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PENNSYLVANIA

House OKs budget bill amid criticism

By Marc Levy
The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, PA. » Pennsylvania's House of Representatives passed the main bill in a just-unveiled \$34 billion compromise budget plan on Tuesday, despite hard criticism by rank-and-file Democrats that included a floor fight over whether they could criticize the package for lacking a minimum wage increase.

Democrats also bitterly protested the bill's defunding of a Depression-era cash assistance program for the poor, a Republican demand that Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf also opposes in a budget package that he otherwise supports.

Still, Democratic leaders voted for the bill, even as they said they would continue to fight for an increase in the minimum wage and to keep the cash assistance program, called "general assistance."

"At a time when the stock market has never been higher, corporate profits are soaring and yet we're cutting general assistance," said Rep. Matt Bradford, D-Montgomery. "How do we make that point? How do we explain that to people?"

After four hours of debate, the bill passed, 140-62, with a handful of Republicans joining most Democrats in opposing it. Senate approval of the bill is still required as the fiscal year ticks down and the new 2019-20 fiscal

year starts Monday. The Republican-controlled Legislature was in the midst of a flurry of votes on bills this week as they rush to approve hundreds of pages of budget-related legislation and depart Harrisburg for the summer.

The budget package capitalizes on strong tax collections to boost aid to public schools and universities and stuff cash into reserve.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Stan Saylor, R-

York, said the package does not rely on any increases in fees or taxes and represents the "largest investment in education" in decades.

Rep. Jesse Topper, R-Fulton, told colleagues during floor debate the bill meets the state's needs "in an exceptional way."

"We are working on behalf of those hard-working families that continue to send checks to this commonwealth," Topper said during the debate.

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WORCESTER



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local and state government officials and Variety campers participate in a ceremonial ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of Variety's 69th season of summer camp.

HONORED GUESTS

Variety club invites public officials to help kick off its summer activities

For MediaNews Group

WORCESTER » Variety - the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley welcomed Pennsylvania Senate District Director, Chief of Staff for Representative Matt Bradford, Montgomery County Commissioners and Worcester Township Supervisors to celebrate its 69th year of summer camp.

On Monday, June 24, honored guests participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, visited program areas throughout campus and joined campers in singing a traditional camp song to kick off the first day of camp and an 8-week long summer camp season.

Honored guests included Matt Brown, Chief of Staff for Representative Matt Bradford; Amy C. Smith, District Director



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Variety campers sing a camp song during the first day of camp.

from the Office of Senator Katie Muth; Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair of the Mont-

gomery County Board of Commissioners; Susan G. Caughlan, Esq., Worcester Township Board

of Supervisors; and Rick DeLello, Worcester Township Board of Supervisors.

Variety's mission is to enrich the lives of children and young adults with disabilities through social, educational and vocational programs that nurture independence and self-confidence, and prepare them for life. Each year, hundreds of families eagerly await coming "home" to Variety for a summer full of rich relationships and engaging activities. Variety summer camps include day camp, overnight camp, extended school year (ESY) and vocational camp.

In addition, Variety's piloted workforce development model VarietyWorks is making a difference in the lives of the young adults who are receiving valuable job training and independent job placement.

NATION

Emergency funding for migrants debated

By Alan Fram
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » Democratic leaders in the House proposed tighter requirements for the care of unaccompanied refugee children as they sought to pass a \$4.5 billion emergency funding bill to address the humanitarian crisis involving the thousands of migrant families detained after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Lawmakers and aides said they expected the changes, which were concessions to Hispanic and liberal Democrats, to produce a winning tally when the measure comes to a vote later Tuesday. A full court press by leaders, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was also helping nail down support, though some Democrats had lingering reservations.

The Senate plans to vote on a different, and bipartisan, committee bill.

MIGRANTS » PAGE 2

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Authorities help bust drug ring

By Carl Hessler Jr.
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NORRISTOWN » A drug trafficking network allegedly led by a Lower Merion man used stuffed animals to conceal opioids shipped from California to luxury apartments in Montgomery, Chester and Delaware counties that were rented by conspirators using fraudulent identities, according to prosecutors.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele alleged the illegal drug operation led by Amir "Mir" Green, 29, of the 200 block of Lippincott Avenue, was responsible for putting "thousands of people at risk."

DRUGS » PAGE 3

TRACK & FIELD

Germantown Academy welcomes all comers

The All-Comers Track and Field Meets started off their eighth year Tuesday night at Carey Stadium. PAGE C1



OPINION

White House behaving as if above the law

Blatant disregard for the rule of law was magnified anew by a lack of response to Hatch Act violations. PAGE A4

OBITUARIES

No local obituaries appear in today's editions.

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