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THE NEWS-ITEM

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SPOOKY EVENTS



LARRY DEKLINSKI/
STAFF PHOTOS
A ghoul reaches out to an unsuspecting guest of the Elysburg Haunted House Saturday night at the Valley Gun and Country Club. Hundreds of people attended the attraction, which benefits the Ralpho Fire Co. and Elysburg Fire Department.

Area celebrates the Halloween season

BY LARRY DEKLINSKI
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Halloween week is here, and, this year, there are many ways to celebrate across the region.

The Shamokin Halloween parade held by Shamokin Area Businesses for Economic Revitalization (SABER) at 6 p.m. Tuesday will kick off the parade scene.

Participants will be judged in either singles, doubles, groups or floats categories. Judges will be positioned at Legacy Park located at Market and Arch streets. Each winner will receive a cash prize, amounts to be announced, according to Kathy Vetovich, president of SABER.

Mayor John Brown asked parade participants to refrain from throwing candy from vehicles to ensure the safety of spectators.

The Moose Family Center on Rock Street will host its traditional haunted house and the Shamokin Area High School football team will have a pep rally located at the municipal lot at Independence and Rock streets, which is the end of the parade's route.

The Borough of Kulpmont will celebrate Halloween 7 p.m. Thursday with a parade of its own, courtesy of the Lions Club. Participants will meet at the Church of the Holy Rosary. A panel of judges are typically seated in front of the St. Pauline Visintainer Spirituality Center along Chestnut Street.

Signup begins at 5 p.m. with step off at 7 p.m. The route is east on Scott Street, north on Sixth and west on Chestnut Street to the West End Fire Co., where refreshments will be handed out.

"We've been having this parade for over 50 years," said Dave Bango,



Amanda Krebs, of R.A.T.L., sings "I Put a Spell on You" at Knoebels Amusement Resort. The local band performs regularly during the park's Hallo-Fun weekends, which are 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday and lastly noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

chairman of the Kulpmont Lions District 14G Halloween Parade Committee. "Last year was the first year we missed because of the pandemic."

Bango said the committee is watching the weather forecast, but hopes are that the heavy rain expected for the end of the week holds off until after the parade. A rain date is currently under consideration.

The Mount Carmel Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie 464, is sponsoring the 42nd Mount Carmel Halloween parade as part of its commitment to promote the community and follow the national organization's motto of "People Helping People."

This year's event will take place 11 a.m. Saturday with a rain date scheduled for the following day at noon, if necessary.

The parade will form on Sixth Street between Hickory and Oak streets and Sixth Street between Oak and Maple streets, if necessary. The parade will proceed down Hickory Street and turn on Second Street, after which it will turn down Oak Street and the business district heading to the front of the Mount Carmel Eagles, 147 S. Oak St., where children will receive gift bags.

The Elysburg Haunted House benefiting the Ralpho Fire Co. and Elysburg Fire Department heads into the last weekend of the haunt

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ELECTION '21

Judge Saylor seeking 10-year bench retention

BY MARK GILGER
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SUNBURY — Northumberland County President Judge Charles Saylor is seeking another 10-year term on the bench in the Nov. 2 general election.

On the ballot will be a question asking voters if Saylor should be retained for another term as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

His current 10-year term, which is his second, expires at the end of the year.

Saylor said he takes great pride in his accomplishments on the bench. At the top of his list was establishing the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program in the county. The program provides children in the foster care system with a voice in court through trained volunteers.

Another foster care initiative was the celebration of all adoptions by holding an Adoption Day program in November every year.

Saylor has been active in seeking out programs that could benefit youth in the county. Currently, there is a juvenile truancy task force

that is actively taking steps to address this serious problem.

The judge has always supported treatment courts. The county presently has five specialty courts, including veterans treatment court that he launched in 2009.

Saylor has served as president judge since 2017. As president judge, he has oversight of all court-related offices.

He attempts to lead by example to make the judicial system as effective as possible in moving cases to a just resolution. The court has remained open as much as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saylor also has served as chairman of the county prison board since 2017 and has helped guide the transition to a new jail in Coal Township that meets the county's needs.

Saylor has a busy caseload in which he handles a wide variety of issues. He

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Register/Recorder Incumbent Mertz seeks 2nd term against political newcomer

BY MARK GILGER
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SUNBURY — Republican Christina "Tina" Mertz is seeking her second four-year term as Northumberland County register/recorder in the Nov. 2 general election against Libertarian Alison Smeltz, who serves as secretary/treasurer of the Susquehanna Valley Libertarian Party.

Mertz

Mertz, 57, of Point Township, began serving as acting register/recorder in January 2016 after succeeding Mary Zimmerman, who retired. She successfully ran for her first four-year term in 2017.

"During the past four years, I have implemented numerous things into the office such as e-recording of documents, which has been welcomed by attorneys, title searchers, my staff and many people from the general public. I also established in the office the Veteran ID Program, which has been very successful."

Mertz said she continued some scanning projects of old books onto her internet software and recently purchased new computer monitors. Her office also started doing "zoom" probates, which was sorely needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"During these many months of day-to-day uncertainty with the virus, it was imperative that my office continue to process deeds, mortgages, marriage licenses, estates, etc., with the least amount of interruptions, which we've been able to accomplish."

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PSP: Man wanted for Mahanoy City murder

BY LARRY DEKLINSKI
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MAHANOY CITY — The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) are searching for 36-year-old Santonio Pierre Malone who investigators say shot two people, killing one, just before 3 a.m. Sunday outside Rmusic21 Lounge at Centre and Sec-

ond streets in the borough.

According to PSP, borough officers responded to a disturbance outside the bar. Upon arrival, it was discovered that two people, Juan Carlos Romero, 33, of Hazleton, and Alofi Bladimir Ramirez, 29, were shot.

The disturbance, investigators say, may have started when the victims were refused entry to the lounge.

During the disturbance, Malone allegedly brandished a firearm and shot Romero multiple times in the middle of Centre Street. He then shot Ramirez, who was kneeling behind his vehicle parked near the Lounge after retrieving a handgun. The suspect fled the scene.

PSP were requested to assist and assumed the

investigation.

Romero was pronounced dead at the scene. Ramirez was flown to Reading Hospital and was in serious condition as of Sunday afternoon.

PSP say an arrest warrant has been issued for Malone on an open count of homicide. Anyone with information on his whereabouts is urged to call state police at Frackville.

WEATHER
Mostly cloudy and warmer
72° / 57°
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