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THIS WEEK

East Greenville Resident Rescues Milo the Cat page 3

Insert this Week - Weis Market

SPORTS



Upper Perk's championship basketball team remembered 50 years later.

Story on page 17

FEATURES



Frieden's UCC makes more than 200 dozen fast-nachts for Fastnacht Day.

Story on page 25

INSIDE

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Business News..... | 36 |
| Church Directory..... | 37 |
| Classifieds..... | 38-48 |
| Comics..... | 32-35 |
| Community Calendar..... | 31 |
| Dining & Entertainment..... | 13 |
| Letters to the Editor..... | 26 |
| Obituaries..... | 22-24 |
| Police Reports..... | 4, 5 |
| Senior Menu..... | 32 |
| SPCA Pets..... | 28 |
| What is it, Where..... | 16 |



Upper Perk Police Collar Red Hill Man Who Prompted Manhunt

By Kelly Chandler
Staff Writer

A Red Hill man who escaped from authorities while handcuffed in December, prompting a manhunt and lockout at Upper Perkiomen schools, was taken into custody by Upper Perk Police on Monday.

According to Upper Perk Police Sgt. Joe Adam, shortly after 6 p.m. Feb. 8, police

were dispatched to the area of Rite Aid at 350 Main Street in Pennsburg for a reckless driver. After investigating the complaint, police said they found Brian Seeley, 29, lying face down in the passenger's seat of the vehicle trying to hide from police.

Police said Seeley, who attempted to hide his face with a hooded sweatshirt, was a passenger in the vehicle and was taken

into custody without incident after police recognized him. He had been on the run for more than two months.

Authorities said the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department took custody of Seeley. He was arraigned Tuesday by Judge Maurice H. Saylor of Gilbertsville District Court, who set bail at \$10,000 straight. He

Arrest, continued on page 3

Upper Hanover to Mark 275th Anniversary With History, Boat Tours

By Jennifer Butler
Correspondent

Upper Hanover Township officials said Tuesday night they have a variety of events planned to celebrate their 275th anniversary they hope will appeal to everyone.

Township Manager Stan Seitzinger presented the board of supervisors with a preliminary schedule of events to be held throughout 2016 in commemoration of the anniversary. Events are scheduled to begin in May, culminating in a celebration day on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Camelot Park.

As presented, the schedule will begin with 275th anniversary committee representation at the UPV Chamber of Commerce Community and Business Expo on April 26. Committee members will provide information about the upcoming events which include two presentations on the township's history by local historian Larry Roeder. Other events include a self-guided tour of historic locations throughout the township, pontoon boat tours of the Green Lane Reservoir and a visit to The Knoll Museum.

A variety of activities are already slated for September's big event, including exhibits and displays, a time capsule dedication and installation of military service plaques at Camelot Park's World War I and World War

Upper Hanover, continued on page 2



Bob Esposito / Town and Country

Fire Destroys Car- A Pennsburg firefighter advances a hoseline towards a fully involved BMW SUV as flames consume it on the grounds of Copart on Geryville Pike in Upper Hanover Township. No injuries were reported from the incident around 11 a.m. Tuesday.

Former Marine Finds Hope, Direction with Pennsburg's Vets for Vets

By Kelly Chandler
Staff Writer

Jeremiah McCann doesn't pull any punches when you talk to him about how he got to Vets for Vets (VFV), a Pennsburg veterans services organization.

In his easy-going manner, the Georgia native will tell you about his brushes with law enforcement. He'll talk about his for-

mer propensity for alcohol abuse and how it affected his family. He'll also detail multiple stays at the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Coatesville, where he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) related to his service.

McCann, a 28-year-old, served four years in the US Marine Corps, including

Vets for Vets, continued on page 10

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Vets for Vets, continued from page 1

a 2011 deployment to Iraq. When he got home, however, he said life was a completely different ball game.

"I went through a lot after I got out as far as readjustment and getting back into society," he said. "It was a rough, rough road for me. In the military you have the mindset of no matter what is going on around you, the chaos, whatever, you have to keep moving forward.

"When you get out, some people, like myself, they forget. Because the chaos isn't

there and the civilian world is a different kind of chaos; it's not right up in your face. But being here (at VFV) really brings that back and, if you accept it, and embrace that, it has a great effect on you."

McCann, who had two daughters with a longtime girlfriend, said after moving to Georgia to plant their roots, that relationship ultimately broke down. She moved back up to Pennsylvania. He later, with no place to stay and no job, took a bus to Montgomery County to be closer to his daughters.

Here he connected with VFV founder/administrator Jake Leone. This past July McCann got sober and found himself at a crossroads. He said he vividly remembers his first day at VFV's transitional home.

"I was sitting in my rack and Jake had given me a bunch of chores. I saw no end; no light of the tunnel. I had lost my family, everything. I was looking down, staring at my toes, saying 'I don't know if I can do this.' That's how real it is here. You can't just come here and expect things to happen for you. You are doing

the work. They give you that room to grow.

"I was either going to go down to the bar or get started on those chores and that's where it all turned around."

McCann started making some big changes. He went back to school, at Montgomery County Community College, to study exercise science and wellness. As a full-time student he is currently pursuing his associate's degree and is also working towards becoming a certified personal trainer.

He also works part-time at the Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA, where he hopes to eventually garner a position as a wellness coach.

In line with VFV's mission, he committed himself to community service projects like doing maintenance at veterans' homes in the area. Aside from daily tasks at the VFV building, he also volunteered at the Alternative Brew café at the Upper Perk Community Life Center in East Greenville.

He can't say enough about how much VFV has changed his life.

"I've learned so much here about character and being a man," he said. "I love the program. What I like about this program is it's only a tool if you use it as a tool. This isn't for every veteran out there. There are people out there who aren't that committed. It's only for people who want to change. Like Jake says, this isn't the VA. This isn't a shelter where you can come and sit around all day. Here you're engaged."

McCann said his goal is, by March, to graduate from the program and to find his own one-bedroom apartment. That way he will be able to spend more time with his daughters, now 4 and 1.

"I love Pennsburg. I just fell so blessed to have landed out here just because it's a little Georgia. I feel comfortable here; feel comfortable with my daughters here. This (VFV) is an amazing place; it's just time to get out on my own."



Bob Esposito / Town and Country

Jeremiah McCann, 28, stands in front of the Vets for Vets building on 4th Street in Pennsburg, a place he's called home since July. McCann is set to graduate from the program in March.

Leone said he feels McCann has made the most progress out of all the program's veterans thus far.

"Not only has he been able to get his life moving in the right direction aligned with his goals and personal expectations, but he also found the personal gratification and fulfillment from our outreach projects in the community. He understands why we do it, and gets satisfaction and paying it forward," he said. "I have gotten a great deal of personal satisfaction in watching his growth and development. He's a tough kid. That exemplifies the tenacious outlook and attitude of our veterans!

"I feel he's going to do great after graduating, because he has not looked at his time at the house as a temporary band aid to his issues. Instead, he utilized the time not only to position himself for professional success, but to focus on his personal development as a civilian, as a father, as a friend, and as a leader.

"It's been a privilege and an honor to work with him, and sometimes I feel as though I have learned just as much from him as he has from me." For more information on Vets for Vets, visit www.soldiertocivilian.org, find them on Facebook or email jason.leone@soldiertocivilian.org.

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