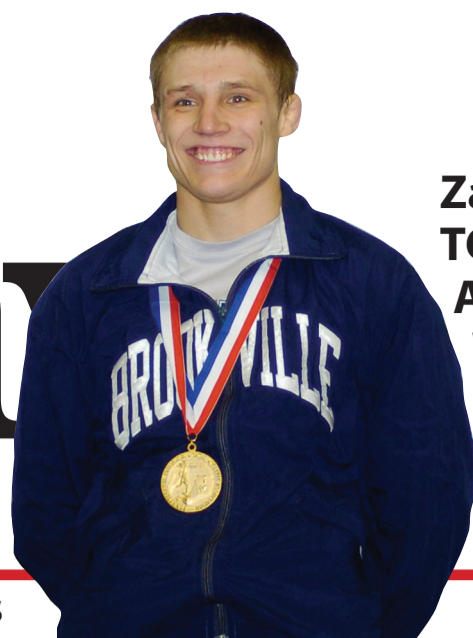


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Ridgway woman killed in accident

RIDGWAY — A Ridgway woman has been killed following a single-vehicle accident Friday.

According to reports from the Ridgway-based state police, at 2:39 p.m. Friday, Olen L. Pritt, 59, Ridgway, was driving a 2005 Pontiac Grand Am east on Brandy Camp Road in Fox Township when he lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a right hand curve in the road. The vehicle spun clockwise and left the right side of the road where it then struck an embankment and rolled over.

Passenger Kathryn J. Moriarty, 31, Ridgway, was ejected through the back window as the vehicle was overturning. The vehicle came to rest on its roof back on Brandy Camp Road. Moriarty was pronounced dead at the scene by Elk County Coroner Michelle Muccio. Pritt received minor injuries and was taken to Penn Highlands Elk by the Fox Township Ambulance for treatment. The vehicle had to be towed from the scene. Police were assisted by the Fox Township Fire Police.

Obituaries

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, reports that the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget includes \$64.8 million for the East Branch Clarion River Lake Dam Safety Project in Elk County. The funds will be used to permanently address seepage-related concerns at the dam by constructing a 2,100-foot long, 260-foot deep concrete cutoff wall within the existing earthen dam. (Photo by Katie Weidenboerner)

\$280M project may see funding

President's budget includes \$64 million for East Branch Dam project

By Katie Weidenboerner
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WILCOX — The \$280 million East Branch Clarion River Lake Dam Safety Project has been delayed by one year to allow more time for proposals to be reviewed.

Work slated to begin later this year will permanently address seepage-related concerns at the dam through the construction of a 2,100-foot long, 260-foot deep concrete cutoff wall within the existing earthen

dam. A technically complex project, the Pittsburgh District of the Army Corps of Engineers has been reviewing bid proposals since October 2013 with hopes to award the contract this summer.

The Army Corps' Pittsburgh District reports that the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget includes \$176.3 million in new federal funding for the district's civil works program. Approximately \$64 million was set aside for the East

Branch Clarion River Lake Dam Safety Project in Elk County.

Project Manager Mike Rattay said between fiscal years 2011-14, \$42.5 million has been allocated for this project.

U.S. Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson said later this month he will meet with the commander of the Army Corps Pittsburgh District in regard to the East Branch Project to receive additional information and further review the project.

"The President's annual budget request to Congress is a blueprint of the Administration's priorities. Only Congress has the constitutional authority to make appropriations from the Treasury, and these type of requests, as with all federal spending, require an appropriate amount of Congressional oversight," Thompson said.

Flood risk

East Branch is an earthen embankment dam located on the Clarion River which was original con-

structed between 1947 and 1952. In 1957, there was an episode of internal erosion which created a void in the dam the size of a school bus.

"We were fortunate to be able to find it in time that we could fill that void with some cementitious grout. That particular repair has held since 1957," Rattay said. "The dam now is 57 years older."

The Corps lowered water levels at the lake in 2008 when it was confirmed

See Dam, A5



Playing the drums is one of Alex Shumaker's favorite things to do. He really enjoys classic rock bands such as Journey and Foreigner, but is gradually expanding his musical interests to country artists such as Jason Aldean and Florida Georgia Line. (Photo by Elaine Haskins)

Punxsy boy totally rocks

By Elaine Haskins

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PUNXSUTAWNEY — Seven-year-old Alex Shumaker totally rocks.

Literally. Anyone who knows the young drummer is not surprised to find him either winning lip sync battles or jamming on stage with famous classic rock bands such Foreigner and Jefferson Starship.

The little rocker, who started drumming at the age of 5, got interested in the musical instrument af-

ter purchasing a DVD of a live concert of the band Journey and fell in love with Deen Castronovo, the band's current drummer, according to his parents, Robb and Brooke Shumaker of Punxsutawney.

After that, "he got an exercise ball out and the kitchen utensils and started drumming on it. He broke all my kitchen utensils and his dad came home and cut him a pair of plastic coat hangers," Brooke said. "That's what we let him use until he got his drum set."

A set of toy drums in

the hands of a young child is something most parents might try to avoid because of the noise.

The Shumakers said they were no different than most and had no intention of buying him a drum set.

But thanks to his grandparents, Mary Jane and Al Martin of Treasure Lake, Alex got his first drum set the following week.

"We didn't think he would keep doing it," Brooke Shumaker said. "We just thought he'd do it for a little

See Punxsy, A5

Clarion Chamber honors businesses, individuals at annual awards dinner

CLARION — Gene Barr, president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the state's largest broad-based business advocacy association, was the guest speaker at last night's Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry's Annual Awards Dinner at Clarion University Gemmill Student Complex, Multi-Purpose Room.

Barr joined the PA Chamber in February 2003. He served for more than eight years as vice president of Government and Public Affairs prior to being elected president in October 2011. During his tenure, he has worked on a large number of significant legislative and regulatory efforts critical to Pennsylvania's business climate.

Barr has more than 35 years of experience in various facets of government and public affairs activity, as well as business operations. He recently served as a member of Governor Tom Corbett's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission, as a board member and chairman of the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board, the Early Learning Investment Commission and as a board member for the United Way of Pennsylvania.

Barr spoke to the attendees about several issues the Senate and House of Representatives are discussing that have a direct effect on the quality of life in Clarion and how companies conduct business with one another. Throughout the evening the Clarion Area Chamber recognized several local businesses and people of significance. The recipients of the awards were nominated by community members and business professionals then discussed and voted on by the chamber's board of directors. This is a process that the Clarion Area Chamber uses each year to select the most deserving of the awards. The award winners are:

Business of the Year – Community Service, Dancer's Studio

Dancer's Studio was recognized for everything it does to give back financially as well as through its dance. The studio has been able to give generously to events and programs such as the Greg Wolf Mini Golf Scramble, Wahl Family Benefit, Liberty Towers and many more. Additionally the studio and all its dancers, parents and supporters have been able to give back to the community by providing entertainment in the community such as the Senior Center, Clarion Rotary, Come Together Clarion, The Festival of Trees, The ALF™ Scholarship program and the First United Methodist church and more.

See Clarion, A6

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