



CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN:
Egg prices have fallen 60%
from last Easter's record highs | **A-2**

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Penn State offering course to help students at its 7 closing campuses

Shenango among those being axed next spring

By **MICHAEL ROKNICK**
Herald Business Editor

SHARON — Penn State is launching a course to help students enrolled in campuses set to close next year, which includes its Shenango campus in Sharon.

The “Degree Completion and Transition Support” course will automatically appear on eligible students’ online dashboards, Penn State said.

It will offer students guidance on academic and degree planning, financial planning, housing, student engagement and university resources, Penn State said in an online announcement.

“Supporting our students through this transition is a top priority,” said Andrea Dowhower, vice president for Penn State’s student affairs. “Students will continue to work closely with the faculty and staff at their campuses who know them best. This resource adds another way to find information, understand options and connect with the right resources across the University.”

Campus-based advisers, faculty and student support staff remain students’ primary source of guidance, Penn State said.

Last May Penn State trustees announced the college was closing seven of its satellite campuses, which includes the Sharon campus. Closings become effective at the completion of the spring 2027 semester.

The other campuses to close are New Kensington, Fayette, Wilkes-Barre, DuBois, York and Mont Alto.

SUPPORT FOR students at closing campuses: roadmap.psu.edu



Penn State's Shenango campus in Sharon, along with six other satellite campuses is set to close in spring 2027. Penn State announced course material is available to help guide eligible students at the campuses.

Economic summit highlights local projects underway

7.7% of workforce commutes to work out of the county

By **MICHAEL ROKNICK**
Herald Business Editor

GROVE CITY — The top destination for Mercer County residents who work elsewhere isn’t in a neighboring county.

“It’s Allegheny County,” said Russell Mills, regional executive of the Pittsburgh Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Mills was among the presenters Thursday at the fourth annual Mercer County Economic Summit, held at Grove City College.

Hosted by Penn-Northwest Develop-

ment Corp., Mercer County’s lead economic development agency, the event featured representatives from government and a wide variety of businesses.

All three Mercer County commissioners spoke about ongoing events and projects at the county level.

Ann Coleman, chairman of the commissioners, said the commissioners are taking a hard look at how to handle data centers.

These information technology centers have been controversial to some, while others say they can lead to greater ventures. Housing things like servers and networking equipment, the complaint is they’re noisy, suck up enormous amounts of electricity and water but produce very

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Russell Mills, regional executive of the Pittsburgh Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, spoke Thursday at the luncheon for the fourth annual Mercer County Economic Summit, at Grove City College on Thursday. Mills gave economic details such as the top destination for Mercer County residents who work elsewhere is Allegheny County.

Man gets 5-10 years for sexually assaulting 9-year-old

Defense had asked for probation, house arrest

By **MELISSA KLARIC**
Herald Staff Writer

MERCER — A Sharon man who pleaded no contest sexual assault of a 9-year-old is facing 5 to 10 years in state prison.

Meco Christopher Dwayne Brown, 43, of King Street, pleaded no contest in November to a felony charge of sexual assault. Charges of rape, rape of an unconscious victim, rape of a child, statutory sexual assault, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse with an unconscious person, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse with a child and sexual assault were not prosecuted.

Mercer County Common Pleas Judge Daniel P. Wallace sentenced Brown to the state term, and Brown is ordered to a lifetime on the federal sex-offender registry. He was also given credit for 314 days served in Mercer County Jail.

“When you get to state prison, the first thing you will have to do is finish sex offender counseling,” Wallace told Brown. “If you don’t admit to your actions, you will serve your maximum sentence, which is 10 years. Just admit to what you did.”

Defense Attorney Amy Beth Jones said the judge should have received six letters in support of Brown from friends and family.

Jones asked the judge for a sentence of probation or house arrest.

Brown has been on house arrest for about a year. During that time, Jones said, he has not been involved in any incidents. He has maintained employment and has taken responsibility for his actions, Jones said. She asked the court to please give Brown a chance.

“I apologize to anyone I hurt,” Brown said. “Give me a chance.”

Wallace said the commonwealth has set forth the facts in the case and he outlined them.

Wallace said through the Child Advocacy Center, the victim said on two occasions in the city of Sharon, “Magic” — Brown’s nickname — engaged in sexual intercourse with her and that she did not consent.

“Your attorney is asking me to go outside the guidelines,” Wallace said. “I believe these acts warrant a guideline sentence.”

From left, Mercer County Commissioners Ann Coleman, William Finley and Tim McGonigle spoke at the summit about the proposed major warehouse along Interstate 80 as well as about how future data centers will be handled in the county.

MICHAEL ROKNICK | Herald



Pioneer Festival being revived after decade’s absence

By **MICHAEL ROKNICK**
Herald Business Editor

JAMESTOWN — A pioneering spirit is returning to Jamestown.

Jamestown Area Historical Society is bringing back its Pioneer Festival, Cheryl Haralson, the organization’s vice president and festival committee chairwoman, said.

“We started planning last year,” Haralson said. As best as she knows, the last festival was in 2016 and was known as the Pymatuning Pioneer and Art Festival. Its demise was attributed to dwindling numbers of volunteers. The festival had more than a two-decade run.

Set for the weekend of June 27-28, the revived festival will be held in downtown Jamestown. Its focus will be from the French and Indian War to the Civil War, she said.

“We’ll have re-enactors and



Blacksmiths Rick Sanguigni, left, of Grove City and Dennis Murray of Weedville, Pa., hammer metal at the 2014 Pioneer and Arts Festival at Pymatuning State Park.

artisans depicting that period,” Haralson said.

Plans call for activities to center around Gibson House

Manor and the nearby community park. The historic Gibson House is owned and operated by Friends of the Man-

or Charitable Trust, a separate organization.

Tours of the manor will be conducted during the festival.

Food vendors will be available along with those portraying historical characters, such as Abraham Lincoln.

Historical presentations also will be delivered, such as by Leon Sam Briggs, a Native American, who has appeared at WaterFire in Sharon. And it’s expected artisans offering recreations from that period will be on hand.

“We wanted to start out with a small venue and build on it,” Haralson said. “We’re very lucky we have close associations with groups and people who can give historical presentations.”

MORE INFO: Facebook: Jamestown Area Historical Society; jamestownareapahistoricalociety.org

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DEATHS

Donald M. CATHCART, 83, New Castle.
Rev. Elizabeth Stanton COOPER, New
Wilmington.

Sharon O’Kresik (Metz) SIMMONS, 75,
Beaufort, S.C., formerly of Sharpville.
Elvis TYREE, 44, West Middlesex.

