



Walking coast to coast on Route 6 Page 1, Living

GAZETTE

WELLSBORO

Est. 1874

140TH YEAR, NO. 1

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014

\$1.50

Thank you to Peter Boergermann of Wellsboro for subscribing to The Wellsboro Gazette. Have a great day!

ON THE AGENDA:

UPCOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Monday, Oct. 13

- Wellsboro Borough Council, 6 p.m., Borough Office, Crafton Street

Tuesday, Oct. 14

- Tioga County Commissioners, 10 a.m., Tioga County Courthouse, Wellsboro
- Southern Tioga School District Board of Directors, 6:30 p.m., North Penn-Mansfield auditorium
- Wellsboro Area School District Board of Directors, 7 p.m., Wellsboro High School
- Northern Tioga School District Board of Directors, 7:30 p.m., Administration Building, Elkland

EQT faces criminal, civil penalties for Duncan leak

EQT Production Company is facing criminal charges and a civil lawsuit seeking \$4.5 million in penalties over a water impoundment leak in Duncan Township.

On Sept. 30, the Pennsylvania Attorney General Environmental Crimes Unit filed four counts of pollution of waters, and two counts of disturbance of

waterways and watersheds before Wellsboro Magisterial District Justice Robert Repard. The charges are third-degree misdemeanors. EQT is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Oct. 21 at 2 p.m.

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission referred the case to the attorney general Sept. 22, alleging that

EQT allowed drilling production fluid or flowback to leak into a tributary to Rock Run, a high quality cold water fishery and Class A wild brook trout stream.

"EQT had been in discussions with the commission and still hopes to resolve its disagreement

See EQT on page 10-A



The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provided this aerial photograph, taken May 31, 2013, of the EQT Phoenix Pad S site.

Inside —



- Columnist Melissa Bravo grows a dilly of a pumpkin - page 2, Living

Submit news, photos to nkennedy@tiogapublishing.com

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Levi Mahosky (center) smiles whenever the girls who help him at camp are around. Also shown are (from left) Harlee Brooks and Ariana Carleton.

Learning to talk with Levi

Teenagers learn to sign to communicate

by Jason Przybycien
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A boy with a hearing impairment is inspiring people to learn sign language. Volunteers at the Partners in Progress summer program Camp Partners learned basic sign language to talk with Levi Mahosky, 12, and the Arc of Pennsylvania is sponsoring more sign language training.

Mahosky's mother, Jenna Kriner, said spinal meningitis in infancy

caused Levi's cerebral palsy and deafness. He has limited hearing through a cochlear implant, and communicates best through smiles and sign language.

Ariana Carleton and Harlee Brooks, both 13, were counselors-in-training at Camp Partners last year. Their mothers work for local human services agencies, so they grew up with sign language in their homes.

Last summer, they decided to take a basic signing class to expand their vocabulary. Then, they became Levi's constant companions at camp.

"He's always with us," Carleton said.

Along with paraprofessional Brenda Ebert, they help him to stay on schedule, play in the pool and eat his lunch.

When they take him to his family at the end of the day, he just smiles and signs "girls." They taught him how to dance with the "raise the roof" motion, and now he uses it all the time. When he spots them across the playground, he yells until they can see his signs.

"He's very talkative," Brooks said.

"In his own way," said Carleton.

See TALK on page 10-A

Hall of Fame inducts 47 long-term voters

by Jason Przybycien
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Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth Carol Aichele welcomed 47 Tioga County residents into the Voter Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 3, in Wellsboro. The Tioga County Department of Elections and

Voter Registration recently identified voters who had voted in at least 50 consecutive November elections, finding 97 eligible voters, 47 of whom attended the ceremony.

"These people were never too busy. They never forgot," Aichele said.

The three Tioga County commissioners and state Rep. Matt Baker also congratulated each inductee. Baker, U.S. Congressmen Tom Marino and Glenn Thompson, Gov. Tom Corbett, and state Sen. Joe Scarnati provided citations and gifts.

The country was very different when the honorees started voting. Marie Zuchowski, 93, Wellsboro, has voted in 70 straight elections. She voted for the first time in 1944, when Franklin D. Roosevelt won his fourth term with 53.4 percent of

See VOTER on page 10-A

Please see related stories on page 3-A

MU to end three majors, retrench faculty

by Natalie Kennedy
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Mansfield University President Fran Hendricks announced Oct. 2 that the university is placing three academic programs in moratorium beginning in fall 2015 and retrenching 12 faculty staff.

"These are decisions taken with a great deal of study, reflection and understanding of the impact they have on people's lives," Hendricks said. "Our colleagues affected are all valuable to the university, but we also have an obligation to invest in employees, programs and infrastructure that will move Mansfield forward."

The action, according to MU spokesman Terry Day, will save the university approximately \$1.7 million.

When Hendricks took office in June 2013, the university faced an anticipated shortfall of \$14.3 million by June 30, 2015. Since then, the deficit has been reduced to \$6.9 million.

The change will affect 439 students, said Day: 170 business majors, 181 education/special education majors, 43 school library majors and 45 students who have a business or education minor.

In the last five years, Mansfield has seen a decline of 60 percent for education majors, from 458 to 181 today. Mansfield University will continue to offer music education, which represents about 40 percent of all education majors.

See MU on page 10-A



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Send info on Halloween/fall festival events



We want to help organizations get the word out about upcoming Halloween and fall events. Please send details of fall festivals, harvest festivals, haunted houses or any Halloween-related events to rheitznerater@tiogapublishing.com. Trick-or-treat hours and days for local communities will also be published in the weeks to come. Send date, time, location, cost if any, and contact information no later than Oct. 17. The first schedule will be published in the Oct. 22 edition.



Talk...

continued from page 1-A

His mother appreciates how people around him learn a little sign language. Her daughter Taeber, 2, signs to Levi and so do many people they know. "It just really cool how they communicate with him," Kriner said. She added that the Arc of Pennsylvania sponsored a sign language class for the public last year under the Include Me From the

Start program. She expects another class for the public later this winter.

"We highly encourage people to take it, even if you have little kids," Kriner said. "It's not just my son. A lot of kids, with any learning disability, they are starting to teach to sign."

Carleton and Brooks will return to Camp Partners next year as counselors.

Voter...

continued from page 1-A

the vote against challenger Thomas E. Dewey.

"We've come a long way in 50 years, but one thing has remained steady," Baker said to inductees. "You've been an outstanding patriot."

Some honorees credited spouses for their perfect voting record. Ansel Webster of Tioga, a farmer who voted for 65 straight years, said his wife was a Democrat and he was a Republican.

"I had to go cancel her [vote] out," he joked.

Many gained the honor even though the nation's voting age was not lowered from 21 to 18 until 1971. George Kump of Mansfield, a previous inductee, attended with his wife for her induction. He was drafted into the Army during the Korean Conflict at 19 and served in a noncombat role. When he got back, he started voting and will keep voting "as many times as I can."

"I didn't register to vote until John Kennedy was running," said his wife Anita, who was 24 at the time.



photo by JASON PRZYBYCIEN

Marie Zuchowski (center) has voted in 70 straight elections. Congratulating her are (from left) Secretary of the Commonwealth Carol Aichele and Pa. Rep. Matt Baker.

"I started voting and never stopped," even in the years no candidate interested her.

Aichele said the honorees "represent the very best qualities" of the country.

Several speakers said younger generations should emulate the honorees.

"If you're 18 years old,

when you're 68 you could be sitting here, being inducted into a Hall of Fame," Commissioner Roger Bunn said.

Baker said "a fraction of 1 percent of all the citizens of Tioga County" have voted in 50 consecutive elections.

EQT...

continued from page 1-A

without litigation," said EQT Director of Communications Natalie A. Cox. "A statute of limitations deadline, however, required the commission to file its own complaint through the Office of the Attorney General by Sept. 30.

"Notwithstanding disagreement over the commission's penalty calculation, EQT remains ready and willing to continue discussion with both the commission and the Office of the Attorney General," said Cox.

On Oct. 7, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection filed a complaint with the state Environmental Hearing Board requesting a \$4.5 million civil penalty from EQT.

Both cases are related to a 2012 pollution incident at the company's Phoenix Pad S in Duncan Township.

"EQT fails to recognize the ongoing environmental harm from the significant amount of waste released by its leaking six million gallon impoundment," Acting DEP Secretary Dana Aunkst said. "This action was necessary because the company has not been cooperative during our investigation."

When EQT originally proposed the impoundment, the company stated it would be used to store fresh water. After construction in late 2011, the company used the impoundment to store flowback water from Marcellus drilling operations, according to DEP.

The flowback reportedly leaked from the impoundment in spring 2012. A DEP inspection of the liner verified 75-100 holes.

An investigator, citing a Fish & Boat Commission biologist, said that the leaks resulted in more than 0.5 mg/l of aluminum and elevated conductivity, which is harmful to fish and aquatic life. Trees and shrubs showed yellowing/brown leaves and defoliation.

The DEP incurred more than \$112,296 in expenses as part of its investigation, which is included as part of the proposed penalty.

Providing for education

photo provided/Waste Management

Waste Management presented the Tioga County Foundation and the Trinity Lutheran Church and School with EITC grants this year. Each organization was awarded \$10,000 as part of the Education Improvement Tax Credit Program. (Top photo) Janice Hughes (left) and Brenda Kohler, both from Trinity, accept the donation from Michelle Sandstrom, Waste Management. (Lower photo) Tioga County Foundation representative Robert Blair accepts the contribution from Sandstrom.



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MU...

continued from page 1-A

This past March, the MU Council of Trustees voted to place six academic programs in moratorium: master degree programs in music and children's literature and bachelor programs in art education, Spanish education, Spanish and sociology/anthropology.

Students currently enrolled in those six academic programs will be allowed to complete their course of

study, but no new students will be admitted.

That's a change versus students enrolled in the three programs going into moratorium in 2015. According to the release, students who are seniors and scheduled to graduate in spring of summer 2015 will continue toward completion of their program. Some juniors may be able to complete their degree requirements. The remainder will need to "make a decision ... which may include transferring into another program at Mansfield or

completing their chosen course of study at another PASSHE institution."

The action will also remove 12 tenure track faculty members: four in business, five in education, two in sociology and one in school library.

Hendricks said that this decision is not strictly financial.

"This is all part of our strategic plan and a way of taking a proactive role in defining our future as a small liberal arts university," Hendricks said.

GRAND OPENING Event

Sat., Oct. 11, 2014 • Noon-7:00 P.M.



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