

RUNNING TO REMEMBER ALEX

Annual event raises money for foundation created in honor of Alexzandra Loos. PAGE B1

Observer-Reporter

MONDAY,
JUNE 9,
2014

OUR 205TH YEAR, WASHINGTON, PA

75 CENTS

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INSIDE



Coffee company growing its business locally
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Police: Driver fired shots from car

South Strabane residents should report damage; man jailed on \$100K bond

By KATHIE O. WARCO
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South Strabane Township police arrested a township man early Sunday for reportedly firing shots from his car in a residential neighborhood, although he told officers he thought it was a rural area.

Gregory J. Fino, 33, of 1040 Magnolia Drive, was arrested after police received at least two reports from 911 dispatch of shots being fired just before 4 a.m.

The first report came in as shots being fired in the 1600 block of Donnan Avenue. Minutes later, a second caller

reported hearing shots fired two blocks away in the 100 block of Patten Avenue.

Sgt. Drew Hilk arrived in the area and started searching Donnan, Patten and surrounding streets. As he made the right turn from Patten to North Main, he heard at least three shots being fired. The shots appeared to have been coming from a vehicle stopped in the northbound lane of North Main at Donnan.

The vehicle then pulled away as Hilk started to follow it in his cruiser. It turned onto Maple Avenue and then Glenn Avenue as the driver

accelerated rapidly, police said. The vehicle continued at a high speed, going through two more stop signs before turning right onto Sunset Boulevard and turn onto Clearfield Avenue.

Hilk said he was waiting for the vehicle on Sunset when it turned from Clearfield onto Shadyside Avenue and right on Hillcrest Avenue where a Washington police car was waiting with emergency overhead lights activated. Police said the vehicle continued another quarter mile before stopping.

Police executed a felony stop and took Fino into custody.



Gregory J. Fino

Through the open door of the vehicle, police could see numerous shell casings from a

.380-caliber rifle on the floor. An automatic handgun was between the seats and rifle magazines were on the passenger seat, arranged in an orderly manner in such a way to facilitate easy reloading, police said. An automatic rifle was found resting against the rear of the front seat, pointing to the passenger side.

Police seized a Ruger rifle modified with a scope and mounted light as well as a Sig Sauer 9 mm with a fully loaded magazine. The Ruger had a partially loaded magazine with a live round in the chamber, police said.

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Drilling for energy answers

Bulgarian professor visits Marcellus Shale region

By EMILY PETSKO
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When it comes to natural gas exploration, the United States and Bulgaria might as well be on different planets.

While the United States weighs the pros and cons of exporting natural gas to other countries, Bulgaria remains almost entirely dependent on Russia's energy sources.

And while drilling is a major industry here, especially in the Marcellus Shale, Bulgaria's government has banned fracking.

Despite the differences, researcher Atanas Georgiev sees in the United States - particularly Pennsylvania - what could be possible in his southeastern European homeland.

Georgiev, assistant professor of economics at Sofia University in Bulgaria, spent the past month researching the economic impacts of Marcellus Shale drilling in Allegheny and Washington counties. By the end of his stay, he concluded that natural gas drilling in Bulgaria would "definitely be beneficial" from an economic perspective.

Georgiev toured a Range Resources drilling rig, spoke with professors and researchers at University of Pittsburgh,



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ATANAS GEORGIEV

Atanas Georgiev of Sofia, Bulgaria, came to Pennsylvania this month to research the economic impact of the Marcellus Shale industry in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

and met with officials at the Center for Sustainable Shale Development, Clean Water Action and Public Utility Commission to better understand all angles of the drilling discussion.

"The biggest difference between the states and Bulgaria is the way mineral resources are managed," Georgiev said while dining at a restaurant in Southpointe in late May. "Here, as I understand, most of the people who own the land own the mineral resources

below the surface. In Bulgaria, all the mineral resources are owned by the state."

As a result, Georgiev said, landowners in Bulgaria would be left without the monetary benefits that leaseholders receive in the United States.

Georgiev, a doctoral student researching public utilities in Bulgaria, became interested in Marcellus Shale after reading about the positive economic impacts of natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania, where about 20 percent of the nation's

natural gas is produced.

Georgiev said he can't give an opinion on the environmental impact of Marcellus Shale because he is not a scientist, but he would like to see more research on the topic. He said he was surprised by the lack of studies on the industry in Pennsylvania.

"This frustrates me, frankly, because I expected more on this issue here," Georgiev said. "I thought that since this is one of the states with the

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY ATANAS GEORGIEV

Atanas Georgiev, an economics professor at University of Sofia in Bulgaria, toured a Range Resources drilling rig while conducting research about Marcellus Shale operations in Southwestern Pennsylvania this month.

Readers fair-ly certain of men's identities, location

By JON STEVENS
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We knew last week's Mystery Photo depicting six men wearing neckties, aprons and headgear resembling something from a science fiction movie would present a challenge to our readers.

To our surprise, however, three readers were able to identify four of the men and offer a plausible explanation as to



what they were doing.

Helen Gump of Waynes-

burg quickly said, "The man second from the right was my father, Andrew Bedillion, and he and the others were all members of East Franklin Grange." Gump said her father was chaplain of the grange and worked in the timber industry.

As it turns out, at least by partial consensus from Gump and two other callers, the men were "probably" preparing food to sell at the Greene County Fair.

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Variable clouds.
High 75. Low 54.
Complete weather,
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Shots

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Fino reportedly told Hilk he was testing his weapons and wasn't shooting at anything specific. He also told the sergeant he chose the area because it was rural and close to his house. The area where the shots fired is residential with numerous homes in close proximity.

Police found damage, mostly to mailboxes, in the 1400 block of North Main, 100 block of Patten, 200 block of Clearfield and 1600 block of Donnan. Shell casings were found on the pavement near one mailbox. There have been no reports of houses being hit. Residents who found damage are asked to call police at 724-225-8111.

Inside Fino's car, police found several weapons, including a rifle.

Fino was arraigned before District Judge Ethan Ward on charges of reckless endangerment, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, reckless driving and stop sign violations. He was placed in Washington County jail on \$100,000 bond. A preliminary hearing is set for June 19 before District Judge Weller.

Bulgarian

Continued from Page One
most developed industry, it would have been already researched."

Citing the economic growth in Western Pennsylvania, Georgiev said hydraulic fracturing could help Bulgaria achieve independence from Russia, create jobs and generate taxes.

Bulgaria's government declared a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing in 2012 and revoked the nation's first shale drilling permit, which had been granted to Chevron.

Aside from the fracking ban, other issues that stand in the way of energy independence for Bulgaria include weak enforcement of environmental regulations, outdated drilling technology and the emigration of engineers to countries offering higher-paying jobs, Georgiev said.

Georgiev said he will continue to research Marcellus Shale and hopes to share his findings with interested parties in Bulgaria.

Under attack, coal maintains political muscle

By ADAM BEAM AND JONATHAN MATTHEW Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The coal industry is shedding thousands of jobs and facing the government's most severe crack-down on carbon emissions yet. But king coal still flexes its political muscle in Kentucky and West Virginia, where Republicans and even Democrats try to out-coal one another by cozying up to the industry and slamming President Barack Obama.

In other coal-producing areas such as Ohio and Virginia, Democrats have been able to win even with the industry against them. That's not an option for politicians in the heart of Appalachia.

Many people here still cling to coal as a source of work and cultural pride, so almost everyone running for office seeks the mantle of coal savior, or at least defender.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, a Republican up for re-election, chided his Democratic opponent, Alison Lundergan Grimes, for accepting money from "anti-coal activists," including a group that worked closely with the Obama administration on the regulations. Grimes counters that McConnell and his super PAC have taken campaign money from a group whose goals include reducing the number of coal-fired power plants in Texas.

After the new emissions rules were announced June 2, she took out radio and newspaper ads to criticize Obama's "war on coal." West Virginia sen-



This April 4 photo shows West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie Tennant, right, speaking with Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., left, during a tour of the National Research Center for Coal & Energy on West Virginia University's Evansdale Campus in Morgantown, W.Va.

ate candidate Natalie Tennant, also a Democrat, called the new rules "reckless and unrealistic" during a trip to southern coalfields. She faces Republican Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito, who is favored to replace retiring Democrat Jay Rockefeller.

For many, their identity is tied to the industry.

"My little town is dying. Do you think I'm a fool and going to support somebody that doesn't support coal?" said David Kennedy, a Harlan County magistrate, business owner and Grimes supporter. "I had a couple of car washes and now I just got one. I depend on these coal miners."

West Virginia, the second biggest coal producer nationally after Wyoming, watched its production drop to 129.5 million tons

in 2012, a 22 percent dive over four years. As of last year, about 20,000 people work in West Virginia coal mining.

Only 29 of Kentucky's 120 counties mine coal, and production dropped 16 percent in 2012 to 91.4 million tons, the lowest level since 1965.

A bipartisan national majority of Americans support limiting greenhouse gas emissions, which scientists blame for climate change, according to a Washington Post/ABC News poll.

Fifty-seven percent of Republicans and 79 percent of Democrats support state-level limits on greenhouse gas emissions, and 70 percent of all Americans say the federal government should limit greenhouse gases from power plants.

Grimes' campaign keeps a

close eye on the news, looking for opportunities to laud her coal stance. When Stanford University's president announced the school was divesting its \$18 billion endowment of stock in coal companies, Grimes wrote him a letter saying the decision would "push tens of thousands of one's own countrymen to the brink of poverty, and perhaps beyond."

McConnell's biggest trump card may be Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who famously said "coal makes us sick." Reid had scheduled a fundraiser for Grimes recently.

Capito's camp also wants to capitalize on a Reid connection, noting that Tennant received a \$10,000 check from Reid's political committee.

Bill Bissett, executive director of the Kentucky Coal As-

sociation, said likely the only thing that would ease his members' concerns is if Grimes said she would not vote for Reid to be majority leader if she was elected.

"Being affiliated with Leader Reid is a concern, is a serious concern," Bissett said.

Grimes hasn't made clear whether she would vote for Reid for a leadership position.

McConnell, who is from Louisville, has carefully cultivated his relationship with the predominantly rural industry, from supportive speeches on the floor of the Senate to frequent appearances at pro-coal rallies back home. His campaign and political action committee have collected \$271,500 in contributions from mining groups this year, according to the campaign finance tracker Center for Responsive Politics.

Capito has the West Virginia Coal Association's endorsement and has hauled in \$264,100 from mining interests, about 26 times more than Tennant, the center's data show.

Longtime Democratic U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall faces the toughest West Virginia test on coal, even though he has collected coal industry checks.

The 19th-term congressman blasted the EPA last week, telling the state attorney general to tack his name on any lawsuit against the rule.

His race with Republican Evan Jenkins has been bombarded by millions of dollars in outside cash, with the Koch brothers-backed Americans for Prosperity painting Rahall as anti-coal.

Mystery

Continued from Page One

Now, where that food preparation was taking place remains somewhat in question, although there was nearly unanimous consent it probably was in the basement of the grange hall that, back in the 1950s when it is believed this photo was taken, was located at the site where the Sheetz store sits today on Route 21 in Franklin Township. The grange has since moved to 2262 Smith Creek Road.

Now, as to the other gentlemen, Audrey Comport, who lives on Route 218 south, was confident the man on the far right was Lemoyne Conklin, and she said Wayne Ammons is pictured third from the left. Comport said Ammons worked with her father, R.

Edgar Kiger, at People's Natural Gas.

There is a slight difference of opinion regarding the man who is between Ammons and Bedillion. Comport believes it was Harvey Stronsider, who also worked at People's, while another caller, who wanted to remain anonymous, said she believed it was Harold Wilson.

An old news clipping from 1967 did mention Wilson as being master of East Franklin Grange.

What still remains a mystery, though, is the identification of the two men at far left, and what the men are wearing on their heads.

"Maybe they had to wear hats when they worked with food," Gump said. "I don't think they had anything to do with rituals, or anything like that. But they are strange."

Look for another Mystery Photo in next Monday's Observer-Reporter.

No shortage of information in U.S.'s largest public bankruptcy

By Ed WHITE Associated Press

DETROIT — Retired Detroit bus driver Art Vardiman recently received a computer disk in the mail that contains hundreds of pages of documents. He also got a six-page blue ballot about cuts to his pension and a white one about health insurance. A 25-page notice explains why the changes are being proposed in Detroit's historic bankruptcy.

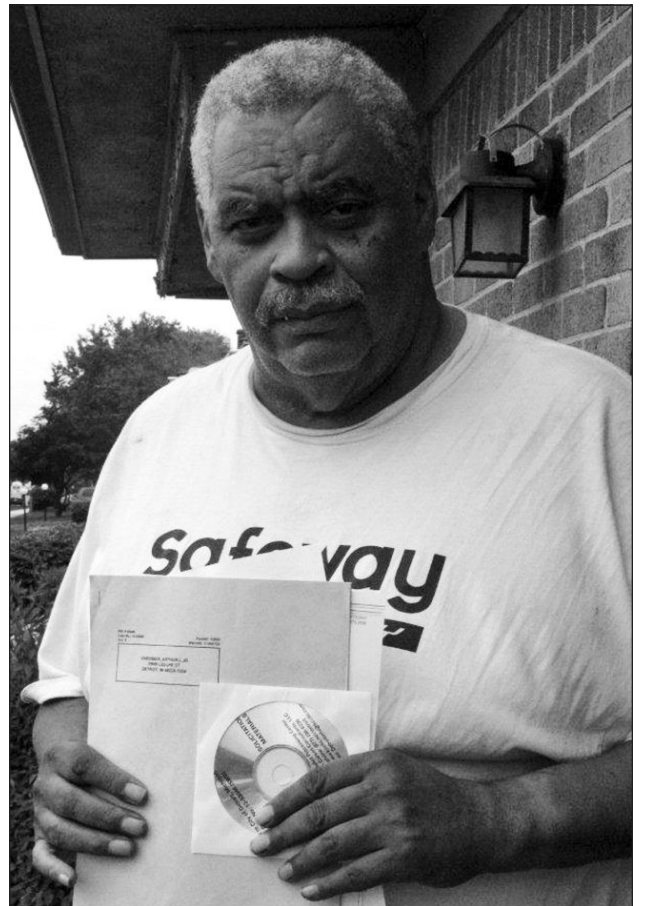
Vardiman, 63, keeps it all in a box near an easy chair in his living room. Confusing? He would rather steer a full coach through rush hour traffic in downtown Detroit than try to make sense of it all.

"Picture a person 70 to 80 years old," said Vardiman, who retired 10 years ago. "You think they're going to go through all that? It's tough."

But he and thousands of others must try to make sense of the legalese and complexities of the largest public bankruptcy filing in U.S. history and cast votes that will affect how much they will earn for the rest of their lives.

Detroit's bankruptcy is at a critical stage after the Michigan Legislature last week approved a \$195 million lifeline to help prevent steep cuts in Detroit's pensions and the sale of city-owned art. With Gov. Rick Snyder expected to sign the measure this week, attention now turns to the tens of thousands of creditors, especially 32,000 active, former or retired employees, who have until July 11 to vote on the city's plan to shed \$18 billion in debt and become solvent again.

The stakes are great — and painful. General retirees — trash haulers, mechanics, jan-



In this May 27 photo, retired Detroit bus driver Art Vardiman holds a computer disk he received in the mail that holds hundreds of pages of documents, a six-page blue ballot about cuts to his pension and a white one on health insurance in Detroit.

itors, clerks — would see a 4.5 percent cut in their pension and the elimination of annual inflation payments. In addition, some who received generous annuity returns from the pension fund, even in awful market conditions, would be forced to give back as much as 20 percent. Detroit insists the cuts will be even worse if the plan is rejected.

"I've been talking to retirees all over the country: Oregon, Arizona, Florida — all over. The whole process is completely alien to a lot of people," said

lawyer Carole Neville, who represents a group that negotiated on behalf of Detroit retirees.

"The bankruptcy. The vote. What is this CD/DVD I got in the mail?" she said. "We have a hotline to help people, and we have gotten a lot of calls and emails."

The bankruptcy process is an unusual course where not every vote is equal. Creditors are in certain classes, and their individual vote is weighted depending on the size of their financial claim in the case.

Poll question presented by

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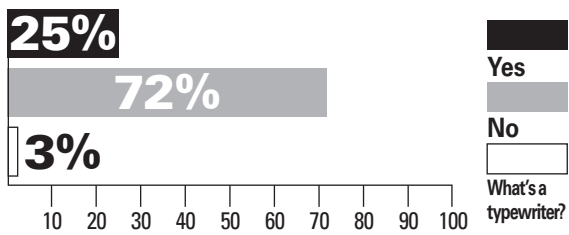


Observer-Reporter

Poll Question of the Day

Typewriters are making a comeback of sorts. Do you own a typewriter?

Results as of 10 p.m.



To submit poll questions for consideration, email: Comments@observer-reporter.com

Lotteries

LATE SATURDAY DRAWING Powerball...28-30-35-58-59 PB:15

SUNDAY DRAWINGS

PENNSYLVANIA
Daily Number (day).....2-2-0
Daily Number (night).....0-4-0
Big Four (day).....5-1-8-5
Big Four (night).....2-2-9-9
Quinto (day).....4-7-8-1-8
Quinto (night).....3-3-7-4-5
Treasure Hunt.....13-14-20-24-30
Cash Five.....2-4-9-15-43

OHIO
Pick Three (day).....0-9-2
Pick Three (night).....1-0-5
Pick Four (day).....0-9-1-2
Pick Four (night).....5-1-6-9
Pick Five (day).....3-6-4-8-6
Pick Five (night).....4-2-0-3-9
Rolling Cash Five...2-10-18-22-30
Numbers are unofficial; readers should confirm with lottery agencies.

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Catch up on weekend events Fridays in the Observer-Reporter.

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