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Jeffersonian Democrat

Thursday, May 7, 2015

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Clogged!



NO PRANK BUT PLENTY OF TP — Route 28 was closed for several hours in Clover Township Thursday evening after a tractor-trailer rolled onto its side and its contents were strewn across the road. State police in Punxsutawney say at 5:25 p.m. Thursday, Thomas J. Butler, 34, Junction City, Kan., was driving a 2015 Freightliner tractor-trailer carrying toilet paper on Route 28 near Jefferson Road when he lost control of the vehicle. The truck went about 264 feet before it overturned onto its right side. When it fell, the top portion of the enclosed semi-trailer was damaged, police say, and toilet paper was scattered across the road. The Freightliner came to rest facing southwest blocking both lanes. It was towed. Butler was wearing a seatbelt and was not injured. He was cited for driving at an unsafe speed. The road was closed for about five hours, police say. The Summerville and Pine Creek Fire Departments, Summerville Ambulance, and PEMA also assisted. (Photo by Randy Bartley)

Brookville Parking meter fees decision postponed

By Judi Anthony
 BROOKVILLE — No decision has been made as to whether or not to raise parking ticket fines. After hearing comments from the community at the April 21 town hall meeting, no action was taken. Public Safety Committee Chairman Steve Hoak said he wants all of the council members to review informal surveys of downtown business owners that were distributed by councilman Dave Ferringer.
 The preliminary mission of the fee restructuring was to look at fines and parking in prohibited areas. At the April 21 meeting, Hoak said after consideration, he would like to see the current \$3 parking meter fine increased to \$5, with a cap of \$25 after 14 days.
 Initially, an increase from \$3 to \$10 was proposed. Hoak said if a fine is not paid after 30 days it goes before the magistrate and a police officer has to go to a hearing, so he would like to see the fine changed to \$100 for a ticket not paid after 30 days. Initially, concerns about parking in fire lanes at the high school prompted a review of the fee schedule.
 Chief Jason Brown said, "our meters are archaic" and it is getting hard to get parts for them. After more discussion, the council decided to table action on the fees until the next meeting.
 Police Chief Jason Brown said two officers, Andrew Turnbull and Justin Miller,
See FEES, Page A6

Summerville proceeds with condemnation

By Laura Lynn Yohe
 SUMMERVILLE — Summerville Borough Solicitor Patrick Lavelle was present for the regular meeting of the Council to discuss the next steps in a condemnation action which began on June 11th of last year.
 Following the issuance of the condemnation notice for a property which has long been a topic before the Council, certain procedural steps need to take place before bids can be sought from a contractor to demolish the structure.
 During an in-meeting con-

ference call with Code Enforcement Officer Matt Hasselback, the case was reviewed and it was determined that a formal verification of one aspect of the matter at the Magisterial Court level will be sought.
 In his written report to Council for the month of April, Hasselback had referred to the property in question and explained his experience in resolution of a similar situation in another community.
 Once the needed documentation is confirmed, President Bill Gatehouse stated that Council would proceed as soon

as possible with the demolition.
 Considerable time was given to the matter of dogs running loose in the Borough, some acting in an aggressive manner toward adults and children. Various options for dealing with the issue were discussed. Action on the part of the Borough will begin with letters to the owners of several animals.
 Continuing an effort begun by now-retired State Representative and Speaker of the House Sam Smith, current State Representative Cris Dush has introduced House Bill 1114 with

the purpose of naming the new bridge carrying State Street over the Red Bank Creek in the Borough in honor of all Summerville Veterans.
 Council will seek a formal request from former residents who no longer live in Summerville, but still own property in the community. They have, by "word of mouth", sought permission to remove a sidewalk on the tract. Research would be required to determine whether or not any of the existing local ordinances address such an in-



TAKING THE PLUNGE — Kamryn Himes and Palynn Linder enjoy the pool at the Brookville YMCA. (Photo submitted)

YMCA 'Strong Kids Campaign' begins

By Rich Rhoades
 BROOKVILLE — The Brookville YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign is under way.
 Strong Kids is the YMCA's annual fund-raiser drive that helps underwrite many of the programs. Last year, over \$42,000 was raised and given back to children in forms of reduced membership fees and scholarships for the nursery school program.
 This year's Strong Kids goal is \$44,000. Last year, donations supported 71 families, 130 children and 258 people overall.
 For more information or to contribute to the campaign, contact YMCA CEO Tina Householder at 849-7355 or Campaign Chairperson Barb
See STRONG, Page A6

Heath Twp. approves seismic testing

By Laura Lynn Yohe
 CLEAR CREEK - Registered letters to affected parties, four pages of "frequently asked question" sheets (FAQ), informational data, and a personal visit, all preceded a request to the Heath Township Supervisors for use of the local roadways to conduct "3D seismic testing" related to development of natural gas production.
 DAS will conduct the seis-

mic work under contract with Seneca Resources in a ninety-seven square mile area covering portions of Barnett, Eldred, Heath, Polk and Warsaw Townships in Jefferson County; Barnett and Jenks Townships in Forest County; and Millstone and Spring Townships in Elk County.
 Roberts reviewed the parameters for the testing which adheres to a 300 foot buffer

area around foundations, wells, ponds and other pertinent installations. Current plans call for the work to begin around August.
 The Supervisors particularly pressed their concerns about congestion on the narrow cartways of Heath Township's roads, weight limits and adherence to their requirements.
See TESTING, Page A6

Supervisors Mike Emery, who is also Heath Township's Roadmaster, Dan Leonard and Rick Rupp met formally with Terry Roberts at their regular monthly meeting regarding the proposed activity.
 Roberts is a "Contract Permit Agent" for Discovery Acquisition Services (DAS) which has established an office on Main Street in Brookville.
 DAS will conduct the seis-

Permanent drug collection boxes installed in Brookville

By Laura Lynn Yohe
 PUNXSUTAWNEY - What had been a twice-yearly program conducted for just one day each time to legally and safely dispose of unwanted, unused prescription drugs is now a permanent, easily accessible option for citizens in the Jefferson County area with the installation of four "drug collection" boxes.
 During a press conference held at the Punxsutawney Borough Police Station, where one of the blue metal boxes is secured, Jefferson County Sheriff Carl Gotwald, Sr. explained that when the previous collections were held, his deputies gathered the deposited products and channeled them to an

incinerator facility in Ohio.
 Now, monitoring the boxes will be part of the assigned duties of Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputies Mark Humes and Sam Bartley. They will be responsible for accumulating and weighing the items as the bins are filled.
 In cooperation with the Butler County Sheriff's office, Humes and Bartley will coordinate transport of the unused, expired, unwanted drugs to a steel mill in the Butler County area which has agreed to incinerate the collected products.
 With placement of the box in the Punxsutawney location, along with similar ones at the Reynoldsville and Brockway Police Departments as well as

another at the Jefferson County Courthouse, citizens can take an active role in preventing prescription drugs from getting into the wrong hands.
 As part of the community partnership which supported installation of the boxes, Richard W. Long, Esq., Executive Director of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, praised the local effort, saying, "This is a feather in Jefferson County's cap, to have collection and disposal worked out, kudos to them."
 Procuring the physical boxes was made possible through a Five Hundred Dollar grant from the Pennsylvania Ameri-



IN THE BAG — Jefferson County Sheriff Carl Gotwald drops unused perscription drugs into the drop-off inside the Jefferson County Courthouse. With him are Sergeant Sam Bartley, Deputy Mark Humes, who are members of the county's Druug Task Force, Gotwald, Jefferson County District Attorney Jeff Burkett and Special Prosecutor Kris Carlini. (Photo by Randy Bartley)



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2015 SCHEDULE

- Wednesday, March 18, 2015 5:00 - 9:00 PM
- Wednesday, June 24, 2015 5:00 - 9:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 19, 2015 5:00 - 9:00 PM
- Tuesday, September 2, 2015 5:00 - 9:00 PM
- Thursday, November 18, 2015 5:00 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION:
 Education Conference Center
 Penn Highlands Brookville (building to the right of the main hospital)
 Hospital Road, Brookville, PA, 15825
COST: \$25.00
REGISTRATION: Call 814-849-1870 to register for the classes.
www.phhealthcare.org