


# Daily Local News

 TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 76  
Low: 61  
PAGE A8

Saturday, September 4, 2021\$2.95FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYLOCALNEWS  TWITTER.COM/DAILYLOCALNEWS

dailylocal.com

IDA AFTERMATH

## ‘We are at ground zero’

### More than 100 families sought emergency shelter in Coatesville as tropical storm hit city

By Jen Samuel  
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**COATESVILLE »** On Wednesday, more than 100 families became displaced from their homes as rainfall from Ida, a tropical storm, caused historic floodwaters to reach both residential and commercial buildings in the heart

of the city. The sections of Coatesville hit hardest by the flooding occurred on Fifth, Sixth and Olive streets. Floodwaters reached as high as the octagons of stop signs at some intersections. “Coatesville is a valley, and we are at ground zero,” said Coatesville City Manager James Logan.

“Funding for infrastructure is a necessity, not a luxury for our residents.” Three months ago, in June, Coatesville experienced significant storm damage when seven inches of rain fell in an hour, Logan said. “Hurricane Ida delivered up

COATESVILLE » PAGE 8



Emergency first responders worked overnight to help others. Responders included Coatesville Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 3790 and law enforcement from City of Coatesville Police Department, among others including city staff, regional emergency teams, and trained volunteers.

MEDIANEWS GROUP

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

## REMEMBERING THOSE LOST TO ADDICTION



BILL RETTEW-MEDIANEWS GROUP

Luminary bags spelled out “HOPE” at Tuesday’s “Light the Night” Evening of Remembrance and Hope at the historic courthouse.

### Pinwheels, luminarias placed outside Historic Courthouse in remembrance of accidental drug overdose victims

By Bill Rettew  
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**WEST CHESTER »** One hundred and one 2020 Chester County accidental overdose victims were remembered, Tuesday, during “International Overdose Day.” One hundred and one purple pinwheels representing the 101 lost lives were displayed in front of the Chester County Justice Center, the county’s Government Ser-

vices Center and the Historic Courthouse. A special “Night of Light” event featuring hand-inscribed luminarias formed the word “HOPE” while lighting the steps at the Historic Courthouse. Several speakers, including the county commissioners, addressed about 120 people who remembered the lives of those lost to overdose, while acknowledging the grief felt by families and friends. As dusk settled in and rain threatened, mother Cathie O’Donnell talked about her

son Shane who passed away from an overdose in 2013. “We learned a lot,” O’Donnell said. “We were there for him every step of the way. “It was a constant struggle mentally and physically.” Still, the mother had another message. “Shane is no longer in pain, he is no longer suffering,” she said. “I lost a piece of me when Shane died. “Now our guardian angel is watching over us every day.” Not just the lives lost were recognized, but the audience was told to remember the

VICTIMS » PAGE 6

IDA AFTERMATH

## Water rescue in Valley Forge Park

By Pete Bannan  
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Like the rest of Chester County Berwyn Fire Company had their hands full rescuing stranded motorists from cars as floodwaters rose Wednesday evening. One particularly dramatic rescue occurred along Valley Creek near the Valley Forge National Historical Park Covered Bridge in Tredyffrin Township. A person was trapped in their car as flood waters rose. First responders were unable to use a boat or bring in a helicopter due to the conditions so swift water rescue teams used a rope system to bring the person to safety. The incident lasted almost 4 hours from start to finish. Everyone on this scene was working in some capacity and made a difference in a life being saved. “I could not be prouder of the

RESCUE » PAGE 6

IDA AFTERMATH

## Aqua asks residents to discontinue non-essential water use

MediaNews Group

Aqua Pennsylvania is asking customers throughout its southeastern Pennsylvania service area to discontinue nonessential water use until further notice as the utility works to restore normal operations at two major water treatment plants that sustained damage due to the devastating floods caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Aqua had to shut down its Pickering East and West water treatment plants in Phoenixville, due to heavy rainfall, flooding and

AQUA » PAGE 8

BUSINESS

### Robust hiring slows down in August

America’s employers added just 235,000 jobs in August, a surprisingly weak gain after two months of robust hiring. PAGE A4



OPINION

### COVID testing in schools is smart

The Wolf administration announced a plan to provide free testing in K-12 schools, statewide, this fall. PAGE A7

LOCAL NEWS

### Open Hearth announces campaign for new HQ

The building, located in Phoenixville, will serve as home to Open Hearth’s programs and community building initiatives. PAGE A3

GO MOBILE

### Reading your e-paper just got a lot easier

Did you know you can read the e-paper on a smartphone or tablet? Download PressReader in iTunes or Google Play.



TODAY

76°

Mostly sunny;  
remaining dry

TONIGHT

61°

Thickening clouds

SUNDAY

74°  
63°

Mostly cloudy with a shower  
in places

MONDAY

79°  
57°

Partly sunny

TUESDAY

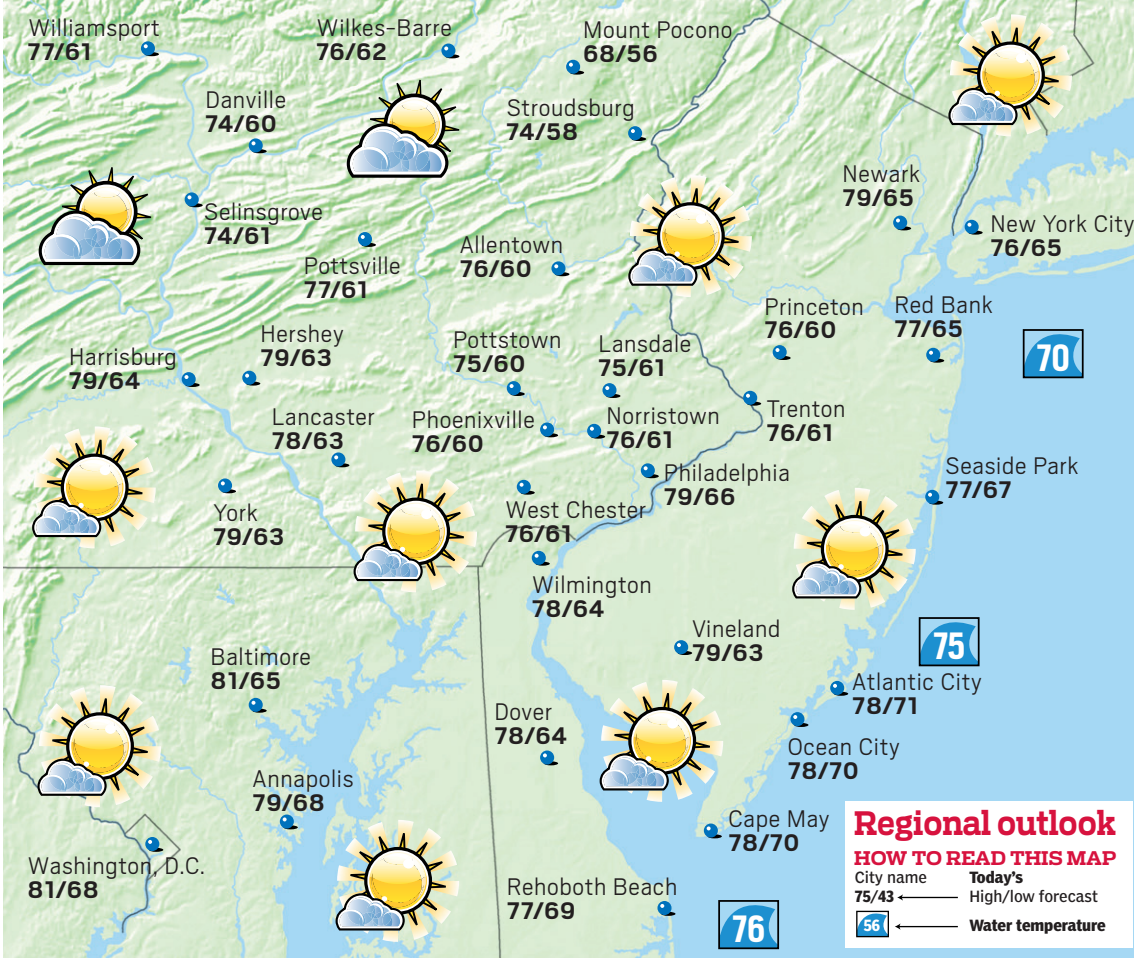
79°  
63°

Sunny and pleasant

WEDNESDAY

83°  
59°

Clouds and sun, a heavy  
t-storm; humid



**ALMANAC**  
Statistics through 2 p.m. yesterday

<b>Temperatures</b>	
High/low .....	69°/49°
Normal high/low .....	83°/65°
Record high .....	100° (1953)
Record low .....	51° (1967)
<b>Precipitation</b>	
24 hours through 2 p.m. yesterday .....	0.00"
Month to date .....	5.38"
Normal month to date .....	0.49"
Year to date .....	34.58"
Normal year to date .....	30.41"

**TODAY'S UV INDEX**

1	3	6	6	3	1
8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index™** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

11+:	8-10:	6-7:	3-5:	0-2:
Extreme	Very high	High	Moderate	Low

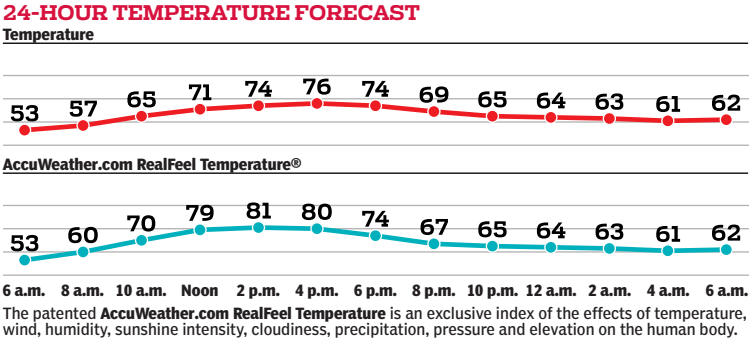
**SUN AND MOON**

	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Today	6:32 a.m.	7:28 p.m.	3:32 a.m.	6:38 p.m.
Sunday	6:33 a.m.	7:26 p.m.	4:40 a.m.	7:11 p.m.

Hours of sunlight  
12 hr., 56 min.

Sep 6   Sep 13   Sep 20   Sep 28

Forecasts and graphics provided by  
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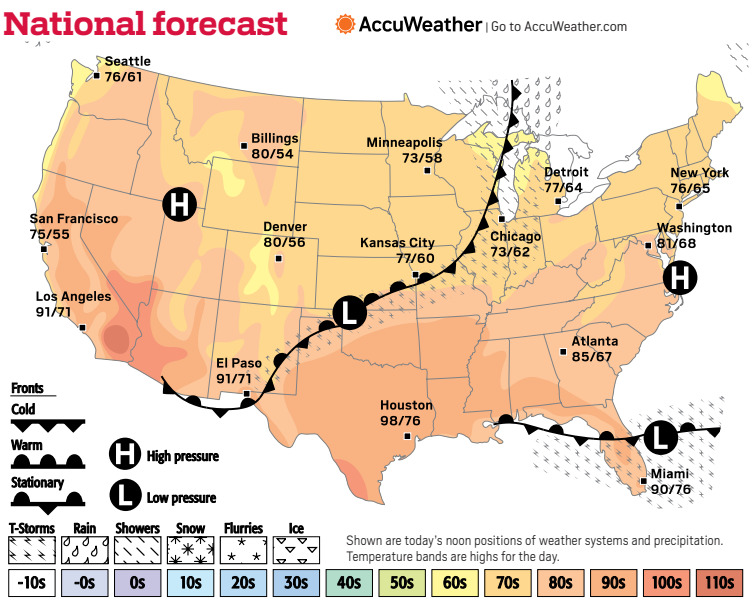


TIDES

	Today		Sunday	
	Time	Height	Time	Height
Delaware River (Philadelphia)				
High	12:06 a.m.	7.0 ft.	12:52 a.m.	7.1 ft.
Low	7:00 a.m.	0.7 ft.	7:47 a.m.	0.6 ft.
High	12:36 p.m.	6.1 ft.	1:20 p.m.	6.2 ft.
Low	6:59 p.m.	0.7 ft.	7:50 p.m.	0.6 ft.
Atlantic City				
High	6:17 a.m.	3.7 ft.	6:59 a.m.	4.0 ft.
Low	12:18 a.m.	0.7 ft.	12:58 a.m.	0.4 ft.
High	6:30 p.m.	4.9 ft.	7:12 p.m.	5.1 ft.
Low	12:02 p.m.	0.6 ft.	12:48 p.m.	0.4 ft.
Cape May				
High	7:15 a.m.	4.4 ft.	8:00 a.m.	4.7 ft.
Low	1:13 a.m.	0.7 ft.	1:55 a.m.	0.5 ft.
High	7:34 p.m.	5.7 ft.	8:18 p.m.	5.9 ft.
Low	1:04 p.m.	0.5 ft.	1:51 p.m.	0.3 ft.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today	Sunday
Altoona	75/60/pc	74/61/sh
Atlantic City	78/71/s	78/72/c
Baltimore	81/65/s	77/65/c
Cape May	78/70/s	82/71/c
Catskill, NY	75/57/s	72/60/c
Dover	78/64/s	79/67/c
Harrisburg	79/64/pc	77/63/c
Hyannis, MA	77/64/s	76/70/c
New York City	76/65/s	76/66/c
Ocean City, MD	77/70/s	79/75/c
Ocean City, NJ	78/70/s	78/71/c
Philadelphia	79/66/s	78/66/c
Pittsburgh	77/62/pc	73/58/sh
Poconos	74/58/s	72/61/c
State College	74/60/pc	71/60/c
Syracuse	76/62/pc	77/62/t
Trenton	76/61/s	74/65/c
Williamsport	77/61/pc	74/60/c



**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Sunday	City	Today	Sunday
Albany, NY	72/55/pc	69/58/c	Los Angeles	91/71/s	92/66/s
Albuquerque	86/64/pc	87/62/s	Louisville	80/70/t	80/62/sh
Anchorage	59/52/c	60/53/c	Manchester, NH	78/57/t	74/65/c
Atlanta	85/67/pc	87/71/pc	Memphis	91/74/pc	87/69/t
Billings	80/54/s	89/59/s	Miami	90/76/t	90/77/t
Birmingham	87/67/pc	88/70/pc	Milwaukee	74/61/pc	80/59/pc
Bismarck	79/48/pc	81/55/pc	Minneapolis	73/58/pc	75/53/pc
Boise	89/57/s	93/59/s	Nashville	87/70/pc	83/67/t
Boston	79/63/s	75/67/c	New Orleans	89/75/pc	89/75/pc
Buffalo	78/66/pc	76/62/t	Norfolk	80/65/s	84/69/pc
Charleston, SC	85/66/s	86/71/pc	Oklahoma City	94/68/pc	82/62/t
Charleston, WV	81/65/pc	74/63/t	Omaha	78/57/pc	82/61/pc
Charlotte	85/62/s	87/66/pc	Orlando	91/76/t	92/75/t
Cheyenne	78/51/s	83/54/s	Phoenix	103/83/pc	103/81/pc
Chicago	73/62/sh	80/60/s	Portland, ME	76/53/s	70/61/c
Cincinnati	76/65/t	77/60/pc	Portland, OR	85/63/pc	84/58/s
Cleveland	79/64/c	76/60/t	Raleigh	84/63/s	87/67/pc
Columbia, SC	86/63/s	89/69/pc	Rapid City	76/52/s	86/55/s
Dallas	98/78/pc	94/73/pc	Reno	92/53/s	95/57/s
Denver	80/56/s	87/59/s	Sacramento	93/58/s	95/62/s
Des Moines	76/57/pc	82/59/s	St. Louis	77/66/t	81/63/pc
Detroit	77/64/c	78/59/pc	Salt Lake City	87/59/s	91/62/s
El Paso	91/71/pc	87/68/t	San Antonio	98/75/pc	98/77/pc
Fairbanks	66/48/pc	63/45/c	San Diego	82/64/pc	78/53/c
Fargo	76/51/pc	73/54/pc	San Francisco	75/55/pc	76/58/s
Grand Rapids	74/61/c	78/58/pc	San Jose	85/59/s	87/61/s
Greensboro	82/61/s	84/66/c	San Juan, PR	91/81/pc	91/81/s
Hartford	77/57/pc	74/64/c	Seattle	76/61/c	75/54/pc
Honolulu	86/74/pc	86/73/pc	Spokane	83/57/pc	83/55/s
Houston	98/76/pc	98/76/pc	Springfield, IL	74/61/t	80/57/pc
Indianapolis	70/66/t	79/61/pc	Tampa	89/77/t	87/77/pc
Jackson, MS	92/70/pc	91/70/pc	Tulsa	94/70/t	84/66/pc
Kansas City	77/60/t	82/63/s	Tucson	95/74/pc	96/73/pc
Las Vegas	100/78/s	104/83/s	Washington, DC	81/68/pc	78/69/c
Little Rock	95/75/pc	86/68/t	Wichita	82/63/t	83/61/s

**INTERNATIONAL CITIES**

Athens	85/72/s	84/72/t	Montreal	77/61/pc	72/61/sh
Baghdad	106/75/pc	109/75/pc	Moscow	51/41/r	50/38/c
Bangkok	88/78/t	87/77/t	Nairobi	75/53/pc	77/56/pc
Beijing	77/68/t	77/67/t	Nassau	89/79/t	90/79/pc
Berlin	70/52/pc	69/49/s	New Delhi	88/80/t	91/81/sh
Buenos Aires	59/55/c	62/56/pc	Oslo	61/45/pc	66/47/pc
Cairo	94/76/s	93/74/s	Panama City	87/72/pc	85/74/s
Dublin	64/55/c	68/57/c	Paris	80/62/t	82/61/pc
Hong Kong	87/80/s	88/81/t	Rio de Janeiro	82/70/s	80/71/s
Istanbul	78/66/pc	77/69/pc	Rome	80/64/t	83/63/s
Jerusalem	82/66/s	82/65/s	San Juan	91/81/pc	91/81/s
Johannesburg	77/55/s	76/58/s	Seoul	83/65/pc	82/67/pc
La Paz	94/72/s	93/73/pc	Stockholm	55/37/pc	60/45/pc
London	69/57/pc	74/57/pc	Sydney	71/60/sh	65/49/pc
Madrid	87/62/pc	90/67/pc	Tokyo	75/69/sh	75/68/r
Manila	90/79/t	91/78/t	Toronto	75/64/pc	78/60/pc
Mexico City	71/59/t	70/59/t	Vancouver	67/57/r	68/55/pc

**Weather(W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice

## Aqua

FROM PAGE 1

loss of power. Aqua has successfully returned a portion of the Pickering East plant online, but as the flood waters began to subside over the past few hours, utility professionals have been able to assess the extent of damage, which is greater than previously thought. The utility says it is apparent that it will take some time for full recovery to take place and asks customers to take all possible measures to curtail water use until further notice. Those who have automatic sprinklers were advised to turn them off. Customers were notified earlier today through emails,

voice mails and text messages.

“The remnants of Hurricane Ida wreaked havoc throughout southeastern Pennsylvania,” said Aqua Pennsylvania President Marc Lucca. “And our thoughts and prayers are with all of the people devastated by terrible flooding, tornadoes and high winds. Our employees are working tirelessly to restore full water supply to serve the families, businesses and communities who rely on us, and we appreciate our customers’ cooperation by conserving water.”

Aqua is making adjustments in other parts of its interconnected southeastern Pennsylvania water system to increase supply to the Pickering service

area, but it will take time to offset the volume of water normally produced at the two plants.

Aqua also advised customers that the utility’s toll-free customer service number is currently out of service due to flood-related issues experienced by its phone vendor. Customers with emergency requests can call 877-987-2782 for assistance, or visit the Pennsylvania state page of AquaAmerica.com for updates or follow Aqua on Facebook at facebook.com/MyAquaAmerica and on Twitter at @MyAquaAmerica.

Aqua Pennsylvania serves approximately 1.4 million people in 32 counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## Coatesville

FROM PAGE 1

to seven feet of flood water over six hours that damaged more than 60 homes and rental properties,” said Logan on Friday. “95 percent of those properties housed renters who may be displaced anywhere from weeks to months.

By Thursday, the city issued a state of emergency. The governor of Pennsylvania also issued a state of emergency for Chester County.

Gov. Tom Wolf toured parts of the region on Friday, however he did not visit Coatesville. A few miles shy of the city, Wolf met with local, state and regional officials in Downingtown to observe the damage caused by Ida. There was one storm-related death reported in Downingtown.

There were reports of deaths in Coatesville from the storm.

“We extend our sympathy to all who have been impacted, especially those in neighboring communities who have suffered the death of loved ones,” Logan said.

“We have been appreciative of the outpouring of support that has been extended to our residents and business owners who have been devastated by the aftermath of hurricane Ida. It’s been all hands on-deck, and everyone in the community has come together,” Logan stated.

Logan said earlier on Friday, Chester County Commissioners, state Rep. Dan Williams, D, 74th, and U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., met with many residents and surveyed the community.

“I believe they heard and saw the pain our residents are experiencing,” Logan said. “We must work together and make it a priority to advocate for and secure funding from federal agencies to resolve this critical situation.”

On Friday evening, Williams told the Daily Local News that in Harrisburg

he’s asking his legislative colleagues “to set politics aside and have compassion and empathy for my community” by appropriating \$20 million from Pennsylvania’s Rainy Day Fund “so we can part these storm clouds and let sunshine through.”

Williams continued, “My hope is to not just repair the structures and buildings that have been destroyed, but to make these households and our families whole again.”

Besides a walkt-hrough of Coatesville, Williams also toured Downingtown on Friday alongside fellow lawmakers.

“My community — Coatesville, Downingtown, Modena, and throughout — is devastated right now,” Williams said. “Yet my constituents, my neighbors, are the most resilient people I’ve ever seen.”

Logan, Coatesville’s city manager said as everyone continues to assess the damages caused by the storm, the municipality must now contemplate the community’s next steps.

“In addition to the tragedy of people being left homeless, the question is how do we rebound and prevent this from happening again,” Logan said.

“It is imperative that we address the issue of storm water management in Coatesville with local, state and federal funding,” Logan said. “We can no longer put our residents in danger.”

Individuals requiring help in the wake of yesterday’s storm could seek support at an American Red Cross mass shelter site, which was set up at Coatesville Area Senior High School at I445 Lincoln Highway East on Wednesday.

Friday, “As of 2:30 p.m. today, staff from Chester County’s Department of Community Development assessed the needs of five families who are there, 14 people,” said Rebecca Brain, the public information officer for Chester County.

She said all of these families would be moved to a hotel on Friday night.

“The American Red Cross is on site and they will keep the shelter open tonight,” Brain said. “If no one comes tonight or tomorrow to be sheltered, the Red Cross may wrap up operations there.”

Coatesville’s fire chief is overseeing the inspections and identifications of impacted properties in the city.

As most of the impacted homes in Coatesville are rental properties, and one of the biggest concerns is that repairs and renovation work to rental units will take weeks, maybe months — so long-term housing will be needed, Brain added.

In the wake of the storm, Coatesville Area School District offered virtual instruction for students on Thursday and Frida.

“We are honored to host the Red Cross Shelter at the Coatesville Area Senior High School in service of our fellow community members from Coatesville and surrounding municipalities,” said Superintendent Tomás Hanna on Friday.

“In just the last few months, this is the second catastrophic flooding we’ve seen in Coatesville and surrounding communities,” said Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan D-6th, of Easttown.

“While the proud residents of this city have demonstrated their resilience and resourcefulness time and again, they can only take so much — failure to address our critical infrastructure needs is not an option,” Houlahan said Friday.

“It’s not a question of if we will see this type of destruction again, it’s a question of when,” she said. “For our small business owners mopping up their storefronts, homeowners putting the physical and emotional pieces of their lives back together, and first responders who are serving so selflessly, we must act.”

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