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THE HERALD, Sharon, Pa., Thursday, June 28, 2007 A-9

HERMITAGE

# New park provides play space for dogs

Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Funeral Home and Crematory and Hillcrest Memorial Park today will open a secure, private dog park emphasizing pet wellness on a quarter-acre at 2619 E. State St. in Hermitage.

A grand opening and open house are set for Saturday and Sunday.

Hillcrest Dog Park and Wellness Center will be the first free-play park for dogs of all breeds in Mercer County and surrounding areas. Dog owners will be able to let their dogs exercise and interact with other dogs in a safe, enclosed park. It also will be used as a venue for clinics, demonstrations and seminars about pet health.

"We want to help people prolong and improve the quality of their dog's life so they don't have to use us as quickly," said John Flynn, funeral director and supervisor, who oversees Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Funeral Home and Crematory and now the dog park.

"We're surprised that it's never been done before. For example, if you have an overweight dog, where do you turn? We plan to have dog walking groups and provide equipment in the park to make it convenient to exercise your dog. We want people to know that there are healthier options to promote pet well-being."

"On this end of things, we see pets that sometimes go prematurely and it has motivated us to create an all-encompassing center to both exercise dogs and provide programs to enhance pet health and longevity," said Roberta Knauf, pet funeral



Jason Kapusta/Herald

**Dogs play at Hillcrest Dog Park and Wellness Center in Hermitage. The valley's first dog playground will open to the public today with the grand opening and events set for this weekend.**

director of the Hillcrest-Flynn Pet Funeral Home and Crematory.

The current roster includes puppy classes, agility demonstrations and wellness programs.

The dog park will be complete with custom playground gym equipment, serpentine and horseshoe-shaped exercise tunnels, enrichment toys, a soft play surface, and a main area for large- and medium-sized dogs, as well as a self-contained small dog and puppy area. The fenced, lighted and camera-monitored facility will be open

year-round and 24 hours a day through a key-entry gate.

Dogs must meet temperament and AKC Canine Good Citizen qualifications, and owners will be required to complete a member application and present proof of current vaccination and license. Flexible membership plans are available.

For the convenience of owners, the park will feature Wi-Fi connection for laptop Internet use, as well picnic tables and benches for socializing and watching dogs play.

In addition to the park and wellness programs, events and

fundraisers will be held on the property to promote pet adoption and to socialize with other dog owners.

Today's opening activities include a ribbon-cutting at 10:15 a.m., the blessing of the dog park at 10:30, demonstrations at 10:45 and supervised open play at 11.

Grand opening activities are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and include supervised play; agility, obedience and Canine Good Citizen demonstrations; pet costume parties; and pet adoption and wellness information.

## BRIEFLY

### Sara E. Bindas marking 90th with card shower

GROVE CITY — Sara Elizabeth Bindas of Grove City, formerly of Stoneboro, will turn 90 on July 9. Her family will celebrate on July 8 with a get-together.

Mrs. Bindas was born July 9, 1917.

She married John Bindas on Aug. 3, 1940. He is deceased.

A homemaker and stay-at-home mother, Mrs. Bindas has been a life-time member of Millbrook Methodist Church. She has served as church pianist for many years and held many other offices.

Mrs. Bindas has been involved in Happy Homemakers, Millbrook Grange, Daughters of the American Revolution and

Lady Worth Rebekah Lodge 328. She enjoys puzzles and crafts.

Her five children are Lloyd D. Bindas and his wife, Nancy, of Sandy Lake; Margie L. Bindas of Grove City, with whom she makes her home; John H. Bindas and his wife, Norma, of Hadley; Nelson L. Bindas and his wife, Diane, of Franklin; and Amy S. Gildersleeve and her husband, Rob, of Grove City. Ten grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren complete the family.

Cards may be sent to her at 634 N. Broad St. Extension, Grove City 16127.

### 'Nature Survivor' planned in Pymatuning State Park

JAMESTOWN — Nine-through 12-year-olds can test their survival skills 9 a.m. to noon July 11 and 12 in Pymatuning State Park, Jamestown.

Fishing, tracking, building a shelter and orienteering will be part of the "Nature Survivor" event. Participants should bring a snack and water both days. Cost is \$5.

Registration and info: 724-932-3142 and www.state.pa.us or www.dcnr.state.pa.us

### Camps being hosted by Greenville Leisure group

GREENVILLE — Greenville Area Leisure Services Association has planned events.

These camps will be July 9 through 13 in Greenville Recreation Center, 45 Alan Ave

■ "Recycle Mania" — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., for 6- through 11-year-olds.

■ Junior cheerleading camp — 9 to 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 to 11:45 a.m., for kindergarten through second-graders.

These camps will be July 9 through 13 in Starfire Gymnastics and Dance, 207 Main St.,

Greenville.

■ Gymtykes Summer Camp — 9 to 10:30 a.m., for 3- through 5-year-olds.

■ Gymnastics with strength enhancement — 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for 6- through 8-year-olds and 9- through 12-year-olds.

Registration is needed by Tuesday 7/3. Sign-ups and payment can be done 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays in the center. Info: 724-588-4810.

### Greenville Memorial Pool extends its hours

GREENVILLE — Greenville Memorial Swimming Pool will be open these extended hours July 6 through Aug. 3:

■ 1 to 6 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

■ 1 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Info: 724-588-1566.

MERCER

# MHS grad excels in forensics tourney

A recent Mercer High School graduate turned in an outstanding performance last week at the 2007 National Forensic League national tournament.

The week-long Kansas Nationals, held June 16 through 23 at Wichita-Derby, Kan., drew more than 4,000 students from all 50 states and U.S. territorial possessions. They competed in five venues in the Wichita area.

Alex Morin, competing in his specialty, international extemporaneous speaking, placed in the top 30 in the nation. The six-year speaker and four-year letter winner in Mercer's forensics program advanced through 10 rounds during the first three days of competition.

He was under the tutelage of coach Sandra Ellenberger.

After qualifying for NFL national competition by tying for first-place at the Pittsburgh district national qualifying tournament in March, Alex competed with more than 240 speakers in six preliminary rounds on June 18 and 19.

The field was then cut to 60 speakers once the 12 judges' ballots were tabulated. The six judges' ballots in octofinals (three in each round) placed Alex among the top 30 speakers into the quarterfinal rounds. Alex was eliminated from competition following Round 10.

Alex became the fifth Mercer High extemporaneous speaker in the 35-year history of the program to advance into the top 30 at NFL nationals, joining David Hogue in 1985; Nickle Sheehan, 1997; Leah Acker, 2003; and Tyler Love, 2004. Alex was awarded a Revere Bowl in honor of his accomplishment.

Alex moved into a consolation event, impromptu speaking, where he advanced into two elimination rounds, placing him among the top 75 speakers in the category.

Another Mercer speaker, sophomore Caitlin Handerhan, qualified to compete at nationals in original oratory. After being eliminated from competition following round six, Caitlin entered two supplemental events, prose and poetry interpretation. She advanced to one elimination round in prose. Caitlin also competed in a consolation event of story-telling.

The Pittsburgh District of NFL recorded one of its strongest showings ever at nationals, advancing at least one speaker or team into the top 60 in every speaking and debate category except for dramatic interpretation. Three of Pittsburgh's four national extemporaneous qualifiers, including Alex Morin, advanced into the top 60 with two placing in the top 30 nationally.

## DEANS LIST

### Indiana University of Pennsylvania

INDIANA, Pa. — These local students, working on bachelor's degrees, qualified for Indiana University of Pennsylvania's 2007 spring semester dean's list by earning grade point averages of 3.25 or higher in 12 or more:

■ **Clark** — Heather A. Bougher, Parkview Drive, nuclear medicine technology.

■ **Farrell** — Nicole C. Kennedy, psychology.

■ **Fredonia** — Heather M. Kendall, interior design.

■ **Greenville** — Sean L. Christiansen, management; Matthew T. Fell, finance; Christopher J. Grasinger, Kurt Morningstar and Casey T. Nicklin, all communications media; Jason H. Gruber, computer science; Ross E. Livermore and Kara E. McGonigal, both criminology; Megan J. McCurdy, nuclear medicine technology; and Anthony D. Webber, biology education.

■ **Grove City** — Benjamin L. Barnes and Kristen M.-A. Engle, both health and physical education; Shawn M. Burkett, safety sciences; Rachel E. Englehart, management; Justin M. McNamara, sociology; and Jack P. Vallely, business.

■ **Hadley** — Samantha L. Arensberg, criminology.

■ **Hermitage** — Jennifer L. Baxter, hospitality management; Jonathan A. Biddle, computer science; David M.

Buchanan, management; Andreea P. Flower, respiratory care; Jeremy J. Glass, physical education and sport; William J. Gruitza, psychology; Jennifer L. Harper, nursing; Erin E. Mentrek, speech and language pathology education; and Jessica A. Moretti, English education.

■ **Jamestown** — Ashley N. Hughes, interdisciplinary fine arts; and Ronald M. Renwick, accounting.

■ **Mercer** — Lauren L. Davis, natural science; and Justin T. Wise, safety sciences.

■ **New Wilmington** — Jantine N. Garrett, mathematics education.

■ **Sandy Lake** — Jeanette R. Vandermark, elementary education.

■ **Sharon** — Ben L. Adovasio, applied mathematics; Pierino DelliBovi, management; Justin M. Gartner, accounting; Bradley M. Kiester, Jesse H. Riffle and Lucas P. Smith, all criminology; and Valerie M. Patton, speech and language pathology education.

■ **Sharpville** — Daniel P. Coyne, communications media; Zachary J. Neil, finance; Steven M. Perna, art education; and Nicole M. Voyda, physical education and sport.

■ **West Middlesex** — Lauren E. Bean, political science; Paul M. Fair, physical education and sport; Patrick A. Hemphill, physics.

■ **Wheatland** — Jessica L. Varcholik, interior design.

## Diversions

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9:30 p.m.; Tunesmith tunes up at 9:30 p.m. at Sidebar & Grille, Mercer; Simply Ed Karaoke starts at 9:30 p.m. in Thunder Alley at Quaker Steak and Lube, Sharon; and Sing With Sandy opens the mike at 9 p.m. in Sharpville VFW, 215 N. Walnut St.

■ **Saturday:** Hawkeye is in at 9 p.m. Saturday in Veterans of Foreign War Post 586, 1233 Idaho St. in Farrell; the Jai-Alai in Hermitage presents Screaming Karaoke at 9:30 p.m.; Blaire Audio is back at Letheris Tavern, Masury, at 9:30 p.m.; Blue Ice Karaoke show starts at 10 p.m. in Laddie's Sky Club, Masury; and Dusty kicks up some fun at 9 p.m. in the Chestnut Street Cafe, Sharon.

■ **Sunday:** Hawkeye is back at 9:30 p.m. in Jerry's Tavern, Sharpville; Karaoke tunes purr at 9 p.m. in Alley Cat Lounge, Greenville; and Blue Ice Karaoke starts at 10 p.m. at Another Corner Tavern, Sharon.

■ **Monday:** Marshall B. and Gary C. from Blaire's Audio host at 9:30 p.m. in RJ's Bar and Grille, Masury.

■ **Tuesday:** Karaoke tunes purr at 9 p.m. in Alley Cat Lounge, Greenville; and Dusty is back at 9:30 p.m. in the Chestnut Street Cafe, Sharon.

■ **Wednesday:** Dusty keeps it spinning at R.P. McMurphy's, Masury, formerly Barney's, at 10 p.m.; and Blue Ice Karaoke starts at 10:30 p.m. at Steph's Corner Pub & Grill, Greenville.

### LOCAL BANDS

■ **Savoy** plays at 9 p.m. Saturday in Razy's, West Middlesex.

■ **The Blamey Tones** bring Irish and Scottish music at 8 p.m. today on the patio of Muscarella's, Sharpville.

■ **Soundbite** plays classic rock at 9:30 p.m. Friday in D'Avanzo's, Hermitage. They play again at 9:30 p.m. Saturday in Parkstown Lounge, New Castle.

■ **Capitol Court** plays at 10 p.m. Saturday in the 804, Sharon. Info: www.capitolcourtband.com

■ **Deno** starts off at 8:30 p.m. Friday in Gallo's Italian Villa, Hermitage. Then, catch the dance party with Vic Rangel at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. Info: 724-346-5912.

■ **Pie Rossi** hosts an oldies sing-along at 8 p.m. Friday in Harry's, Sharpville. Then, Groove Clinic cuts a rut at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, also in Harry's. Info: www.grooveclinic.net

■ **Catch open stage night** at 9 p.m. Thursday with Steve Vuich in Tully's Irish Pub, Sharon. Then, the Herm Brothers Band plays at 8 p.m. on the main stage. On 3 at 10 p.m. in Tully's and Pipe Dreams celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Summer of Love, starting at 10:15 p.m. in the Sugar Shack, all on Friday at Three By the River, Sharon. Then, catch Max and Terry at 9 p.m. Monday in Tully's. Info: 724-981-3123 and www.quakersteakandlube.com

### MUSICAL STAGE

■ **Pittsburgh CLO** presents "Oklahoma," a mid-western musical tale of romance that plays today through Sunday in the Benedum Center, Pittsburgh. Most showtimes at 8 p.m., except for Sundays. Matinees play at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. No shows on Mondays. Coming up, celebrate Christmas in July with Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," July 3

through 15. Tickets: 412-456-6666 and www.pittsburghCLO.org

■ **"Man of La Mancha,"** a musical adaptation of the adventures of Don Quixote, plays July 13 through 15, 20 through 22, and 27 through 29 in the main theater, Augustine Auditorium, of New Castle Playhouse. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Reservations: 724-654-3437. Tickets: www.TicketLeap.com and at the door. Info: www.ncplayhouse.com and 724-657-9369.

■ **"Always ... Patsy Cline,"** a moving, tuneful tribute to the icon, begins Wednesday at Carousel Dinner Theatre, Akron, Ohio. The show goes through Aug. 26. Tickets: 800-362-4100 and www.carousel-dinnertheatre.com

■ **John Mayer and Ben Folds** play at 7 p.m. Sunday at Blossom Music Center, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Ticketmaster. Info: www.blossommusic.com.

■ **The Polyphonic Spree's "Fragile Army"** of more than 20 musicians comes to House of Blues, Cleveland on July 7. Ticketmaster. Info: www.hob.com/venues/clubvenues/cleveland

■ **The 2007 TUP Summerfest Spectacular** presents **Redline**, who will play high energy R&B on Wednesday in Judge Morley Pavilion in Mill Creek MetroParks. Info: 330-702-3000

■ **Ne-Yo with Trey Songz** play Sunday at House of Blues, Cleveland. Ticketmaster. Info: www.hob.com/venues/clubvenues/cleveland/

■ **Chicago** is up on Friday in the Post-Gazette Pavilion, Burgettstown, Pa. Then catch some "Home Grown Hoo Ha" with Pittsburgh's own **The Clarks, and Rusted Roots**, both billed for 5 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are on sale now. Ticketmaster. Info: 412-562-9905 and www.postgazettepavilion.com

■ **"Rhianon"** fans will be running to see **Stevie Nicks** sing solo and Fleetwood Mac hits at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Chevrolet Centre, Youngstown. Tool takes on "Jambi" at 8 p.m. Sunday in Chevrolet Centre, Youngstown. Tickets: 866-4-GETTIX, at the Chevrolet Centre box office or www.gettix.net Info: www.chevroletcentre.com

■ **Candlebox** hands out "Happy Pills" at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Wedgewood Entertainment Center, Austintown, Ohio. Cinder Road and Via Sahara also play. Tickets and info: 330-533-4611 and www.attthewedge.com

■ **Built to Spill** hits the stage Monday at Grog Shop, Cleveland. Ticketmaster. Info: 216-321-5588 and www.grogshop.gs

■ **Jackie and Lourds**, featuring Reynolds graduate Sarah Vasil on drums, perform at 7 p.m. Saturday at Peabody's DownUnder, Cleveland. The Summer Slaughter Tour featuring Necrophagist, Cephalic Carnage and more is Sunday. Ticketmaster. Information: 216-776-9999 and www.peabody.com

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■ **Weird Al Yankovic** brings his funny tunes July 6 to Plain Dealer Pavilion, Cleveland. Ticketmaster.

Compiled by Herald Staff Writers Joe Pinchot, Courtney Anderson and Matthew Snyder

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, June 28, the 179th day of 2007.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, were assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serb nationalist — the event that triggered World War I.

In 1778, the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth took place in New Jersey; it was from this battle that the legend of "Molly Pitcher" arose, although her actual existence is a matter of historical debate.

In 1838, Britain's Queen Victoria was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1919, the Treaty of Ver-

sailles was signed in France, ending World War I.

In 1950, North Korean forces captured Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

In 1996, the Citadel voted to admit women, ending a 153-year-old men-only policy at the South Carolina military school.

Five years ago: WorldCom Inc. began laying off 17,000 employees worldwide after disclosing accounting irregularities that later forced it into bankruptcy protection.

Thought for Today: "The glory of each generation is to make its own precedents." — Betsy Ann Bennett Lockwood, American social reformer (1830-1917).

The Associated Press