



JOHN HAEGER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

2023 members pose as Jaycol Fejeda takes a ceremony on Thursday at Grace Fellowship Michael Jr., Jacob Michael, Paige Onder and

D, TRUST GOD'

chool's graduating class might re plans are larger than life

se I am easily influ- ut because as a We have been sad, happy, and the time, goofy . Without their ment, I would not able to enjoy this uch as I have."

ass of 2023 may be number but their ns are larger than : students have col- eir plans, one stu- nsidering ministry, will be working at y's business and) join the military. graduate handed nts a letter thank- for helping them heir education.

Hard, Trust God" arge to Immanuel 's graduates from- cement speaker lauder. "These five ve more meaning, plication, more e than most things

you're going to learn any- where," said Bauder.

He's an ICS alumni and a member of the first high school class to graduate from ICS in 2003. He has an MBA, is now completing law school and served in the military including a deployment to Iraq.

Bauder reflected on the character of the students from his short time getting to know them this past week. He shared how their actions demonstrated responsibility, humility and kindness. Bauder ended his speech by telling them he is "proud to soon call them fellow alum- nae of ICS."

Immanuel Christian School provides K-12th-grade education. Their mission is to provide a financially accessi- ble, grace-filled, Christ- centered education shaping stu- dents into lifelong learners who serve their community with integrity.

ment, Dallas, covers meals at the county's senior centers and in homes via Meals On Wheels programs through 2025.

DeAnna Orlowsky, county Office of Senior Services administrator, said the contract represents a 7.5% increase over the current agreement.

Given the current inflation- ary environment, officials said, the increase was rela- tively modest. Other counties have seen increases as high as 10%, Orlowsky said.

The meals program is

Schuylkill Haven, Mahanoy City and Tremont.

The meals are free to eligi- ble people over age 60 who have applied at the senior centers or with the Office of Senior Services.

In other business, the com- missioners appointed Francis A. Spokas, John J. House- knecht and Timothy McGin- ley to the Schuylkill County Board of Assessment Appeals. The terms expire Dec. 31.

During the commissioners salary board meeting, Clerk of Courts Maria T. Casey

employees in the county Chil- dren & Youth Services.

"The board negotiated in good faith with the collective bargaining unit representing our service employees," said Rumbel, the agency's con- tracts manager. "It is deeply appreciated, and it benefits the children and families of our staff."

Even so, Rumbel said, the agency still has a shortage of workers in supervisory posi- tions.

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Judge awards estate of shooting victim \$522,000

BY FRANK ANDRUSCAVAGE
STAFF WRITER

POTTSVILLE — A Schuylkill County judge has awarded more than \$500,000 to the estate of a man shot in McAdoo in 2019 over a dis- pute about a taxi fare.

Judge Christina E. Hale issued her order on May 25 after a non-jury civil trial against Francis R. Toca, Car- los J. Tejada Pimentel and Latino Taxi Service LLC.

Hale ordered a judgment of \$522,446.24 to Odette A. Delapaz, administrator of the estate of the man shot, Alexis Rafael Acosta.

Hale said testimony at the trial established liability for personal injuries and that attorneys for Acosta have "proven by applicable stan- dards of proof the right to recover damages from the defendants as a result of the torturous conduct of the defendants."

Attorneys Christopher B. Slusser and John M. Solt rep- resented Acosta's estate.

They said the suit arose



ACOSTA

after a dispute regarding the payment of a fare.

McAdoo police charged Toca, of Hazleton, with attempted third-degree mur- der, aggravated assault, pos- session of a weapon, reck- lessly endangering another person and simple assault.

In September 2020, Toca entered guilty pleas to charg- es of felony aggravated assault and misdemeanor reckless endangerment. He was given sentences of five months and 15 days to 11 months for aggravated assault and six months and 15 days to two years for reck- lessly endangering another person.

The attorneys said Acosta was unarmed when he attempted to run away when

Toca brandished a firearm.

Acosta suffered a shat- tered femur. He has since died due to unrelated causes.

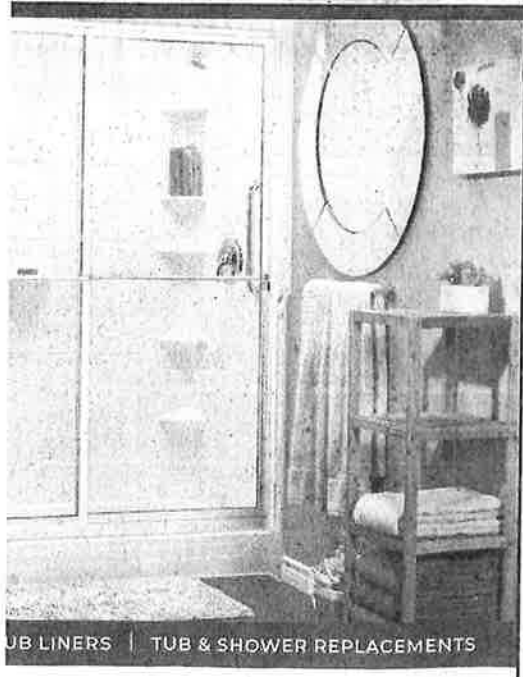
Slusser and Solt said that during the trial, Acosta's mother, Delapaz, testified about the nature and extent of her son's injuries as well as his permanent disability.

Also testifying was Dr. Anthony Falvello, a board certified orthopedic surgeon, who told the court about the injuries Acosta suffered and the medical treatment he received.

In a prepared statement, Slusser said "this was a very sad and tragic situation."

"It is gratifying to us on both a personal and profes- sional level that we were able to bring justice to Alexis' family," he said. "Schuylkill County has always been known to be a very conserva- tive jurisdiction, so we are very pleased with the ver- dict."

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Social media helps invent, then circulate info on DIY air purifiers amid wildfire smoke

BY BEATRICE DUPUY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Social media users are sharing a surprising- ly effective way to protect yourself indoors from the tox-



2020, he was sketching one night and put the design up on Twitter. Jim Rosenthal, CEO of Tex-Air Filters, took the design and built it. Corsi said he wanted to create an inex-