

# SPOTLIGHT

Athletes from Westmont Hilltop, Penn Cambria get recognition. B1.



# STILL IN THE MIX

Tomahawks finish off home sweep of Rebels, stay in NAHL playoff hunt. B1.



# The Tribune-Democrat

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\$2.00 NEWSSTAND

## Coal company pitches Jerome strip mine

### Township leaders mull whether to consider zoning change



BY DAVID HURST  
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JEROME – A Clearfield-based mining company and two Conemaugh Township, Somerset County, landowners are seeking a zoning change that could pave the way for a strip mine near Jerome.

During a meeting earlier this month, RES Coal, a division of Robindale, outlined a plan to mine 36 acres near Dairy Road south of Jerome on a 135-acre project site, said Steve

Buncich, chairman of the Conemaugh Township Board of Supervisors.

The land is zoned light industrial, which does not allow mining, Buncich said.

To consider a switch to “rural residential,” which permits mining, the Conemaugh Township supervisors would have to instruct their solicitor to have a zoning map

change drawn up for consideration, Buncich said. But the supervisors have not yet decided whether or not they are willing to take that initial step.

“But with the amount of area the project would disturb, the coal trucks and everything else a strip mine adds, this is something we want to hear from residents about

before we make any decisions,” Buncich said.

Dairy Road is home to approximately five families, two of which – the Hostetler and Volocko families – own the land that RES Coal would mine under its plan.

Please see **MINE**, A2

## Summit to ‘elevate’ aviation

### Organizers will highlight education, training opportunities

Aerium conference set to overlap with Showcase defense expo in Johnstown

BY RANDY GRIFFITH  
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A new organization promoting aviation education initiatives in the Johnstown region is hoping to tap into the historic success of Johnstown’s Showcase for Commerce defense industry expo with a launch event this summer at John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport in Richland Township.

“We need more groups and events like these.”

**ANTHONY MCCLOSKEY,  
DIRECTOR, PENNSYLVANIA  
BUREAU OF AVIATION**

The Aerium Summit will be held from May 30 through June 1 at several airport facilities, overlapping with Showcase for Commerce’s May 31-June 2 agenda.

“The purpose and mission of the nonprofit Aerium is to elevate the aviation industry by offering accessible education, nurturing a talented and skilled workforce and promoting economic development opportunities in the community,” board Chairman Larry Nulton said.

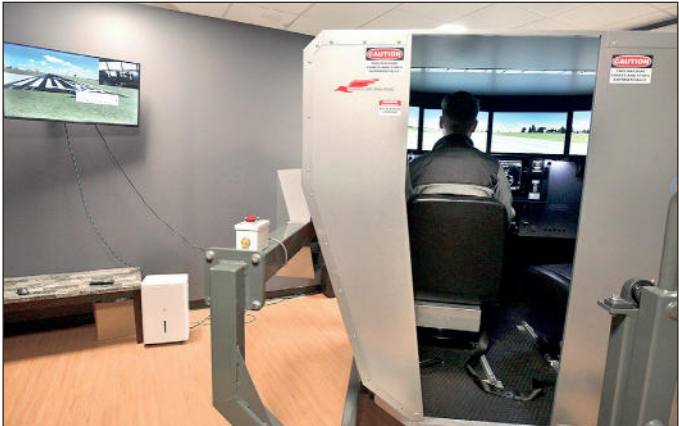
Aerium is supported by a network of businesses and organizations that have already been working to expand aviation-related programs at all levels of

Please see **SUMMIT**, A2



PHOTOS BY TODD BERKEY/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

Will Guzik, flight school director for Nulton Aviation Services at John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport, uses a Redbird full motion flight simulator on Friday at the airport, above. Below left, Guzik prepares the simulator for a session, and below right, the simulator’s screens show a view of a virtual runway at the airport, where the Aerium Summit this summer will put the spotlight on aviation education opportunities in the Johnstown region.



## Apartment floor caves in near IUP, dozen hurt

### Second-story collapse at off-campus housing puts seven in hospital on ‘IUPatty’s weekend’

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANA – A dozen people were injured in the collapse of a second-story floor inside an apartment complex in Indiana over the weekend, authorities said.

Seven people were taken to hospitals and five others were treated at the scene after the 11:50 p.m. Saturday collapse at Elm by Traverse Commons, about a mile from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, state police told the Tribune-Review.

Trooper Cliff Greenfield said the victims had injuries ranging from serious to minor. He said responding troopers found one person lying in the road, and others grouped outside the three-story building reported that a floor inside had collapsed.

“It is unknown exactly how many people were inside the apartment at the time of the floor collapse,” he said.

Those still inside were helped out through a broken first-floor window, which caused many of the injuries. Fire rescuers searched the building, which has been secured by the management.

Greenfield said it’s unclear how many of those involved were university students or guests visiting during what has been dubbed “IUPatty’s weekend,” a delayed St. Patrick’s

Please see **IUP**, A2

## Sled hockey team raises money, showcases sport

### Players, community members face off

BY KATIE SMOLEN  
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Players on Johnstown’s Sitting Bulls sled hockey team showed off their sport and raised money on Sunday at the team’s annual exhibition game and fundraiser at 1st Summit Arena @ Cambria County War Memorial in downtown Johnstown.

Intermediate coach Brian

Buchkovich said the event is the team’s biggest fundraiser of the year.

“It supports most of everything that we try to do,” he said.

“We are a nonprofit, and we try to make it so we cover the costs of everything for all of our players because they have so

Please see **SLED**, A2



KATIE SMOLEN/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

Tony Martin from WJAC-TV (left) and members of the Johnstown Sitting Bulls race to the puck during the sled hockey team’s annual exhibition game and fundraiser on Sunday at 1st Summit Arena @ Cambria County War Memorial in downtown Johnstown.

## Northern Cambria schools weigh big building project

### District leaders’ plan would shut high school

BY JOSHUA BYERS  
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NORTHERN CAMBRIA – As Northern Cambria School District’s building project gains momentum, so do questions about taxes, closing the district’s high school and the necessity of adding \$20 million to the district’s debt.

Superintendent Laura Fisanick said that talk of consolidat-

ing the district’s schools dates back to at least 2017, with a feasibility study presented to the school board that year, but the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to progress.

When the matter was brought up again, the board switched to Axis Architects and began moving forward with the

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**WEATHER**

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