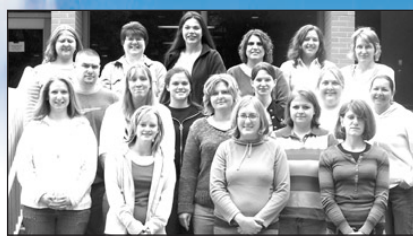


*UPT graduates nursing class  
See Page 3*



*Sam Gordon,  
Venango County correspondent*



# The Titusville Herald



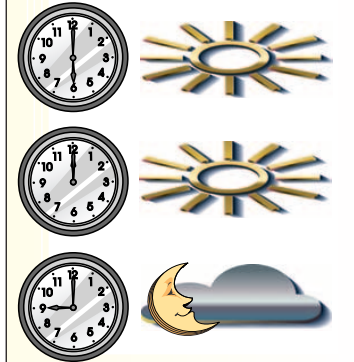
TITUSVILLE, PA

*Established June 14, 1865. First Daily Newspaper in the Pennsylvania Oil Region.*

50 CENTS

**Tuesday  
May 8, 2007**

**WEATHER  
MORNING, NOON & NIGHT**



For complete weather forecast, see Page 2

**In the news**

■ **Correspondent**  
News of Cherrytree  
Page 3

**Sports**

■ **THS Softball**  
Amboyer strikes out 14 batters.  
Page 8

■ **THS Baseball**  
Meadville hangs on for 3-2 win.  
Page 8

**Death**

■ Robert Hanna, 38, Cranberry  
For details, see Page 2

**Stocks**

**Market watch**  
May 7, 2007

Dow Jones Industrials	+48.35	13,312.97
Nasdaq composite	-1.20	2,570.95
Standard & Poor's 500	+3.86	1,509.48
Russell 2000	-1.01	831.87

**NYSE diary**

Advanced:	1,794	New highs:	329
Declined:	1,472	New lows:	9
Unchanged:	165		
Volume:	2,424,481,800		

**Nasdaq diary**

Advanced:	1,423	New highs:	139
Declined:	1,618	New lows:	37
Unchanged:	156		
Volume:	1,636,508,742		

AP

**Lottery**

**Pennsylvania Lottery**  
*Daily Number*  
2-6-8 (M) & 7-5-6 (N)  
Big 4  
5-9-6-9 (M) & 5-6-6-9 (N)  
Cash 5  
5-6-7-9-10  
Mix & Match  
6-16-8-19-10

**Index**

Business	6
Classifieds	12
Comics	10
Community	5
County/Region	3
Help	7
Legal ads	12
Mini Page	11
Nation	14
Opinion	4
Sports	8
Vital Statistics	2

## Council eyes PILOTS from tax-exempt properties

*By Tom Boyle  
tboyle@titusvilleherald.com*

City council will take action next week on a program to have owners of tax-exempt properties make a voluntary annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) of 10 percent of the amount of the tax they would have had to pay without the exemption.

According to figures provided by City Manager Mary Ann Nau, if every tax-exempt entity

involved with the program paid the 10 percent figure, the city would collect an additional \$167,982 in revenue.

Nau said at Monday's work session that currently 54 percent of land in the city is tax exempt. In the year 1995, a total of 42 percent of properties were tax-exempt, Nau said.

She discussed with city officials a packet of information about the PILOT program that will be launched, if council

approves the proposal. The packet contained information about the location of the properties, their assessed values, etc. It also contained sample letters which would be sent out to the entities about the program.

Nau said that three tax-exempt entities in the city already make contributions. One of these entities contributes more than the 10 percent figure. Nau also said the

city also has information from the early intervention (EIP) report that can be used in discussing the program with entities.

Councilman Dennis Peden suggested that some of these entities should be visited by a city representative who will discuss the program, instead of simply sending them a letter. Peden also suggested that entities which cannot afford a PILOT could instead "adopt" a

police officer or a firemen as an alternative means of revenue.

In another item, recreation director Jamie Beechey approached council about the granting of a one-day exception of the ordinance which bans pets from Scheide Park. The exception would be for the date of Saturday, Aug. 12, during the Oil Festival, for the Pets on Parade event. According to

See COUNCIL, Page 2

## A 'Wilderness Hero'

*Titusville man honored by conservation groups*

Jim DeLong of Titusville is being honored this month by the Campaign for America's Wilderness and the Wilderness Society as a "Wilderness Hero" for his dedicated efforts to protect the Allegheny National Forest.

A certified financial planner, Jim grew up in Warren, on the edge of the Allegheny Forest, and has spent the last five decades exploring, hiking and fishing in this special wild place.

From the first time he read through the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, put out by the conservation group Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, Jim DeLong said he knew he had to get involved in the effort to permanently protect his beloved forest. He got his feet wet distributing copies of the proposal and asking friends and neighbors to write personal letters of support for wilderness protection.

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness inventoried the land and found eight areas, totaling 54,460 acres, merited wilderness designation, which became the Citizen's Wilderness Proposal. The U.S. Forest Service recently completed a plan to manage the forest, and despite the public comment that supported the Citizens' Proposal, recommended just two areas for wilderness - less than 13,000 acres.

Among the special wild places omitted from the agency's plan was one of Jim DeLong's favorite areas - Tracy Ridge - the largest roadless area in the Allegheny Forest. "Luckily, it's Congress - not the Forest Service - which will make the final decision here," says DeLong. "We need to get calls and letters in to our elected officials, so they understand the breadth and depth of support for protecting more of the forest." Jim says he is looking forward to taking his legislators out for a hike. "It's important that they understand that people really care about these wild areas, and want to see them passed down to their children and



**Jim DeLong has been honored as a "Wilderness Hero" for his efforts to protect the Allegheny National Forest. DeLong is pictured at Grunder Run, which is located within the forest.**

grandchildren."

Kirk Johnson, executive director of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, has high praise for Jim. "Our wilderness campaign has benefited tremendously by Jim's advocacy and lifelong attachment to the proposed Allegheny Front wilderness area. Jim wrote letters to the Forest Service and his Congressman about the importance of this area, met with the Congressman's staff, and presented testimony at the Forest Service's hearing at Slippery Rock University last August.

He's also encouraged others to get involved and speak out for this special wild place. "If the Allegheny Front wins permanent protection," says Johnson, "future generations will largely have Jim to thank for it."

Jim DeLong encourages everyone to get involved with a local group, and says, "Every one of us really can have an impact." Take it from Jim - he's a terrific example.

Today, less than two percent of the ANF is designated as part of America's National Wilderness Preservation System. Nationally, 18 percent of all forest land in the country is wilderness. Designating all the areas listed in the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal would bring wilderness representation on the ANF up to 12 percent.

The Wilderness Hero program highlights the work of everyday Americans making a difference in the effort to protect some of the nation's last wild places for future generations.

## Harmless quarter led to spy coin warnings

WASHINGTON (AP) - An odd-looking Canadian coin with a bright red flower was the culprit behind a U.S. Defense Department's false espionage warning earlier this year, The Associated Press has learned.

The harmless "poppy coin" was so unfamiliar to suspicious U.S. Army contractors traveling in Canada that they filed confidential espionage accounts about them. The worried contractors described the coins as "anomalous" and "filled with something man-made that looked like nano-technology," according to once-classified U.S. government reports and e-mails obtained by the AP.

The silver-colored 25-cent piece features the red image of a poppy - Canada's flower of remembrance - inlaid over a maple leaf. The unorthodox quarter is identical to the coins pictured and described as suspicious in the contractors' accounts.

The supposed nano-technology actually was a conventional protective coating the Royal Canadian Mint applied to prevent the poppy's red color from

## 21st Century Community Learning Center students build birdhouses in special project

The wood shop of the Titusville Middle School has been filled with the sounds of labor during recent weeks as students of the 21st Century Community Learning Center worked on a special project.

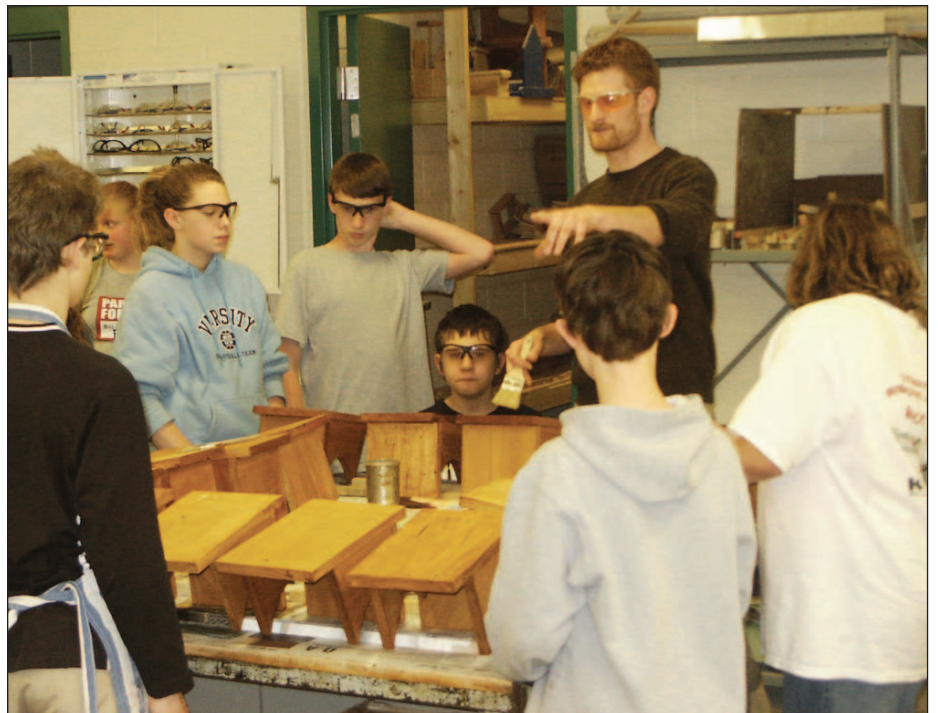
Under the guidance of woodshop instructor Greg Brumagin, the students are turning out birdhouses which will be donated to various homes and organizations throughout the community.

All the wood used in the project was donated by Weyerhaeuser Lumber Company and was delivered by Weyerhaeuser employee Ken Snyder.

The 21st CCLC After-School Program is a collaborative effort among the YMCA, Genesis Family Center and Titusville Area School District, which serves students grades first through eighth.

"One of the goals of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program is to bring an awareness of the importance of community service to the students," said Stephanie Roberts, 21st CCLC educational director. "By starting youngsters at an early age it helps to build a sense of community within them."

The 21st CCLC staff members who are overseeing the sixth through eighth grade middle school component of the program are Toni Kline, Rebecca Clementi and Kim Burns.



**Woodshop teacher Greg Brumagin is the instructor for the bird house project undertaken by 21st Century Community Learning Center students. The Titusville 21st CCLC middle school students are currently working on building the bird houses which will be donated to various homes and organizations in the area. The after-school bird house project helps bring about an awareness of the importance of community service to its participants.**

*Herald photo by Tom Boyle*

