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THURSDAY

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SPORTS: Tigers tame Tribe for 1st time this season | B-1

Dunking led to SEAL trainee's death, coroner says | A-5



Greenspace ahead



CORY BYKNISH | Herald

A Riverfront Park is proposed for this parking lot along the Shenango River that is used by Huntington Bank employees and customers.



This image shows who owns the land surrounding the parking lot where the proposed park would go. The lot extends along the river.

City awarded \$175,000 grant to develop Riverfront Park

By **MELISSA KLARIC**
Herald Staff Writer

SHARON - City officials have high hopes that a new Riverfront Park will finally come to fruition in downtown Sharon.

"The purpose of the grant is to add green space and seating to the area," said Bob Fiscus, acting city manager. "We're excited to move along with the project."

City residents will get a chance to weigh in at a public hearing on how \$175,000

in grant money can be used to construct a new park along the Shenango River behind Huntington Bank at Shenango Avenue and Pitt Street. The hearing has not been scheduled yet, Fiscus said.

Brian Kepple of Sharon Beautification Commission said the Riverfront Park is a great project that may "take some effort."

"It'll be great for Water-Fire and a lot of other events,

See **GRANT**, page A-3



MICHAEL ROKNICK | Herald

Rhonda Karkow, parts manager at Thunder Harley-Davidson in Sharon, stocks shelves.

Local jobless rate takes a dip in May

By **MICHAEL ROKNICK**
Herald Business Editor

MERCER COUNTY - The local unemployment rate dropped in May, thanks to slight decreases in the number of unemployed and the labor force, but remains higher than a year ago and higher than both the state and national rates.

Mercer County's jobless rate was 6 percent in May, down from April's 6.3 percent rate, according to the state Department of Labor & Industry. A year ago the county's unemployment rate was 5.6 percent.

May's figures are preliminary as more information will be gathered over the next

See **JOBLESS**, page A-2

Scramble underway to find money for budget

By **JOHN FINNERTY**
CNHI Harrisburg Correspondent

HARRISBURG - A week after lawmakers sent over a \$31.5 billion spending plan, Gov. Tom Wolf is sitting pat, awaiting an explanation of how they will pay for it.

"The bottom line is, we cannot spend money we don't have, and as the governor has said, he will not sign a budget without the revenue to support it," Wolf spokesman Jeff Sheridan said Wednesday.

The first-term Democrat has until Monday to sign the budget bill, allow it to become law without his signature, or veto it. He can veto the entire budget, as he did last summer. Or he could use a line-item veto to let most of the plan take effect as negotiations over revenue continue.

The possibility of protracted wrangling over the budget

2 vehicle crash near Jamestown leaves 1 dead, 1 hurt

Meadville Tribune

CRAWFORD COUNTY - A two-vehicle crash at about dawn Wednesday near Pymatuning Lake has claimed the life of one man, according to state police at Meadville.

The crash happened at about 6 a.m. when two vehicles collided at U.S. Route 322 and West Main Drive near Pymatuning State Park, police said. Information on the identity of the drivers was being withheld Wednesday, police said.

Police said the first vehicle drove out of West Main Drive onto Route 322 in front of the second vehicle, which was



CORY BYKNISH | Herald

Grant

City awarded \$175,000 grant to develop park

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and create a park along the river," Kepple said. "There would be nothing but positives that would come out of that."

Various projects have been proposed in the past to enrich the area and Sharon residents have been disappointed when they fell through time after time.

"There are still some obstacles to overcome, starting with gaining control of some properties," Fiscus said, adding that the project is still in the planning stages.

According to the Mercer County tax parcel viewer, the piece of land eyed for the park belongs to Huntington Bank and is used as a parking lot for its employees and customers.

Huntington's parking area would need to move to the other patch of land at East Silver and Shenango streets. That area is divided into three parcels, the largest of which is owned by Shenango Avenue Associates LLC of West Middlesex. The other two parcels belong to the Winner family and the city.

According to previous Herald stories, talks with the bank and the Winner family have proven successful for the city in the past, but there has been conflict between the city and Shenango Avenue Associates, owned by former Mercer County Commissioner Brian Beader and Greg Koledin, president of Wessex Corp.

Fiscus did not have details on hand but said

that former city Manager Scott Andrejchak spearheaded the project and grant-writing process and HHS DR Architects/Engineers in Sharon drew up plans for the park.

The city procured the grant from the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority, state Rep. Mark Longietti of Hermitage, D-7th District, announced last week.

"The Sharon Riverfront Park project will convert a current brownfield and vacant land in downtown Sharon into a riverfront urban park along the banks of the Shenango River," Longietti said. "Its proximity to Penn State Shenango will create a natural connection with the campus ... It represents the next logical step in the downtown revitalization."

Crash

2 vehicle crash leaves 1 dead, 1 hurt

FROM PAGE A-1

Main Drive, police said.

The impact caused both vehicles to go off the road into an open grassy area on the northeast side of Route 322, police said.

The driver of the first vehicle was flown from the scene by air ambulance to St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown, but later succumbed to his injuries at that hospital, police said.

The male driver of the westbound vehicle was taken to UPMC Horizon, Greenville, by Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department's ambulance service, police said.

Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department assisted at the scene.

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