

INSIDE



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WORTHNOTING

Bridge replacement

The bridge on Riggs Road in Shenango Township will be closed to all vehicular traffic next week. The bridge is expected to be replaced and open again in November.

DEATHS

Norma Hoovler, 87, Masury, formerly of Hubbard.
Mary Oschip Taczak, 89, of 8125 Lincoln St., Masury.

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SUNNY: 86/57
Anthony Cannone
Notre Dame School



WEST MIDDLESEX AREA, SLIPPERY ROCK

District wants judgment

Discrimination claims denied

By Joe Pinchot
Herald Staff Writer

West Middlesex Area School District and Slippery Rock University have asked a federal judge to rule against a Butler County woman, who claims they discriminated against her because of a disability.

Stephanie A. Wetzel, who was known as Stephanie Burns at the time in question, the spring of 2005, has asked U.S. District Court Judge Donetta W. Ambrose in Pittsburgh not to grant summary judgment to the schools, and to let the case proceed toward trial.

Ms. Wetzel, of Boyers, said she has genetic hearing loss, which has affected her speech. She claimed that she was told she was not allowed to com-

plete a field experience at West Middlesex because the supervising teacher did not want her because of her disability. She claimed the university refused to assign her to another field assignment, and removed her from the teacher certification program.

She graduated from Slippery Rock in December 2005 with a degree in early childhood development and learning, but did not receive a teaching certification.

In a request for summary judgment, the judge is asked to rule based on the available information and applicable law. Those who ask for summary judgment claim that there are no issues of fact that would best be left to a jury to determine.

Ms. Wetzel was assigned to a field experience with Georgiana Luce, a fourth-grade English teacher at Oakview Elementary School, West Middlesex.

Ms. Luce has since left the district.

A field experience is a precursor to student teaching. In the normal course of field experiences, the teaching student attends the class one day a week for three weeks, and then every day for three weeks.

Ms. Luce, who had more than 30 years with the district at the time, and Ms. Wetzel, now 24, differed in their re-

See **DISTRICT**, page A-5

SHENANGO VALLEY

Church picnic helps reinforce cultural roots

Serbian spirit remains strong

By Tom Davidson
Herald Staff Writer

The bottles of slivovitz were empty by Sunday night behind St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Hermitage.

The pavilion was filled with people, some of whom had their fill of the potent plum-based potable, enjoying the church's annual picnic.

It was time to party after a meal of roasted lamb and pogaca; a time to visit with family and friends and celebrate the heritage of the colorful culture they share.

It's tough to sum up their story in a few sentences, John Kasich said.

"Being Serbian orthodox — it means our ethnic and religious identity," Kasich, of Austintown, said.

He's one of a score of Serbs from the Shenango and Mahoning valleys who worship and socialize at St. George's. Originally in Farrell, the church is now on Keel Ridge Road in Hermitage. Tucked into a copse of trees behind the ornate church is a social pavilion and cooking area where Serbs gather.

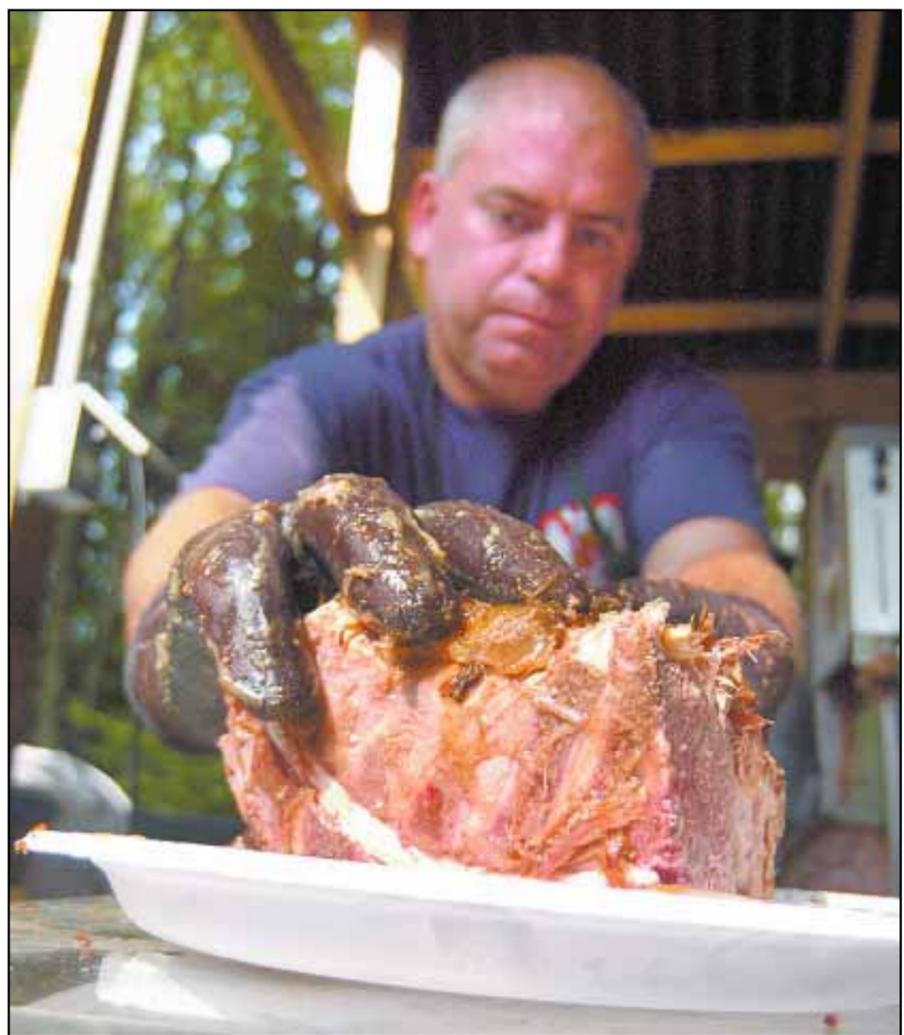


Tom Davidson/Herald

Paul Stafusa plays the accordion during one of the songs performed by the Serbian band Orkestar Junaci. They played toe-tapping Serbian folk songs during St. George's annual picnic Sunday in Hermitage.

In addition to succulent lamb roasted over hot coals and cut into pound-sized slabs, there were palachinke — a cheese filled crepe, ustipca — a cross between a donut and croissant, and a score of other treats in addition to the slivovitz and other liquid libation.

By then it was time to talk, dance and listen to the toe-tapping tunes of Orkestar Junaci, a Serbian band that features an accordion, guitar, bass and drums that belt out folk songs



Tom Davidson/Herald

Bryan Zec cuts up fresh-roasted lamb at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church's annual picnic. More than 80 people packed the Hermitage church's social pavilion Sunday afternoon for the annual event.

and contemporary tunes.

The families that filled the pavilion are part of one of the many ethnic groups who settled in the Shenango Valley to work in the steel mills.

Men like Gojko Grkinich,

Dinitar Kolar, Milos Miodrag, Lalo Raketich and Djuro Jelic are octogenarians now, and before they were steelworkers they were freedom fighters during World War II.

"Those guys fought for

democracy," Kasich said, just like his late father did.

"I'm the son of a Chetnik," he said, his eyes gleaming with pride.

Those who were called

See **PICNIC**, page A-2

English among Republicans seeking new Iraq strategy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans increasingly are backing a new approach in the Iraq war that could become the party's mantra come September. It would mean narrowly limited missions for U.S. troops in Iraq but let President Bush decide when troops should leave.

So far, the idea has not attracted the attention of Democratic leaders. They are under substantial pressure by anti-war groups to consider only legislation that orders troops from Iraq.

But the GOP approach quickly is becoming the attractive alternative for Republican

lawmakers like U.S. Rep. Phil English, who want to challenge Bush on the unpopular war without backtracking from their past assertions that it would be disastrous to set deadlines for troop withdrawals.

"This is a necessary adjustment in the national debate to reintroduce bipartisanship, to stop the 'gotcha' politics that are going on that seem to be driven by fringes on both sides and change the terms of the discussion," English, Erie, R-3rd District, said.

English is among the more than 40 Republicans in the House and Senate who are

sponsoring legislation intended to shift the mission of U.S. troops. Several other GOP lawmakers, facing tight elections next year and a strong anti-war sentiment in their districts, say they are considering this approach.

"Settling Sunni-Shiite rivalries over who occupies what street in Baghdad is not in the vital interest of the United States," said Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., who said she is considering her options. "And we should only have Americans in harms' way where there are U.S. interests at stake."

See **ENGLISH**, page A-2



AP

People with Iraqi flags celebrate in the streets of Baghdad Sunday after the Iraqi national soccer team defeated Saudi Arabia 1-0 in the Asian Cup soccer final.

Iraqis find rare joy as soccer team wins cup

BAGHDAD (AP) — Tens of thousands of Iraqis from the Shiite south to the Kurdish-dominated north poured into the usually treacherous streets Sunday to celebrate a rare moment of joy and unity when the national team won Asia's most prestigious soccer tournament.

The revelers spanning the country's sectarian and ethnic divisions danced, sang and waved flags and posters of the team after Iraq beat three-time champion Saudi Arabia 1-0 to take the Asian Cup.

See **JOY**, page A-2

Shenango Valley Meat & Poultry
1610 Broadway Ave., Hermitage
Hrs: Mon.-Fri. 8-6,
Sat. 8-4
724-346-6328 (MEAT)

Western
Ribs (Bone-in) \$1.29 lb.
Boneless Ribs \$1.39 lb.
Our Own Italian Sausage \$2.29 lb.
Garlic Sausage \$2.29 lb.
Breakfast Sausage \$2.79 lb.

Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast
10# bag \$1.89 lb.

Boneless New York Strip Steaks
\$4.09 lb.

Package #1
5 lb. Ground Chuck
5 lb. Center Cut Pork Chops
5 leg. Leg Quarters
2 lb. Sirloin Steaks
1 1/2 lb. Bacon
\$45.95

Package #2
5 lb. Ground Chuck • 5 lb. Chicken Breasts
5 lb. Chicken Drums or Thighs
5 lb. Center Cut Pork Chops
3 lb. Breakfast Sausage
3 lb. Beef Roast • 4 lb. Sirloin Steak
\$69.95

Package #3
10 lb. Ground Chuck • 10 lb. Center Cut Pork Chops
5 lb. Chicken Breast
5 lb. Chicken Drums or Thighs
6 lb. Beef Roast
4 lb. Sirloin Steak • 3 lb. Bacon
\$110.00