



WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

www.sungazette.com

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

204th Year, No. 130 50¢ Newsstand/39¢ Home Delivery

Are you shocked? District attorney: All Benchino clientele charged; supply investigation continues

By STEPHANIE FARR
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No more names will be added to the list of alleged customers of accused cocaine dealer Louis Benchino, District Attorney Michael Dinges said Tuesday. "That's the people," Dinges said of the 20 charged in the past two weeks. "Those are the people he

was referring to."

"He" is city police Lt. Thomas Ungard, who said at a Feb. 7 news conference about Benchino's arrest that the names on the customer list, when revealed, would "send a shockwave across the city."

Ungard said at the news conference that Benchino had a "steady clientele of 30 to 35 people, some of whom are middle-class

business men and a few women."

But Dinges said Tuesday that no more charges will be filed against other alleged customers.

"Contrary to rumors within Lycoming County, these 20 names include all of the people that Lt. Thomas Ungard referred to as middle-class businessmen purchasing cocaine from Benchino," a

(See ARE, Page A-6)



"Contrary to rumors within Lycoming County, these 20 names include all of the people that Lt. Thomas Ungard referred to as middle-class businessmen purchasing cocaine from Benchino."

District Attorney Michael A. Dinges, in a Tuesday news release

East Lycoming School District Board approves 0.38-mill tax hike

By BECKY LOCK
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HUGHESVILLE — Under a preliminary budget approved Tuesday, real estate owners in East Lycoming School District would pay an average of \$34 more in property taxes next year.

The \$18.43 million budget includes a 0.38-mill increase in the property tax rate, which will boost the rate to 10.40 mills.

For every mill, a property owner pays \$1 on each \$1,000 of a property's value.

According to business manager David Maciejewski, the average (See BOARD, Page A-3)

Montoursville likely to see tax increase, teacher cuts

By JACQUELINE ZERBE
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Montoursville Area School Board accepted a preliminary budget for the 2006-07 school year at its meeting Tuesday that calls for a 1-mill property tax increase.

However, nothing is yet set in stone.

"The key thing is there are going to be some changes and deletions ... which the board will discuss at the finance (committee) (See MONTOURSVILLE, Page A-3)

Entrepreneurs wanted

15 new product ideas and concepts
10 potential business startups
\$61,663 grant funds allocated to projects and internships



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

Pennsylvania College of Technology sophomore and Keystone Innovation Zone entrepreneur Bill Davis of Hatboro explains how the Williamsport-Lycoming Keystone Innovation Zone helped him develop his business during the KIZ Showcase Tuesday at Lycoming College's Honors Hall.

Keystone Innovation Zone showcases business projects, internships at event

By LAUREN McLANE
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The Williamsport-Lycoming Keystone Innovation Zone has been operational for a little more than one year, but has already allocated more than \$60,000 in grant funds toward projects and internships in the area, according to Katie Bell, KIZ coordinator.

At a "KIZ showcase" Tuesday at Lycoming College,

keynote speaker Rebecca Bagley, deputy secretary of Technology Investment for the state Department of Community and Economic Development, highlighted some of the ways in which innovation zones partner

with state organizations to help entrepreneurs.

"We help guide companies through all the programs we have," Bagley said. The programs offered by the Department (See KEYSTONE, Page A-6)



KEYSTONE INNOVATION ZONE
WILLIAMSPORT / LYCOMING

Woodward Township sewer rates established

By MIKE REUTHER
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Woodward Township Water and Sewer Authority established connection fees of \$2,200 and monthly sewer rates of \$50 for those connecting to the new sewer system during a special meeting Wednesday.

However, the total amount for constructing the Reach Road interceptor remains up in the air until bids for the project are acted upon.

Charles W. Amer III of Brinjac Engineering told the authority that questions remain about the low bidder for the work, Mendon Pipeline Inc. of Mendon, N.Y.

He told the authority that the firm's bid appeared to be "unbalanced" with respect to the other bids. The firm may have projected the wrong amount of materials for the work, creating the potential for change orders which could increase costs, he said.

The project was rebid in April after only a \$1.2 million bid was received two years ago. The second bidding process resulted in four bids of between \$811,000 and \$1 million.

Amer noted that rebidding the project a third time poses the risk of receiving higher prices.

Modifications are needed to the township's nearly-completed treatment plant to prevent sewage from combining with the city's overflow, said Cora-Lynn Jordan, authority executive director.

Earlier estimates put connection fees as high as \$3,200 and monthly customer rates at \$45.

However, Jordan noted many residents in the township favored higher monthly bills and lower connection rates.

"It's a lot easier to come up with \$5 extra per month rather than \$1,000 (at one time)," authority member Jim Carpenter said.

Authority member Jim Marvin said it would not be possible to please everyone, regardless what rates were established.

Ivan McElwain of SEDA-Council of Governments said 71 homeowners will be subsidized for their connection costs through a Community Development Block Grant from the county.

Two dozen of those property owners, who fall under low-income guidelines, will be fully subsidized, He said. The remaining 47 will receive \$991 each.

Households can expect to receive connection notifications by the end of the month, Jordan said.

No Child Left Behind Rising number of schools face radical 'restructuring'

By BEN FELLER
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON — Falling short of requirements under President Bush's education law, about 1,750 U.S. schools have been ordered into radical "restructuring," subject to mass firings, closure, state takeover or other moves aimed at wiping their slates clean.

Many are finding resolutions short of such drastic measures. But there is growing concern that the number of schools in serious trouble under the No Child Left Behind law is rising sharply — up 44 percent over the past year alone — and is expected to swell by thousands in the next few years.

Schools make the list by falling short in math or reading for at least five straight years.

In perspective, the total amounts to 3 percent of roughly 53,000 schools that get federal poverty aid and face penalties under the No Child Left Behind law.

"It's just a matter of time before we see upwards of 10,000 schools in restructuring," said Michael Petrilli, a former enforcement official at the Education Department.

"Unless all of these schools suddenly turn themselves around, or the states continue to find ways to finagle the system, you're going to see the numbers accelerate," said (See RISING, Page A-6)

Clinton Township picks up disputed properties

Agreement with Montgomery Borough should settle emergency-response questions

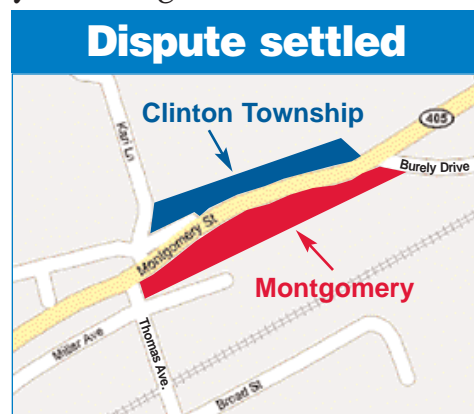
By DAVID THOMPSON
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A boundary dispute between Montgomery and Clinton Township has been settled.

According to an inter-municipal agreement, residents living in the north side of the disputed area — Route 405 east of Thomas Street to Burely Drive — are in the township. Those on the south side of the highway are in the borough.

The agreement, which affects more than a dozen properties, was approved April 19 by County Judge Kenneth D. Brown and filed with the county prothonotary.

The boundary question surfaced last year when county emergency maps showed the area, long considered part of



GOOGLE MAPS

On Page A-6
• Montgomery council members disagree

the borough, to be in the township.

County dispatchers began sending township emergency services and state police to the area, instead of borough fire and police.

In February, Mayor Andy Onufrak declared an emergency because he feared residents in that area would not receive adequate response from state police.

Although the borough could produce no

records proving the area was within its borders, it hired Larson Design Group to produce new maps using data from historical records, township solicitor Scott T. Williams said Tuesday.

The firm's maps were used to set the boundary approved in the agreement, he said.

While the new map resolved the Route 405 question, it also had the unintended effect of showing that eight other properties considered part of the borough actually are in the township, county administrator Andrew Follmer said Tuesday.

Those properties include two each on Houston Avenue, Penn Street and High Street, plus two parcels owned by the Montgomery Area School District, he said. Including the school parcels, the assessed value of the property is more than \$500,000, he said.

Those affected by the boundary change will vote in the upcoming primary election in the precinct designated before the change, county solicitor Eugene Yaw said. (See CLINTON, Page A-6)

