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MOUNTAIN VALLEY GOLF COURSE

Warehouses, no data center, planned

PNK Group reviewing site to determine suitability for facilities exceeding 1 million square feet each

By Ron Devlin RDEVLIN@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM

BARNESVILLE — The new owner of the Mountain Valley Golf Course and surrounding property is considering building three to five

warehouses on the site, Ryan Twp. supervisor Clyde "Champ" Holman said.

Arin Rauf, a PNK Group USA land acquisition specialist, ruled out putting a data center on the 100-plus-acre property during a recent tour, Holman said.

Instead, PNK Group is reviewing the site to determine if it is suitable for the construction of warehouses, which would exceed 1 million square feet each.

PNK Group already has a new 1.2-million-square-foot warehouse on Logistics Drive in the township, a short distance from the golf course on Brockton Mountain Road, just off Burma Road.

Andrey Sharkov owns the New

York-based commercial and industrial development group, which has properties on the East Coast from Connecticut to Florida, according to its website.

PNK P8 LLC, a Pennsylvania limited liability corporation, purchased the golf course and other properties in March, according to documents on file in the Schuylkill County Courthouse.

In all, 12 parcels owned by Moun-

tain Valley Corporation and Yuda-cot Limited Partnership were involved in the \$15 million acquisition. Steve Cotler was listed as president of both entities in documents filed on March 27.

The 36-hole golfing complex and related facilities, including its restaurant and event center, will close after the golf season concludes

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Local leaders, chief of PennDOT come together



PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll chats with state and local leaders. OLIVIA SCHLINKMAN/STAFF PHOTO

County's transportation future on top of agenda at Schuylkill Regional Airport

By Olivia Schlinkman OSCHLINKMAN@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM

Representation in discussions around policy and government matters — so, it makes sense that a 53-foot-wingspan Pilatus PC-12 aircraft was present for the state department of transportation secretary's visit to Schuylkill County.

Around 60 local leaders and residents — and the Pilatus PC-12 — crowded into the Schuylkill Regional Airport hangar on Thursday to discuss ongoing Schuylkill infrastructure successes with PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll and strengthen a bond so that future projects may similarly flourish.

Thursday was the airport's second

time hosting Carroll, who is no stranger to Northeastern Pennsylvania — Carroll grew up in Pittston and attended the University of Scranton. He was appointed to his current role in 2023 after previously serving in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for 16 years.

Prior to the event, Bob Carl, CEO and president of the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, gave the secretary a tour of the county's piece de resistance when it comes to ongoing infrastructure improvements: the Route 61 St. Clair to Frackville Reconstruction project.

'ON FULL DISPLAY'

Carroll commended the county's Infrastructure Committee and local businesses, such as Benesch, the Pottsville-based engineering consultant that

assisted in the I-95 Emergency Bridge Project in Philadelphia.

"Absent the existence of a port ... this county is a county that has every other mode of transportation on full display," Carroll said.

Carroll noted the varied achievements of his department and the broader gubernatorial administration, including PennDOT's improvement of nearly 20,000 miles of roadways and 1,800 bridges around the commonwealth.

"I am not about to declare that we have done every single thing perfectly, but I'm damn proud of what we have done for the three-and-a-half years that I've had the chance to lead this department," Carroll said. "As every elected

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THE NEPA 30



The First Defenders gather for a reunion in Philadelphia on April 18, 1910. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Schuylkill militia unit was first to defend the Union

By Ron Devlin RDEVLIN@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM

The Confederate States of America opened fire on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, officially sparking the Civil War.

Less than a week later, two Schuylkill County militia units arrived in Washington ready to fight for the Union.

President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation three days after the attack on Fort Sumter, calling for 75,000 volunteers to defend the nation's capital.

The call went out to the governors of all 34 states by telegraph, and was published in weekly and daily newspapers across the nation.

It resounded most loudly in four Pennsylvania counties — Schuylkill, Berks, Lehigh and Mifflin.

Five units from those counties were the first to answer Lincoln's call, arriving in Washington on April 18, 1861.

The First Defenders, as they would forever be known, were: National Light Infantry and Washington Artillerists, both of Pottsville; the Ringgold Light Artillery of Reading; The Allen Infantry of Allentown and the Logan Guards of Lewistown.

NATIONAL RIPPLE

At a critical moment, with the very survival of the Union at stake, Lincoln was overjoyed and thankful to see 475 volunteers rise to the defense of the nation's capital. Washington was surrounded by Maryland, one of the largest slave states, and was vulnerable to take over by Confederate sympathizers.

The First Defenders' arrival was a massive morale booster for the embattled president.

The troops were headquartered in the hallways and committee rooms of the Senate and House of Representatives, and were equipped with arms and ammunition in the basement of the U.S. Capitol. Lincoln, Secretary of State William H. Seward and Secretary of War Simon Cameron were present at the arms distribution. Lincoln shook the hands of every member of every company.

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PSP say e-bike operator killed after being hit by tractor-trailer on Rt. 61

By Michael Urban MURBAN@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM

A Schuylkill Haven man was killed Thursday evening when the electric pedal bike he was driving along Route 61 was struck from behind by a tractor-trailer, according to Pennsylvania State Police.

The collision occurred just north of Seven Stars Township in North Manheim Township

shortly after 11 p.m. State police say the e-bike was heading north on the shoulder when it was hit from behind by the northbound tractor-trailer.

Operating the bike was Michael Shaffer, 45, of Schuylkill Haven, according to Dr. David Moylan, Schuylkill County Coroner.

Shaffer was taken to Lehigh Valley Hospital-Schuylkill in Pottsville, where the coroner's office pronounced him dead.

The driver of the tractor-trailer was Edwin Viera, 38, of Vineland, N.J., troopers said. He was not hurt.

No further details of the crash investigation were immediately available from state police and it was not clear whether Shaffer was wearing a helmet.

The coroner's office performed a forensic CT scan on Shaffer on Friday, but his death certificate, including

the cause and manner of the his death, was not yet complete, Moylan said.

Though there are different types of e-bikes, the most common models are permitted to ride where traditional bikes are allowed in Pennsylvania, according to state law. The electric bikes must follow similar traffic rules to bicycles, and they can be used to

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