



Taiwan wins Little League World Series title/B1

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MIFFLINBURG EXHIBIT

Kids get hands-on with snakes and lizards



Justin Strawser/The Daily Item
Brothers Teagan Spear, 7, and Tucker Spear, 10, of Mifflinburg, hold a northern pine snake during the New Jersey Snake Man exhibit at the Elias Center for the Performing Arts in Mifflinburg on Saturday.

Elias Center hosts New Jersey Snake Man for fifth year

By Justin Strawser
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MIFFLINBURG — Brothers Teagan and Tucker Spear can't agree on who loves reptiles more. Their debate played out Saturday at the New Jersey Snake Man exhibit at the Elias Center for the Performing Arts in Mifflinburg. It marked the program's fifth year at the center.

Teagan, 7, said he loves reptiles "101 infinity percent."

Tucker, 10, was quick to respond.

"I love reptiles more than him, so I love them beyond

that," Tucker said.

Tucker, in an effort to prove himself correct, explained that the Komodo dragon is the largest reptile in the world, noting its powerful tail whips, poisonous bites and sharp claws.

The boys' mother, Tiffany Spear, of Mifflinburg, said they were all excited to see the reptiles.

"If they like it, I like it," she said.

Teagan corrected her.

"I don't like it," he said, "I love it."

Presenter Jon Scarafile didn't bring a Komodo

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Justin Strawser/The Daily Item
Madison Clark, 6, and her grandfather A.J. Uscowskas, of Mifflinburg, hold a python during the New Jersey Snake Man exhibit at the Elias Center for the Performing Arts in Mifflinburg on Saturday.

Union OKs new teacher contract in Mifflinburg

Superintendent: Agreement will be published on website once both parties sign

By Justin Strawser
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MIFFLINBURG — The teachers' union at Mifflinburg Area School District approved its new four-year contract.

Superintendent Dr. Ken Dady said the union ratified the contract last week, meaning the collective bargaining agreement with the Mifflinburg Area Education Association is official.

"The contract will be published on our website once both parties sign," Dady said Friday. "It should be available

next week on the website."

The approval comes several weeks after the district rejected a fact-finding report from an arbitrator appointed by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board. The school board members approved the contract at its public meeting Aug. 12.

"The average percentage salary increase on base salaries over the four years is 3.1 percent. There is a service-based incentive as well that will hopefully incentivize

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Tax collectors, auditors, other key local finance positions on Pa.'s ballot

By Amanda Fries
Spotlight PA

On Nov. 4, Pennsylvanians will elect local officials who make critical decisions about public safety, financial priorities, and more.

Some voters will see candidates for tax collector, auditor, and other related positions on their ballot, depending on how their local government is structured.

Many municipalities hire an auditing firm rather than elect someone to review government finances and find any irregularities, said Paula Holoviak, a professor in the department of philosophy and government at Kutztown University. The position of tax collector, meanwhile, is "highly valued," she said, because it pays well and doesn't require advanced skills or training.

Almost all of the common-

SPOTLIGHT PA

wealth's 2,560 municipalities elect tax collectors, while fewer than half elect auditors, according to a database maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

Whether a community opts to elect those positions is determined by the type of municipality and its class. Townships, cities, and counties are further broken down into different classes based on factors like a community's population.

Those government structures also outline the roles of tax collector and auditor. In some cases, the duties of these positions are performed by other elected officials. For example, in third-class cities and some home rule municipalities,

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Contest invites artists to put their stamp on Milton Community Center with murals

By Cindy O. Herman
For The Daily Item

MILTON — While brainstorming ways to spruce up the Milton Community Center, colleagues floated the idea of a mural contest then said, 'wait a minute; this could be fun for community members.' and a contest was born.

The Milton Community Center is hosting Paint the Valley, a

mural contest for local artists of all ages. Submissions are open through Sept. 1, and community members can then vote for their favorite entry during the Milton Harvest Festival, Sept. 6 to 13.

"We'll have everything on display by Sept. 6," Maggie Able, Milton Community Center program coordinator, said. "Voting will be open for four days. Winners will be announced on Sept. 10."

Artists can choose from themes of nature, Milton, community, or the Susquehanna River Valley. Winning submissions will be painted on nine selected spaces in the center during four days: Sept. 20 and 21, and Sept. 27 and 28. The spaces range from 77x36 inches to 26x40 inches, and even four small, 6x6-inch tiles.

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Cindy O. Herman/For The Daily Item
The Milton Community Center, located in the Moose Building on Front Street, is hosting Paint the Valley, a mural contest for local artists of all ages.

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