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July 6, 2016

WEDNESDAY

'Old school touch'



Barber Eric Edwards, second from left, cuts the ribbon for his new shop, "The Craft Barber," with his parents Bonnie and Jim, at far left and right, and Lock Haven Mayor Bill Baney. The barber shop will be open traditional hours — Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

PHOTO PROVIDED

'The Craft Barber' opens shop in LH

By JIM RUNKLE

jrunkle@lockhaven.com

LOCK HAVEN — Eric Edwards of Mill Hall has opened up a new barber shop ... one that has a nostalgic vibe and promises a traditional touch.

Edwards' shop, "The Craft Barber," 31 Bellefonte Ave., offers an eclectic collection of images, which he fully intends to expand.

On one wall, Ray Charles' album cover joins another image of Chet Atkins, and across the room, one might see an original Piper Aircraft poster next to a small black-and-white photo of Fred Astaire, while an acoustic guitar graces a spot near the front window.

There are a couple of deer mounts, but one of them displays New Orleans style strings of beads, and a pair of dark sunglasses. On a table, are old newspaper accounts of the devastating flood of 1972.

Those traditional barber shop touches?

"I want that 'old school' touch," said Edwards, 27, the son of Jim and Bonnie Edwards. That includes several scents, a clipper cut if you want, foam for the asking and a straight-edge razor for those tight precision details.

Oh ... and there's that restored, 300-pound, century-old barber chair, which dominates the interior architecture.

Edwards said he'll be open traditional barber hours as well — Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Back in the day, Edwards played in a local band, "Where There's a Will," but as the members began drifting away to other obligations, he started looking for an avocation.

One day he was talking to his own barber, Pete

See THE, A5



JIM RUNKLE/THE EXPRESS

Mahlak Houtz, 16, of Mill Hall gets the full treatment from newly established barber Eric J. Edwards, who opened his shop, "The Craft Barber," at 36 Bellefonte Ave., Lock Haven, last Tuesday.

90-degree heat, high humidity this week

From staff reports

STATE COLLEGE — Those with swimming pools in their backyards will be rejoicing this week. Others will likely be hitting the community pools.

After escaping high heat over the Fourth of July weekend, temperatures are expected to soar into the 90s as humidity levels climb.

Calling it a "heat wave," AccuWeather Meteorologist Brett Rathbun said, "This will be the hottest weather so far this year."

Midweek highs will be in the upper 80s and lower 90s in many areas.

Highs today will crack the 90-degree Fahrenheit mark throughout the I-95 corridor from Washington, D.C., to Philadelphia to New York City to Boston.

It will mark the first 90-degree day for New York City and Boston since the start of the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Due to the recent lack of heat and humidity, the hot weather may put an extra strain on residents.

Be sure to drink plenty of water, wear light-colored clothing and avoid strenuous activities during the midday and afternoon hours to prevent suffering from a heat-related illness.

There will be no cooling thunderstorms to offer heat relief, which is good news for those who want to head to local swimming pools, lakes or beaches.

The heat, however, will further dry out areas that are in need of rain. The majority of the Northeast was at least abnormally dry, according to the United States Drought Monitor's report from last Thursday.

Thunderstorms will return to the Northeast later in the week, knocking down temperatures slightly. However, it will still be warm and remain sticky outside of northern New England.

Bellefonte awards bid for multi-street repaving project

Work to start in September

By EMMA GOSALVEZ

egosalvez@lockhaven.com

BELLEFONTE — Members of Bellefonte Borough Council voted 9-0 to award a \$96,981.50 street paving bid to Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. for portions of four streets in the Borough at their Tuesday night meeting on July 5.

The streets with portions to be repaved are Blanchard Street, Shoemaker Avenue, High Street and Cherry Lane, according to Councilman Doug Johnson, chair of the Streets Committee. These streets are the most important ones to get repaved, Johnson said.

The work will likely begin in September and may take two weeks, said Assistant Borough Manager Don Holderman. Some traffic congestion is expected to take place while High and Blanchard streets are repaved.

For Blanchard Street, the work will take place between Bishop and Logan Streets, according to the contract. Paving will take place along Shoemaker Avenue and on Cherry Lane from Spring Street to a dead end. The High Street paving will take place between Ridge and Wilson streets.

See BELLEFONTE, A5

Centre officials support town hall meetings on opioid crisis

By JAIMEE KESTER

jkester@lockhaven.com

BELLEFONTE — The Centre County Commissioners announced their support for a series of town hall meetings focused on the growing heroin and opioid crisis in the area.

The first meeting is slated for July 26, 2016, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Mount Nittany Medical Center, State College. The theme of the night is "Identifying the Problem." Subsequent town hall meetings will cover additional topics related to the heroin problem.

All are welcome to attend and hear from a panel of experts. Much of the information presented will be useful to

those with family members struggling with an opioid addiction.

"There is a lot of misinformation out there," said Jeannine Lozier, community outreach coordinator at Mount Nittany Medical center. "That's what these meetings are about...getting the right information to the public."

Panelists at the meeting will include Kerry Benninghoff, Pa. State Representative, Gary Tennis, Esq., Pa. Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Kasandra Botti, DO, Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services, Mount Nittany Medical Center, Sergeant Kelly Aston, State College Police Department, Katie Hugo, certified recovery specialist

at Crossroads Counseling, Cathy Arbogast, Assistant Administrator for Drug and Alcohol Centre County, and Stephanie Bradley, PhD, Managing Director, Penn State EPIS Center.

According to the Centre County Coroner's Office, there have been over 31 overdose related deaths in the past two years. As of June there have already been 12 overdose related deaths in 2016. This spike in deaths has the community and officials concerned.

Commissioner Steve Dershem will provide opening remarks at the meeting and Commissioner Mark Higgins will also be in attendance.

The event is sponsored by the Centre

County Hope Initiative which works to raise awareness about the national heroin and opioid epidemic, and the impact the crisis is having on our state and local community.

For more information on the series of events contact Mount Nittany Medical Center at 814-234-6727.

In other business the commissioners:

■ Approved a contract addendum between the county and Atlantic Tomorrow's Office (formerly Full Circle) for statewide imaging contract previously approved on 12/2/2015 under the former vendor name. The contract total is

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Byron Lehman

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Bellefonte Community Band to rock Triangle Park



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July 28, 2016

THURSDAY

Town hall meeting brings awareness to drug crisis

By EMMA GOSALVEZ
 egosalvez@lockhaven.com

BELLEFONTE — There have been 43 drug overdose deaths reported in Centre County over the last two and a half years.

“We really need to get the word out to the parents and friends and neighbors who maybe don’t understand or even begin to accept the fact that right here in Centre County we have a scourge that needs to be addressed,” said Centre County Commissioner Steve Dershem at the first of a series of three town hall meetings to address the issue.

The meeting, held Tuesday, July 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Mount Nittany Medical Center’s Galen and Nancy Dreibelbis Auditorium, was sponsored by the Centre County HOPE (Heroin and Opioid Education and Prevention) Initiative to address the heroin and opioid crisis in Centre County. Dershem said that since the initiative began, it has grown quickly and is now made up of not only members of county government but also concerned citizens and not-for-profit organizations.

State Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman, R-Centre County, who could not be present at the meeting, sent a video where he talked about the spread of the issue throughout the county and the state and what is being done to fight it.

“In 2015, there were over 3,000 drug overdose deaths in Pennsylvania, a 24 percent increase from the year prior,” Corman said.

With the help of the state government, Corman is looking forward to hopefully developing policies that will help fight against drug addictions in the state. According to Corman, the current year’s budget has appropriations of \$15 million for the Department of Human Services, which will allow it to create initiatives to help communities fight drug addictions.

Next to speak was Centre County Judge Pamela Ruest, who introduced an initiative for the creation of a county drug court.

According to Ruest, the county is currently in the process of organizing and creating the drug court, which will be somewhat

See MEETING, A4



Centre County Judge Pamela Ruest

50 years of business



The above photo shows how the store looked 50 years ago.

Loyal customers, family key to Walker’s success

By JAIMEE KESTER
 jkester@lockhaven.com

LOCK HAVEN — If you were downtown on a Friday night 50 years ago, dozens of stores would be open and patrons would be milling the streets.

Walker’s Hardware and Supply was one of those stores, and owners, current and past, say business was always booming.

“My grandfather and father would be running the store while my sister, mom, grandmother and I would shop downtown,” said Judy Rishel, granddaughter of original store owners Sam and Lilah Walker.

The store has a long history dating all the way back to Aug. 1, 1966, when the Walker’s bought the building that formerly housed Wentz Feed and Coal.

It’s been family owned ever since.

And though it’s always been a hardware store, the business has seen a lot more than hardware goods.

Sam was an alderman and performed many weddings right there in the store.

He was also a city councilman and often conducted business in the store office.

“There are a lot of memories in this place,” Judy said.

William “Bill” Smith and his wife Jacque took over ownership of the business in 1978. Sam and Lilah continued to help out for over a decade until Sam’s passing in 1983.

The Smith’s made sure their daughters, Judy and Patti Stevenson, were also involved in the business. The whole family worked in the store in some way. Judy helped her grandmother with the bookkeeping.

“Back then everything was done by hand,” said Judy “Inventory would take days.”

Though Smith’s daughters helped out at the

See CUSTOMERS, A4



At top from left: Tom Shortledge, William and Jacque Smith, Cathy Shortledge. Above: Sam and Lilah Walker.



Mill Hall man jailed for alleged text threats

Bail set at \$150,000

Special to The Express

JERSEY SHORE — A Clinton County man already charged with sending a threatening text to another man and woman now has been incarcerated for allegedly texting additional threatening messages to the couple, Tiadaghton Valley Regional police said in court papers.

Claiming he was going “to go out in a blaze of glory and that the world would forever know his name,” 22-year-old James Michael Swartz allegedly had threatened to kill Brian McFadden and Renee Trent said at his preliminary hearing before District Judge Jerry C. Lepley, police said.

Swartz is accused of sending the new threatening text messages to McFadden and Trent on Monday, police said.

“You better be prepared to meet God, son, because I have a bullet for each of you in my derringer,” Swartz allegedly texted McFadden earlier the same day.

In a message to Trent filled with obscenities, Swartz wrote, “You are going to regret the day

See MAN, A4

Groves murder trial may wait until next year

By WENDY STIVER
 wstiver@lockhaven.com

LOCK HAVEN — The murder trial of Loyd W. Groves will have to wait a while longer.

Groves was arrested in January 2015 and charged with killing Katherine Dolan Heckel 25 years ago. He has been in the Clinton County jail since then.

A tentative trial date had been picked for September, about a year after the original date for jury selection. That jury selection had not yet taken place. Pre-trial motions have postponed the trial, and now it may be delayed until 2017.

Heckel, age 40, the married mother of two, disappeared on July 15, 1991 and has never been found.

She and Groves both worked at the former International Paper Hammermill plant here and reportedly had a summer affair. They fought loudly at work when she apparently wanted to end their relationship.

Groves was interviewed two days after her disappearance, and searches took place. Blood was found in his van, and DNA testing reportedly indicates it is Heckel’s blood. A handgun and

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Meeting brings awareness to drug crisis

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similar to the county's DUI court, which has been very successful.

"We're very hopeful that this court will help us deal with this problem," Ruest said. "We have put together a great team, and we have our first training in October, so hopefully we'll be getting that going somewhat soon."

After introducing the issue, members of state government, local law enforcement, and the medical and drug addiction recovery community sat on a panel to answer a variety of questions, both from the moderator and the audience, addressing the heroin and opioid problem.

One thing that has led to use of heroin is the chronic use of painkillers, said Cassandra Botti, director of Emergency Medical Services at Mount Nittany Medical Center.

According to Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, about 3 out of 4 new heroin users had used painkillers prior to using heroin.

Individuals switch over to heroin because of costs, and they are more reluctant to seek treatment, Botti said.

"I believe that people who have gone from having chronic pain problems to now being a heroin addict, there's a whole different stigma associated with that, and I think that they find it much more difficult to ask for help as an heroin addict, as opposed to going to their primary care physician and saying, 'Well I think I have a little bit of an addiction problem with those Percs I have been taking for the past eight months.'"

There are also several myths and stereotypes attached to heroin addiction, which panel members were asked to discuss by moderator Stephanie Bradley, managing director

of Penn State's Evidence Based Prevention and Intervention Support Center.

People need to stop thinking that drug addiction looks a certain way, said Katie Hugo, certified recovery specialist for Crossroads Counseling. Hugo herself is a recovered addict.

"Sometimes when I do provide my personal experience, they can't believe that I did heroin; I don't look like a heroin addict," Hugo said.

Heroin and opioid addicts are not just in one age group either. She said she has had addicts come in around the age of 19, as well as older adults in their 30s and 40s.

Drug addiction occurs in both the wealthy and poor and knows no discrimination, added Cathy Arbogast, assistant administrator for Centre County Drug and Alcohol Services.

Another recovered addict on the panel was Jason Snyder, communications director for the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, who spoke about defeating the stigma placed on drug addicts.

"The stigma that society places on a person with addiction keeps many, many people sick," Snyder said. "It keeps the person with addiction sick, it keeps the families and loved ones of the person with addiction locked up in their own prisons of shame and guilt. And really until we begin to treat this disease like we would others, we're going to have that stigma."



AP PHOTO

Panel members listen as Officer Adam Salyards gives his take on what needs to be done to combat the heroin and opioid problem in Centre County. From left are Cathy Arbogast, Katie Hugo, Salyards, Cassandra Botti, Jason Snyder and Kerry Benninghoff.

Bradley later asked if the problem should be treated more as a criminal one through arrests and prosecution or more as a public health problem with an emphasis on harm reduction and rehabilitation.

State College Police Officer Adam Salyards, a community relations/crime prevention specialist, said it should be treated more as a health problem that will require both law enforcement and medical agencies across the county and state to work together.

"We're never going to solve the problem unless we attack this as a team," Salyards said. "It's a health risk, it's not a law

enforcement risk."

Centre County Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, R-Bellefonte, said that the vicious cycle of the problem will never be stopped just by incarceration.

"We have got to look at the underlying problems — why are people getting into these addictive behaviors?"

There are a variety of psychological reasons why people start using heroin and opioids, Benninghoff said, and it needs to be examined how they got there in the first place.

One question from the audience was regarding what community members can do to address the issue.

Benninghoff said that if someone personally knows an individual with substance abuse problems, they should let them know about counseling and care services that are available to them. Snyder further encouraged community members to educate themselves about the issue and make an effort to understand the disease, because as myths continue, so does the stigma that will discourage these individuals from seeking help.

The next two town hall meetings to be held will focus on treatment, recovery, education, and prevention. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 13.

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Customers, family key to success

Continued from A1

store neither of them had any interest in taking over the store.

"This store was our family's livelihood," Judy said. "You don't appreciate what it's like to own a business until you do so."

In 1995, when the Smiths were ready to retire, they sold the store to Tom and Cathy Shortledge. Tom has worked at the store everyday for the past 21 years.

The Shortledge's made sure their family was just as involved in the business as the Smith's had.

All three of the Shortledge children worked in the store, helping with everything from working the counter to helping with the booking.

"Even when my sons were in college they worked on their breaks," said Tom. "Whatever I asked them to do they did."

Now that the children have moved out of the area Tom relies on his employees Joe Considine and Matt Fink to keep everything running smoothly.

"Joe's been here for 10 years and Matt's been here for four," said Tom. "We all interchange work if

someone's not here."

The Shortledge family also increased the business, expanding the inventory and the store itself.

Tom credits the community for the ability to expand business at Walker's despite larger competition.

"First Walmart came then Lowes, then Tractor Supply. But the community is still keeping us going," he said.

The family charm is part of the success of Walker's.

And Shortledge has gotten to know his customer base quite well.

"It's about serving the customer and knowing the customer," said Shortledge on the success of the store. "A lot of our customers come to the front counter and ask for what they need and we get it. They never even have to walk through the store."

This personal service has made Walker's a staple downtown.

Shortledge said the store has remained unchanged for the most part, though there have been cosmetic changes beyond their control.

When the store first opened there were big store front windows at the entrance, displaying the store's newest wares. A sign hung above the windows

read "Sam Walker's Hardware and Supplies" in bold lettering, and was visible to all who drove by on First Street.

After the 1972 flood took out the front of the store, the store windows were closed in with brick and the store was moved back into the warehouse.

But the flood didn't shut the business down.

As soon as the water receded the store was open for business. Owners cleaned up the damage, knowing that people in the community would need the supplies like many of the items carried in the store.

"People needed help and we were there to provide that help," said Judy.

Shortledge doesn't have anyone in mind to continue the legacy when he's done. Like the Smiths, his children have grown up and moved on and don't show interest in owning the store.

"I'll probably be here until I die," joked Shortledge. "But I'm not ready to give it up." Walker's Hardware is celebrating its 50th anniversary with sales and door prizes all this week. The store is open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Groves murder trial may wait until 2017

Continued from A1

a loaded clip was found in his desk at work.

The defense attorneys in the case held that the searches were illegal and anything found should be excluded from the trial. Clinton County Retired Judge Carson V. Brown heard those arguments and ruled against them one month ago, stating the searches did not violate Groves's rights.

The attorneys then appealed to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, which may decide to hear their motions to suppress the evidence.

On Wednesday, in a brief hearing about potential trial dates, Brown said he would officially sign a stay of proceeding so the trial will not take place until the Superior Court has dealt with the appeal.

Defense attorney David Lindsay began

Wednesday's hearing by saying the county court had chosen September for the trial without asking the attorneys involved. September would be pushing it for both sides of the case, he said.

In addition, defense attorney George E. Lopley Jr. said he has another major case starting in September that may stretch into November.

Lopley and Michele L. Kluk of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office participated in the hearing through a conference phone call.

Lopley said it might take three or four months for the Superior Court to make a decision.

The Groves trial is expected to last two weeks, not counting jury selection which might take as long as a week.

Man jailed for alleged text threats

Continued from A1

you were born. In court, you will all die. Your man is going to die, and you're next (expletive)," police alleged in an affidavit.

"I am not going to jail Wednesday. I'm going to

die and so are both of you," Swartz allegedly texted the two.

However, jail is exactly where Swartz, of Mill Hall, ended up Tuesday morning following his arraignment before District Judge Jon E.

Kemp on a set of new felony and misdemeanor charges that included intimidation of witnesses, retaliation of witnesses and terroristic threats. He was committed to the Lycoming County Prison in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

The original case involved a charge of harassment with threats that stem from Swartz allegedly sending one threatening text to the couple after they filed a complaint against him with the police in the 200 block of South Broad Street on June 24, court records state. He had been sent a summons in the mail to appear for hearing today before Lopley.

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