

Altoona Mirror

\$1.50

© Copyright 2025

WEDNESDAY

July 16, 2025

Trump touts Pa. energy, AI investments

By BRAD HUNDT

Observer-Reporter

PITTSBURGH — Appearing at what is being billed as the first-ever Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Summit, President Donald J. Trump praised the commonwealth’s energy sector and trumpeted a series of investments in energy and artificial intelligence that are set to be made across the state.

“It’s a really triumphant day for the people of the common-


wealth and of the United States of America,” Trump told a gathering in Carnegie Mellon University’s Wiegand Gymnasium. “The future is going to be designed and built right here in America.”

Trump had top billing at the summit, which was hosted by U.S. Sen. Dave McCormick. To coincide with the summit, it was announced that more than \$90 billion will be invested in several energy and AI-related areas, such as start-ups, expanding gas

pipelines, developing data centers and building training facilities. The \$90 billion includes money GE Verona is going to put toward expanding a power grid equipment manufacturing plant in Charleroi, which will create 250 new jobs.

“None of this would have happened without your unwavering commitment to American energy dominance,” McCormick told Trump.

See **Trump**/Page **A5**



President Donald Trump shakes hands with Sen. Dave McCormick, R-Pa., at the “Inaugural Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Event” at Carnegie Mellon University on Tuesday in Pittsburgh.

The Associated Press

Parking Authority retracts plans

Portions of downtown parking management blueprint rescinded to work out concerns

By WILLIAM KIBLER

bkibler@altoonamirror.com

The Altoona Parking Authority on Tuesday rescinded portions of a parking management plan that it approved in June so that it can work out solutions to concerns that arose recently in meetings with owners and employees of downtown businesses.

For now, fines for violations will remain \$5, rather than \$20, and the parking rules that apply in different areas of downtown will stay the same, according to Jessica Bilko, senior manager for Metropolis, the company that acquired SP Plus, which the authority hired at the beginning of the year to operate the system.

Still to be worked out is a conflict between what some employees prefer in connection with the authority’s parking garage and what business owners prefer in connection with the two-block-long Lot 16 behind Heritage Plaza; and also potential adjustments that stakeholders may want to make in the rules that should apply to different zones in the downtown, according to Bilko.

Some employees are uneasy about using the garage, especially late at night, due to individuals whom they might encounter “hanging around,” while some don’t want to park in the garage because that means a sizable walk to their workplaces, according to Bilko.

See **Parking**/Page **A6**



Dillon Watters and his son, Miles Loudenslager, 5, both of Tyrone, come off of the slide at Tyrone Community Pool on Tuesday afternoon.

Sheetz asks judge to dismiss lawsuit

Civil rights action contends hiring policy has disparate effect on minority applicants

By PHIL RAY

pray@altoonamirror.com

Sheetz Inc. and two other companies related to the Altoona-based convenience store chain have asked a federal judge to dismiss a proposal by a city man to intervene in a lawsuit seeking damages from the company that was originally filed, but recently discontinued, by the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission.

The EEOC last year filed the civil rights action contending a Sheetz policy of performing criminal history background checks of potential employees has a disparate effect on the hiring of Black applicants and other minority groups.

The lawsuit stemmed from complaints filed by two western Pennsylvania residents, Joseph Gorsuch and Rachael Whethers, who claim they lost employment opportunities with the Sheetz Corporation.

Gorsuch claimed gender discrimination in a 2016 complaint filed with the Pittsburgh EEOC, while Whethers maintained her opportunity was lost in 2018

because of the company’s policy of not hiring individuals “with certain (criminal) convictions.”

The federal agency conducted an investigation and concluded that the Sheetz policy of rejecting applicants based on their criminal histories had an overall negative impact on employment opportunities for Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native and multiracial individuals.

The EEOC action was brought by the Biden Administration, but when President Donald Trump took office, the filing of the lawsuits based on disparate impact was de-emphasized, and the EEOC decided in early June that it would discontinue the law-

suit against Sheetz Inc., Sheetz Distribution Services LLC and CLI Transport LP.

Under this circumstance, federal law allows a member of the “aggrieved party” (the individuals who claim discrimination) to intervene and continue the lawsuit.

That’s where an Altoona man, Kenni Miller, 32, entered the picture. Miller, represented by a New York law firm, Outten & Golden LLP, and the Public Interest Law Center in Philadelphia, filed a complaint in June to intervene and to continue the lawsuit.

See **Lawsuit**/Page **A7**

Community gathers to honor AMBUCS anniversary

By RACHEL FOOR

rfoor@altoonamirror.com

It was a full house at the AMBUCS Altoona 100 year anniversary luncheon on Tuesday, with local and state leaders, representatives, volunteers and community members gathering to celebrate the organization dedicated to serving Blair County’s children and veterans with disabilities.

Founded on July 16, 1925, AMBUCS Altoona remains dedicated to its mission of inspiring people, conquering challenges and building independence, said chapter President Rick Centar.

John Clay, director of volunteer services at the Van Zandt VA Medical Center, said you “immediately see the camaraderie” that the years of service and friendship volunteering with

AMBUCS brings. The facilitator of both volunteers and donations, Clay said “it’s no surprise at all” that AMBUCS is “going strong” 100 years later.

“So many of the AMBUCS members have agreed to come and be volunteers at the VA hospital,” Clay said. “There’s just such a different level of volunteer that comes in, that’s already accustomed to that kind of service, and

we get that in spades from the AMBUCS members.”

Blair County Commissioner Laura Burke agreed, saying AMBUCS Altoona has “provided innumerable acts of service to our community.”

“Their focus on children and veterans with disabilities has enabled many in our communities to live more freely,” Burke said. “The presence of AMBUCS

in Blair County makes our community stronger. Not only does AMBUCS Altoona provide scholarships for therapists and adaptive Amtrykes in our community, it also supports other nonprofit organizations, conducts service projects and provides opportunities for fellowship and leadership.”

See **AMBUCS**/Page **A7**

It’s not just a generator.
It’s a power move.™

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 814-800-1033 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

*Terms and Conditions apply.

Be prepared before the next power outage.



Classifieds	C7,8
Comics	C6
Legal notices	C7
Nation/World	C1,2
Obituaries	A4
Opinion	C4
Puzzles	C5
Sports	B1-4

