



Chamber takes on the night

Page 7



Lady golfers ready for districts

Page 13

WYOMING COUNTY PRESS EXAMINER

Wednesday, September 29, 2021



We're All About It

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County enters K-9 agreement

BY KEVIN MCCONLOGUE
PRESS EXAMINER

Wyoming County Commissioners signed an inter-governmental agreement with Tunkhannock Township over the addition of a K-9 unit to the Township Police Department.

At a commissioners meeting on Tuesday morning, commissioners unanimously voted for the agreement, with

Rick Wilbur calling the addition of the K-9 unit "a great thing for the county."

"Tunkhannock Township Police serve a lot of areas in this county," Commissioner Wilbur said. "I think this is going to serve the county in a very positive way and is going to help everyone, not just Tunkhannock Township residents."

Tunkhannock Township

supervisors approved the addition of the K-9 unit at their monthly meeting on Sept. 7. The program is funded by state grant money awarded by the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office.

Commissioners approved the renewal of Geographic Information System licensing for 2022. County Mapping and Addressing Coordinator

Chas Mead said the licensing agreement is with California based Environmental Systems Research Institute for a cost of \$38,500.

Mead said the package the county used from ESRI is called the Small Municipal and County Government Enterprise License Agreement. The agreement allows the county to take advantage of any software and storage

packages that ESRI offers.

"This package is very beneficial to us," Mead said. "It means we don't have to store all our maps on the county servers. If there was ever a crash and stuff was lost, all of these maps would still be available and not affected."

Commissioners voted to once again accept Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation

Enhancement funds for 2022. Commissioner Ernie King said these funds have been very helpful in the past with housing rehabilitation throughout Wyoming County. The exact amount allocated for Wyoming County will be available during the month of October.

Sheriff Robert Roberts

Please see **AGREE**, Page E9

TASB meeting virtual again

BY ROBERT L. BAKER
PRESS EXAMINER

The Tunkhannock Area School Board returned to having its school board meeting last Thursday in a virtual Zoom setting.

Four members were not present: Phillip Farr, Rob Parry, William Swilley, and Bill Weidner.

Board member vice president Holly Arnold opened the meeting, noting an executive session had taken place on Sept. 16 for legal reasons. (It had been done in-person, according to board secretary Carolyn Lawson.)

Arnold shared the ground rules for the evening which gave persons signed in to talk for two minutes on agenda items. Only two persons signed in.

George Yuhas raised a legal objection, and parent Jen Brody asked why the meeting was being held virtually.

Arnold said that based on legal advice they wanted to enforce the mask mandate,

Please see **TASB**, Page E5



STAFF PHOTO/ROBERT BAKER

Gwen Buchanan said much of the journey was taking in some spectacular landscapes.

Top of the world

BY ROBERT L. BAKER
PRESS EXAMINER

Four days before last Christmas, Gwen Buchanan of Mehoopany received the gift of a lifetime.

A second hip replacement.

At 51, the avid outdoorswoman recently recalled telling her surgeon, "You

know, I'm going to hike the Appalachian Trail next year."

She said he looked back at her with a straight face and said, "I guess we better get moving."

And, moving they did.

On March 27 of this year, she arrived at Springer Mountain in Georgia,

and became a NoBo (short for those traveling northbound) on a backpacking journey of some 2,185 miles which took her through 14 states, and ended recently in Maine.

Following the five months, five days experience of trusting her soul to the elements, she said, "I

feel great. It was everything I imagined and better: It was beautiful."

Did your new hips hurt at all? "Nope."

"It's not for the faint-hearted, for sure," Buchanan, who has been a physical therapist for 27 years, said. "But it felt

Please see **HIKE**, Page E10

COVID case rate decining

BY KEVIN MCCONLOGUE
PRESS EXAMINER

For the first time since July, the spread of COVID-19 in Wyoming County decreased from the previous week.

For the period of Sept. 21-27, the county saw 68 new positive cases of COVID-19, which is a decrease from 110 cases the previous week. The new cases bring the county total to 2,338 since the pandemic began.

Despite the decrease in cases, Wyoming County remained in the high spread category of transmission according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Masks are recommended indoors for everyone, even fully vaccinated individuals, in areas with high transmission rates.

County Emergency Management Director Gene Dziak called the drop in cases "a step in the right direction," but not big enough for

Please see **COVID**, Page E10



GENE DZIAK

Scare shuts down Trail high school

BY ROBERT L. BAKER
PRESS EXAMINER

Lackawanna Trail High School was closed Tuesday after a scare earlier in the morning.

Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas posted a notice around 9:50 a.m. on the District's Facebook

page that said: "Earlier this morning the Jr.-Sr. High School was evacuated after a small incendiary device ignited in the second floor hallway. After all students were successfully evacuated to a safe location they were dismissed for the day."

Rakauskas said that the evidence revealed a cell phone charger device duct-taped together which exploded, and police were trying to determine if the matter was accidental or intentional to do harm.

Just a few minutes shy of 11 a.m., five law enforce-

ment vehicles were at the high school.

The superintendent said a sweep of the building was being done looking for other potentially suspicious devices.

Rakauskas noted, "School officials worked with local and state law

enforcement to sweep the building and have determined that no additional security threat exists."

He added, "We will resume classes tomorrow (Sep. 29) on a normal schedule."

Rakauskas had noted earlier that there were no

security/safety concerns at the Elementary Center in Factoryville, where classes remained in session.

"Thank you to all of the students and parents for your patience this morning. Safety is our top priority," he said

Female inmates to return to WCCF in Oct.

BY KEVIN MCCONLOGUE
PRESS EXAMINER

Thirteen female inmates currently being boarded at the Wayne County Jail are expected to be brought back to Wy-

oming County sometime in the next month.

At a Wyoming County Prison Board Meeting on Tuesday morning, Warden Ken Repsher announced the staffing issues that have plagued the prison for the past year have been resolved, so they plan on bringing the female inmates currently being boarded in

Wayne County back to Wyoming County.

"The new corrections officers that we hired are all great, and they have all learned very quickly," Repsher said. "This is going to be a great relief not having to board these females, and will be a lot safer for our staff as well."

Currently, there are 41 inmates being held in-house at the jail, 40 males and one female, four males who are currently boarded for treatment programs, and the 13 females currently boarded to Wayne County.

Members of the Prison Board were thrilled to hear staffing levels are close to nor-

mal again.

"Hopefully we can put this period behind us," Wyoming County Commissioner Tom Henry said. "The staff at the prison have worked hard over the past year and they deserve to be commended."

Although visitations have resumed at the jail, Repsher said he is still not comfortable

bringing back things such as religious and treatment groups back inside yet.

"We've just got our new staff members' feet wet a little bit," Repsher said. "These group visitations cause the need for a lot of supervision to make sure nothing gets out of hand. We will evaluate it again in the future."



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