Endless Mountains Adventure Race begins in Punxsutawney

Organizers discuss importance of adventure race to region

By Alex Nelson

The Endless Mountains Adventure Race is a five-day, 342-mile/550-kilometer course covering the PA Wilds region. Teams of two to four start the race Monday in Punxsutawney and will be racing through the Allegheny, Elk, St. Marys, Ridgway, Cook Forest — and the surrounding wilderness — before ending in Clarion.

The race is founded by Brent Freeland and Abby Perkiss, who have been running adventure racing, exploring, and foraging, and are the founders of Root Adventures. According to Freeland, the adventure race promotion has been happening since 2020.

The race is also part of the United States Adventure Race Association series, earning team points toward their national ranking status. The director of the U.S. Adventure Race Association is racing in the race.

See Race, A4

DuBois Area School District holds first esports event

By Elaine Hawkins

DuBois — The first DuBois Area School District esports event was held last week, and 36 students participated, according to DuBois Area School District Superintendent Wendy Benton.

Benton, at last Thursday’s board meeting, thanked all of the teachers and staff members who volunteered their time to make the event possible. She also praised the efforts of Nicole Hill, Don Breszten, Todd Shindelbower, Shae Vonderheide, Sarah Heuer, Jessica Paull and Linda Staniski.

The district’s esports station was set up in the DuBois Area High School and there were also more than 50 board games available for children and adults.

“I attended with my family,” Benton said. “The first time I’ve ever been to a board game event and it was really nice to see parents engaging with their children, and it’s just a wonderful atmosphere. Some of them were quite competitive, and they actually used a controller in their hand as a table to help them jump up and down while they were playing the game. It went in- to the tird 100 off the first event.”

The winners of the Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournament were: Jacob Maze, first place; Bryce Gump, second place, and Tyler Stevens, third place.

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Racers and officials gather in Barclay Square for some opening remarks before the Endless Mountains Adventure Race begins.

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Mom dies in St. Marys apartment fire

ST. MARYS — A St. Marys man died in an apartment fire early Sunday, according to Elk County Coroner Philip G. Rooh. The cause of death was due to smoke inhalation and the manner of death was accidental.

Crystal Fire Department Chief Mike

Man dies in St. Marys apartment fire

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Crystal Fire Department Chief Mike

Sliding Into Summer

By Ben Destefan

Hayden Mclhem takes a trip down a slide at DuBois City Park Monday afternoon. Sunday, June 19, marks the summer solstice, or first day of summer.

See Race, A4