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The Sandy Township Supervisors recently approved a minor subdivision/lot consolidation request for Shirley Ogershok of Quarry Avenue. Ogershok donated the property to benefit expansion plans for the Adrian Sandy Fire Co. Part of their garage has always been on the property, Supervisor Dave Sylvis said. Eventually, the fire company will tear down the garage and expand the building. It was just a matter of getting the property legally since the garage was on the Ogershok property, he said. (Photo by Elaine Haskins)

Fox Twp. couple arrested on drug charges

By Katie Weidenboerner

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KERSEY — More than 138 grams of bath salts, a powerful and highly addictive synthetic drug, as well as \$3,000 cash were seized from a Fox Township home when the Office of the Attorney General's North Central Municipal Drug Task Force served a search warrant Dec. 9.

For the past several months, the Office of the Attorney General's North Central Municipal Drug Task Force has had an ongoing investigation into narcotics sale at the residence of Cynthia Marie Bizzak, 49, and Michael Todd Bizzak, 44, both of 491 Main St., Kersey.

St. Marys police and task force members served a search warrant at the couple's residence Dec. 9 after Elk County probation officers reported finding bath salts and drug paraphernalia during a home visit. At that time, probation officers took the Bizzaks into custody and transferred to Elk County Prison for violating probation.

In addition to cash and drugs, the task force also found drug paraphernalia, packing materials, and electronic devices alleged to have been used to order bath salts.

Records were also recovered from the house showing money transfers to China, where the majority of the drug is produced and shipped from, as well as "owe sheets" which show the weight and cash amounts of controlled substances sold since 2013.

This bust comes on the heels of a string of summer raids in which more than 1,000 grams of bath

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MORE INSIDE

Six people shot; killer sought

A woman who told neighbors she feared her ex-husband would kill her was among six people found fatally shot in three suburban Philadelphia homes, and her Marine veteran former husband is on the run. **A3**

Truck overturns

A FedEx truck overturned in northern New Jersey, spilling dozens of packages on what is typically the delivery company's busiest day of the year. **A6**

Wife killed

Authorities say a woman was run over and killed by a car her husband was driving in a New Jersey church parking lot. **A10**

Obituaries

A9

- Martha Kammerdeiner, 81
- Robert E. Kline, 73

Tomorrow's Forecast



Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s. Chance of snow 50 percent. **Full report, A2**

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75 Cents

No tax increase in Sandy Twp. budget

By Elaine Haskins

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DuBOIS — Monday, the Sandy Township Supervisors gave final approval for the \$8,912,938 2015 budget, which includes no property tax increase.

The real estate levy of 15 mills includes 12 mills for general government, 2.5 mills for fire protection and one-half for the DuBois Public Library.

It means the owner of a \$50,000 property will pay about \$187 in taxes to the township. Residents also pay property and other taxes to Clearfield County and the DuBois Area School District.

The general fund budget lists revenues of \$3,993,900, an increase of \$196,165 from last year's budget, and expenses of \$3,942,650, an increase of \$145,650 from last year's budget.

The budget also includes \$54,868 for the Mountain Run Turn Back project and \$500,130 for the Mountain Run Bridge project.

The liquid fuels fund, which is separate from the general fund and is financed by the state with fuel taxes, totals \$1,811,440. Last year's allocation was \$1,126,750.

The municipal authority budget, which is financed by user fees, lists revenues and expenses of \$2,552,600, was also approved by the supervisors at the municipal authority meeting Monday. Sewer totals are \$1,794,500 and water totals are \$758,000.

The supervisors tabled an order on a house demolition located at 1865 Basse Terre Road, Treasure Lake. A public hearing was held Nov. 17 and Bill Kulbacki of Pennsafe Building Inspection Services LLC said the house is dangerous and dilapidated and in need of some kind of abatement, repair

Supervisors updated on permit for injection disposal well in Brady Twp.

By Elaine Haskins

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DuBOIS — Duane Marshall of Highland Street Extension thanked the Sandy Township Supervisors for its letter to the EPA's Environmental Hearing Board opposing a permit for a deep injection disposal well in Brady Township. The well would dispose of liquids used in the hydrofracturing of the Marcellus Shale layer.

Marshall said about 120 petitions in opposition were submitted and the deadline for the board to respond has been extended until Jan. 23.

Marshall also told the supervisors that another injection well is

being proposed in Huston Township.

Anyone who would like to make comments about the proposed injection well have until Dec. 29 to request a hearing.

A tentative hearing is scheduled for Jan. 7.

In other action, the supervisors:

- Approved a resolution pension setting 5 percent police participant contribution for 2015.
- Authorized to pay year-end bills Dec. 29.
- Authorized the secretary to advertise the organization/regular meeting for Monday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. at the township building.
- Approved a minor subdivision re-approval for Hirsh Katzen.

or removal, according to the township ordinance.

Township Solicitor Greg Kruk said, "We have still not received the transcript." As a result, he has not prepared a binding of fact so he requested that the supervisors table that order until the township receives the transcript.

"On receipt of it (transcript), we will prepare the findings of fact and you can review the fact and issue your order based on those findings," Kruk said.

Supervisor Dave Sylvis asked, "Is there no way for somebody to purchase that or to stop it from being demolished other than the property owner?"

Kruk said someone could purchase it from the property owner if they find her and can make a deal.

"If they don't get a hold of her, there is no other way?" Sylvis said.

"Not really because they would need a deed," Kruk said. "The deed would have to be signed by the property owner. We have an address for her but no contact has really been received from her. That doesn't mean she might not be willing to enter into a deal. That would be a solution the township could seriously consider."

Sylvis said he was contacted about a year ago by a woman who was interested in purchasing the property. He would just like to know if there is a legal way for her to do that before the township spends its money and demolishes it.

"There is no time limit on you issuing your order," Kruk said. "So after you see the transcript and prepare

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St. Marys Council discusses drilling zoning proposal

By Katie Weidenboerner

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ST. MARYS — For nearly two weeks, an ominous red glow has hung over certain parts of St. Marys as a reminder of the impending Marcellus Shale boom.

According to other media reports, Seneca Resources began the flaring of its wells Dec. 3, adding it typically lasts 10 to 15 days or until the flow of liquid and gas, as well as its pressure, are stabilized.

With the current flaring taking place and its potential for carcinogen release into the atmosphere, Brock urged the council at Monday's council meeting to hold firm to its current drilling zoning proposal which plac-

es a well 2,000 feet from a dwelling.

Seneca Resources, which owns 56 percent of the mineral rights in Elk County, has a different perspective of the ordinance.

In October, an attorney representing Seneca Resources threatened the council with a potential lawsuit if it passes a zoning ordinance requiring oil and gas developers to set well pad perimeters 2,000 feet away from a dwelling. The council has been discussing and researching the ordinance since March and seemed unshaken by the threat.

Pennsylvania municipalities regained local zoning control of drilling activity when the state Supreme

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A reindeer towers over the home it stands in front of at 392 Main Street in Kersey, Elk County. (Photo by Katie Weidenboerner)

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