

The Almanac

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLEADER

Our 47th Year

www.thealmanac.net

May 23, 2012

Parking violators get break in ML

By Eric Seiverling
For The Almanac
writer@thealmanac.net

When Mt. Lebanon commissioners were told a large amount of parking tickets written since 1997 had gone uncollected, they braced themselves for the amount of unpaid fines. But when they were told the combined total incremental value of the tickets exceeded \$800,000, commissioners had to catch their breath.

"We were surprised when we first heard the amount," Mt. Lebanon Commission President David Brumfield said. "Our expectations were exceeded."

In an effort to collect the unpaid parking tickets, Mt. Lebanon is offering an amnesty program from June 1 to 20. Any person who has five or more parking tickets dated before Jan. 1, 2012 can pay the tickets at the original fine amount, which according to Mt. Lebanon Assistant Manager and Finance Director Marcia Taylor, is estimated at \$10 per ticket.

In Mt. Lebanon, parking ticket fines increase if a ticket is unpaid within 10 days, and fines increase again after 30 days. A letter will be sent to people who are eligible for the parking amnesty program.

Who to blame for the lack of enforcement is unknown, but the discovery of the large amount of unpaid parking tickets did coincide with the

SEE PARKING PAGE A6



Alexis Gleason of Bethel Park used her dance skills while performing in a Nike commercial.

On the bend

Bethel teen twists it up for commercial

By Terri T. Johnson
Almanac staff writer
tjohnson@thealmanac.net

Alexis Gleason, 16, of Bethel Park, said filming a Nike commercial in March was exhilarating and exhausting. The commercial has appeared on television, but was mainly filmed for use on the Internet, she said.

Alexis, a sophomore at Bethel Park High School, is a dancer and a contortionist who used her contortion skills for the ad.

"It was a lot of fun and it was real-



Alexis Gleason, a sophomore at Bethel Park High School, is a dancer and a contortionist.

ly a long day," Alexis said.

She, along with her dance teacher, Betsy Shuttleworth, traveled to New York, all expenses paid by Nike. Alexis said she received no monetary compensation, but "I got Nike gear." During the filming of the commercial, Alexis said she wore Nike tennis shoes and all Nike gear.

Having taken dance since she was about 2 years old, Alexis currently studies at Dance Extensions in Canonsburg.

SEE BEND PAGE A6

SF still mulling pay to play fee

By Deana Carpenter
For The Almanac
writer@thealmanac.net

School Directors in South Fayette are still mulling the possibility of an activity fee for the 2012-13 school year. Although no decisions have been made, at a May 15 meeting the board discussed trying out a pay-to-play fee for sports only for the next school year.

Students in grades seven through 12 who want to play sports would have to pay a set fee, which would cover any sport in which the student would want to participate. The fee, which would likely be between \$50 and \$75, would not apply to clubs or activities. Students who do not participate in a sport would not have to pay the fee.

At a May 9 meeting, the board began discussing the possibility of an activity and the administration presented the option of having a flat-rate participation fee for all students in grades seven through 12. That fee would have had to be paid by all students in those grades regardless if they participate in an activity or sport.

Board member William Newcomer suggested having a fee for sports only for the next school year to see how it goes. If the board decides to go with a \$50 fee for sports, it could generate more than \$40,000.

SEE SF PAGE A6

Smith's measure would require EpiPens in schools

By Terri T. Johnson
Almanac staff writer
tjohnson@thealmanac.net

As a mother of three girls, Katie Beardsley knows first hand the feeling of total panic when one of her daughters has an allergic reaction to peanuts or any dairy product.

With two of her three girls allergic to a variety of foods, Beardsley of Whitehall, also knows the importance of epinephrine injectors, marketed as EpiPens.

Her youngest, Mia, who said she is 4 almost 5, wears a colorful bracelet with peanuts and the universal circle with a line through the



Ed and Jodi Kubit, look on as State Rep. Matt Smith, announces a bill requiring schools to have epinephrine injectors on hand.

middle to indicate she is not, under any circumstances, to have peanuts. Usually, there is a pin on her blouse alerting everyone that she is al-

lergic to any and all dairy products including milk, ice cream, cheese and yogurt, and also to eggs.

As Mia sat coloring in the cafeteria of the Lincoln Elementary School in the Mt. Lebanon School District May 17, the pre-schooler was oblivious to the announcement state Rep. Matt Smith, D-Mt. Lebanon, was making.

Smith is one of the sponsors of House Bill 2067 that would require all schools, public and private, to have a supply of EpiPens available if any student has an adverse reaction to food or a bee sting or anything to

SEE EPIPENS PAGE A5



PHOTO BY ELEANOR BAILEY / STAFF

Top athletes honored

Tom Northrop, left, publisher of The Almanac and Observer-Reporter, and Lucy Northrop, third from left, the director of news for both publications, congratulate Angela Heintz from Seton-La Salle and Luke Hagy from Mt. Lebanon after they were named The Almanac's female and male athletes of the year for 2012. Read more inside on Page. C1.

INDEX



©2012 Observer Publishing Company

Walk for Life

Event at Pittsburgh Zoo to benefit the American Liver Foundation. Page B1



Across South HillsA3	OpinionA4
Arts & Entertainment .B6-8	Real EstateC6
ClassifiedsC8, D1-8	ReligionB2,3
DeathsA3	Sights and Sounds . .B7,8
Deed TransfersC6	SportsC1-3
EditorialA4	TogetherB1



School makeover
HGTV designer adds his touch in Mt. Lebanon. Page C6

St. Clair Jewelers
WILL PAY YOU CASH FOR YOUR GOLD & SILVER!
1037 Waterdam Plaza Drive • McMurray, PA 15317
724.941.0234