

INSIDE

- **COMMUNITY:** Find where Fourth of July events will be staged. *page A-8*
- **BUSINESS:** Cryptic pavement markings are part of highway survey. *page A-11*
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- **RELIGION:** Does God answer prayers for ill will toward others? *page B-4*
- **ALSO INSIDE:** TV & Entertainment magazine

WORTHNOTING

- DUI patrols**
Mercer County DUI Task Force will conduct sobriety checkpoints and roving patrols this weekend.
- Pool rental**
Lackawannock-Shenango-West Middlesex community pool in West Middlesex is available for group rentals from 5 to 7 p.m. daily. Cost, including a lifeguard, is \$70 for two hours and \$25 for an extra hour. Info: 724-981-1561, Ext. 2.

DEATHS

- John Jay Dutcher**, 55, Sharon.
- Betty Corrine Knight Martin**, 75, of 3 Village Road, Scott Township, Lawrence County.
- Glenn E. "Buck" Yates**, 87, of 34 Paxton Road, Sandy Lake.

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P.M. STORM: 74/52
Dylan Corbin
Artman Elementary



Rain dance



Jason Kapusta/Herald

Ballerinas from Walnut Lodge rehearse during a rainy Thursday afternoon at Buhl Farm park, Hermitage, for their performance in the Art in the Park festival set for 7 p.m. Aug. 1.

GREENE TOWNSHIP

Fatal plane crash report doesn't identify cause

By Monica Pryts
Herald Staff Writer

Federal aviation officials have released a detailed report on the Nov. 2, 2007, Greene Township plane crash that killed Hermitage pilot Daniel R. Lloyd II, but have yet to rule on the cause of the accident.

Known as a factual report, it was filed June 23 by the National Transportation Safety

Board and reviews the documented circumstances surrounding the crash that officials were able to verify, Peter Knudson, NTSB spokesman, said Thursday.

It does not analyze or cite the significance of factors that could have contributed to the crash, but identifies various problems officials discovered. The final report of probable cause is expected to be released Aug. 13, he said.

Lloyd, 37, of 3249 Timber Lane, was flying an experimental Vans RV-10 plane he spent several years building. He was alone when he flew out of Greenville Municipal Airport that morning and did not file a flight plan, which NTSB officials have said is common.

One of Lloyd's relatives told officials Lloyd wanted to make sure the plane was functioning
See REPORT, page A-5

Lack of coverage could cost you

Senate health bill features fines

MERCER COUNTY Longiotti bill to cover 20-somethings becomes law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans who refuse to buy affordable medical coverage could be hit with fines of more than \$1,000 under a health care overhaul bill unveiled Thursday by key Senate Democrats looking to fulfill President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated the fines will raise around \$36 billion over 10 years. Senate aides said the penalties would be modeled on the approach taken by Massachusetts, which now imposes a fine of about \$1,000 a year on individuals who refuse to get coverage. Under the federal legislation, families would pay higher penalties than individuals.

See COVERAGE, page A-2

A state Senate version of state Rep. Mark Longiotti's health care bill for young adults was signed by the governor Wednesday, allowing those 19 to 29 years old to remain on their parents' insurance in some cases.

Longiotti, Hermitage, D-7th District, said the Senate version differed from his in part because it lets the employer decide whether or not to let parents bring their children into a health care plan.

"The law is important because many young people are
See LAW, page A-2

HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP

Hodge workers reject contracts

Union employees at Hodge Foundry have rejected contract offers from the company but continue work on a day-to-day basis.

Members of Glass, Molders, Potter, Plastics & Allied Workers International Union Local 273 nixed an offer just before their contract expired Tuesday and again on Wednesday. No vote counts were available.

Local 273 represents about 150 production and maintenance workers at the Hempfield Township plant. However, about half of the work force has been laid off due to a downturn in business.

A company manager said Thursday the two sides have resumed negotiations toward a new accord but declined further comment. A call to the

union's international headquarters in Media, Pa., wasn't returned.

Employing a total of 175, the foundry was created in 1876 making it Mercer County's oldest manufacturer. Hodge Foundry produces a wide range of engineered gray and ductile castings.

Wind power generation has been a pivotal emerging market for Hodge Foundry, which produces heavy iron castings weighing up to 200,000 pounds for wind generators.

Demand for wind generation products surged starting in late 2007 as energy prices, particularly oil, soared. But by last fall orders began falling sharply due to a downturn in the economy and plunging energy prices.

HERMITAGE

Months after approval, contract signed

By Joe Pinchot
Herald Staff Writer

Back on Sept. 15, Hermitage School Board approved a teachers contract that already had been ratified by the Hermitage Education Association.

Typically, contracts are signed shortly after they are approved by both sides.

This wasn't a typical case. The contract was signed

Tuesday, the day before it was to go into effect.

The length of time between approval and signing seems even more perplexing given that it was an early bird contract. The sides agreed to focus on a small number of issues and keep mostly intact the previous contract. The bargaining sessions lasted about three months.

"It took longer to get it copied than it did to get it ap-

proved," said Superintendent Karen A. Ionta.

HEA President Kathie Sherman, whose term recently ended, but who signed the contract on behalf of the union, declined to comment.

Once the basic pact was approved by both sides, representatives went back over the agreement to make sure the language was written as they expected, each negotiated provision was added and the

numbers were correct, Mrs. Ionta said.

As mistakes were found — including some of the numbers — the contract had to be returned for review, she said.

The delay seemed to derive from the Pennsylvania State Education Association representative being "extremely, extremely busy," she said. In the absence of state union help, the local union had to take care of the details.

"Poor Tim Jones, he pretty much did the whole thing," Mrs. Ionta said of the local union's chief negotiator, Timothy M. Jones.

The five-year contract grants the 150 union members 3½-percent pay hikes each year. The starting salary for someone with just a bachelor's degree is set at \$41,508 for the coming school year, and rises to \$46,998 in 2013-14.

See CONTRACT, page A-2

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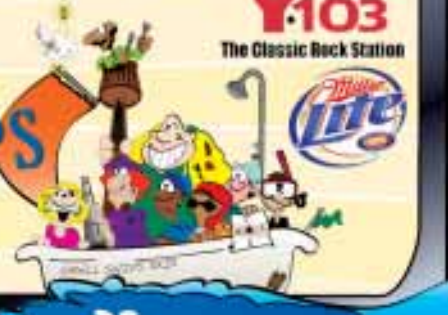
THANK!

- To the participants, for the imaginative design of their ships and their skills at navigating down the Shenango River.
- To the thousands of spectators, for being part of the biggest & best Small Ships Revue ever!

QUAKER STEAK & LUBE

BEST WINGS USA

SMALL SHIPS R-E-V-U-E



Y.103
The Classic Rock Station



P.M. STORM: 74/52

Dylan Corbin
Artman Elementary

