

# CHEFS TRANSFORM SECRET INGREDIENTS IN 'POTTSTOWN CHOPS'

Berks & Beyond, B1

## COUPLE EXPERIENCES REBIRTH WITH EAST COAST SWING

Douglassville pair now teaches Lindy hop and hosts dances

Life, D1



CHECK OUT THE AD ON PAGE A8 FOR DETAILS

# READING EAGLE

readingeagle.com

### A NEW GENERATION OF INVESTIGATORS



READING EAGLE: LAUREN A. LITTLE

Forensic scientists Chris Luciano and Sophie Eddinger work on a computer hard drive Thursday in their office at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Bern Township. The pair use technology to aid Berks County detectives in investigations.

## Berks detectives get digital assist

DA's office adds forensic scientists who use computers, cellphones to help solve crimes

BY STEVEN HENSHAW  
READING EAGLE

Michael J. Gombar recalls how nearly 40 years ago as a college intern he had to show some Reading police investigators how to use an electric typewriter.

The tables have turned, and now Gombar, the chief detective in the Berks County district attorney's office, and his colleagues rely on some fresh faces to

keep up with technology. With forensic science and technology rapidly evolving, Gombar and Sgt. Robert Johnson, who heads the DA's forensic services unit, said they realized that it's futile to try to retrofit the detectives for the digital age when most of them began their careers before the Internet.

So much of what people do today is recorded in some way on computers and devices, such as smartphones,

making the digital forensics integral to most criminal investigations, Johnson said. With that in mind, District Attorney John T. Adams approved creating two civilian scientist positions in the forensic unit while eliminating two detective positions.

Sophie Eddinger, 22, and Chris Luciano, 23, began in May at a starting salary of \$50,000 soon after graduating from Bloomsburg University with a bachelor of science degree in digital forensics.

The program at Bloomsburg is the only four-year program of its kind among

Pennsylvania colleges, Gombar said.

The county didn't need to lay off any detectives because one forensic detective left for a similar job in Lancaster County and another transferred to the crime unit to fill a vacancy from a retirement, he said.

Gombar explained the plan to leaders of the detectives union last year and asked them to give their blessing, realizing there could be some resistance to replacing detective positions with civilian jobs at a lower starting salary.

[ See Forensic >>> A3 ]

## Nancy Reagan succumbs to heart failure

Former first lady known for 'Just Say No'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.



Nancy Reagan

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio said.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a prefeminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady" wielding unchecked power over the Reagan administration and doing it based on astrology.

More coverage: A4-A5

All along, she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency.

Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer's melted away her husband's memory. After his death in June 2004, she dedicated herself to tending his legacy, especially at his presidential library in California, where he had served as governor.

She also championed Alzheimer's patients, raising millions of dollars for research and breaking with fellow conservative Republicans to advocate for stem cell studies. Her dignity and perseverance in these post-White House roles helped smooth over the public's fickle perceptions of her.

The Reagans' mutual devotion over 52 years of marriage was legendary. They were always holding hands. She watched his political speeches with a look of such steady adoration it was dubbed "the gaze."

He called her "Mommy" and penned a lifetime of gushing love notes. She saved these letters, published them as a book and found them a comfort when he could no longer remember her.

In announcing his Alzheimer's diagnosis in 1994, Reagan wrote, "I only wish there was some way I could spare Nancy from this painful experience."

### TODAY

#### Election 2016

## SANDERS, RUBIO NOTCH WINS IN SUNDAY VOTING

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders claims victory in Maine caucuses, while Florida Sen. Marco Rubio easily wins the Puerto Rico primary. A3



#### Kelly's Korner

## GRAVITATIONAL WAVE RESEARCH PAYS OFF

A 2003 Exeter grad and his team prove what happens when black holes collide in space. A2

#### Berks & Beyond

## WILEY'S BRIDGE COULD BE REVIVED

Berks County officials seek to give the span new life as a crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians. B1

#### The Briefing

## END LIMITATIONS ON SEX ABUSE STATUTES

Ron Southwick says victims deserve justice and should be able to file claims in court. B3



D5-D6

#### Weather report

Mostly sunny and not as cool; winds: 7-14 mph. A10

26° 59°

#### Index

ADVICE D11  
BRIDGE D10

#### CLASSIFIED

COMICS D8-D10  
HOROSCOPE D10

#### MONEY

OBITUARIES B8-B9  
OPINION B10

#### PUZZLES

TV TONIGHT D7

©2016 READING EAGLE COMPANY

8 38817 00111 4

**VIVA** \$25 FAMILY NIGHTS Sun-Thurs After 4PM  
 (2) Select Dinners & Up to (2) Kids Meals (12 & Under)  
 • Rdg. Country Club  
 • Wyomissing Square