



thecourierexpress.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

Vol. 136 - No. 038

MORE INSIDE

Ready For budget hearing

The Treasure Lake Property Owners Association announced the first hearing for the proposed budget will be held Monday. A2

Courthouse flood costs \$\$\$

The final bill isn't in yet but the recent water line break at the Jefferson County Courthouse will be expensive. A2

Window washers rescued

Firefighters rescued two window washers who got stuck on a scaffold near the top of a New York City high-rise. A7

Woman finds kidney donor

A Maine woman's unorthodox approach to finding a kidney donor has paid off. B5

WEEKLY SALES SAVINGS

OF MORE THAN **\$9,700** ANNUALLY

Obituaries A7

- Steven Klender, 69
- Doris Shaffer, 89
- Francis Shubert, 72

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rain likely in the morning. Snow likely. Light snow accumulation possible. Highs around 40. Chance of precipitation 70 percent. Full report, A2

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\$1.00



By Katie Weidenboerner

Metoxet Street in Ridgway was quiet Tuesday, days after local police and special agencies of the state police, surrounded the building to serve a search warrant for a suspected meth lab.

More details surface in Ridgway meth lab bust

By Katie Weidenboerner
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RIDGWAY — Many on Metoxet Street are still shocked there was a functioning meth lab operating for almost five months in their neighborhood.

On Friday, Todd Donald Bogacki, 47, was charged by Ridgway police with felony charges of operating a meth lab, manufacturing methamphetamine, conspiracy, criminal use of a communication facility, and possession of materials used in methamphetamine production, as well as misdemeanor charges of knowingly possessing ephedrine, possession of a controlled substance, and recklessly endangering another person.

According to the affidavit of probable cause obtained from District Judge James Martin's office Tuesday, Ridgway police had a search warrant Friday for the cell phone of James M. Bloom, which revealed that Bogacki was manufacturing, distributing, and obtaining ingredients for methamphetamines, a Schedule II controlled substance.

On Friday around 4:30 p.m., police surrounded a two-story duplex located at the corner of Metoxet Street and Elk Avenue, to serve a search warrant at Bogacki's residence, escorting him out in handcuffs upon finding the ingredients needed to make meth, as well as a "one pot" cook bottle and four gas generators.

When Bogacki was interviewed by police later that night he admitted to manufacturing and ingesting meth at his apartment at 26 Metoxet Street. He also said Bloom would provide him pseudoephedrine tablets to

be used to cook meth and that Bloom would deliver the meth to several people for him.

A search of Bogacki's cell phone confirmed what he told police in the interview.

Bogacki was arraigned Friday and has since been remanded to Elk County Prison in lieu of posting \$250,000 cash bail.

"We haven't had too many labs in Elk," said state police Cpl. Dennis Ulery, the coordinator for the state police clandestine meth lab response team, which covers the whole western half of Pennsylvania.

"It would be pretty hard for neighbors to know that they are doing this. You couldn't walk by their house and see it or smell it."

Wishing to remain unnamed for safety reasons, one neighbor described Metoxet Street as a relatively safe place filled with respectable, hard-working people who know one another and are good neighbors.

They added that the tenants of the duplex were evacuated Friday night and have since been allowed back in their apartments, despite an ominous fluorescent sign that hangs on the door that says "there still may be hazardous substances or waste products on this property either in the buildings or in the ground itself. Please exercise caution while on these premises."

Ulery explained the sign should not be seen as an alarm, but rather as a precaution.

In the "one pot" method, also known as "shake and bake," meth cooks use common household chemicals including drain cleaner, pseudoephedrine tablets to

See Meth, A7



This clandestine meth lab warning hangs on the door of an apartment in a duplex at 26 Metoxet St. in Ridgway. Tenants moved back into the building after being displaced Friday night following the arrest of Todd Bogacki, who is charged with operating a meth lab inside.

(Photo By Katie Weidenboerner)

Construction underway at new Sheetz store

By Elaine Haskins

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DuBOIS — More details have been released about Sheetz building a new store behind its existing store located at the intersection of routes 830 and 219 near Falls Creek.

SANDY TWP.

Construction began earlier this month at the popular chain of gas stations and convenience stores and is expected to take approximately seven months for full completion, Sheetz Manager of Engineering & Permitting William A. Sauserman said.

The new store, which will be 8,743-square foot, is scheduled to open on Aug. 10 with full diesel pumps and limited gas pumps open.

"Once the new store opens, we will demolish the existing store and complete the gas pump islands and the car wash," Sauserman

said. "The existing store is worn and tired and was ready to be replaced with our newer store design." The existing store opened in October 1992, he said.

"The new store will offer all the great food and conveniences offered by the existing store with the addition of ice cream, an expanded beverage offer and a plan to sell beer," Sauserman said.

There will be six diesel fueling positions with a new truck scale and 14 gas fueling positions.

The new store will offer both outdoor and indoor seating, which includes Sheetz' new Zoned Seating Concept, Sauserman said.

Parking will be expanded and include better parking near the store.

"Sheetz currently has 42 full- and part-time employees at this store," Sauserman said. "Our goal is to

See Store, A7



Photo by Elaine Haskins

This Sheetz store located on Rich Highway in Sandy Township will be demolished once the new store is built behind it.



By Elaine Haskins/

The diesel fuel pumps are being demolished at the Sheetz store on Rich Highway in Sandy Township. A new store is currently being built behind the existing one.

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE?



EVERY FRIDAY: PROGRESS, SUNDAY: TRI-COUNTY SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY: CE VALUE GUIDE