

University appoints president

Wilkes provost named to take position in July

HARRISBURG — A new president will lead Mansfield University beginning July 1.

The executive committee of the State System of Higher Education's board of governors Thursday chose Dr. Maravene S. Loeschke, provost of Wilkes University, to replace Dr. David J. Werner, who has served as the university's interim president since August.

"Dr. Loeschke will bring to Mansfield University an outstanding record of success throughout her career," board chairman Kenneth M. Jarin said in a news release.

"She has a broad range of experience in academic leadership and is a proven administrator. She is an excellent choice to lead Mansfield ... into the future."

Loeschke became provost of Wilkes University in 2002. Previously, she served as dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication of Towson University, Towson, Md.

She began her academic career as an instructor in the Theatre Department at Towson in 1970, the release said.

Earlier, Loeschke was a production assistant and actress for Maryland Public Television, it said.

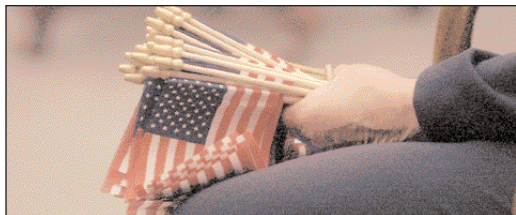
As provost, Loeschke serves as Wilkes' chief academic officer and has strengthened the curriculum, developed new programs and started a language institute. She also created a diversity action plan and participated in the university's strategic plan revision and implementation, the release said.

"Her commitment to diversity, passion for learning and student-centered focus are attributes that will serve Mansfield University well as we prepare for our 150th anniversary," Lew Lee, chair of the university's council of trustees, said in the same release.

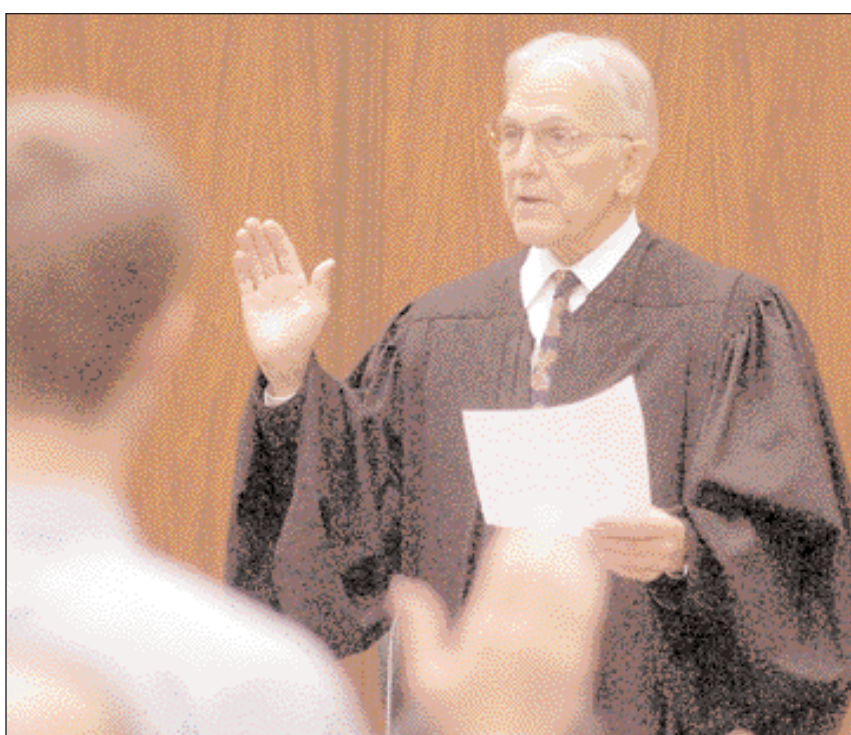
Mansfield, founded in 1857, is one of 14 universities in the state system. It has about 3,400 undergraduate and graduate students and offers 62 undergraduate and eight graduate programs.



LOESCHKE



Karen Israelian of State College, top left, formerly of Moscow, voices his feelings about becoming an American citizen after a naturalization ceremony Thursday at the federal courthouse. Continuing clockwise, Judge James F. McClure gives the oath during the ceremony; new American citizens recite the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time after being sworn in; and Doris Teufel, regent of the county chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution holds a hand full of flags.



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

New citizens welcomed

By R.A. WALKER
rwalker@sungazette.com

Senior federal District Court Judge James F. McClure Jr. welcomed 25 new United States citizens Thursday during a naturalization ceremony here.

The 25 represented 15 nations and swore their allegiance to their new country

in the courtroom No. 1 at the Federal Building on West Third Street.

Those present to witness the ceremony, in addition to the families and friends of the new citizens, included seven students from teacher Ruth Eck's eighth-grade social studies class at the Jersey Shore Middle School.

The judge, as is his practice, offered an

opportunity to speak to any of the new citizens wanting to do so.

The lone person accepting the invitation was State College resident Karen Israelian, who immigrated from his native Russia 15 years ago while it was still the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

He said he would not forget his roots, (See NEW, Page B-4)



CRAIG S. MCKIBBEN JR./Sun-Gazette

The three Ashkar Elementary School students who ran into a snag when planning their scale model of the solar system touch up their display Wednesday evening at the Ashkar Elementary School Learning Fair. From left are Michael Karschner, Emily Jones and Ansley Galicic.

Does Pluto need a variance?

Ashkar students create solar system to scale from gym to Montgomery

By LAUREN McLANE
lmclane@sungazette.com

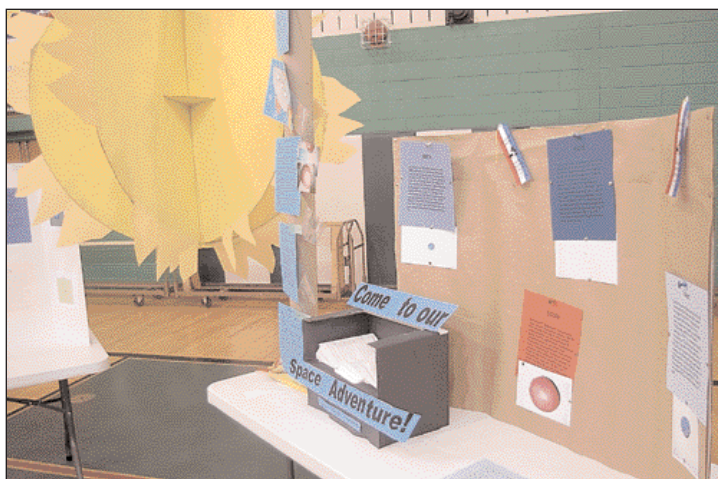
HUGHESVILLE — If a school group wants to post a planet in a borough, does it need an ordinance? Muncy Borough Council said no, it needed only the permission of the owner on whose property the planet would be located.

In Muncy, that meant Pluto could be mounted at Haywood's Bar and Grill, 113 W. Water St.

Three students from Ashkar Elementary School here — Emily Jones, Ansley Galicic and Michael Karschner — superimposed a scale model of the solar system over parts of Lycoming County, using Ashkar's gym as the sun.

The three second-grade students completed the project for the school's learning fair, which concluded yesterday.

Inspired in part by the science and space unit they com-



CRAIG S. MCKIBBEN JR./Sun-Gazette

This photo shows several of the children's planet information sheets along with explanation booklets and the scale sun from their project at left.

pleted in March, the three 8-year-olds made 10 planets (including a theoretical "Planet X"), one star (the Sun) and the Moon out of modeling clay and salt clay.

The project's genesis was the Learning Fair, and Matthew's mother, Leann Karschner, who also helped the children with the math.

"The kids helped with the calculations conceptually," she said. "Once I explained the idea of reduction to them, they got it."

It was a big surprise for them, seeing the size of the planets."

Once the students had the scaled size of the universe, they got out a map of Lycoming County and mapped the planets, using Ashkar's gym as the center. The planets are mapped as the crow flies, Karschner said.

The students created fact sheets for each planet, including its actual size, its nickname, what it's best known for (See NEW, Page B-4)

Commissioners fund fire training

By DAVID THOMPSON
dthompson@sungazette.com

The county commissioners Thursday presented \$45,000 in county funds to the Central Area Fire Chiefs Association to help connect water lines to its training grounds near West Third Street.

The commissioners made the presentation to association president and DuBoistown Volunteer Fire Co. Fire Chief Richard Knecht and other association members.

Knecht said the funding brings to an end a three-year struggle to make the connection to city water lines.

The association has already invested more than \$300,000 in the site, which includes a burn tower, Knecht said.

The association raised the money by holding weekend fire training events, he said.

Connecting to the lines will allow the association to be more in line with state guidelines for

"We've been using water from tankers. It's not how the state would like us to do business, but they knew we had a plan."

Richard Knecht,
DuBoistown fire chief

training certification programs, Knecht said.

"We've been using water from tankers. It's not how the state would like us to do business, but they knew we had a plan," he said.

"This was one of the steps we needed to take (but) we just ran out of money," he said.

Knecht said he approached Commissioner Rebecca Burke about a month ago with a re-

quest for funding.

The Williamsport Municipal Water Authority had already approved a significant reduction in the cost of making the connection, he said.

In other business, the commissioners;

- Approved a professional services agreement with former county information services director Robert Coolidge who will help guide the transition of local police and criminal justice records to a state records management network.

- Approved a five-year agreement with Northumberland County to dump trash at the Lycoming County Landfill.

The commissioners did not take action on the updated county Comprehensive Plan because there were changes that needed to be made, county administrator Andrew Follmer said.

The commissioners may consider approval of the plan is two weeks, he said.

Mansfield Armory

Borough moves forward on acquisition

By CHERYL R. CLARKE
ccclarke@sungazette.com

MANSFIELD — Borough Council moved ahead another step toward acquisition of the National Guard armory Wednesday.

Borough manager Ed Grala told council that the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has furnished a copy of its environmental review of the property, which was passed along to Quad Three, the borough's architect for inclusion in their review.

"The Department of Military Affairs is currently preparing a lease agreement for the property and the lease payments will be credited toward the purchase price once legislation to convey the property is authorized by the Legislature," Grala reported.

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Ed Grala,
Mansfield Borough manager

That agreement should be ready for review by council at its June 14 meeting, he added.

Grala also reported that he is in the process of obtaining data on the utilities and insurance costs for the building, which will aid council in determining the price of a lease agreement with Southern Tioga School District, which plans on utilizing the building at

times, since it is located directly behind Mansfield High School.

Grala reported that there is a chance the borough may be eligible through a state grant program for the entire purchase price of the armory, but he would not have any more information on that until July at (See NEW, Page B-4)

The solar system (to scale)

Planet:	Real distance from sun:	Scaled distance: from sun:	Scaled location:
Sun	(1:1 billion)	4.5 feet	Ashkar gym
Mercury	.36 million miles	.190 feet	Along bicycle trail to Lime Bluff Recreation Area
Venus	.67 million miles	.354 feet	Bike trail
Earth	.93 million miles	.492 feet	Bike trail
Moon	.24 million miles	.492 feet, 15.2 inches	Bike trail
Mars	.142 million miles	.744 feet	Bike trail
Jupiter	.484 million miles	.48 miles	Bike trail
Saturn	.887 million miles	.89 miles	Route 405 between Mohawk Dr. and Sawmill Rd.
Uranus	1.8 billion miles	1.79 miles	Lycoming Valley Homes, Route 405, Muncy
Neptune	2.8 billion miles	2.79 miles	Muncy Masonic Lodge, I-180 and Penn St.
Pluto	3.6 billion miles	3.66 miles	Haywood's Restaurant, Muncy
"Planet X" (unconfirmed)			Intersection of routes 15 and 54, Montgomery

Source: Matthew Karschner, Emily Jones, Ansley Galicic, FactMonster.com

Does Pluto need a variance?

(From Page B-1)

and so on. In the process, each student discovered his or her own personal favorite. For Michael, it was Earth, "because it's our home."

Emily liked Venus best because of its color, while Ansley chose Jupiter, "because I like the red spots and because I like to learn about the red spots and the gasses."

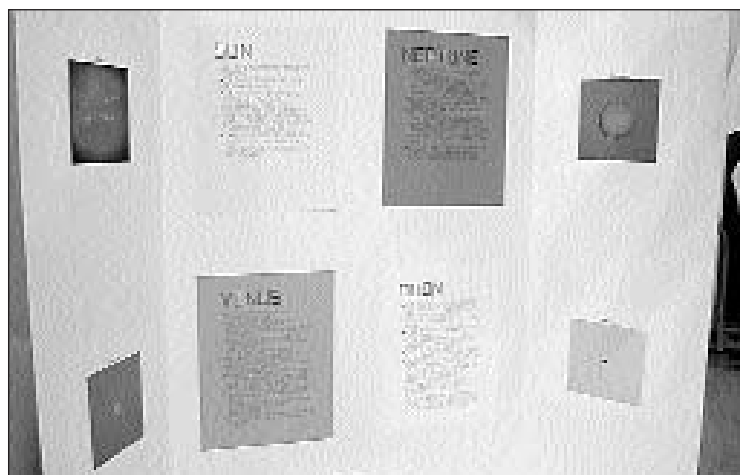
Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system — about 1,300 earths would fit inside of it — and it's best known for its bands of red, blue, brown, pink, orange and yellow, as well as the "Great Red Spot," which is an intense windstorm or hurricane larger than Earth. The storm has been raging for centuries and shows no signs of stopping.

The students gathered their research information from "the Internet, books and the space unit in March," they all said.

Emily and Ansley share a teacher, Mrs. Samantha Sherman, while Michael is in Mrs. Allison Paulhamus' class.

"Between schedules, different classes and activities, getting them all together was a challenge," Karschner said. The students had to miss practices or cut games short to get together.

The three children — with adult supervision — made the planets last week. That activity



CRAIG S. MCKIBBEN JR./Sun-Gazette

This panel, part of three Ashkar Elementary students' learning fair project, shows some of the planet information sheets the students prepared.

was collectively their favorite, they said.

One planet that appears in their diagrams is Planet X. Initially hypothesized to exist in 1930 based on orbital discrepancies of the other planets, the X stands for "unknown."

After Neptune was discovered in 1846, there were still orbital discrepancies. Pluto's discovery in 1930 also failed to account for the discrepancies, because Pluto's mass is not sufficient to disrupt Neptune's orbit in the manner it is, according to Wikipedia.

Colloquially, Planet X has come to refer to the planet believed to exist based on mathematical calculations and hy-

potheses, but not yet discovered, according to the Web encyclopedia.

The three elementary students accounted for its existence, and plotted it on their scaled map, putting it further out than Pluto, Karschner said.

Ansley and Emily, when asked what it should be named, volunteered "the White Planet" because "it's white."

Michael, varying slightly from the Romantic theme — Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Neptune are all named for Roman gods — kept with the deity-theme, but switched to ancient Greek mythology, suggesting "Zeus, like the god that throws thunder bolts."

Borough moves forward on acquisition

the earliest. "They will start the review in September, then it will be four months until we are notified and another four months until any money comes in," he said.

That timeline will fall in line with the lease agreement finalization, he added.

Council approved the purchase of a new street sweeper from United States Municipal Supply, the sister company of Bradco, in the amount of \$127,930.

The borough will trade in its 1995 sweeper, which was purchased for \$17,000 11 years ago, and receive between \$500 and \$1,000 for it.

By piggybacking onto a state contract through Pennsylvania Capital City Automotive and Equipment, the borough will save \$12,450 on the price of the new sweeper, Grala said.

Council also:

- Approved making swimming pool rates equal for all users, both town and out-of-town residents, and increased rates to accommodate a possible increase in the minimum wage this summer.

- Approved the use of funds the borough received from the late Helen Lutes for swimming pool passes for needy residents.

- Approved a resolution to apply for a matching \$50,000 Keystone grant for the public library to fund its "Bricks and Mortar" exterior renovation project. The library has raised the matching amount.

- Hired Richard Correll for the position of sewer plant manager to replace retiring Jim Harris.

- Approved a code services agreement with the borough of Wellsboro at the same rate as last year.

- Heard that this year's Independence Day celebration at will last five days, from June 30-July 4, with a possible flyover by the Blue Angels and a paratrooper jump onto Smythe Park, in addition to the annual fireworks and parade. Donations to the event can be mailed to IDCA Inc., PO Box 344, Mansfield, Pa. 16933.

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New citizens welcomed

(From Page B-1)

but described his new life in America and new citizenship as a new opportunity.

The judge reminded the new citizens that their new country is unique in that every new citizen automatically becomes an American no matter where they are from or how long they have been here.

Others taking the oath and becoming citizens were Shelley Shadid, Janete Shrey, Bharti-ben Dashrathlal Patel, Dashrathlal Prabhudas Patel, Judy Ann Knittle, Alla Alexandrovna Israelian, Saad Ahmad Amin, Monica Cardin, Ivanka Doncheva, Amelia Rola Grieb, Tomasz Maria Kott, Victor Alexandrovich Bakaev, Amina Ahmad, Vera Zastenskaya Pyle, Karen Victorovich Israelian, Aleksandr Terentyevic Antonyuk, Peter Matthew Douglas, Susan Penelope Douglas, Nigel David Emms, Kolyo D. Denev, Darren John Nelson, Vala K. Koleva, Ricard John

Naturalized citizens

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Shelley Shadid | Vera Zastenskaya Pyle |
| Janete Shrey | Karen Victorovich Israelian |
| Bhartiben Dashrathlal Patel | Aleksandr Terentyevic Antonyuk |
| Dashrathlal Prabhudas Patel | Peter Matthew Douglas |
| Judy Ann Knittle | Susan Penelope Douglas |
| Alla Alexandrovna Israelian | Nigel David Emms |
| Saad Ahmad Amin | Kolyo D. Denev |
| Monica Cardin | Darren John Nelson |
| Ivanka Doncheva | Vala K. Koleva |
| Amelia Rola Grieb | Ricard John Poole |
| Tomasz Maria Kott | Muhammad Ahmad Wattoo |
| Victor Alexandrovich Bakaev | Amina Ahmad |
| Amina Ahmad | Laiping Chen |

Poole, Muhammad Ahmad Wattoo and Laiping Chen.

The federal Immigration and Naturalization Service no longer releases addresses or countries of origin beside the names of those becoming new citizens during naturalization ceremonies.

Their countries of origin were Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria,

Canada, Peoples Republic of China, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, United Kingdom, USSR and Uzbekistan.

As is their custom, representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution provided refreshments for the new citizens and their guests following the ceremony.

Clinton County Lock Haven firm may lose prison contract

For the Sun-Gazette

McELHATTAN — The Clinton County Prison may switch its pharmaceutical supplier from a local company to one based near Somerset to possibly save money.

Warden Tom Duran told the Prison Board at its meeting Wednesday he recently contacted Boswell Pharmacy Services to supply the prison with prescription drugs at a savings of about \$7,000 a month.

Keller and Munro, Lock Haven, has supplied the prison with prescription drugs for at least 20 years, according to owner Jeff Packech.

"We compared prices for Keller and Munro with another company (Boswell), and in a one-month pharmaceutical bill, their pricing was considerably less expensive," Duran said.

Packech told the board his business has saved the county money by switching many of the brand-name drugs with generic alternatives, and he will continue to strive to lower the county's costs and keep its business.

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Lycoming County Tax Claim Bureau JUDICIAL TAX SALE

DATE AND TIME: June 7, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.
 LOCATION: LYCOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 Jurors Lounge - 2nd Floor
 48 West Third Street
 Williamsport, PA 17701

NOTICE: The following properties will be sold, freed and cleared of their respective tax, municipal claims, liens, mortgages, charges and estates, except separately taxed ground rents. These properties were previously advertised in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette on August 15, 2005 and the Lycoming Reporter on August 12, 2005.

Parcel Number	Property Description	Owner Name
02-370-111 AT039	Chadlee Drive	Hikes, Robert
11-310-13610 T061	170 Pinecrest Drive Lot 61	Ring, Marian
15-289-189 BT005E	5957 Lycoming Creek Road Lot 5E	Swinehart, Charles
18-1670-0114 T005	Schmouder MHP	Schmouder, Thomas
18-1670-0114 T011	Schmouder MHP	Schmouder, Thomas
18-1670-0114 T013	Schmouder MHP	Schmouder, Thomas
24-2100-0147 AT043	899 Bodines Rd	Mullis, Brenda
24-2100-0147 AT044	899 Bodines Rd	Fiddl, Jack
24-2490-0148 ET005	158 Cornwall Ave Lot 5	Beckett, Brian
24-2490-0148 ET015	158 Cornwall Ave Lot 15	Moore, Cindy
26-0220-0206 T020	2803 Lycoming Creek Rd Lt	Lynn, Darlyn D
27-0010-0600 T014	3731 Lycoming Creek Rd	Greeninger, Roger Lee
29-1700-0103 BT004	N Sullivan Loop	Rummings, Melvin
29-1700-0103 BT007	N Sullivan Loop	Rummings, Amanda
31-3260-0130 T010	Rummings MHP	Killinger, Miranda
40-3740-0169 BT019	19 Heatherbrooke Est	Clark, Ernest
40-3940-0149 WT020C	1635 RT 442 HWY LT C20	Miller, Robert L
42-0010-0330 T010	Shady Acres MHP	Risbel, David Jr
42-0010-0330 T021	Shady Acres MHP	Guyer, Jennidon & Frances
42-0010-0330 T025	Shady Acres MHP	Rudolph, Richard
44-3350-0141 T001	Barto Hollow Rd	Fry, Timothy D
56-2910-0119 AT030	Tisdighton I MHP	Shields, John & Melinda Hung
59-3740-0150 T020	152 Bosk Ave Lot 38	Richard Wayne L & Brenda M
59-3740-0150 T061	152 Bosk Ave Lot 80	Hoclenberry, Kenneth
60-0030-0530 T013	Is Now Lot 31	Rummings, Pete
60-3670-0125 GT007	7 Harvest Moon Park	Brown, Lester
64-0040-0215	509 Lycoming St	Blackman, Beverly A
65-0020-0332	605 Grace St	Wier, Christopher A ET AL
65-0030-0129	712 Grace St	Drummond, Arthur M & Barbara E
70-00600410 A	1535 Memorial Ave	Dowling, Kelly I & Joseph L
73-0080-0204	687 Third Ave	Casse, Allan J & Lynne M

Peter Burchanowski
 Solicitor

Thomas D. Heap
 Tax Claim Director
 Lycoming County