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THE JOURNAL of the POCONO PLATEAU

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Members of the Pocono Mountain Education Association rally against faculty cuts throughout the district before the April 3 board meeting.

Photo by Jeanine Hofbauer

PMEA calling PMSB Chicken?

by Jeanine Hofbauer

"The sky is falling, the sky is falling," cackled Pocono Mountain Education Association delegates, repeatedly using a startling Chicken Little impersonation as they protested Pocono Mountain School District's recent years plagued of faculty cuts prior to the April 3 school board meeting.

PMEA brought their pre-meeting rally indoors to confront directors. "Cut teachers, cut sports, cut educational opportunities for students," was repeated by each speaker at the podium. Each three minute speech ended with a stern, "The sky is not falling."

Public comment turned to the sales listing of three district facilities, with accusations that the stipulation none can be used as schools limited the "sale-ability" of the structure. PMSD's solicitor dismissed the claim the structures were "built

uniquely for schools," noting similar sales across the state for other purposes.

Monroe County Technical Institute's director Tim Rushton provided the institute's 2013-14

budget, after recognizing Davis for his years of service on the facility's Joint Operating Committee. The board approved next year's \$8,647,374 budget,

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IndyCar Tire Test at Pocono Raceway today

Firestone will be conducting a tire test for the IZOD IndyCar Series at Pocono Raceway from 9 a.m. to about 5 p.m. today, Wednesday, April 10. Admission to the grandstand is free. IZOD IndyCar Series teams scheduled include Andretti Autosport's Marco Andretti; four-time Series Champion Dario Franchitti of Target Chip Ganassi Racing; 2012 Series Rookie of the Year Simon Pagenaud of Schmidt Hamilton Racing and 2010, 2011 and 2012 Series Championship Runner-up Will Power, Verizon Team Penske. Results of this test will determine the tires Firestone will provide for the Pocono INDYCAR 400 on July 7. The existing track record of 211.715 mph set back in 1989 is sure to be broken during the test. The only question is by how much?

Fans who attend should enter the parking lots via Gate #5 (Andretti Rd.) and will be directed to designated parking areas. Gate #11 will open at 9 a.m. and fans will be directed to grandstand seating areas near the Start/Finish line. Concession stands will not be open.

Casino hits homerun with Jackie Robinson story on Plateau

by Jeanine Hofbauer

Baseball. America's favorite pastime. Yet how many people realize the trials and tribulations some faced just to live their dream and run that diamond? How about the struggle small businesses face competing with their rival movie conglomerates?

One local theater fought its own battle to bring one man's baseball tale to the Plateau. The Casino Theatre in Mount Pocono is airing the Jackie Robinson story, *42: The true story of an American legend*

premiering this Friday, April 12.

A small theatre with hometown pride, the Casino proved persistence pays, obtaining the limited first day release of the film. Limited release openings are typically reserved for big city theatres and multiplexes.

Casino owner Karen Struckle would not accept no for an answer when she heard about the film, continuously pushing her booking agent to try and try again to get the piece. She commented, "We believed our audience would enjoy this true

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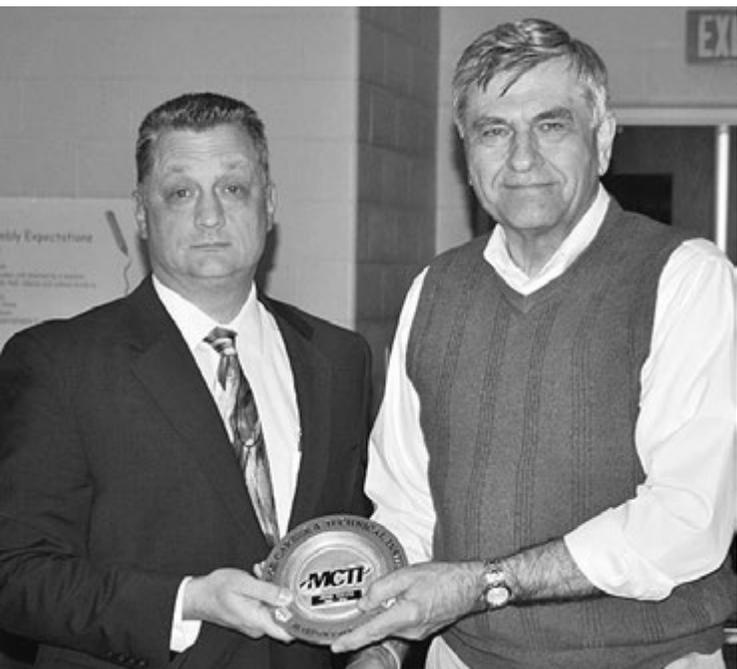
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Monroe County Technical Institute's Director Tim Rushton presents John Davis with a plaque in recognition of his years of service on their Joint Operating Committee

PMSD...

Continued from page 1

which will result in an increase for PMSD of \$102,787.

Director Rusty Johnson asked Rushton to elaborate on MCTI's funding formula. "We have a funding formula that's broke," he said, adding "There should be a minimum each sending district has to pay."

Rushton explained the proportional representation by the contributing school districts. He discussed the positive effect of the current economic climate commenting, "MCTI's best days in my opinion are yet to come."

The next board meeting is planned for 7 p.m. on April 17. Visit www.pmsd.org for an agenda.

PMSD school sales divide board

by Jeanine Hofbauer

President Meg Dilger proposed that Pocono Mountain School District consider donating Coolbaugh and Barrett Learning Center to Coolbaugh and Barrett Township during the April 3 school board meeting. The facilities, originally built by the municipalities in the 1920s, had

been taken over by the school district in the 60s.

She suggested relinquishing the sites back to their respective townships for community use, noting interest in bringing the Headstart and after school programs to one of the facilities.

Director George Strunk opposed the donation, urging the sales listings stand for six months. "We have a legal fiduciary responsibility to the school district." He said the \$600,000 the sale of these buildings could bring would subsidize capital improvement projects throughout the district.

He questioned the economic feasibility of the sites in need of repair, asking if the townships were prepared to take on the responsibility.

PMSD's contractual obligation to Michael Baxter and Associates was clarified. The commercial real estate bro-

ker's contract stipulates that nothing would be owed should the board choose to remove the two sites from the listing agreement.

Director Dorothy Sirolly considered the donations as "a very important step in healing the loss of these buildings."

Dilger discussed the school closings stating, "Every year we lose students," pointing out enrollment is at "astronomically low numbers."

By a vote of 4-3 the PMSD administration was directed to approach the municipalities. Dilger, Sirolly, John Coyle and John Davis voted yes with Strunk, Rusty Johnson and Jacqueline Leonard opposed. Ricky Smith and Ed Mayotte were absent.

Should the two townships accept PMSD's offer, the board would vote on removing each Learning Center from the sales agreement.

Movie...

Continued from page 1

story about a national hero who chose a tough road and walked it with dignity," adding "and they [Casino patrons] get to see it close to home."

Struckle's passion for acquiring the film was fueled by a desire to educate the young and old about how men like Robinson "broke down barriers in our culture and proved everyone can be good at sports."

Set in the 1940s 42 captures the essence of a time filled with racial bias as Robinson fought adversity to become the first African-American to play with a Major League ball club, the Brooklyn Dodgers.

As the spring baseball season approaches and kids grab their gloves ready to play, Struckle hopes many see the movie and appreciate how Robinson carved a place for all to compete at our national pastime.

Show times are available on Casino's website at casinontheatre.net.



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If you have a child who meets the eligibility for the 2013-2014 school year Kindergarten class, please contact the Pocono Mountain School District Central Registration Office at 839-7121 ext. 40400 to schedule an appointment. The child must be five (5) years of age or more, on or before September 1, 2013.

After the registration process has been completed, your child will be scheduled for a Kindergarten orientation session sometime in the spring at their respective school building.

The required documents are available on-line at www.pmsd.org

It is strongly recommended that you complete all required documents prior to your scheduled appointment.



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