

A closer look at Union/Snyder drug treatment court

BY PAULA COCHRAN
Staff writer

LEWISBURG — The mission of the program is to give taxpayers the biggest bang for their buck while offering non-violent criminals a chance to escape the addiction that lead to their crimes and to lead productive lives in the future.

The Drug Treatment Court of the 17th Judicial District of Pennsylvania (Snyder and Union counties) is "not a hand out, it's a hand up," Probation Officer Scott T. Kerstetter said.

Those who enter the program do so by choice. They are addicts in one form or another, who have committed drug related crimes and are costing the sys-

tem the most amount of money in unpaid taxes (due to being unemployed), rehabilitation, incarceration, unpaid child support and unpaid court costs and fines.

The program's mission, as stated in the participant handbook, is "to reduce recidivism by facilitating treatment and rehabilitation and to provide increased supervision to the criminal substance abuser, as opposed to simply warehousing them. Our goal is to return individuals to the community who are clean and sober, with an improved quality of life, and who are better equipped to maintain their sobriety, thereby improving the lives of all of us."

The highly structured program in-

cludes drug rehabilitation as well as supportive services. Drug rehabilitation includes detox, inpatient or outpatient treatment for addiction, individual and group counseling, recovery support and drug testing. Supportive services include employment counseling, training referrals, education and literacy assistance, referrals for healthcare, housing and other social services.

The end goal is to cure the addiction that led to the participants crime in the first place so they can avoid future contact with the criminal justice system in the future.

The final reward for participants is being clean and sober, employed, open to education opportunities and in better

relationships. The final reward means the addict now returned to society will no longer be plagued by drug driven crime, but will, after the year long program, be productive employees, neighbors, partners and parents.

A series of upcoming articles will feature those in the Drug Court Treatment program in Union County — their crimes, their recovery, their struggles, as well as the success, or failure in the program.

Staff Writer Paula Cochran can be reached for comment at paula@standard-journal.com.

Masser officially resigns as commissioner Fairchild plan to consolidate fire, EMS laws heads to governor

BY THE STANDARD JOURNAL

SUNBURY — Today is Kurt Masser's last day on the job as a Northumberland County commissioner.

Masser turned in his resignation on Thursday, noting his recent election to the post of state representative in the 107th legislative district.

Northumberland County president Judge Robert Sacavage said, in a press release, that Masser personally delivered his letter of

HARRISBURG — Legislation that Rep. Russ Fairchild (R-85) has authored to consolidate the provisions of the laws governing fire and emergency medical services has been sent to the governor for his signature. If signed, this would mark the 25th law that Fairchild has

Republican chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, consolidating Title 35 was one of my top priorities," said Fairchild, whose service in the House ends Nov. 30. "I am pleased this legislation, which was the result of many

extend the \$1.911 surcharge by applying it to pre-paid cellular phones and phone cards. To facilitate the surcharge, retailers that sell these cards can keep 35 percent of the \$1 fee for each card sold for the first 180 days of enactment to cover any effort in costs which may be