Past school director to fill unexpired term

By Marcia Moore

MIDDELBURG — Former Mid-­West School Board Director Corey Smith will serve a portion of the unexpired term of a director who resigned. Smith was one of three candidates who applied to serve through the end of November 2021, after Stephanie Bowen resigned to move to northern New York with family.

Smith, a West Markets employee from Middletown, had previously served as an elected four-year-term director, along with Randy Kline, a Hudson Bay Company project manager from Beavertown and father of four, and Jennifer White, a Community Action Agency employee from Middletown and mother of two, applied to fill the seat.

The candidates were questioned individually by Superintendent Jim Strong and several board members, including their interest in serving on the board and their understanding of the Sunshine Law and Robert’s Rules of Order.

“I think we have a strong sense of pride in the community,” said Smith, who added that areas the district could improve in serving students with remote learning and providing resources to the underserved student population. “There are areas of poverty where kids could be supported better.”

After the seven board members questioned each candidate individually during Monday’s meeting, a 4-2 vote was cast for Smith. Voting for Smith were board Pres­ident Victor Ahate, Directors Terry Rounse, Julie Eriksson, Sarah Orlin­d and Penny Tittle.

Board Directors Christopher Nos­cini and Tony McKnight voted for Kline. “This is the second time I lost to a former school board member,” said Kline, who last year unsuccess­fully sought to fill the unexpired seat of board member Shawn Skamin who stepped down last year.

Instead, the board appointed Tittle to serve through November 2023.

SWEEP

Project up to $260K in funding for 2023

By Dranca Scolerita

SWEET — Ten community members accepted a $125,000 grant Monday night from the Community Conservation Partnership of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Community Conservation Partnership Program is offered through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Funding collected for SWEEP con­struction in 2022 now totals $200,000.

See SWEEP, Page B2

East Buffalo discusses final budget, potential fire tax hike

By Chris Benson

EAST BUFFALO TOWNSHIP — A final budget is on the horizon for East Buffalo Township but at this point it is unclear if taxes will increase. According to East Buffalo Township Supervisor William Knight, a preliminary budget will be available in November with a final vote expected in December.

“We are going to get that finalized until we see the final budgets,” Knight said. “It doesn’t anticipate a general fund in­crease.”

Knight says he does foresee an in­crease in the fire tax. Along with Kelly Township and Lewistown Borough, East Buffalo shares costs for finding of ambulance and fire service.

See BUDGET, Page B2

ENCINA

DRIVE buys Point Township manufacturing site

By Cindy O. Herman

ENCINA CEO David Rosser talks with a concerned Point Township resident, Deanna Ikelar, during a meeting in May regarding the proposed re­newable power plant in Point Township.

Recycling plant expected to boost local economy, create new jobs

The Daily Item

POIN­T TOWNSHIP — Economy­ development agency DRIVE Deliv­ering Real Innovation for a Vibrant Economy purchased land to facil­i­tate the planning and development of a new circular manufacturing operation that developers say could inject more than $74 million into the local economy and create hundreds of new jobs.

DRIVE, which serves Northum­berland, Union, Snyder, Mont­gomery and Columbia counties, owns more than 100 acres along Route 111 in Point Township that is the anticipated location of Encina’s flagship circular manufacturing facility, according to a media release on Monday.

“We are proud to be partnering with Encina on this project to bring private investment and well-paying jobs to our region,” DRIVE Executive Director Jennifer Walkman said. “We believe this facility will have a transformational impact on our economy and the environ­ment through leading to reduce our nation’s growing plastic waste crisis.”

Earlier this year, Encina an­nounced its state-of-the-art plant, the only one of its kind in the nation. It would use advanced, proven technol­ogy to convert recycled plastic ma­terials into a new product that could be used by other manufacturers to create thousands of new plastic-type products.

The facility is expected to divert up to 450,000 tons of materials from landfills, incinerators and other less desirable methods. The facility will reduce the need to produce new plastic from all oil resources, providing sustainable solutions to customers committed to reducing their impact on the environment and catalyzing the transition to a sustainable society.

New ESL courses will be offered in Sunbury for area residents

By Cindy O. Herman

SUNBURY — It’s pretty tough to find employment — or to talk to a child’s teacher — without speaking the language of the country.

“Through a partnership between the CSU, the Department of Community Li­berty and the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office, reached out to the CSU to help the city’s growing population of ethnic backgrounds.”

“So the city is becoming more diverse, little by little,” he said. “People have a hard time communicating when they come in to pay their taxes or talk with the code officer or their children’s school. Of my main goals as edu­cation director is to try to break that communication barrier.”

Heather Harrell, adult ESL instructor at the CSU, said her adult ESL classes help students improve their personal and professional skills.

“In the case of ESL, many of our students are looking for work or to do a better job in their current positions. Sometimes they simply want to be able to communicate more effectively day to day. Our classes enable and empower them to do that.”

“Everyone is welcome,” Harrell said. “If people cannot make it to the open house, they can call me at the CSU, 750-529-1155, or 200 Messages may be in Spanish.”

People may also email Harrell at catherine@csu-sunbury.com or call the Sunbury Municipal Building at 750- 286-7260.

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