

U.S. DEFENDS ITS REQUEST THAT BERKS MAN LEAVE MACEDONIA Berks & Beyond

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The Pope in Philadelphia



READING EAGLE: BILL UHRICH

Reading Latinos, here attending a service at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church this month, connect to Pope Francis on an uncommon level: culturally through his Argentine roots, and personally through his reforming actions.

They've found a friend in Francis

On multiple levels, Reading Latinos identify with the pontiff, and see him as their pope

BY ANTHONY OROZCO READING EAGLE

Marina Luca's 57th birthday on Sunday will be unlike any she has had before. She will celebrate it with her family, friends and

Pope Francis. Marina, her husband, Salvatore, and their children said they cannot wait to join hundreds of thousands of Catholics for the pope's Mass at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia.

"I am so happy for the opportunity to see him," Marina said in Spanish while sitting in her Reading home. "He is a pope of the people, of the poor." The visit has special significance for the Lucas, who are devout Catholics. Like the pope, they hail from Argentina. "It was very exciting when he became pope because he is from our country," Salvatore, 58, said. "He is the first ever

Souvenir: A Pottstown firm designed a coin case. A5 He's here: The pontiff touches down. A5

from Latin America, and we have a lot of pride in that." But their adoration of the pope goes much deeper than a regional or cultural connection, and the same goes for many [See Reading >>> A3]

After-school brawl breaks out in City Park

Police make 12 to 15 arrests, say none hurt

BY DAVID MEKEEL READING EAGLE

A brawl Tuesday afternoon in City Park led to at least a dozen people being taken into custody.

According to Reading Police Capt. Madison Winchester, the ordeal started just after dismissal at the Reading Intermediate High School, which is across the street from the park, as about 300 students filled City Park.

Winchester said two girls apparently had pre-determined to fight, and did so right in front of police officers who are stationed in the park after school each day. "The officers being there didn't really deter them from fighting each other," Winchester said.

As the officers attempted to break up the fight — with one of the girls punching an officer in the face and the officers forced to use pepper spray to gain control of the situation — a group of about 75 people surrounded the officers, Winchester said.

The officers radioed for backup, sending out a call for all available officers. Winchester said about 30 to 35 officers, including detectives and administrators, responded.

'Disheartened': Head of schools asks all to help. A3

The scene at the park was calmed by just after 4 p.m., Winchester said, after 12 to 15 people were transported to City Hall.

None of those arrested suffered injuries, Winchester said, but a few girls were hit with pepper spray and received treatment at City Hall.

Winchester said the mother of a girl who was taken to City Hall attempted to free her from a police van at the park. The woman, whose name Winchester did not know, was told to leave, and she did.

However, the woman later showed up at City Hall irate and ended up kicking an officer in the groin, Winchester said. She was taken into custody and was awaiting arraignment Tuesday night.

Winchester said other than the woman and the girl who punched an officer, the others arrested will receive summary citations.

Winchester said the incident was a reminder of how quickly situations can become extremely dangerous for officers.

"It's not so much the initial incident that gives us a problem; we can usually control that incident pretty swiftly," he said. "But emotions run high when you're watching maybe a family member or close friend getting arrested. It's a dangerous situation."

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TODAY

Berks Country

APPALACHIAN TRAIL FAD NO WALK IN THE PARK

At least not for the trek's management, which has wrestled with challenges since "A Walk in the Woods" inspired a spike in trail hikers.



Nation

CHINESE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN SEATTLE

Clean-tech businesses and a dinner with President Obama are on his week's agenda. A8

Money

NEW CEO TO CHARGE BATTERY MAKER

Bern Township-based EnerSys announces that John D. Craig is retiring in March 2016. A10

Sports

HACKENBERG LOOKS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Penn State quarterback Christian Hackenberg has struggled with his footwork. C1

Life

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COUNTRY FARE

No, we don't mean rural food; a new cookbook features recipes from around the nation. D1

Weather report

Pleasant and warmer, winds: NNE 3-6 mph. A12

49° 80°

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