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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

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MORE INSIDE

Brookville Boro selling house

Brookville Borough is having an auction unlike any other auction in the borough's history. Instead of used equipment, the borough is auctioning off a house. **A2**

Liquor stores

Pennsylvania lawmakers are considering another proposal to privatize the operations of much of the state-run wine and liquor store system. **A7**

Wolf on taxes

Gov. Tom Wolf said Wednesday that he will urge lawmakers to cut business taxes and make the state more attractive to employers by reducing Pennsylvania's major corporate income tax rate by half, but broadening how it is applied. **A8**

Taking from kids

A school bus aide has been charged with stealing lunch money and bagged lunches from preschoolers in New Jersey. **B8**

News tip?

If you have a story idea email us at newsroom@thecourierexpress.com

Obituaries

A7

- Arlene Parisi, 78
- Doris V. Short, 87

Tomorrow's Forecast



Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Cold with highs around 10.

Full report, **A2**

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75 Cents



Miroslav Trnovsky of Slovakia, a newcomer to the Ridgway Chainsaw Carvers Rendezvous, carves in frigid temperatures Tuesday morning. Over its 16 year history, the event has drawn carvers from all over the world. The event continues through the week, culminating in the auction which starts at noon Saturday on Court Street. (Photo by Katie Weidenboerner)

DuBois man arrested on drug charges

Sandy Twp.

DuBOIS — Drug charges have been filed against a DuBois man according to Clearfield County District Attorney, William A. Shaw Jr.

Shaw identified the man as Robert Allen Selfridge, 34, N. Church Street, DuBois.



Sergeant Kris Kruselak of the **SELFTRIDGE** Sandy Township Police Department filed a criminal complaint Monday charging Selfridge with two counts of possession with the intent to deliver a controlled substance, persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms, firearms not to be carried without a license, four counts of possession of a controlled substance, possession of a small amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

An affidavit of probable cause filed with the complaint states that on Feb. 19, the Sandy Township Police Department responded to the Homewood Suites hotel located on Industrial Drive, DuBois, for an activated fire alarm. Officers were informed that the building's fire alarm had been activated and smoke was detected in room 235. Officers were also told that when hotel staff entered the room, they smelled burnt marijuana and several

of the occupants fled the room, however one man remained in the room.

The man was observed to be placing unknown items in two duffel bags, and left the room and placed the bags into a car. He then returned to the hotel and paid for the room for an additional night, and walked down the hall and entered the restroom the same time that officers arrived on scene.

Officers made contact with the man, identified as Robert Allen Selfridge, and he was taken into custody. Hotel employees directed officers to the vehicle that Selfridge had placed the bags in, and observed a knitted bag that was filled with several plastic bags. Officers also smelled marijuana. They obtained and executed a search warrant for the vehicle and located three handguns, methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, buprenorphine hydrochloride, prescription pills, various items of drug paraphernalia, a large amount of U.S. currency, and a wallet containing Selfridge's Pennsylvania Photo Identification.

Shaw said Selfridge was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge James L. Hawkins on Feb. 20, and Hawkins established

See Charges, Page A7

DuBois Area School District changes school calendar

By Elaine Haskins

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DuBOIS — The many closings and delays due to snow and below-freezing temperatures means a change in the DuBois Area School District's calendar, Superintendent J. Mark Heckman said Wednesday.

Wednesday, March 4, which was originally scheduled as a flex day, will now be removed and students will have a full day of instruction, Heckman said.

"This week, we have a half day of in-service with conferences plus a full day for parent conferences," Heckman said. "I don't want to go back in another week and have another flex day with all the snow days we've had. When we do the revised calendar after all the snow days are done in April, the revised calendar would reflect that. I just feel that's the right thing to do. So March 4 will be a full day instead of a flex day."

Director Larry Salone

said he's been getting asked constantly when the end of the school year is now.

Currently, the last student day would be June 5, Heckman said.

"But, obviously, it's not set until we stop having snow," Heckman said.

"So far, the district has had 10 two-hour delays, five cancellations and one early dismissal for a total of 16 weather-related missed school days, Heckman said after the meeting.

"Are we looking at any virtual school days?" Director Bev Kurts said. "I see a lot of schools doing it and they don't have to take a day off."

Heckman said the administrative team has discussed virtual school days. He explained that the state has approved for school districts to create a virtual plan that if they have snow days, students could go online and take classes online and it counts as a day.

"There are issues with that," Heckman said. "What

Directors petition courts for full arrest powers on school property for school police officer

By Elaine Haskins

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DuBOIS — Directors of the DuBois Area School District authorized the solicitor to petition the courts for full arrest powers on school property for Jeffrey Lee, school police officer, at Wednesday's meeting.

There was no discussion on the issue prior to the 4-2 vote. Directors Patty Fish, Mark Gilga, Larry Salone and Bev Kurts voted in favor. Scott Farrell and Lee Mitchell voted against it. Lloyd McCreight, Roland Bechtel and Tim Deluccia were excused from the meeting.

In other action, the board approved the local audit report of the district for the year ending June 30, 2014. There were no findings.

The board approved an extended school year program for 2015 at an estimated

cost of \$32,766.06, plus \$15,000 for bus transportation.

The board approved the summer school program for the middle school beginning July 7 through July 30.

The superintendent's signature on the memorandum of agreement between the district and North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission for a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for the 2014-15 DECA State Conference was ratified.

A letter of agreement between Clear Behavioral Health and the district for the treatment of clients was also approved.

The board approved the privacy and network liability insurance renewal quotation submitted by Swift Kennedy Insurance Group effective Feb. 26 at a cost of \$9,000. This represents no change from the previous year.

about a student that doesn't have a computer at home? kids during that day. I can't guarantee that."

And we have those. We have to allow for some kind of instruction and we have to say that we taught those

Back when there were concerns about closing the district down because of the Swine flu, Heckman said

there were plans in place ahead of time if the district had to close school.

"We don't know ahead of time with a snow day," Heck-

See School, Page A7

Role of new Regional Rail Authority remains unclear

By Katie Weidenboerner

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RIDGWAY — As the path to reconstruct a 20-mile abandoned rail corridor in Clearfield County continues to be forged, many questions remain unanswered on what the public-private partnership will look like.

In one of the first established steps to get the project off the

ground, three of the six counties in North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission's coverage region — Clearfield, Jefferson and Elk counties — have approved non-binding resolutions to explore organizing a Regional Rail Authority.

The exact role of the authority in relation to the proposed public-private partnership between North Central, RJ Corman Railroad Co. and Genessee & Wyoming to recon-

struct a the rail corridor between DuBois and Curwensville remains unclear.

"This is a really big deal and it has the potential to be even bigger than what we originally perceived it to be," North Central's Executive Director Eric Bridges said, adding the railroad has become a "front burner issue" for the agency.

Executive committee member Bob Esch of American Refining Compa-

ny said it's important for people to come to the table in this project who truly understand the rail industry.

"There has to be a real discussion about what the rail systems look like," Esch said.

McKean County Commission and board member Joe Demott asked a question weighing on the minds of several of the board's members, "What is going to be the focus of the

See Rail, Page A7



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