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# The Herald

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**NORTHWESTERN MERCER COUNTY**

## Sweep nets 13 arrests

### Were wanted on warrants

By Patrick W. Connelly and Matt Snyder  
Herald Staff Writers

At least 13 people were picked up Friday and Saturday in what police called "a warrant sweep of northwestern Mercer County."

Police from the Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Greenville-West Salem Township, Hempfield Township and Jamestown teamed up on the sweep, a news release said.

Ten people were picked up between 3 and 10 p.m. Friday on outstanding warrants and three people turned themselves in at the district magistrate's office and took care of their warrants before being ar-

rested, police said. Police used dogs to canvass the streets of Greenville, looking for about 20 people they said have eluded them.

Greenville Chief Dennis M. Stephens said sweeps help them clean warrants out of their books and remind criminals that police are still on the lookout.

According to police, these Greenville residents were picked up on outstanding warrants: Donald Seaborn, 47, of Taylor Street; Kimberly Weilacker, 44, of Garfield Avenue; John Souders, 23, of Main Street; Wayne Fitzgerald, 37, of East Stewart Avenue; and Daryl Cameron, 46, of Harrison Street.

Also picked up, police said, were: Daniel Johnston, 33, of South Seventh Street,

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Matt Snyder/Herald

**Mercer County sheriff's deputies canvass the streets of Greenville for 21 local people wanted on warrants. The Friday evening sweep netted 13 arrests as Greenville-West Salem, Hempfield Township and Jamestown police teamed up on the hunt.**

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among us: A gypsy queen lies in an unassuming grave at Oakwood Cemetery and the tale continues to be shared among generations.



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**BROOKFIELD**

## Residents want truth about plan for school

By Patrick W. Connelly  
Herald Staff Writer

With a little more than two weeks before Brookfield voters decide if they support a levy to build a new school, residents with differing views from the state's proposed plan are working to find out the truth behind the project.

"We've got to get some assurance the school board will do what the community wants," said Don Tice, a Brookfield resident hoping to see a new school in the township his grandchildren can attend.

In an attempt to dispel what Tice said are lies that a potential new school can't be built on the district's current property at Bedford Road and Grove Street, he and his wife have formed an ad hoc committee called "Residents United Seeking Truth."

The group has planned a presentation Monday with representatives and project managers Olsavsky Jaminet Architects Inc. of Youngstown, who have proof it is a possibility, Tice said.

Building on the district's current land will save the purchase of a \$650,000, 41-acre parcel on Bedford Road across from Tiffany's Banquet Center, Tice said.

The parcel, owned by KY Development, would be paid for by part of a 28-year, 7.4-mill levy, he noted.

By saving money by not purchasing property, the district could give the funds back to the children by spending it on things like computers and books, Tice said.

Tice is also a co-chairman of the Bond Issue Committee, a group promoting the passage of the levy.

Chuck Carrier, also a co-chairman of the committee, cited the safety of children, heavy construction traffic flow and higher construction costs as

See **TRUTH**, page A-2

## A howling good time



Tom Davidson/Herald

**Above, Ray Ingram of Youngstown holds Pookie Petals, his 3-year-old Pomeranian, which won the top prize in Saturday's "Howl-o-ween" pet costume contest at Hillcrest Dog Park and Wellness Center in Hermitage. At left, Ingram positions the pom as Miss Muffet on her tuffet with David Cox, who made the props. The first-time event — which included pumpkin carving, games and vendors and drew quite a crowd — benefited local animal rescue groups.**

## Opposition grows to Pa. test for graduation

HARRISBURG (AP) — Opponents of a proposal to require Pennsylvania high school students to pass a state test before they can graduate are hoping to persuade the State Board of Education to come up with another way to measure students' readiness for college or work.

Teachers unions, school boards and legal advocacy groups all have different reasons for objecting to regulations for subject-specific "graduation competency exams" that the board is developing. The rules would make passing either those exams or the already mandated Pennsylvania System of School Assessment tests a prerequisite for high school graduation.

But the groups agree that a student's graduation should

not hinge on passing any state standardized tests, and they are beginning to mobilize their members to weigh in on the proposal.

"Teachers are not opposed to testing students — we do it all the time," said Carol Karl, a lobbyist for the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the state's largest teachers union. "It's when you hang such high stakes for the student on a paper-and-pencil test. It's the perversion of the purpose of testing."

The state board is developing a battery of nine "end of course" tests that would replace local exams in English, math, science and social studies. The board envisions starting the tests with students who enter high school as freshmen in the 2009-10

school year.

Some school districts have made passing the PSSA a high school graduation requirement. But students in other districts have the option of passing those tests or a local test that measures how well they meet state standards under current regulations.

Twenty-two states have mandatory high school exit exams, according to the Center on Education Policy in Washington, D.C.

The push for more testing in Pennsylvania is one of a dozen recommendations made by a commission formed by Gov. Ed Rendell to strengthen the state's graduation standards.

Critics of local testing say it creates a patchwork of inconsistent graduation standards

across the state's 501 school districts.

The board hopes to have a set of proposed regulations ready by January.

Although it is open to making revisions, it considers the new tests essential to making sure that schools across the state adhere to a uniform set of expectations, chairman Karl Girton said.

The proposed "graduation competency tests" would be administered as early as ninth grade — allowing teachers to identify struggling students earlier — and failing students would have multiple opportunities to retake the tests, Girton said.

The PSSA is given only in 11th grade during high school, although students who fail can retake it in 12th grade.

### DEATHS

**John Karney**, 86, New York City, formerly of Farrell.

**Irmgard Majonek**, 78, of 3030 Armstrong Way, Hermitage.

**Willard Calvin Phipps**, 88, North Liberty Road, Grove City, formerly of Old Route 8, Polk, Pa., and Pearl, Pa.

**William C. Thomas**, 82, of 1510 Griswold St., Hermitage.

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