

READY FOR THEIR CLOSEUP

Ginny's 'kids' star in Old English Sheepdog calendar
• See C1



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'COOPERATION'



KEVIN RAUCH/THE EXPRESS

Chapman Township's Alice Tarr leads a discussion group at Thursday night's public forum.

PSU gets wins back

Joe Paterno restored as winningest coach

By MARK SCOLFORO and MARC LEVY
Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE — Penn State's football team is getting back 112 wins wiped out during the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal and the late Joe Paterno has been restored as the winningest coach in major college football history.

ALSO INSIDE:

Criticism of NCAA continues

See B1

The NCAA announced the new settlement with the school weeks before a scheduled trial on the legality of the 2012 consent decree it will replace.

The new deal also directs a \$60 million fine to address child abuse he spent within Pennsylvania and resolves that lawsuit.

See PENN, A5

River Town Program brings energy

By KEVIN RAUCH

For The Express
RENOVO — Elected officials and volunteers in Western Clinton County are hoping a well-attended public forum Thursday night will be a springboard to economic and community improvements.

About 100 people showed up at the Renovo Fire Hall for essentially what was a brainstorming session organized by prospective members of a regional River Town Team and held under the auspices of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and the SEDA-Council of Governments.

Residents and elected officials representing Renovo and South Renovo boroughs and surrounding townships participated in group sessions focusing on the business district, neighborhoods, the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, tourism opportunities, streets and highways, infrastructure and more. Maps of the region



placed near the fire hall entrance were flooded with colored dots by attendees to show "things/resources" that people value, but also areas of problems or concern.

The forum was the culmination of a number of smaller meetings in recent months organized by the Greenway Partnership and SEDA-COG at the request

See RIVER, A5



Above, Martha Sykes writes down ideas from her group. At left, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership Executive Director Trish Carothers speaks.

KEVIN RAUCH/THE EXPRESS

GAY MARRIAGE

High court sets stage for historic ruling

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Setting the stage for a potentially historic ruling, the Supreme Court announced Friday it will decide whether same-sex couples have a right to marry everywhere in America under the Constitution.

The justices will take up gay-rights cases that ask them to declare for the entire nation that people can marry the partners of their choice, regardless of gender. The cases will be argued in April, and a decision is expected by late June.

Proponents of same-sex marriage said they expect the court to settle the matter once and for all with a decision that invalidates state provisions that define marriage as between a man and a woman. On the other side, advocates for traditional marriage want the court to let the political process play out, rather than have judges order states to allow same-sex couples to marry.

See MARRIAGE, A7

Tanner Ferrara ... helping kids learn

(Editor's Note: This is another in a series of stories about Central Mountain High School students who are enrolled in vocational courses that had formerly been adversarial to their gender.)

By LAKESHIA KNARR
lbauman@lockhaven.com

MILL HALL — Tanner Ferrara, 15, of Mill Hall, is the son of Jennifer and Steve Ferrara. He is a sophomore at Central Mountain and has just begun his first year in the child care program offered through the Career and Technical Education program.

Last year Tanner, his parents, teachers and principals met to discuss pathway possibilities for him. And, since Tanner enjoys working with people, the child care program became a prime option.

"I knew going in that there weren't going to be any boys ... and I didn't really care," he said. "They said I was the first boy in like three and a-half years or something."

His nerves were relatively calm because his experiences growing up ensured him that he would be a good match for the program, he explained.

"All of my cousins, except two, are

BREAKING TRADITION

“My friends don't take it seriously. They said I wouldn't last three weeks. They didn't realize I was going to go through with it ... They got used to it though.”

— Tanner Ferrara

younger than me and I've helped them grow up," he said. "I live in a little kids society."

That being said, he wasn't sure how he would be received by his classmates.

See BREAKING, A5



Central Mountain student Tanner Ferrara, 15, works with a child in Keystone Central's child care program at Central Mountain High School. Tanner is the first boy in over three years to participate in the program.

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Kathy A. Hevner

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Weekend Sports



Wildcats fall in hard fight

See B1

Penn State gets wins back

Paterno restored to winningest coach in major college football history

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The NCAA board of governors approved the settlement, said association spokesman Bob Williams. The Penn State board approved it Friday afternoon.

The announcement follows the NCAA's decision last year to reinstate the school's full complement of football scholarships and let Penn State participate in post-season play, and comes just days after a federal judge declined to rule on the consent decree's constitutionality.

The NCAA said continuing the litigation would only delay the distribution of funds to sex abuse survivors.

"While others will focus on the return of wins, our top priority is on protecting, educating and nurturing young people," said Harris Pastides, University of South Carolina president and member of the NCAA board.

The consent decree sprung from the scandal that erupted when Sandusky, a retired football assistant coach, was accused of sexually abusing boys, some of them on Penn State's campus.

It had eliminated all wins from 1998 — when police investigated a mother's complaint that Sandusky had showered with her son — through 2011, Paterno's final season as head coach after six decades with the team and the year Sandusky was charged.

In September, the NCAA announced it was ending the school's ban on post-season play and restored its full complement of football scholarships earlier than scheduled.

The restored wins include 111 under Paterno, who died in 2012, and the final victory of 2011, when the team was coached by defensive coach Tom Bradley. It returns Paterno's record to 409-136-3.

The consent decree had also called for Penn State to provide \$60 million to fight child abuse and combat its effects. The lawsuit scheduled for trial next month began as an effort by two state officials to enforce a state law that required the money to remain in Pennsylvania.



In this Sept. 4, 2004 photo, Penn State coach Joe Paterno leads his team onto the field before an NCAA college football game against Akron in State College.

AP PHOTO

Under the settlement, the money will remain in Pennsylvania.

As part of the new proposal, Penn State acknowledges the NCAA acted in good faith.

"We acted in good faith in addressing the failures and subsequent improvements on Penn State's campus," said Kirk Schulz, member of the NCAA board of governors. "We must acknowledge the continued progress of the university while also maintaining our commitment to supporting the survivors of child sexual abuse."

The 2012 consent decree was signed by Penn State's then-president, Rodney Erickson, a month after a jury convicted Sandusky and shortly after former FBI director Louis Freeh released the scathing results of a university-commissioned investigation into the Sandusky matter.

Its unprecedented penalties drew heated and sustained opposition by Penn State alumni and

fans who argued the Freeh report was factually incorrect, defended Paterno's handling of the Sandusky scandal, noted it punished people who had nothing to do with Sandusky and said that the school's athletics program had been considered a national model.

In recent months, emails and other documents have been attached to court filings by the NCAA and the plaintiffs, state Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman and state Treasurer Rob McCord.

In one, an NCAA official described its pursuit of the penalties as "a bluff" and said asserting jurisdiction would be "a stretch." Other records documented that Penn State narrowly avoided a multi-year "death penalty" which would have suspended the college football powerhouse from playing at all.

Corman signed off on the proposal, the senator said at a news conference in Harrisburg.

"The fact of the matter was, an evil predator operated in our community for years and everyone missed it," Corman said. "The NCAA has surrendered. The agreement we reached represents a complete victory for the issue at hand."

McCord supports the agreement in principle, but he "intends to carry out a careful review of the details and language before he signs off," said his spokesman Gary Tuma.

Sandusky was convicted in 2012 of 45 counts and he is now serving a 30- to 60-year prison sentence. He maintains his innocence.

Paterno's surviving family members and others had been pursuing another lawsuit over the consent decree. That lawsuit was narrowed by the judge so that it now includes the family, former assistant coaches Jay Paterno and Bill Kenney, and former trustee Al Clemens. Former players, faculty and

trustees were removed as plaintiffs.

In a statement, Paterno's family called the announcement of a potential settlement "a great victory for everyone who has fought for the truth in the Sandusky tragedy."

They said: "This case should always have been about the pursuit of the truth, not the unjust vilification of the culture of a great institution and the scapegoating of coaches, players and administrators who were never given a chance to defend themselves."

Michael Boni, a lawyer for one of the victims who testified at Sandusky's trial, said he favored restoring Penn State's scholarships and bowl eligibility last fall, but does not believe Paterno's victories should be reinstated.

"To completely restore, in a sense, Joe Paterno's heretofore pristine reputation, I regret that," Boni said. "He did a world of good, but he made a huge, huge error in judgment in helping cover up Sandusky's pedophilia, and even posthumously I think that has to be recognized."

Boni praised Penn State in its dealings with the victims but said he sensed a "shift in the tide" later.

"There was a movement away from what I thought was a genuine mea culpa on the part of Penn State, having accepted the NCAA sanctions, and one toward, 'Why did we cave so easily?' That was disappointing," he said.

Mike Guman, a Penn State running back from 1976 to 1979, called the deal "a step in the right direction" to vindicating Paterno. The late coach "was a great leader, a great coach and a great man," Guman said. "He needs to be looked upon in that light."

The deal infuriated some Penn State alumni who have long contended the NCAA had no authority to punish Penn State over the Sandusky scandal, and who were in favor of a trial.

Cooperation: River Town Program brings energy

Continued from A1

of local officials and volunteers.

The idea is to form a regional River Town Team and develop a list of priorities for new investment — whether street improvements, recruiting businesses, building a boat launch at the foot of Fifth Street, a riverfront park and/or river walk, improving signage, dealing with blighted properties — and then working to tackle them one at a time by gathering people and financial resources.

Other priorities that came out of the meeting were to improve walkability/bikeability. Regional marketing was important too — some said the region needs to reach out to a larger area with marketing, opening the visitor center for longer hours, and offer new events such as a race, or river related event.

And based on comments from the sessions, there's a lot of energy to move forward.

Renovo Councilwoman Kari Kepler told the crowd the borough, for example, is aggressively seeking funding sources to upgrade water lines and sidewalks with the goal of repaving Erie and Ontario avenues.

But she cautioned that any projects in the planning stages now will take some time.

SEDA-COG is helping the borough apply for a competitive, \$750,000 grant for water and sewer line upgrades, street reconstruction and demolition of blighted properties along Ontario Avenue.

Rough sketches of a boat launch at the foot of Fifth Street with an elevated parking area along the river were on display, though those plans are very preliminary.

As for Huron Avenue-Route 120, PennDOT has already made plans for improvements this coming summer.

But it is regional cooperation and collective support — understanding that improvements benefit all area residents — that must ultimately come to fruition to affect real progress, SEDA-COG representative Betsy Lockwood emphasized to the crowd.

Her statements were echoed by Meredith Hill of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Pennsylvania Wilds Program.

Besides those agencies, officials from Clinton County government also were in attendance.

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership will follow-up from the meeting by providing a listing of ideas and concerns that came from the meeting to present to a River Town Team to assess and build regional support. The SGP will help to guide the team through the prioritizing and decision-making process, with SEDA-COG already working locally on various strategies.

A large number of people formally signed up as volunteers for the team.

Alice Trowbridge of the SGP said the goal is to build a regional team representing the boroughs and townships, then find projects to tackle.

"There is a lot of energy here and

there are a lot of people who want to be involved," Trowbridge said.

The river watershed is a resource that binds the communities in Western Clinton County — as it does over 500 miles and 22 counties in Pennsylvania — and can be a catalyst for community and economic improvements, said Trish Carothers, executive director of the Lewisburg-based SGP.

Carothers encouraged each group to come up with large and small issues, those that may take years to accomplish and others that could be done in the short term.

After the groups met, each was asked to reveal their top issues to the entire assembly.

Groups and topics included:

Marketing Western Clinton County as a great place to live and visit:

- Control blight.
- More "Mom and Pop" shops.
- Develop more community events that attract visitors.

Business District and Erie Avenue improvements:

- Control blight.
- Lack of adequate broadband (cell phone coverage, wi-fi and fiber optic for internet access.)
- Help for business start ups

Housing Issues and Employment:

- Single floor housing so people can retire back to the area.
- Help elderly find assistance, such

as through STEP Inc., to help maintain their homes.

Riverfront improvements, assets and connections:

- Control blight.
- Improve river access and sidewalks.

One issue that crossed over several groups' discussions was property and building blight.

There are a number of vacant properties that need to be addressed, most agreed.

Kepler talked of several actions currently underway by not only council, but also the Preserve, Renew and Revitalize group to which Kepler belongs.

In fact, the group of volunteers that make up PRR was mentioned numerous times throughout the meeting for their work and improvements made over the past two years.

Alice Tarr emphasized the importance of the people and municipalities working together.

"We have been working for a long time to get the communities to work together. A community visioning process was completed many years ago and now it's important that we move that forward," said Tarr, a representative from Chapman Township, the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, and the Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park. "The River Towns Program will be a testing ground to prove to others that Western Clinton County can work together and that we can take on larger regional projects."

Breaking Tradition: Tanner Ferrara ... helping kids learn

Continued from A1

"The first day, I went in there and they were pretty much shocked," he said of his peers' reactions.

Some of the classmates laughed and asked him if he was in the wrong classroom, but they have been accepting overall, Tanner said.

"My mom's been most supportive," he said, before noting that his friends weren't sure how to react.

"My friends don't take it seriously. They said I wouldn't last three weeks," Tanner said. "They didn't realize I was going to go through with it ... They got used to it though."

The 3-year child care program is designed to prepare students for employment in the childcare industry or to pursue a two or four-year college program in childhood education. The students have the opportunity to earn the CDAReady certificate (Child Development Associate) during their time in the CTE program.

Students are trained to become childcare aides and/or assistants, nursery, pre-school or elementary aides or attendants, playground aides, nannies and day care workers. Those enrolled in the program focus on age-appropriate learning experiences for children and building curriculum for the preschool/daycare environment. Students learn about various types of childcare programs including programs for children with special needs. A personal professional portfolio of materials for use in a daycare center is

also a course requirement.

Through the "Central Mountain Child Care PlayDays" program, students work with families, who bring their children in to be watched by the aspiring teachers and child care providers. Community members take their 3 to 5-year-old children to the high school, where the high school students provide a structured curriculum and a positive environment for the children.

Tanner enjoys mentoring the little ones who are brought in, he said.

"Just watching the little kids have fun ... working with Play-Doh, it reminds me of my childhood," Tanner explained.

Gretchen VanGorder, child care teacher at Central Mountain, said in the five years she's been teaching the classes, she has only had two male students.

"I had one student for a year and he moved and another young man didn't complete the year," VanGorder explained.

"I am pleased to have Tanner as part of the program this year," she continued. "Tanner is an asset to our program. He shows compassion and confidence as he works with the preschool children in our PlayDays program. It has been such a positive experience for them to have a male role model.

"Working with young children requires a special kind of person and it is rewarding to see a high school male in

the role of a 'future teacher,'" she added. "Tanner will be a driving force in changing male students' perception of this course. I look forward to many more male students with a compassion and commitment to early childhood education."

Tanner sees the vocational classes as building blocks for his future.

"The kids probably get influenced and when they're all grown up, they may join the child care class," he said. "But, it's kind of fun, helping little kids try to do their best."

Tanner is currently trying to become a volunteer fire fighter at Lamar Station 11.

But he's glad that he can look into a day care or teaching job as well, he said.

Tanner realizes there are plenty of life lessons to be learned when working with children.

"(Children) have a short attention span, so you literally have to keep them occupied every minute," he said.

The duties involved require patience, thinking on your feet and can help with parenting skills — although Tanner has no intention of kids anytime soon, he said.

As far as getting others to enroll in courses traditionally not seen as gender appropriate, Tanner said he would encourage others to consider it.

"It's a good class... helping children learn," he said. "Do the classes and don't be afraid. Don't give up."