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Genesisius Theatre presents 'Picasso at the Lapin Agile'. Page A5

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AMITY

Police ID man found inside burning car

By Kaitlyn Foti
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The body found inside a burning car in Amity Sunday, Jan. 25 morning was identified Monday, Jan. 26 by Berks County officials.

Thomas Gramling, 46, was a resident of the home on the 800 block of Antietam Drive where the car fire took place, according to Chief County Detective Michael Gombar.

The coroner was able to identify the man during the autopsy that was performed Sunday, Jan. 25 night, Gombar said.

Emergency responders were called to Antietam Drive shortly after 8 a.m. Sunday when two cars were engulfed in flames in the driveway, police said.

Gramling was found inside one of the cars after the flames were extinguished, police said.

Gombar said that the cause of death would not be determined until the pathologist's report was complete, which could take a few weeks. The cause of the fire is still under investigation by the Berks County District Attorney's major crimes taskforce and Amity Police, he said.

BERKS COUNTY

Officials worried about costs of Obamacare

By Kaitlyn Foti
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While the word 'forecast' is bringing a fair amount of ire to the area right now, the concept has made Robert Patrizio's job as Berks County chief financial officer a lot easier.

Several times a year, Patrizio puts together a five-year budget

forecast, which helps the county plan ahead financially. In his latest long-term assessment, Patrizio is eyeing two variables that could cause headaches for the county between 2017 and 2018.

"You don't know what's coming in terms of legislation. When you forecast, you base it on what you know today," Patrizio said.

In the latest forecast, a planned excise tax for employers that is

part of Obamacare is one concern for the coming years. Another is the growing cost of maintaining the county's emergency radio system.

The excise tax, which will impact employers and health care providers, set to take effect in 2018, could cost the county more than \$11 million over the first five years, according to a study by the National Association of Counties.

Berks County participated in the study.

With three years to go before the tax begins, Patrizio and Berks commissioners hope that legislation changes before the county will have to shoulder the additional costs. The forecasts, however, do not take hopes into consideration.

"The law, as it is today, says this **WORRIED » PAGE 2**

LET IT SNOW

Resident made snowman spreads happiness and joy

Residents of The Heritage of Green Hills, Marty Weaver, Seisholtzville, (on left) and Linda Walmer, Denver, Pa., (on right)

pose with the snowman they built on Saturday, Jan. 24 outside the facility's dining area – The Tavern.

When asked what encouraged them to build a snowman, Walmer replied "It's so nice out," giving credit to Weaver for thinking of the idea. After enjoying their lunch, the duo bundled up for the weather and trekked outside with a grocery bag complete with all the fixings for the proper snowman.

"We figured this was the first time you could pack the snow," Walmer said. "But we forgot how heavy snow is!" The snowman brought smiles to those eating in The Tavern and will continue to spread the joy until the sunshine warms and melts him.

EMILY THIEL — 21ST CENTURY MEDIA



NEW BUSINESS

Living the dream

Brewery planned for historic Brinton Lodge

By Kaitlyn Foti
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If you brew it, they will come. That's the hope, at least, for Hidden River Brewing's owners Doug Reeser and Kevin Mar-

gitch. As soon as June, you'll be able to hop in your kayak, boat over to Brinton Lodge and sip a Hidden River craft beer while perusing the museum in the historic building.

"We've been home brewers for about eight years or so. I

started in grad school and he (Margitich) started shortly thereafter," Reeser said. "We've been drinking craft beer since the '90s. It has been sort of a goal for both of us or a dream for us to get into it."

On Jan. 22, the pair got a step closer to realizing that dream as the Union Township zoning

DREAM » PAGE 2

READY, SET, RACE!

Scouts team up with seniors to build cars

By Emily Thiel
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For the past four years, residents of The Heritage of Green Hills, Shillington, have been assisting boys of Exeter Township Cub Scout Pack 358 craft their cars for the annual Pinewood Derby competition.

With the help of the seniors, a project that could take dads and their sons days worth of work is finished in just one afternoon at The Heritage.

Men in the wood shop invite Cub Scout Troop 358 to spend the day working with them to create their dream cars for the Pinewood Derby competition.

"It's wonderful," Richard Walter, originally from Audubon, Pa., said. "A lot of the parents don't have the tools or the time."

Walter has been assisting the Scouts with their Pinewood Derby cars for all four years. After the wood is cut and sanded to perfection, the boys visit the craft room, where some of the women help them paint the cars. The craft room greets the boys with a plate of warm chocolate chip cookies and refreshments.

In the Pinewood Derby, the boys' cars compete for Most Patriotic, Most Original and Speed. Cars must meet all requirements;

SCOUTS » PAGE 3



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Webelos Den leader Tom Ferrante, Douglassville, helps his son, Nicholas, soon to be 10, create his blueprint for his Pinewood Derby car.