



NEW CASTLE NEWS

August 17-18, 2013

IN TODAY'S PAPER: 26 NEW JOBS • UP TO \$46 IN COUPONS

Company closes site after bacteria located

Liberty Mutual: No Legionnaires' symptoms reported

Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. has closed its Wilmington Road building for two days after detecting legionella bacteria on the premises. The bacteria is responsible for Legionnaires' reported disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The company said no employees have reported symptoms related to the disease.

Employees were notified by telephone and text message Thursday night that the building would be closed yesterday and today.

In a statement released yesterday, the company said, "While conducting regular HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system maintenance and testing, one water sample taken from the water cooling tower located on the roof of the building came back positive with legionella bacteria."

"This bacteria can be found occurring naturally in environments that contain warm water such as HVAC cooling towers and large plumbing systems. Based on this test result, we believe the prudent action was to close the building and conduct further testing."

Liberty Mutual said it immediately contacted the state and county boards of health "to ensure we follow all required reporting and testing procedures."

It added that because there have been no employee reports of health symptoms the county board of health will monitor the situation "and has advised us that we are taking all appropriate measures in this situation."

The company said it has notified employees of the closure and will continue to provide them with updated reports as it receives more information.

Employees were given a number to call for further information. Updated information was expected to be provided to employees by this afternoon.

Harness track application released

By Nancy Lowry
New Castle News

Plans and partnerships for Lawrence Downs Casino and Racetrack Resort have been made public. The application — redacted in some places — was posted Thursday on the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board website. Review and approval of the plan — submitted May 31 by Endeika Entertainment and Penn National Gaming Inc., which will build and manage

Board redacts information related to criminal offenses

the facility — could take nine months to a year, gaming board officials have said. The application spells out what Endeika Entertainment and its affiliates plan to do in developing a \$160 million harness racetrack/casino complex in Mahoning Township. The organization, a partnership of Philadelphia-based investors, was formed in spring 2012 to accept the assets of American Harness Tracks,

which held the racing license. Endeika Entertainment was organized for the purpose of obtaining a harness racing license and slot machine license to operate a licensed facility in Pennsylvania. On the Endeika Entertainment application, a box was checked acknowledging that a principal or key employee had been "charged with or convicted of a criminal offense, been a party to or named as an unindicted

co-conspirator in a criminal proceeding." Also checked was a box indicating the applicant or an affiliate, intermediary, subsidiary or holding company had a judgment order, consent decree or consent order that resulted in a fine or penalty of \$50,000 or more. Sections of the application that might have explained this are redacted. Also redacted are responses

TRACK, PAGE A3

LAWRENCE COUNTY FAIR

Clean water

Fair patrons can help to aid Ugandans

By Mary Grzebeniak
New Castle News

The purchase of a necklace or shoulder bag at the Lawrence County Fair is helping give an African village clean drinking water.

Richard Welch, regional director of the Ugandan Water Project, said the jewelry, purses and wood carvings he was selling this week at the organization's booth are made by Ugandan women. Proceeds help support their families and fund the water project.

Among the items available are sling bags, hair sticks, necklaces made of paper and coconut shell beads, bracelets, rings, earrings, carved masks and woven grass baskets. The organization also sells T-shirts advertising the project. Launched in 2008 by Welch's childhood friend, James Harrington of



Richard Welch displays some of the merchandise being sold at his booth at the Lawrence County Fair. Welch sells items to raise money for the Ugandan Water Project.

CLEAN, PAGE A2

Marcellus production rising faster than predicted

Pennsylvania, W. Va. numbers up 50 percent compared with last year

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Marcellus Shale natural gas production is rising even faster this year than energy experts had predicted, and that's having a national impact on energy.

Bentek, a Colorado company that analyzes energy trends, said 2013 production in Pennsylvania and West Virginia is up about 50 percent compared with last year.

Figures for the pipelines that take gas out of the Marcellus show that in the first six months of the year, Pennsylvania produced about 1.5 trillion cubic feet of gas, with projections for a year-end total of about 3.2 trillion cubic feet.

That yearly number translates into the equivalent of about 550 million barrels of oil. The official mid-2013 production figures for Pennsylvania and West Virginia haven't been released yet by those states, but Bentek's figures are considered very reliable by govern-

ment and industry sources. Marcellus production this year "has definitely outpaced our expectations," said Diana Oswald, a Bentek energy analyst, and it's changing long-established national energy trends.

Marcellus gas is "actually starting to displace" production from the Gulf of Mexico in places, Oswald said. For example, when serious shale drilling starts in Pennsylvania in 2008, output barely registered on a national level, and most

GAS, PAGE A3

Police charge pair in robbery

Mahoningtown woman at large

By Debbie Wachter
New Castle News

New Castle police have charged two Mahoningtown residents in connection with the Aug. 7 robbery of the Last Minit Mart.

Antonio Montgomery, 49, of 115 W. Wabash Ave., was arrested Tuesday and is being held in the Lawrence County jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Pamela Kelley, 53, of the same address, who allegedly was in the car with him when the robbery occurred, is facing conspiracy charges. A warrant was issued and police are looking for her.

Montgomery is accused of holding up a clerk at the store at gunpoint and stealing \$189.

According to police, a state trooper who responded to the 513 Montgomery Ave. store around 5:45 p.m. that day said he had seen a red Ford Tempo with a white racing stripe on the hood parked in the north end of the lot. The trooper said a woman was in the passenger seat.

ROBBERY, PAGE A2

OBITUARIES

- Alfred Leonard Boyd, 75, Silver Spring, Md.
- William E. Hockenberry Jr., 68, New Castle
- Evans Hunter, 88, Pulaski
- Joseph V. Krampert III, 52, North Beaver Street
- Sandra Jean Hille Sallmen, 61, Washington Township
- Dolores E. Vestal, 67, North Lima, Ohio

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Clean

From page A1

Rochester, N.Y., the organization already has funded more than 100 water projects, each serving about 400 people. The concept is simple. The group gets an organization to pay \$3,500 to sponsor purchase of a 2,500-gallon tank to collect rainwater from the roof of a church or orphanage or other large building in Uganda. They install it, using local materials and labor, and provide a clean drinking water supply for an estimated 30 years.

He said that while Ugandans who live in the national capital of Kampala have public water systems, rural Ugandans traditionally obtain water in several ways that invite contamination and disease.

Many use a natural spring that flows into a mudhole. Others obtain water through "boreholes," which are drilled wells of varying effectiveness because of mechanical problems and ground-water pollution. Some Ugandans also get their water from rivers and lakes but have to boil it to make it safe for drink-

ing. Using contaminated water causes disease and has other consequences such as medical costs and missed school days, according to the group's website.

The organization, which so far has concentrated its fundraising efforts on western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, is eager to spread its message and find sponsors.

It has found churches, including Victory Christian Center in New Wilmington, schools, civic clubs and other organizations willing to sponsor a tank. Welch makes himself available as a speaker for schools or any other interested organizations.

Welch also makes trips twice a year to Uganda. He is a graduate of Grove City College and has an office at AOX Church in Grove City. He and his wife, Anna, have done mission work in Mozambique, Uganda, Cambodia and Thailand.

Those wanting more information or to schedule a speaker can email richard@UgandanWaterProject.com or call (724) 372-5734. The organization's website is UgandanWaterProject.com. (Email: nlocal@ncnewsontine.com)

Woman charged with prostitution

A West Side woman is facing charges for an alleged second offense in prostitution.

New Castle police arrested Lori Ann Petronelis, 46, of 1315 W. Washington St. around 2 a.m. yesterday on the city's South Side.

Undercover officers reported that while they were parked in a lot near Luton and Mill Streets they were approached by Petronelis who asked if she could get into their vehicle.

She got in, introduced herself and directed them to drive to a spot on English Hollow Road she said is property of a relative

where no one would find them, police allege. She detailed her prices for various sexual favors, the officers said.

She then told them to park and turn off the lights, and said she needed payment before she went any further, police said. All three got out of the car and she offered another price, and was told she was under arrest.

The officers noted this is her second arrest for prostitution.

She was charged with two counts of prostitution and related offenses.

She was released on a nonmonetary bond.

Robbery

From page A1

Police were called to another convenience store in Mahoningtown later, where employees reported a red Tempo had sped through its parking lot and they provided a license plate number. The car was registered to other members of the Montgomery family.

Officers found the car behind the Montgomery address on Wabash Avenue and had it towed. They determined Antonio Montgomery was one of the residents at that house

and served a search warrant on the home and car.

Police investigated Montgomery's criminal history and determined he is not to possess a firearm because of previous offenses.

After interviewing family members and viewing surveillance video of the store, police charged Montgomery with robbery; persons not to possess; use, manufacture, control sell or transfer firearms; prohibited offensive weapons; terrorist threats; theft and receiving stolen property.

(Email: daughter@ncnewsontine.com)



Katherine Harding, Lawrence County Fair queen, shows off her blue ribbon winning Havana rabbit, Bo. Katherine is a graduate of Mohawk High School.



Jamie Geodel starts a trip down the inflatable sliding board at the Lawrence County Fair.

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