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Juul halts sale of fruit and dessert flavors, Page B5



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2019

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Sally Gibson of Conneautville

Weather delays full roundabout opening
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Corry pushes past Cochran
SPORTSTODAY, Inside



Debates turn heated in Ashtabula
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Crawford County sheriff's race

Making their cases

Candidates for county's top law enforcement job talk issues



Crawford County sheriff candidates Republican Dave Powers (left) and Democrat Neil Fratus speak at a question-and-answer forum Thursday night at the Vernon Township Municipal Building.

By Mike Crowley
MEADVILLE TRIBUNE

VERNON TOWNSHIP — An atmosphere of nervous anticipation could be felt in the Vernon Township Municipal Building in the moments leading up to a question-and-answer forum Thursday evening featuring the two candidates in the county's most contentious race this political season.

The meeting of candidates for Craw-

ford County sheriff drew a standing-room-only crowd of more than 115 people that resembled fans of two rival athletic teams, split roughly down the middle — one side of the room dominated by people wearing the shirts, stickers and hats of Republican candidate Dave Powers, the other side by supporters wearing the colors of Democratic candidate Neil Fratus.

SEE SHERIFF, PAGE A8

YOU CAN WATCH

Armstrong cable, the Tribune's media partner, will broadcast the forum on channels 23 and 100 at 5 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. The forum will also be posted to Armstrong's YouTube page.

Sports wagering revenue surged 144% last month

By John Finnerty
CNHI NEWS SERVICE

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's sports wagering revenue jumped 144 percent in September, fueled by the growth of on-line betting and the beginning of the football season, the Gaming Control Board reported Thursday.

The state's tax revenue more than doubled compared to August, Gaming Control Board data showed.

Some \$194.5 million in bets were placed at the 11 casinos and off-track betting parlors accepting sports wagers in September. Those wagers translated into \$14.9 million in revenue and \$5.3 million in tax for the state.

In August, there was \$109 million in bets placed at nine casinos and betting parlors. Those bets translated into \$6.1 million in revenue for the gambling industry and \$2.2 million in tax for the state.

"A significant jump was expected with the NFL season kicking off in September, and the data did not disappoint," said Jessica Welman, sports betting analyst for PlayPennsylvania.com, a website covering the growth of the gambling industry in the state. "After a summer of growing pains and one month

SEE WAGERING, PAGE A2

Mulvaney confirms Trump withheld aid to Ukraine

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump withheld roughly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine earlier this year in part to push its new government to investigate Democrats, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney

said Thursday, a stunning confirmation that hits directly at the center of House Democrats' impeachment inquiry.

It marked the first time a senior White House official has directly linked the decision to delay the aid to Trump's demand for Ukraine to investigate what, if any,

role the country played in the 2016 U.S. investigation.

There has been no evidence that Ukraine interfered in the election, but Trump and his supporters suspect Ukraine is somehow linked to a Democratic National Committee server and the emails stolen by Russia that proved embar-

rassing to Hillary Clinton.

"Did he also mention to me in the past the corruption related to the DNC server?" Mulvaney said. "Absolutely. No question about that. But that's it, and that's why we held up the money. The look back to what was happening in 2016 was part of that thing."

But Mulvaney insisted in a defiant briefing that there was nothing wrong with Trump's actions, saying politics is always part of foreign policy. "I have news for everybody: Get over it. There's going to be political influence in foreign

SEE UKRAINE, PAGE A2

Study: Opioid addiction may be overcome by using mindfulness

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The ancient practice of mindfulness may be a powerful tool in fighting the modern-day epidemic of opioid addiction, new research suggests.

In a series of studies, an eight-week course in mindfulness techniques appeared to loosen the grip of addiction in people who had been taking prescription painkillers for years and experienced powerful cravings for the drugs.

Compared to research subjects who discussed their pain and opioid use in group sessions for eight weeks, those who focused on their breathing, bodily sensations and emotions showed evidence of reduced drug-craving and greater control over those powerful impulses.

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Cummings, powerful congressman leading Trump probe, dies at 68

BALTIMORE (AP) — Maryland Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, a sharecropper's son who rose to become a civil rights champion and the chairman of one of the U.S. House committees leading an impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump, died Thursday of complications from longstanding health problems. He was 68.

Cummings was a formidable orator who advocated for the poor in his black-majority district, which encompasses a large portion of Baltimore and more well-to-do suburbs.

As chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, Cummings led investigations of the president's government dealings, including probes in 2019 relating to Trump's family members serving in the White House.

Trump criticized the Democrat's district as a "rodent-infested mess" where "no human being would want to live." The comments came weeks after Trump drew bipartisan condemnation following his calls



House Oversight and Reform Committee Chair Elijah Cummings, D-Md., leads a meeting on April 2.

for Democratic congresswomen of color to go back to their "broken and crime-infested countries."

Cummings replied that government officials must stop making "hateful, incendiary comments" that distract the nation from its real

problems, including mass shootings and white supremacy.

"Those in the highest levels of the government must stop invoking fear, using racist language and encouraging

SEE CUMMINGS, PAGE A3

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