EBT passes 2nd Amendment measure
Board not considering ordinance

BY MATT FARRAND
The Standard-Journal
LEWISBURG — East Buffalo Township supervisors passed a resolution Monday night expressing a deep commitment to the rights of its citizens to keep and bear arms. The resolution cited the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and Article 1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution which endorses citizens to defend themselves and their state without question. More than 60 people attended the work session held in the East Buffalo Township meeting room. The 2-1 vote came after lengthy discussion and an overview of firearms issues by three law enforcement representatives. It also followed statements indicating the board was not considering a Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance (SASO), a measure which could have preempted spending to enforce certain gun laws.

“'This group will never pass an ordinance that negatively affect our police department,” said Matt Schumacher, supervisor chair, and Supervisor Jim Knight listened as law enforcement representatives discussed issues of firearm ownership.

WR elementary project takes another step forward
$35.3-$38.7 million project could be placed out for bid by December

BY KEVIN MERTZ
The Standard-Journal
TURBOTIVLE — The Warrior Run School District’s project to build a 99,200-square-foot elementary school — estimated to cost between $35.3 and $38.7 million — could be placed out to bid by December. The school board on Monday approved the new elementary school design development documents and estimate for the cost of the work. At the same time, the board authorized Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects to proceed with preparing the construction documents.

Following the meeting, Superintendent Dr. Alan Hack said the new elementary school to be built on the grounds of the middle school/high school complex is still proposed to be three stories. He said it will take about nine months to prepare the construction documents, after which time the project will be ready to be placed out to bid. If the project continues on schedule, Hack said ground-breaking should occur in the spring of 2021, with the project to be completed by the fall of 2022. During the meeting, board President Doug Whitmoyer questioned whether the project’s soft costs will fall between $2.9 and $3.3 million, as estimated by the architectural firm Michael Bell, of Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects, participated in the meeting via phone. He said that is an accurate project of soft costs.

LCCC officials tout growth at Watontown

BY KEVIN MERTZ
The Standard-Journal
WATSONTOWN — Administrators with the Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) believe 100 students could be enrolled in classes at the college’s Greater Susquehanna Center in Watontown by the fall semester.

LCCC President Thomas Leary and Greater Susquehanna Center Director Kelly Foran spoke on the growth of the center during an open house held Monday. Officials from the Warrior Run School District, Watontown Community college, Page A6

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The home at the 668 address had fire and smoke damage and the rest of the homes had heavy smoke and fire damage," Jeffery said, adding that three of the homes were unoccupied. Shamokin Police Department Fire Investigator Ray Siko II said the origin of the fire was the home at the 662 address.

Jeffery said access to fire hydrants was initially challenging, but crews were able to promptly get access to water and quickly get the blaze under control. "Water pressure was good," Jeffery said. "PPl was also helpful in shutting power off, as live power lines near a house initially gave us some issues."

Wayne Komara, who lives across the street at 641 Bear Valley Avenue, said he abruptly woke from his sleep around 5 a.m.

"I heard a bang and thought someone hit my car," Komara said. "I jumped out of bed and saw the houses across the street in flames." Komara said she was impressed at how quickly first responders arrived. "I think the call was made in a timely manner, it was they were a lot worse," Jeffery said crews from Shamokin, Coal Township, and Mifflintown arrived. "The home at the 658 address had fire and smoke damage and the rest of the homes along Bear Valley Avenue in Shamokin. Three of the residences were unoccupied."

Community college

Borough, as well as students and members of the community attended the open house. The Warner Run School District school board in May approved a six-year agreement for LCCC’s Greater Susquehanna Center to operate out of a portion of the former Watsontown Elementary School building. The center is using five classrooms and two computer labs in the building.

At the time the agreement was approved, it was announced that LCCC’s tuition rate would be $134 per credit. A $20 per credit facility fee and a $90 per credit capital fee are also charged to anyone taking classes at the center. Three funds go to the school district.

Leary said on Monday that over 100 (students) for the 2018-2019 school year , Foran said enrollment has increased almost 40 percent. Foran said Warrior Run is currently offering a dual-enrollment program with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit which could allow students to live in the Warrior Run School District for part of the time and attend the Greater Susquehanna Center.

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