



COURIER EXPRESS



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MORE INSIDE

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TV Week

In today's edition.

Conservation awards banquet

Numerous supporters of the Clearfield County Conservation District attended the organization's annual awards banquet that presented recognitions, scholarships and awards to people who have best represented the organization's mission to protect the environment. **A2**

Worker hurt

A worker is recovering from a broken hand and staples in his head after being struck by a newly built roller coaster during testing at a Pennsylvania amusement park. **A6**

Less soda

Americans bought less soda for the tenth straight year in 2014, with diet sodas shrinking more than their sugary counterparts, according to a report. **A9**

No accident

A pilot frantically pounded on the locked cockpit door as a 27-year-old German co-pilot deliberately and wordlessly smashed an Airbus carrying 150 people into an Alpine mountainside. **B10**

Obituaries

A9

- Byron Hartzfeld Sr., 67
- Patti J. Martz, 83
- Violet E. Nicholls, 88
- Johanna M. Veltri, 100

Tomorrow's Forecast



Mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers in the morning then partly sunny in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 20s. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Full report, **A2**

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20 pages

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Victim's mother testifies in murder trial

By Katie Weidenboerner

katiew@thecourierexpress.com

RIDGWAY — In an emotionally-charged second day in the murder trial of 24-year-old Nicholas Martin, the victim's mother recounted a chilling threat made days before her 18-year-old daughter Alyssa Forsyth's lifeless body was found in a wooded park in Ridgway two years ago.

Taking the witness stand for the Commonwealth Thursday, Forsyth's mother Sue Trumbull said she has known Martin for four years — the length of his tumultuous relation-

Ridgway

ship with her teenage daughter. Trumbull and Martin were also co-workers who shared rides on occasion.

Martin sat at the defense table, tapping his feet rapidly on the floor and clenching his jaw as Trumbull recounted an incident before her daughter's death in which Martin approached Forsyth while she was in her mother's car pumping gas. The incident was verified by about eight minutes of surveillance video from Sheetz in Ridgway.

Also present at the convenience store that day, Trumbull testified Martin called her daughter a "slut" and a "whore," threatening to bust her cell phone, throwing the device in her face and spitting on her.

"The next time I see you I'll (expletive) kill you," Trumbull testified as the words Martin whispered to her daughter through his teeth. She said the exchange seemed like it lasted hours, although in reality it was only a few minutes.

Left withdrawn and shaking from fear, Forsyth immediately reported the incident to police once Martin left, her mother said.

The last time Trumbull saw her daughter was March 22, 2013, when the two went out for dinner before she reluctantly dropped Forsyth off at a party inside an Erie Avenue, St. Marys, apartment. Part of that reluctance came from her daughter's battle with alcohol and drug addiction, which Forsyth was "in the throes of" around the time of her death.

Trumbull told the jury the last time she saw her daughter, she hugged her, told her she loved her, and instructed her to "behave" and "stay away from Nick."

See Murder, Page A9



A crowd of more than 100 Treasure Lake property owners attended a meeting of the Treasure Lake Owners Action Group (TLOAG) Thursday night at the Treasure Lake Church. The property owners discussed numerous issues dealing with Treasure Lake. (Photo by A.J. Sylvis)

Search for missing man continues

By Julie Benamati

jbenamati@thecourierexpress.com

CLEARFIELD — Professional kayakers will be searching the West Branch of the Susquehanna River today as the waterway search for a missing Clearfield man resumes.

Clearfield

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is completely closing the water control gates at Curwensville Lake to prevent any water from leaving the lake starting this morning. The gates will remain closed and continue to hold water back until sometime Sunday.

Hundreds of volunteers including emergency responders have been searching for James Coons of the Goldenrod section of Clearfield since March 12 after his wife reported him missing.

Coons, 75, was last seen wearing a brown coat and a Penn State baseball hat when he left his home to go for a walk.

Volunteers have been searching the wooded areas near Coons' home since his disappearance.

"The search overall has been ongoing, but the water search itself has been postponed for more than

See Missing, Page A9

Brookville police receive shipment of Narcan

By Judi Anthony

newsroom@thecourierexpress.com

BROOKVILLE — The Brookville Police Department's duty is to protect and serve and sometimes that mission includes saving lives.

At a recent Brookville Borough Council meeting, Brookville Police Chief Jason Brown said the department has received a shipment of Narcan, which counteracts opiates in the event of an overdose. Officers are currently undergoing training on how to properly administer the drug with a nasal atomizer.

According to the Drugs.com website, "Naloxone, marketed under the trade name Narcan among others, is a pure opioid antagonist. Naloxone is a

medication used to counter the effects of opioids especially in overdose. It will usually reverse the depression of the central nervous system, respiratory system, and hypotension. Naloxone may be combined with opioids that are taken by mouth to decrease the risk of their misuse.

"Use may cause symptoms of opioid withdrawal including: Agitation, nausea, vomiting, a fast heart rate and sweating among others. In those with previous heart disease further heart problems have occurred. It appears to be safe in pregnancy after having been taken by a limited number of women.

The mission also involves rescues. To increase the department's ability to fulfill the rescue role, Chief Brown applied for and was approved for a Hum-

vee free of charge from the federal government. The vehicle is a model year 2008 with 8,700 miles and will not be used for general patrol. Instead, it will be used as a specialty vehicle in the event of a flood or other emergency.

The High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), commonly known as the Humvee, is a four-wheel drive military automobile produced by AM General.

The Humvee is currently being repaired at the auto body shop at Jeff Tech. PPG Paints donated the paint for the vehicle and the lettering will be done by Jeff Tech's graphic arts program.

Brown also noted he police department's new Ford Explorer has arrived at Clarion Ford.

Backyard Conservation Workshop set for April 1

By Katie Weidenboerner

katiew@thecourierexpress.com

BENEZETTE — The Elk County Conservation District will be holding a "Backyard Conservation Workshop" at the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette on Wednesday, April 1.

Starting with registration at 9 a.m., there will be eight presentations in total.

"The goal is to give every landowner one thing they can apply to their backyard, whether it be water quality or attracting wildlife," said Amanda Stoltzfus of the Elk County Conservation District.

"This is also a good way to get the public informed about what we do."

Morning presentations

Benezette

include: "Riparian Buffers and Water Quality Benefits" (9:30 a.m.) and "Landscaping with Native Plants/Landscaping for Wildlife" (9:45 a.m.), both given by the Western PA Conservancy; "Invasive Species Management" (10:15 a.m.) by Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area; "Native Grasses" (10:50 a.m.) by Woodland Agricultural Services; and "Rain Gardens, Bio Retention Areas, and Recycling Water Sources" (11:20 a.m.) by the Elk Country Visitor Center.

Afternoon presentations include: "Effects of Feeding Wildlife" (12:45 p.m.) by PA

See Workshop, Page A9



Elk graze at a food plot at the Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, where the "Backyard Conservation Workshop" will be held April 1. The workshop will include many presentations, including landscaping for wildlife, effects of feeding wildlife, and wildlife food plots. (Photo by Katie Weidenboerner)

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE?



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