Attention Seniors Ages 50+

We Want You To Enter Our Essay Contest!

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• MLB season lockout looms, B1

THE Weekender.

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Federal judge approves $28.5M class action suit against Geisinger, Evangelical over 'no-poach' agreement

BY LARRY DEKLINSKI
THE WEEKENDER

WILLIAMSPORT – U.S. Middle District Chief Judge Matthew Brann has approved a $28.5 million settlement in a class action lawsuit alleging that Geisinger and Evangelical Community Hospital entered into an illegal "no-poach" agreement to not recruit or solicit each other's workers.

The lawsuit, filed Feb. 3, 2021, alleges that the two companies had illegally suppressed wages and restricted job mobility, in violation of antitrust laws.

The complaint said the "no-poach agreement" began by May 2013 and continued until at least Aug. 3, 2020, when the Department of Justice (DOJ) brought a civil antitrust action to enjoin Geisinger's partial acquisition of Evangelical Community Hospital.

"But for the DOJ's investigation of a proposed acquisition, which the defendants did not disclose publicly, and the resulting injunction, the DOJ complaint asserts, the no-poach agreement, the existence of the anticompetitive no-poach agreement might have been permanent," said attorney Marvin Caruso, of the Philadelphia firm Berger Montague, said in the complaint.

Settlement discussions occurred against the backdrop of over four years of "hard-fought" litigation, including extensive fact and expert discovery, according to court documents.

Health care workers who worked at Geisinger Jo Ellen or Evangelical Community Hospital in Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Lycoming and Columbia counties from Jan. 1, 2016, through Aug. 3, 2021, are

Lawsuit, Page A8

LEWISBURG
CAREER DAY

Lucy Borgyn pets K-8 Ely, who works for Union County Sheriff's Deputy Dustin Heiser during Friday's Career Day at Linntown Intermediate School.

Representatives open young eyes to future professions at Linntown school

BY VINCENT DIFONZO
THE WEEKENDER

LEWISBURG — Linntown Intermediate School hosted its annual career day on Friday, with representatives from 36 different professions teaching fourth- and fifth-graders about their work.

Students were given questionnaires to fill out to participants about their careers.

"We have stations of people taking time out of their day to spend all day with us, and that really speaks to our community and the investment they have in kids," school counselor Evelyn Homberger said.

Visitors represented careers ranging from athletics to nursing to sales to law enforcement.

The school's goal is to introduce

Careers, Page A6

Upper Augusta Township home gutted by fire

BY LARRY DEKLINSKI
THE WEEKENDER

UPPER AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP — Fire gutted a one-story ranch home in this Northumberland County township Friday afternoon.

Heavy fire was showing from 1476 Mills Hill Road when firefighters began arriving at the residence after the noon dispatch. The residence is a rural area between Sunbury and Shamokin.

Sunbury Chief Jay Long, who had command of the scene, said two people escaped the home with two dogs. There were no injuries.

Due to the lack of fire hydrants, numerous water carriers were dispatched. A portable water tank was established at the base of the home's driveway.

Fire, Page A6

Milton skimming-device suspects apprehended Thursday in New Jersey

BY KEVIN MONTE
THE WEEKENDER

MILTON — Two suspects accused of installing a card-skimming device on a Milton gas station's 7-Eleven on Race Street in Milton were apprehended Thursday in New Jersey.

Charges were filed Friday in the Court of Common Pleas Judge Jo Ann Odell, of Milton, by Milton Police Department Sgt. Dan Zettel.

ozone and Jordon Pizarro, of the Pennsylvania Office of State Inspector General.

Patricia Bogdan, 35, of Tobyhanna, and George Lunz, 26, no address listed, have each been charged with 24 felony counts of use of device to record, read or obtain encoded information; 24 counts of possession of unlawful

Skimmer, Page A6

Local author sparks children's curiosity and interest in reading

BY VINCENT DIFONZO
THE WEEKENDER

TURBOTVILLE — Author Becca Wiersalla visited Warrior Run Elementary School on Friday, encouraging students from kindergarten through fourth grade to read and write during an assembly she described as an interactive mystery.

Wiersalla, of Mcsweeneyville, is a 2013 Warrior Run graduate. She is author of two popular children's series: "Road Trip Mysteries," which students have been reading in their anticipation of her visit.

"I'm from Turbotville Elementary, so it's really cool to be back in the same community. Some of the teachers are the same," Wiersalla said. "I really appreciate the opportunity to share this with the kids."

Wiersalla spent the day meeting with students, reading and signing books and allowing students to ask questions about the writing process.

"Growing up, I haven't had a chance to meet a lot of authors," Wiersalla said. "I love to be able

Reading, Page A8

Becca Wiersalla signs a copy of her book "Scout and Barnaby Mysteries' for Warrior Run first-grader Shiloh Hendershot.

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All essays will run in The Weekender July 4. In 150 words or less we invite you to take a moment to reflect and write from your heart. The topic is

What Freedom Means To Me

The top three entries will be printed in the Resource Guide for Seniors Magazine published in July.

Send Your Entries by May 31st to:

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