

Support Your Local Businesses

# CSIU recognizes its unique CNA apprenticeship program

BY KEVIN MERTZ  
Staff writer

MILTON — National Apprenticeship Week was celebrated this week at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU), which celebrated the occasion by marking its designation as holding the first registered CNA (certified nursing assistant) apprenticeship program in Pennsylvania.

The program was launched under the auspices of CSIU's WATCH Project before expanding into its own program.

Katherine Vastine, CSIU Watch Project manager, said the program was piloted over the last year at Susque-View Home Inc., of Lock Haven.

On Thursday, Rouse Homes, of Youngsville, also signed on to participate in the program.

"The health care industry is facing incredible shortages, especially CNAs," Vastine said. "They are vital to providing care. We need to retain them and help them grow."

Each employer that participates in the program must sign off on CSIU's standards for the program.

Monna Harman, a coordinator for CSIU's CNA apprenticeship program, said each CNA location will have a sight supervisor who will work directly with Harman.

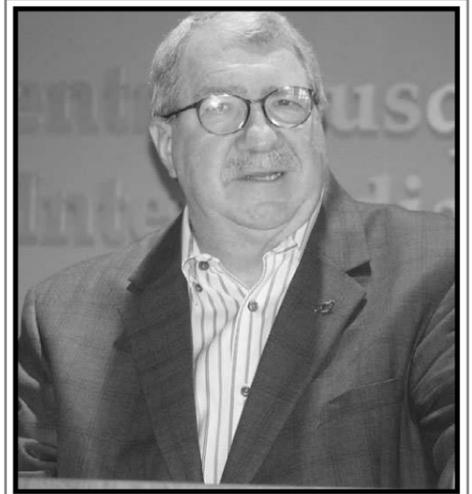
"CSIU provides the curricu-



Kevin Mertz/Standard Journal  
Rep. **Fred Keller** (R-85) was among the speakers at a program this week to mark CSIU's designation of having the first registered CNA apprenticeship in Pennsylvania.



Kevin Mertz/Standard Journal  
**Katherine Vastine**, CSIU's Watch Project manager, spoke this week on the development of CSIU's registered CNA apprenticeship program, the first of its kind in Pennsylvania.



Kevin Mertz/Standard Journal  
CSIU Executive Director Dr. **Kevin Singer** was among the speakers at an event held this week to recognize CSIU's designation of having the first registered CNA apprenticeship in Pennsylvania.

lum, distance-based DVDs," Harman explained. "We do the testing as well. They have to do tests after each unit they complete."

The apprentice will be mentored by an RN or LPN on staff at the location where they work.

Steve Myers, a U.S. Department of Labor representative who attended Thursday's event, said the program takes about one year to complete.

Those who enroll in the program may already have received certification as a CNA, Myers said.

"This is going to go into depth for them and expand what they are learning," he said.

CNA's who are trained through the program must complete the following modules of instruction: Advanced CNA, geriatrics specialty, dementia specialty and mentoring specialty.

Upon completion of the program, the CNA's receive a nationally recognized industry certification.

Rep. Fred Keller (R-85) was among the speakers Thursday at CSIU. He lauded the organization for spearheading the

statewide CNA apprenticeship program.

"Everybody's job is important and they should be trained well to do it," he said. "Every (patient) you look at, there's a soul attached to that person. The person on the front lines who provide for them, it's so important."

Keller said the program will be a "huge success."

"Not only will it benefit the people going into the career field, it will benefit the people they care for," he said.

Barbara Toner, a representative of Rouse Homes who attended Thursday's event, said

her care facility is located in Western Pennsylvania. The program was a perfect fit for her facility.

"We had been looking to do something to enhance our nursing assistance morale," Toner said. "We had been trying to think of a way to do this type of thing."

For more information on the CNA apprenticeship program, visit [www.csiu.org](http://www.csiu.org).

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## Funeral Arrangements

### Donald. D. Hans

Visitation is from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday at the Shaw Funeral Home, 400 N. Front St., Milton, where the funeral will be held at 11.

### Paul M. Zerbe Sr.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 this morning at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 109 Broadway, Milton.

### Obituary policy

Standard Journal recently revised its obituary policy.

All obituaries, except those that qualify as free veterans obituaries, will be printed as written and charged accordingly. Obituaries will be \$75 up to 75 lines and \$1 per line for each line over 75 lines.

Photos are printed free of charge.

Veterans obituaries written in a news format will be printed free of charge.

News format obituaries follow guidelines dating back hundreds of years, which treat obituaries as news items more than tributes.

The news format features information about the deceased including birthdate, date of death, immediate family information, work history, any military or education information and survivors listed by name through the grandchildren.

This change in policy is designed to ease the process for families dealing with a tough time. Multiple formats can be confusing, therefore running obituaries as the family has written will ensure that families see the obituary they crafted to honor their loved one.

Submission of obituaries should come from funeral homes, however Standard Journal will deal with submissions on a case by case basis.

If you have any question about the Standard Journal's obituary policy, call our office at 570-742-9671. If your funeral director is unsure of our policy, have him or her contact us directly.

## DHCC to stay at current site

### Youth programs to remain the focus

BY MATT FARRAND  
Staff writer

LEWISBURG — The Donald Heiter Community Center

(DHCC) will stay put rather than move to the repurposed Lewisburg Area High School building. Andrea Tufo, DHCC executive director, said while the imminent GreenSpace LLC purchase of the old

school will be a boon to non-profit organizations, the economics of a move didn't work out.

"We are a program-driven agency," Tufo said. "That move would have meant spending a lot more money than we currently do on facilities...That allows us more money and more time focussed on programming."

The DHCC was among potential tenants talked of early in the repurposing process.

"We have continued to refer organizations to that space," Tufo said. "I foresee a world where our kids will be up there and will be partnering with some of those agencies."

Tufo was optimistic that similar partnerships would arise with the emerging Miller Center for Wellness and Recreation and the Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA in the Lewisburg area. Tufo complimented the DHCC board for its efforts with the boards of the other organizations.

The DHCC, at 100 Fifth St., Lewisburg recently benefited from the efforts of a Bucknell University Management 101 section as a library space was expanded and improved.

Staff Writer Matt Farrand can be reached at 570-742-9671 and via email at [matt@standard-journal.com](mailto:matt@standard-journal.com).

## Milton man charged with firearms violation

BY THE STANDARD JOURNAL

MILTON — A Milton man has been charged with contempt for violation of order or agreement after allegedly possessing firearms after being served with a protection from abuse (PFA) order.

The charge against Eric Cramer, 36, of 418 Broadway, Milton, was filed this week in the office of District Judge John Gembic, of Shamokin, as a result of incidents which occurred between June 26 and Nov. 3.

According to court documents filed by Officer Jason Engleman, of the Milton Police Department, Cramer reported on Aug. 16 that several firearms and a large-screen television were stolen from his home on Broadway.

Through the course of his investigation, Engleman learned that a PFA was filed against Cramer on July 27.

Engleman later learned that Cramer had been storing some of the items reported stolen at another location and moved them back into his Broadway home at a later time.

A search warrant was executed on Cramer's home on Nov. 2, and police found the large-screen television. Also discovered was ammunition, which was a violation of the PFA order for Cramer to possess.

Police later learned that Cramer was storing the firearms reported stolen at a home in Williamsport, also a violation of the PFA order.

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