Two

See **VOLUNTEERS**, A2



Maria Picciotti (left), call center coordinator with the Family Service Association, and volunteer Maria Wilson of Lower Makefield set up a hands-free headset at the suicide prevention hotline call center in Middletown.

[BILL FRASER / STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST]

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## MORE WEATHER?

Another nor'easter is heading for the region. How badly will our region be hit?

