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Tuesday
May 4, 2004

Things you'll learn

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IN TODAY'S EDITION

Best of The Best

Take a look at our 2004 nominees, then tell us which ones are your favorites. Inside



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BAD GAS

Officials find source of contaminated fuel.

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FUND CHECK

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Butler Institute offers arts and soul.

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HERO HONORED

Pat Tillman saluted in his hometown.

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Obituaries

- Oma F. Bercher, 96, Jameson Care Center
- Tony J. Compello, 85, 102 S. Lafayette St., Rose Costarella
- New Wilmington
- Joseph M. Ford, 76, 4040 Old Pittsburgh Road
- Ruth Mathews Kappes, 87, Wilmington, N.C.
- Bertha J. Kinniskinen, 88, Bessemer
- Bernard Frank Laux, 53, Bishopville, S.C.
- Charlene Leishman, 54, Silver Oaks Nursing Center
- Sam J. Novello, 85, 1715 Highland Ave.



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LaGrotta: Sue me, not county

By DEBBIE WACHTER MORRIS
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Accusing Sylvan Heights Realty Partners of playing games, State Rep. Frank LaGrotta is challenging its owners to sue him instead of Lawrence County for last year's thwarted sale of Hill View Manor.

LaGrotta insists it was his call to the Pennsylvania Department of Health on July 30, and the department's withdrawal of its approval to transfer the county-owned nursing home license to Sylvan, that stopped the

IN COURT State Rep. Frank LaGrotta wants owners of Sylvan Heights Realty Partners to sue him and the state health department instead of the county.

sale of the nursing home last summer. Sylvan Heights Realty Partners, Americare Management Inc. and partners George W. Howley and John J. Hadgkiss filed suit last month against the commissioners and in-

vidually against Commissioner Ed Fosnaught, Controller Mary Ann Reiter and Solicitor John W. Hodge, by Sylvan and Americare Management Inc., the company that oversaw the home's operations during negotiations between Sylvan and the county last year. Hadgkiss also is an owner of Americare.

Their lawsuit counters one filed by the county in December against the two firms,



Frank LaGrotta

LAGROTTA, PAGE A4

CLOSER LOOK

AMONG THE HILLSVILLE RESIDENTS JOHN K. MANNA MEETS ON HIS VISIT THERE ARE SOME POSTAL PATRONS AND THE OWNERS OF A BAR AND BEER DISTRIBUTORSHIP.

MAIL & ALE



Andrew Rusky/NEWS

Joe Pepe's cat Stubby sits on the desk in the front window of Pepe Beer Distributing in Hillsville.

Clarek Donofrio was waiting in his car for his wife, Vilma, who was picking up their mail at the Hillsville post office yesterday.

Like other Hillsville residents, the Donofrios stop at the post office on Churchill Road just about every day to pick up their mail because there is no home delivery in the town.

Donofrio was born in Hillsville, but he and his wife lived in Connecticut from 1946 through 1967. The two met while he was in the Navy in Connecticut, where she was born. Donofrio was stationed in New London, Conn., during World War II.

"I was hitchhiking and they (her fami-

ly) picked me up." The couple moved to Hillsville, he said, after his brother died and he was out of a job.

Donofrio, 79, worked as a heating and air conditioning contractor after returning to Hillsville. He said he is "slightly retired."

Geno Millione was also picking up his mail.

The owner of Geno's Nite Trax on Route 224, Millione said he was "just doing paperwork" yesterday.

MAIL, PAGE A4



John K. MANNA

A Day In ...

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County official to resign in fall

RESIGNATION Lawrence County emergency management coordinator Sharyn Critchlow is leaving her post in September, after 25 years as a county employee.

By DEBBIE WACHTER MORRIS
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Lawrence County's 911 director left a month ago. Now the county's emergency management coordinator is planning to leave.

Sharyn Critchlow submitted her resignation, effective Sept. 30, citing personal and medical reasons. She has been a county employee for 25 years.

The 57-year-old Meshannock Township resident said she is waiting until September to allow the commissioners ample time to make decisions about her position.

"I'll be able to finish up and not leave something hanging for someone new," she said.

Frank Jannetti left the 911 director position more than a month ago. He had been there since 2000, the same year Critchlow was named emergency management coordinator.

It was in January of that year that commissioners Roger M. DeCarbo, Brian Burick and Ed Fosnaught agreed to split the emergency management/911 director position into two. The job overseeing both agencies had been held by Jannetti, who also oversaw public safety.

Critchlow worked as a 911 dispatcher, both full and part time, from 1982 to 2000.

She served as emergency management coordinator from 1985 to 1987 under commissioners DeCarbo, Paul Tanner and Vern L. Eppinger. She left the position when DeCarbo went out of office.

After Jannetti left the county a month ago, the commissioners promoted deputy 911 director Jeff Parish

DIRECTOR, PAGE A3

Narcotics offer depicts horrors of drug abuse

By NANCY LOWRY
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No student believes he or she is — or will ever be — addicted to drugs.

But one puff, one swallow, one pill, one shoot-up could be the one that gets them hooked, or lands them in the emergency room, or even the morgue.

"Kids don't realize that the first time they do something can result in addic-

DRUGS Philadelphia narcotics program officer presents area students, parents with a no-nonsense talk complete with bloody crime scene photos and a body bag.

tion for the rest of their life or death," said Officer Virginia Pagano. A police officer for 18 years, Pagano serves with the Philadelphia Police Depart-

INSIDE

Tragic tale

► A mother shares the pain of losing her daughter to drugs./ A3

ment Narcotics Bureau. She spent three years with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

Last night she presented the Heroin Education And Dangerous Substance

Understanding Program to about 45 community members, mostly adults, at Shenango High School.

"Don't think drugs aren't here (in the community). They are," Pagano said. "Drug use is everywhere."

Drug and alcohol abuse, she said, "can affect kids who get good grades and those who don't; kids who are popular and who are not, and those

DRUGS, PAGE A3

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