



# FOR 1ST TIME, DAUGHTER JOINS RIDE FOR WISE

Event for slain officer draws 250 | Berks & Beyond, B1

'BILLY ELLIOT,' 'GOD OF CARNAGE' WIN BIG AT TONY'S Entertainment, A3

# READING EAGLE

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## Commission documents waste in U.S. war effort

Poor management, weak oversight cited

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — This is one Christmas gift U.S. taxpayers don't need.

Construction of a \$30 million dining facility at a U.S. base in Iraq is scheduled to be completed Dec. 25. But the decision to build it was based on bad planning and botched paperwork.

The project is too far along to stop, making the mess hall a future monument to the waste and inefficiency plaguing the war effort, according to an independent panel investigating contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In its first report to Congress, the Wartime Contracting Commission presents a bleak assessment of how tens of billions of dollars have been spent since 2001.

The 111-page report documents recurring themes: poor management, weak oversight and a failure to learn from past mistakes.

The report is scheduled to be made public Wednesday at a hearing by the House Oversight and Government Reform's national security subcommittee.

U.S. reliance on contractors has grown to unprecedented proportions, said the bipartisan commission, established by Congress last year.

More than 240,000 private-sector employees are supporting military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands more work for the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development.

But the government has no central data base of who the contractors are, what services they provide and how much they're paid. The Pentagon has failed to provide enough trained staff to watch over them, creating conditions for waste and corruption, the commission said.

As U.S. troops depart Iraq in larger numbers, there will be too few government eyes on the contractors left to oversee the closing of hundreds of bases, the panel said.

In Afghanistan, where President Barack Obama has ordered a large increase in U.S. troops, existing bases will have to expand and new ones will be built without proper oversight unless the Pentagon rapidly changes course, it said.

A woman's family looks for meaning in her death by working to change mental health laws so relatives can more easily intervene.

# Losing Susan



COURTESY OF MARK MCDONOUGH

BY JASON BRUDERECK  
READING EAGLE

**A** HALF A YEAR AGO, Susan McDonough returned to the home where she thought she still lived. ¶ But the house in the 300 block of Linden Street had been sold at a tax-claim sale in September. ¶ It was empty and abandoned. ¶ Susan, 43, broke into a room at the rear of the house. ¶ The room was once a kitchen but had been walled off from the rest of the house. There is a door from the room to the backyard. ¶ She curled up on the concrete floor there. ¶ It's likely she soon froze to death, investigators believe. ¶ Her decomposing body was found May 30 by a man working for the house's new owner. ¶ She died alone.



READING EAGLE: RYAN MCFADDEN

But Susan, who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia more than two decades earlier, was not without relatives and friends.

They had been searching for her until the day they were told she had been found.

Now her relatives are hoping Susan's death prompts a change in laws that had prevented them from forcing her to get treatment.

"It breaks my heart to think she had to lie there alone," said Mark McDonough, 46, her half-brother. "It's just such an undignified way to go — that she had to lie there for so long."

### A lifetime of illness

Susan was diagnosed with schizophrenia in her late teens, Mark said.

"We came across her sitting on the floor of the living room, tearing magazines into pieces and burning them," Mark said.

She was in and out of hospitals over



Susan McDonough. Above is the back of the house in the 300 block of Linden Street, where she was found dead May 30.

the years until she got the right medication.

Susan sometimes worked for a nursing agency to care for the elderly.

"She had a beautiful smile. She was always helping everyone and she loved caring for older people," Mark said. "But she was very limited in what she could do."

She lived with their mother, Barbara, for 38 years at 13th and Buttonwood streets.

"But Susan got them evicted because she was always fighting with the neighbors," Mark said. "She would think they were talking about her. She was delusional."

### A debate over care

Susan hadn't taken her medication in years despite pleas from her family.

"She was at her worst at the end. It's just so sad, but I lost my sister years ago," Mark said. "It's a tragedy that, [ See Woman >>> A3 ]

## Today



6 a.m.  
61°



Noon  
77°



6 p.m.  
79°



KITCHEN TABLE >>

## MIXING A LITTLE GIFT WITH A LITTLE SCIENCE

An Exeter Township man says he can find water deep inside the Earth, not to mention the occasional sunken tombstone. **A2**

### NATION >>

## ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Mostly unproven treatments are now mainstream and used by more than a third of all Americans. **A4**

### SPORTS >>

## NASCAR VICTORY

Tony Stewart matches his win in the All-Star race with his first Cup points victory as a team owner at Pocono. **C1**



### MONEY >>

## CRAB CRAZY

A Cumru Township couple expand their seafood business to other areas of the region and offer dine-in facilities. **D1**

### LIFE >>

## A VERDANT JOURNEY

The Reading Garden Club plans a tour of eight gardens Saturday for its "Gardens on Parade" event. **E1**

### MOVIES >>

## GETTING 'LOST'

"Pushing Daisies" actress Anna Friel really wanted to play Chaka but ended up playing Holly in Brad Silberling's "Land of the Lost." **E4**



### Index

Advice **E11** Comics **E6-E8** Opinion **B6**  
Bridge **E12** Horoscope **E12** Puzzles **E8**  
Classified **D4** Obituaries **B4-B5** TV tonight **E5**

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# The 63rd Annual Tony Awards

## 'Billy Elliot, The Musical' captures 10 Tonys

### 'God of Carnage' named best play; musical 'Next to Normal' wins three trophies

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — "Billy Elliot, The Musical" has won the Tony as Broadway's best musical.

The show about a British coal miner's son who dreams to dance was the biggest musical hit of the season.

The production won 10 awards, including one for the three young actors who star in the title role.

"Billy Elliot" dominated Sunday night's Tonys, also collecting kudos for director of a musical, book of a musical and choreography. However, the show and its composer, Elton John, were upset for best score.

That award was taken by "Next to Normal" — which seemed to stun "Normal" composer Tom Kitt and lyricist Brian Yorkey.

"God of Carnage," the satiric comedy by French playwright Yasmina Reza, took the best-play prize.

Reza, who previously won a best-play Tony for "Art," said: "Maybe you missed my accent; you wanted to hear it again. I'm very grateful for all the people who gave their best for the production."

The play about the clash between two liberal, middle-class couples whose children get into a fight, stars James Gan-



The three stars of "Billy Elliot, The Musical," from left: David Alvarez, Kiril Kulish and Trent Kowalik, who were named best actors in a musical at Sunday night's Tony Awards.

dolfini, Marcia Gay Harden, Jeff Daniels and Hope Davis.

Harden also won the actress-play award and the production's director, Matthew Warchus, also picked up a prize.

Said Harden: "I tell my children every day that tantrums and bad behavior will get you nowhere. I don't know how to explain this. ... I feel like I've been given custody of a family that has four parents, four deranged parents."

The director/musical award went to Stephen Daldry of "Billy Elliot."

"I have been blessed in my life to spend the majority of last 10 years of my life working

on the story of 'Billy Elliot,'" said Daldry, who called it "a long, extraordinary journey."

He said the award belonged to everyone connected to the show and especially to "three great gifts of Broadway, our three little Billys."

"Billy" also received design prizes for featured actor, sets, lighting, sound and a tie with "Next to Normal" for best orchestrations, which Kitt shared with Michael Starobin.

Geoffrey Rush's extravagant portrait of a dying monarch in "Exit the King" took the top actor prize.

"The best thing in life is being a little light among 6,000.

The season on Broadway this year for me has been exactly that," Rush said. "I want to thank Manhattan audiences for proving that French existential absurdist tragicomedy rocks."

Angela Lansbury received her fifth Tony, this time for her performance as the dotty medium Madame Arcati in a revival of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit." Her win in the featured-actress category tied the record for acting prizes held by Julie Harris, who has five plus a special lifetime achievement award given in 2002.

Who would have thought," the 83-year-old Lansbury began, drowned out by a standing ovation. "Who knew that (at) this time in my life that I should be presented with this lovely, lovely award. I feel deeply grateful."

An emotional Liza Minnelli accepted the prize for special theatrical event for her show "Liza's at the Palace."

"This is exquisite," Minnelli said, asking for a list of people to thank because she didn't think she was going to win. "Lastly, I want to thank my parents and the greatest gift they ever gave me, Kay Thompson," her godmother. Minnelli re-created part of Thompson's club act as part of her Palace entertainment.

### And the Tonys go to ...

- Best play: "God of Carnage"
- Best musical: "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best book of a musical: "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best original score: Tom Kitt and Lee Hall, "Next to Normal"
- Best revival of a play: "The Norman Conquests"
- Best revival of a musical: "Hair"
- Best special theatrical event: "Liza's at The Palace"
- Best performance by a leading actor in a play: Geoffrey Rush, "Exit the King"
- Best performance by a leading actress in a play: Marcia Gay Harden, "God of Carnage"
- Best performance by a leading actor in a musical: David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik, Kiril Kulish; "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best performance by a leading actress in a musical: Alice Ripley, "Next to Normal"
- Best performance by a featured actor in a play: Roger Robinson, "Joe Turner's Come and Gone"
- Best performance by a featured actress in a play: Angela Lansbury, "Blithe Spirit"
- Best performance by a featured actor in a musical: Gregory Jbara; "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best performance by a featured actress in a musical: Karen Olivo, "West Side Story"
- Best scenic design of a play: Derek McLane, "33 Variations"
- Best scenic design of a musical: Ian MacNeil; "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best costume design of a play: Anthony Ward, "Mary Stuart"
- Best costume design of a musical: Tim Hatley, "Shrek The Musical"
- Best lighting design of a play: Brian MacDevitt, "Joe Turner's Come and Gone"
- Best lighting design of a musical: Rick Fisher; "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best sound design of a play: Gregory Clarke, "Equus"
- Best sound design of a musical: Paul Arditti; "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best direction of a play: Matthew Warchus, "God of Carnage"
- Best direction of a musical: Stephen Daldry, "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best choreography: Peter Darling; "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Best orchestrations (TIE): Michael Starobin and Tom Kitt, "Next to Normal"; Martin Koch, "Billy Elliot, The Musical"
- Lifetime achievement: Jerry Herman
- Regional Theatre Tony Award: Signature Theatre, Arlington, Va. (Eric Schaeffer, the theater's artistic director, is a native of Fleetwood.)
- Isabelle Stevenson Award: Phyllis Newman
- Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre: Shirley Herz

# Woman dies alone in abandoned house in Reading

[From A1 >>>] Unfortunately, other families face."

If people with mental illnesses don't want treatment, families can't force doctors to help them if doctors determine the patients won't harm themselves or others, Mark said.

"Obviously, Susan was a danger to herself," Mark said. "She laid down on concrete and froze. We should have had the power to get her treatment. We say we're protecting their rights, but we're not helping them get productive and healthy."

Balancing patients' rights with a need for treatment can be tricky, said Dr. Edward B. Michalik, director of the Berks County Mental Health/Mental Retardation office.

Debates occur once or twice a week in Berks County between families who want to force relatives to get treatment and patients who don't want any, he said.

"My heart goes out to both sides of the debate and I wish I had the wisdom of Solomon to prevent this from ever happening again," he said.

For most patients and families, an acceptable resolution is found, Michalik said.

A bill has been introduced in the state Senate that would allow judges to order involuntary outpatient treatment for as long as six months for people with some types of mental illnesses.

"I can't think of a sadder existence for this unfortunate woman, so I think we have to think about the limited number of cases like this and we have to find a way to not let this kind of thing happen," said Jim Jordan, the state executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Health.

The alliance has not taken a position on the issue.

"But to think about her going back to her home and dying in this room and nobody knowing she was there

is the kind of thing we want to avoid," he said. "The family should be commended. They're not trying to blame anyone. They tried to get people to listen and even though they lost their loved one, they're still trying to get people to listen."

### The house on Linden

After they were evicted, Barbara went to live with Mark, and Susan moved to the house on Linden Street with a man she believed was her father.

The man has always disputed paternity, and the family asked that his name not be used in this article.

According to county records, the man signed a letter June 1, 2008, indicating he was aware of the pending tax-claim sale of the Linden Street house.

On Aug. 9, Berks County sheriff's deputies posted a notice of pending sale on the property.

Even if Susan had been there at the time, sheriff's deputies can't legally search private properties that are up for tax sale because the deeds are never transferred to the sheriff's office, Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht said.

The home was purchased for \$3,600 at the September sale by Lloyd Johnson, 31, of Pittsburgh, according to county records.

Susan then moved around from place to place but couldn't live with relatives.

"She would have gotten us evicted," Mark said. "She was paranoid and she'd think the neighbors were talking about her."

She kept returning to the house on Linden Street.

"She thought she lived there, and it's what was familiar to her," Mark said.

In November, city police were told someone had broken into the home.

Police found Susan there and told her she no longer lived there, but she wouldn't leave, so police arrested her for trespassing.

Mark and Barbara last saw Susan on Dec. 3 at the department store where Barbara works.

Susan went there to pick up one of her disability checks from her mother, to whom the checks were mailed because Susan didn't have a permanent address.

She then went to stay at a hotel in Muhlenberg Township.

The next day, on Dec. 4, township police were called to the hotel because Susan had no money and wanted to sleep in the lobby.

When police asked her where she lived, she told them about the house on Linden Street.

Her state identification listed that as her address, seemingly confirming her story.

"So an officer gave her a ride there," said Muhlenberg Po-

### Involuntary hospitalization

The common term for forcing someone to get mental health treatment in Pennsylvania is "302," named for a section of the Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976.

Section 302 allows for involuntary hospitalization if a person is a clear and present danger to himself or herself or others.

This can include the inability to care for oneself so that a person is in immediate danger as well as attempts at self-mutilation, suicide or injuring others.

A bill introduced in the state Senate would allow judges to order involuntary outpatient treatment for as long as six months for people with some types of mental illness.

— Reading Eagle

### Mental health support groups

Programs available from the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Berks County include:

- Recovery group meetings for those with serious mental illness are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the conference room at the K Building at Reading Hospital. The next meeting is Wednesday.
- Family support meetings for relatives of those with serious mental illness are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the same conference room. Next meeting is July 6.
- A talk on bipolar disorder by Dr. Jay Carter, a Wyomingissing psychologist, is set for June 22 at 7 p.m. in St. John's Lutheran Church, Sinking Spring.

For more information, call NAMI's Berks County office at 610-685-3000 or visit [www.namiberkscounty.com](http://www.namiberkscounty.com).

lice Sgt. Joseph M. Schlappich. "Then her family came looking for her in early January."

### Searching for Susan

But the family had been calling friends and family for weeks because they hadn't seen Susan.

Victoria Williams, 41, of Mount Carbon, Schuylkill County, was one of the people the family called.

Victoria grew up in Reading with Susan.

"She was the sweetest thing," Williams said.

But over the years, friends noticed mood swings.

"Near the end, she wouldn't even talk to my sister," Williams said. "It's just a shame. But I don't want her remembered as a homeless woman who died alone. She had friends who cared."

To the family's knowledge, Muhlenberg police were the last to see her.

So the family had Schlappich register Susan as a missing person.

The family distributed fliers

with Susan's picture on them to area police departments.

City police checked the house on Linden Street, but the house was closed up, seemingly unoccupied.

### The body is found

On May 30, Ismael Reyes Sr. of the 800 block of Schuylkill Avenue went to the house to begin working on it for Johnson, the new homeowner, according to investigators.

That's when Reyes found the body.

Reyes and Johnson declined to comment, saying only that they wanted to put the gruesome discovery behind them.

A death certificate has not been issued pending toxicology tests, which may take a month because there was so little of the body left to examine, Deputy Coroner Jonn M. Hollenbach said.

"But there's absolutely nothing suspicious," he said. "It looks like she fell asleep."

Contact Jason Bruderek: 610-371-5044 or [jbruderek@readingeagle.com](mailto:jbruderek@readingeagle.com).

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# City Council OKs sewage tunnel

The \$70 million project will be a mile in length/B2

Our opinion

NEW-BEGINNING SPEECH ONE  
STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION B6

news@readingeagle.com

# Berks & BEYOND

COUNTY, STATE AND REGION

Tuesday

JUNE 9, 2009

SECTION

B



Jason Brudereck

## Seeking an answer in the loss of a life

**A** DOG BARKED, and a tennis ball rolled under a fence and into the alley.

A boy, about 6 years old, appeared a moment later.

"Where did it go?" he asked himself as he surveyed the trash-strewn asphalt.

He had said the question aloud, but he hadn't noticed me. He hadn't expected someone would answer him.

"It's under the black plastic bag," I said, and the boy jumped, startled to see he wasn't alone.

He kicked the bag aside, grabbed the ball and ran back toward Linden Street.

I returned my attention to the house across the alley.

A room that jutted out from the back of the house is where the body of Susan McDonough — missing since December — was found May 30.

Three days after Susan was found, I was in the alley in search of her story.

I questioned a dozen neighbors who didn't know her even though she had lived there for a while before a relative of Susan's lost the home in a tax claim sale last summer.

The neighbors also didn't know that Susan, 43, who suffered from schizophrenia for more than two decades, had kept returning to the home and breaking into it after the tax sale because she thought she still lived there.

Her family searched for her, calling police and friends.

But no one had seen her.

It was more than six months until she was found inside that room, which had been walled off from the rest of the house years ago. The only way to get into the room was a door from the backyard.

Her family and investigators believe she froze to death in there. Alone.

I stood in the alley, looking at the room, and I did something I don't do often. Probably not often enough.

I said a prayer. I didn't expect an answer.

But I wondered if Susan had prayed.

And I wondered if she knew she was missing, lost, and that people were looking for her.

The dog barked and the tennis ball rolled back into the alley from under the fence.

The boy appeared again. This time he looked right at me.

"Where did it go?" he asked. He expected an answer.

But I hadn't seen the ball that time.

And I certainly didn't have an answer.

Contact Jason Brudereck: 610-371-5044 or jbrudereck@readingeagle.com.



READING EAGLE: LAUREN A. LITTLE

Protege Jennifer Liriano of Reading High School with her mentor, Renee Dietrich, during the Mentors for Berks Youth recognition dinner Monday night at Alvernia University. The program seeks to expand the intellectual horizons of promising students.

## Mentoring program needs mentors

Group has only 25 volunteers for about 300 Berks students who need encouragement

BY RON DEVLIN  
READING EAGLE

Before attending the Mentors for Berks Youth annual recognition dinner Monday night at Alvernia University, Renee Dietrich and Jennifer Liriano made a side trip. They stopped at Alvernia's Franco Library & Learning Center, where together, the retired teacher and her student protegee viewed the exhibit "A Blessing for One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People."

Liriano, a Reading High senior who aspires to attend college, was moved by the collage of the late pontiff's life.

"It was like a labyrinth of knowledge," she said. "It was very enlightening."

The impromptu visit to the Pope John Paul II exhibit underscored a notion that lies at the heart of the mentoring program — expanding the intellectual horizons of promising young students.

Over the past two decades, volunteer mentors have guided scores of Reading High students into college and promising careers in business, government and the arts.

"The mentoring program connects people who believe in the potential of others with people who need them," said Kevin Godfrey, an Alvernia dean and a Mentors for Berks Youth board member. "It moves them to achieve their dreams."

While the program has



Mentors for Berks Youth volunteer Mary Lou Kline, center, with her two current proteges, Syiem Green, left, and Krystal Taveras. Kline, who has mentored five students, says it's a good feeling to help a young person succeed.

proved successful, it is having difficulty attracting mentors.

The program has only 25 mentors for about 300 students in need, said Walter Schwenger, board president.

In Reading High alone, where the effort is concentrated, there are 180 students in need of mentors. In the rest of Berks County, Schwenger estimates, there are another 120.

Mentors for Berks Youth focuses on academically qualified students who, for one reason or another, would have difficulty going to college. Typically, the students, known as proteges, are the first in their family to go to college.

Ana Ruiz, 32, was among the first Reading High students to participate in the early days of the mentoring program. Her mentors were

Mayor Tom McMahon and BCTV Executive Director Ann Sheehan.

Ruiz earned a degree in hospitality management from East Stroudsburg University and is now general manager of Hampton Inn in Wyomissing. She is pursuing a master's degree in tourism planning.

"My mentors taught me to set my sights higher," Ruiz said. "They were successful, and they made me believe that I could be successful, too."

Mary Lou Kline, who teaches economics at Reading Area Community College, has mentored five students over the last 15 years.

One is working on a master's degree in psychology. Another graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. A third is headed to Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

### Become a mentor

Mentors are people interested in the intellectual and social development of youth. They're a friend, a guide, an advocate, a listener.

Typically, they have experience in business, education or government. They range from recent college graduates to retirees.

Mentors meet at least once a month with their proteges, who are students in need of guidance and encouragement.

For more information, contact the Mentors for Berks Youth administrator at Reading Area Community College at 610-775-8851.

Source: Mentors for Berks Youth

"I've been blessed with motivated young ladies," Kline said. "It gives you a good feeling to know that you nurtured, maybe even inspired, a young student to succeed."

The program, which is privately funded, is seeking \$20,000 to expand. The money would be used to hire a part-time executive director, whose duties would include recruiting mentors.

"There are plenty of proteges out there," Kline said, "but we're badly in need of mentors."

Contact Ron Devlin: 610-371-5030 or rdevlin@readingeagle.com.

## Charges against constable reduced

BY DARRIN YOUKER  
READING EAGLE

Half the charges against a Berks County constable accused of theft were dismissed at a preliminary hearing Monday.

Hector L. Carrillo Jr., 58, of the 200 block of North Ninth Street was charged with theft and related offenses in two separate cases on April 24 and May 6.

On Monday, West Reading District Judge Timothy M. Dougherty dismissed the charges in the April 24 case.

Dougherty held Carrillo for court on identical charges in the May 6 case.

Carrillo remained free to await further court action.

He was accused of submitting a fraudulent bill for \$49 to transport two prisoners from Berks County Prison to District Judge Wally Scott's Reading office April 24. Prosecutors said Carrillo did not transport the prisoners but billed the county for the work.

On May 6, Carrillo submitted a fraudulent bill for \$203 for serving warrants on two defendants, investigators said. Scott rejected the bill because Carrillo did not serve the warrants, authorities said.

After the hearing, Dougherty said only that he dismissed the charges against Carrillo in the April 24 case. He did not elaborate.

However, Carrillo's attorney, James M. Polyak, said the charges were dismissed because of a lack of evidence.

"He (Carrillo) did transport those two individuals (on April 24)," Polyak said.

State constables are elected to six-year terms. They earn money by performing services for district judges, including transporting prisoners and serving warrants.

Carrillo, whose district is downtown Reading, is the fourth person to be charged since the district attorney's office began a probe of constables in April 2008.

Also charged in the probe were Thomas L. Holt, 49, of Bernville; Dennis J. "Whip" Mulligan, 59, of Reading; and Holt's wife, Jacqueline Y. Holt, 50, a former court clerk in District Judge Michael J. Leonardziak's Reading office.

The Holts were sentenced to two years of probation, and Mulligan to one year of probation.

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