

# THE NEWS-ITEM

CELEBRATING THE 1968 NEWSPAPER MERGER



SHAMOKIN NEWS-DISPATCH & MOUNT CARMEL ITEM

Shamokin, Pa | [www.newsitem.com](http://www.newsitem.com)

Monday, September 10, 2018

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## Historical gem

### NCCAC building, an architectural work of art

**BY CHRIS J. GREGO**  
THE NEWS-ITEM  
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SHAMOKIN — Situated on a hillside near the top of Arch Street between Grant and Eighth lies yet another architectural wonder that still stands in the city of Shamokin. The building known today as the Northumberland County Career and Arts Center (NCCAC) formerly served as the Shamokin High School (SHS) for 60 years, from its opening in 1915 until 1975, when construction of the present Shamokin Area High School (SAHS) building in Coal Township was completed.

Today, the NCCAC building serves the entire county as a multi-purpose educational and cultural center for the arts and humanities. Yet a walk-through of this local architectural wonder takes one back to a bye-gone era when schools and other buildings were designed as much for their beauty as the purpose for which they served. It was a balance of form and function, which seems

to have been lost in many of today's cookie-cutter designs.

#### Architectural wonder

The architect of the former Shamokin High School was William Harold Lee, who also designed Shamokin's one-of-a-kind 2,000-seat showplace, the former Victoria Theatre, which was built two years later in 1917. A National Historic Landmark, "The Vickie" as it was known, was sadly demolished in 1999.

During his career Lee would go on to design some of the most architecturally impressive movie theaters in Pennsylvania. Yet one of his first projects was the former Shamokin High School.

The NCCAC building is an expertly crafted mixture of stained glass, wood, plaster, marble and brass. But beyond the obvious architectural elements, the building also contains many hidden gems, all of which harken back to a time long gone.

The arched marble foyer entrance located on the Arch

*Building, Page A8*



CHRIS J. GREGO/STAFF PHOTO

**View inside marble foyer looking toward the stairwell of the Northumberland County Career and Arts Center in Shamokin.**



**Ground level illuminated view of the Northumberland County Career and Arts Center auditorium.**



**Sunlight from stained glass plates reflects upon the darkened marble slabs inside the grand foyer**

## Schuylkill Co. man wanted in MC Twp. after gunshot fired

**BY STEPHANIE BETTICK**  
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MOUNT CARMEL — A 24-year-old Schuylkill County man is wanted by Mount Carmel Township Police Department in relation to an altercation Sunday afternoon at Choice Cigarette Discount Outlet during which a shot was reportedly fired.

Charges are pending against Jared Azar, 24, in

*Wanted, Page A6*



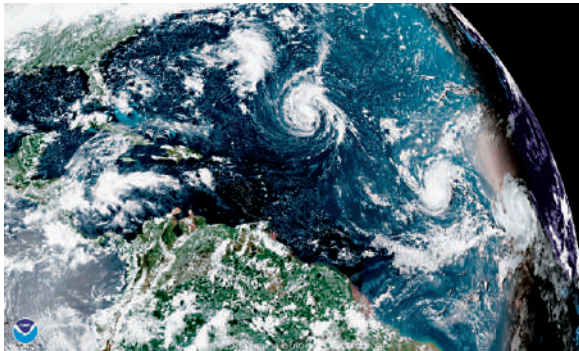
**Mount Carmel Township Police Department is seeking information on a man believed to have fired a shot at Choice Discount Cigarette Outlet Sunday afternoon.**

## Strengthening Hurricane Florence takes aim at US

**BY RUSS BYNUM**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A rapidly strengthening Hurricane Florence churned across the Atlantic on Sunday toward a possible direct hit on the U.S. Southeast late this week, triggering warnings to people up and down the coast to get their emergency kits ready, map out escape routes and fill sandbags.

Red flags flying on beaches warned swimmers to stay out of waters already roiled by the distant storm, and cruise ships and Navy vessels were set to be steered out of harm's way. People rushed to buy bottled water, plywood and other supplies.



HQGP

**This enhanced satellite image made available by NOAA shows Tropical Storm Florence, center, in the Atlantic Ocean Saturday.**

Florence crossed the 74 mph threshold from tropical storm to hurricane Sunday morning, and by evening its winds were up to 85 mph as the National Hurricane

Center warned it was expected to become an extremely dangerous major hurricane today and remain that way

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## Flood watch to end tonight

**BY STEPHANIE BETTICK**  
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The remnants of Hurricane Gordon will make its way out of the area late tonight, ending the National

*Flood, Page A6*

#### WEATHER

Heavy storms,  
warmer  
70° / 61°  
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vol. 50, no. 345



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