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# The Herald

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Delaney  
Webster

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SHARON

## Abandoned tot healthy

Youth Services has temporary custody

By Courtney L. Anderson  
Herald Staff Writer

A baby girl found Wednesday abandoned at a South Irvine Avenue home appears to be in good health, Sharon

Police Chief Mike Menster said Thursday.

That's the most important thing right now, Menster said. "This could've ended a lot differently," he said, adding that it's very fortunate the child seems to be fine.

The infant, whom police are calling "Baby Jane Doe," was taken to the hospital of Sharon

Regional Health System where she is under observation, Menster said.

Mercer County Children and Youth Services has temporary custody of the baby, who Menster said was about 24 hours old when she was found at 5:11 p.m. Thursday.

A Greenville woman visiting relatives at 109 S. Irvine found

a bundle inside a common foyer at the duplex.

The woman, whose identity Menster declined to release, heard a noise and thought it might be a cat. But she instead found the infant wrapped in a windbreaker, Menster said.

There seems to be no connection between the baby and

the home where she was left, Menster said.

Menster said officials aren't sure yet of the infant's race. And while he said he couldn't go into detail, the condition of the baby leads them to believe she was not born in a hospital.

Under Pennsylvania law, a parent can leave a newborn at  
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### INSIDE

**RELIGION:** A local observance will coincide with a national celebration of the 90th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's appearance to three shepherd children.  
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**SPORTS:** Kennedy Catholic's Klaric captures Tam O'Shanter Invitational.  
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**OPINION:** Schools should set high standards for their students.  
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**ALSO INSIDE:** TV & E magazine

### WORTHNOTING

#### Buhl Club rentals

F.H. Buhl Club, 28 Pine St., Sharon, is taking 2007 party and building rentals for the indoor and outdoor pools; gymnasium; game, dance, meeting Wilson and exercise rooms; vending area; and Timblin Annex. The areas can be used for parties, showers, meetings, seminars, sporting events, after-proms and homeschool groups. Availability and pricing: 724-981-3700.

### DEATHS

**Harry R. Barbour**, 49, of 1819 Harrisville Road, Worth Township.

**Elizabeth Ann Fornelli Daoust**, 85, Greenville, formerly of Sharon.

**Patricia Louise Ryder Habbyshaw**, 68, of 325 W. Butler St., Mercer.

**Harold C. Jamison**, 80, Durham, N.C., formerly of Harrisville.

**Charollette J. O'Donnell**, 81, of 78 Hermitage Hills Blvd., Hermitage, formerly of Anchorage Road, South Pyramating Township.

**John Joseph Panzarello**, 63, La Canada, Calif.

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SUNNY: 88/55

Farrah Mancini  
Artman Elementary



SHARON

## Winner Steel moving or not?

Wheeling-Pitt exec's remark curious

By The Associated Press  
and The Herald staff

A remark by Wheeling-Pittsburgh Corp.'s chairman and chief executive officer that at least part of Winner Steel LLC operations in Sharon could be moved to another location in Pennsylvania or Ohio instantly caused both concern and befuddlement for local officials.

In a Thursday interview with the Associated Press about the future of the company's Allenport, Pa., plant, James Bouchard, chief executive officer and chairman of Wheeling-Pitt, said the company is negotiating with the United Steelworkers to relocate 270 workers and equipment at the cold mill steel plant to its Steubenville, Ohio, plant.

Wheeling-Pitt ships more than 1 million tons of hot-rolled steel about 57 miles from Steubenville for processing at Allenport, then back to Steubenville. Freight costs alone top \$20 million a year, he said, adding the move could eventually save up to \$60 million a year.

What got local ears burning was Bouchard saying a bridge-decking unit at Winner Steel could be transferred to either Allenport or to Martins Ferry, Ohio.

There's only one problem — Winner Steel doesn't have a bridge-decking unit.

A call late Thursday afternoon by The Herald to a Wheeling-Pitt spokesman at the company's Morgantown, W.Va., headquarters revealed the company indeed has a bridge-decking operation — in Warren, Ohio.

The spokesman said he had no information on Bouchard's comments.

"This whole thing over Allenport has taken on a life of its own," the spokesman said. "Any plans regarding movement of plants would have to be approved by the company's board."

Employing 250, Winner Steel was sold in June by the local Winner family to a complex new joint ownership that  
See **STEEL**, page A-2

## Blessed are the beasts



Jason Kapusta/Herald

Gizmo, held by his owner Gail Cadman, was one of 63 pets that were blessed Thursday by the Rev. Donald E. Berdis, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church, Farrell, at Hillcrest Memorial Park, Hermitage. The sixth annual pet blessing, which marks the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, was sponsored by the Humane Society of Mercer County.

REYNOLDS

## Board prepared if teachers strike

By Monica Pryts  
Herald Staff Writer

Members of Reynolds Education Association won't decide until Monday if they'll strike, but the school board is preparing students and their parents for what will happen if the teachers set up a picket line.

School board President Jeffrey A. Colson sent a letter home to parents Thursday explaining

procedures for school operations if a strike is called.

The school board and union will meet Monday to try and settle a contract, and the union has said if a deal isn't reached, it will strike Tuesday morning.

If there's a strike, classes will be canceled for all students from Tuesday until the school board receives official notification that the teachers will return to work. Exceptions

are students who attend the Mercer County Career Center and Keystone Education Center, Colson said.

Parochial school and special education students who ride Reynolds buses will be able to continue to do so. Any questions about transportation can be directed to Karen Sherwood at 724-646-5525.

If a strike is called, the district will try to continue to offer all student activities includ-

ing sports and marching band, Colson said.

The district's Web site will have updates on the strike and the school board also plans to notify the media when new information is available, he said.

According to the Web site, teachers can strike twice during a school year and the first strike must end in time for the school year to be completed by June 15. Teachers can  
See **BOARD**, page A-3

SHARON

## Man faces trial for burglaries

By Courtney L. Anderson  
Herald Staff Writer

Charges were held to court Thursday against a man police say burglarized two buildings on North Sharpville Avenue that were set on fire two days later.

George F. Merchant Jr., 18, of 330 N. Sharpville Ave. is charged with four counts each of burglary and criminal trespassing and three counts of

criminal mischief.

District Judge James E. McMahon, Sharon, bound those charges to Mercer County Common Pleas Court after a preliminary hearing in which Sharon Police Capt. Travis Martwinski testified.

Martwinski said that Merchant was questioned after a rash of arson fires overnight Sept. 19 in the city.

Burned that night were a  
See **TRIAL**, page A-2

SHARON

## Residents get the lowdown on home rule proposal

By Courtney L. Anderson  
Herald Staff Writer

Taxes, transition, council, a city manager and the relationship between them were on the minds of about 30 people who turned out Thursday for an informational home rule charter meeting at West Hill Elementary.

Citizens will vote in November whether to stick with the current form of government or go with the system the study commission came up with

over 15 months of research.

Home rule is a fairly simple concept, commission Chairman William McConnell Jr. said, but it's a complicated document.

John Evans, head of the Citizens of Sharon for Home Rule Committee, an independent group started to promote adoption of the charter, urged people to read the charter, ask questions and decide for themselves.

"We believe in the charter,"  
See **LOWDOWN**, page A-3

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