

Friday night football scores
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Milton	7
Southern	28
Selinsgrove	21



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Mifflinburg	6	E. Juniata	6	Central	14
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Shamokin	32	Danville	14	Halifax	20

The Daily Item

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SATURDAY

GOOD MORNING TO DONALD CLARK OF CATAWISSA

November 1, 2014

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

An idea takes wing

Center considers bird-cam project

By Marcia Moore
 The Daily Item

LEWISBURG — Mike Dupuy, a master falconer from Middleburg, is reaching out to Bucknell's Small Business Development Center for help with a project he's working on with the same director of a recent viral video involving a woman being harassed as she walks around New York City.

Dupuy got a call a few months ago from Rob Bliss, a filmmaker who produces viral videos for a living. Bliss was looking for help flying one bird equipped with a high-definition camera from 20 city skyscrapers to obtain footage from a bird's eye view.

"I often wish I could be up there with the bird and see what they see," said Dupuy, who agreed to work with Bliss. "It's an intriguing, cool

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INSIDE

■ Falconer fights feds in court/Page A2



Mike Dupuy, of Middleburg, releases one of his falcons at Bucknell University in Lewisburg on Friday morning.

Amanda August/The Daily Item

Capture brings relief to Poconos

Residents happy 48-day hunt ends

By Kathy Matheson
 and Michael Rubinkam
 The Associated Press

MILFORD — For 48 days, Eric Frein was everywhere and nowhere, supposedly sighted again and again, only to melt back into the woods in a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse.



Eric Frein
 'Defeated'

So on Friday, as state police paraded the gaunt and battered-looking former fugitive in front of a courthouse, residents were relieved to see him in the flesh.

It was proof that the harrowing seven-week manhunt in the Pocono Mountains

for the suspected cop-killer was finally over, and things could start getting back to normal.

"It's just been nerve-wracking, not knowing where he was, what his next step was, what he was going to do," said Jody Welsh.

Onlookers shouted "Are you sorry?" and "Why did you do it?" as the survivalist and marksman was led from court the morning after his capture near an abandoned hangar. Hundreds of local, state and federal law officers had taken part in the manhunt.

Frein, 31, had a gash on the bridge of his nose and a scrape over his left eye as he listened to charges that he killed Cpl. Bryon Dick-

Please see **RELIEF**, A3

Spacecraft for tourists explodes

By Brian Melley

being released from a carrier aircraft at high altitude.

Association buys

Nation / Local

Tourist spacecraft explodes in flight

CRAFT, from Page A1

Youngblood. Their names were not released.

The crash area is in the desert north of Mojave Air and Space Port, where the test flight originated.

British billionaire Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Galactic, has been the front-runner in the fledgling race to send large numbers of paying civilians beyond the atmosphere to give them the feeling of weightlessness and a spectacular view of Earth below. Branson was flying to Mojave and expected to arrive Saturday, as were investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board.

"Space is hard, and today was a tough day," Virgin Galactic CEO President George Whitesides said. "The future rests in many ways, on hard, hard days like this."

The accident occurred just as it seemed space flights were near, after a period of development that lasted far longer than hundreds of prospective passengers had expected.

When Virgin Group licensed the technology from Microsoft co-founder Paul

Allen, who funded about \$26 million for SpaceShipOne, Branson envisioned operating flights by 2007. In interviews last month, he talked about the first flight being next spring with his son.

"It's a real setback to the idea that lots of people are going to be taking joyrides into the fringes of outer space any time soon," said John Logsdon, retired space policy director at George Washington University. "There were a lot of people who believed that the technology to carry people is safely at hand."

Friday's flight marked the 55th for SpaceShipTwo, which was intended to be the first of a line of craft. But this was only the fourth flight to be powered by a rocket. During the other flights, the craft was either not released from its mother ship or it functioned as a glider.

SpaceShipTwo was designed to provide a suborbital thrill ride into space before returning to Earth as a glider. At 60 feet long, it featured two large windows for each of up to six passengers, one on the side and one overhead.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. One difference on this flight was the type of fuel being

used. In May, Virgin Galactic announced that SpaceShipTwo would switch to a polyimide-based fuel — a type of thermoplastic. It had been fueled with a type of rubber called HTPB.

Scaled Composites, the company that is building the spaceship for Virgin Galactic, had extensively tested the new fuel formulation on the ground, President Kevin Mickey said. He said the rocket motor configuration had not changed on this flight and characterized the new fuel as "a small nuance to the design."

Officials said they had not noticed anything wrong before the flight.

"I detected nothing that appeared abnormal," said Stuart Witt, CEO of the Mojave Air and Space Port.

Virgin Galactic — owned by Branson's Virgin Group and Aabar Investments PJS of Abu Dhabi — sells seats on each prospective journey for \$250,000, with full payment due at the time of booking.

The company says that "future astronauts," as it calls customers, have visited Branson's Caribbean home, Necker Island, and gone through G-force training.



Amanda August/The Daily Item

Mike Dupuy, of Middleburg, holds one of his falcons outside the library at Bucknell University on Friday morning.

An idea takes wing

IDEA, from Page A1

idea. Rob is very creative."

The only glitch is that the GoPro camera Bliss wants to use is too heavy for Dupuy's falcon.

On Tuesday, just as Bliss's latest viral video showing a New York actress getting more than 100 catcalls from men as she walked through-out the city was receiving na-

tionwide attention, Dupuy met with Steve Stumbris, director of the Small Business Development Center, and students and faculty from the engineering department to discuss developing a lighter version of the camera.

"Stripping a camera to its bare-bones essentials and seeing if we can mount the components on a bird is an interesting technical chal-

lenge and a compelling application," Stumbris said.

The meeting was just an introduction, with Dupuy demonstrating his falconry skills on the campus.

"We work on a number of different product development projects," Stumbris said. "This one is a wonderful, novel experience for the students. I hope we can help him."

Student used school gear

HACK, from Page A1

dent, who is said to have infiltrated the school district database Tuesday. Superintendent Mark DiRocco said the FBI and Buffalo Valley Regional Police are investigating the matter.

Union County District Attorney D. Peter Johnson said he is aware of the investigation and FBI's involvement but hasn't received any communication about charges.

DiRocco said his biggest concern is what happened to the data.

"Where did it go?" he asked. "The best-case scenario is it's on a thumb drive somewhere. The worst case is it's out there on the Internet."

Many district parents have

called DiRocco about the incident, he said, noting their reactions have been mixed.

"Certainly some parents are frustrated and upset, and rightfully so," DiRocco said.

What the district will do about this has been the most frequent question he's been asked.

"Believe it or not, we've had some phone calls and emails in support of how well we've been responding to this," DiRocco said.

Sometime Tuesday, the Lewisburg student breached the school district's cafeteria data file, which tracks daily how many students are eating lunch and information about them, such as if they get free or reduced-price lunches. Along with students' names, addresses, phone numbers

and student ID numbers, Social Security numbers and dates of birth also were compromised.

The student allegedly broke into the system from inside a district building during the school day on a school-issued computer, DiRocco said.

He does not know yet what, if any, disciplinary action will be taken against the student or what charges, if any, may be filed. DiRocco has been in touch with the student's parents.

A credit monitoring service will be offered to parents so they may check if children have been subject to identity theft or illegal activity.

He doesn't know the cost of the service, which will be largely covered under the district's insurance policy.

The iPads were purchased with a grant, Hare said. The Sunbury Police Officers' Association has helped the department in years past and Bennick said it was because of the organization that the city cruisers were able to be repainted in 2008.

"We had six cars painted and we had bumper guards put on them," he said. The cost was about \$5,000 for the fleet, Bennick said. The association also donates \$500 each year to a

City police receive new rifles

RIFLES, from Page A1

"It will now be twice a year," he said.

The city purchases ammunition for the department's firearms, Bennick said.

The new rifles mark the most recent in a series of upgrades and technological advances in the department. Chief Brad Hare acquired several iPads for his officers to take with them on patrol. The iPads save time and paperwork when officers are writing incident reports at the department or at the

or her rifle, which means the weapons are now personal property. The rifles will replace older versions that hang in each police cruiser.

City police officers were sharing rifles until the Sunbury Police Officers' Association decided to it was time to upgrade, officer Steve Bennick said.

Police have never had to fire the semi-automatic rifles while on duty, Bennick said.

Falconer fights federal charges

By Marcia Moore
The Daily Item

MIDDLEBURG — Master falconer and bird-of-prey expert Mike Dupuy is fighting federal authorities who claim he has run afoul of the law for illegally possessing goshawks.

For more than two decades Dupuy has devoted his life to the birds and educating people across the country about them.

Dupuy, who lives outside of Middleburg, says he makes a point of keeping up with laws and regulations associated with his business.

He has a falconry permit that allows him to capture and possess migratory birds and a raptor propagation permit that allows him to care for and breed wildlife.

In spring 2012, Dupuy took the cautious step of writing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for confirmation that his raptor breeding permit would allow him to possess, capture, import, sell and transport wild raptors, excluding bald and golden eagles.

Asserting that he is allowed under the law to capture two birds apiece annually under each of the permits he holds, Dupuy said he had no inkling

there would be trouble when he contacted the state Game Commission in June to notify authorities that he was in possession of three goshawks.

The trouble was real and now he's embroiled in an expensive legal battle that could pull him into a federal courtroom where he faces a maximum of six months in prison and \$15,000 fine if convicted of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for allegedly possessing more raptors than he is permitted.

Specifically, state and federal authorities allege Dupuy is not authorized to breed goshawks, a claim Dupuy disputes.

Thomas Boop, a Sunbury attorney and former president of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, tried to help settle the matter before any charges were levied.

"I thought it could be resolved amicably with a warning since Mr. Dupuy self-reported" and did not knowingly violate the law, he said. At issue, Boop said, appears to be a lack of clarity in the state and federal regulations that make them difficult to follow.

"There needs to be clarification and simplification of the rules and regulations and more coordination between

the agencies," he said.

Dupuy had to hire a lawyer who practices in federal court. He's already spent \$8,000 defending himself against the claims, but says he's not backing down since no wrongdoing has occurred. A trial is scheduled for December.

"They are going after me for the very thing I'm licensed to do. We care about conservation and the long-term survival of the birds," Dupuy said, shaking his head.

He views the situation as particularly absurd since few other sportsmen are subjected to the same oversight, including annual on-site inspections.

"We nurture (the bird), care for it, raise it, cry over it. Then we set it free and hope it comes back to us," Dupuy said. "What is the purpose of all these regulations?"

