

Merger of fire, ambulance companies in effect Jan. 1

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. and the Kingston Township Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association will merge together as one entity.

According to Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. Chief Bill Eck, the merger between the two companies was approved Dec. 6. The companies are in the process of filing paperwork and hope the merger will officially go into effect on Jan. 1, 2010.

"I'm the one that proposed it

to the fire department so we didn't end up losing the township-run ambulance and rescue association," Eck said. "Many hours have gone into this. I think it's going to work out very well."

Eck says the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. was established in 1918. He believes Kingston Township Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association was created in 1953 or 1956.

The new company will be called Trucksville Volunteer EMS and Rescue. Both the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. and the Kingston Township Volunteer Ambulance and Res-

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Bill Eck
Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. Fire Chief

cue Association stations will remain operational.

Jeff Evans will serve as president of the new company. Eck will remain as the fire chief.

will continue to operate on individual budgets for the first year or two of operation, Eck says.

In addition, Eck says the ambulance will need to be replaced within a year to a year and a half.

There are approximately 28 active members in the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Co. and about 20 active members in Kingston Township Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, bringing the new company to nearly 50 active members.

Yet, Eck says the company is still in need of new active mem-

bers in all areas of the company, not just people to do fire fighting and ambulance runs.

"The merger as far as I'm concerned has already gone through because we have already been down there as one."

Eck said there is a possibility that Shavertown Volunteer Fire Co. will one day also merge with the new company. But for now, Shavertown will remain as its own company.

"I'm not saying it's never going to happen, but right now there are still some unresolved things we need to work through with taking the ambulance over," Eck said.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDY SUPPORTS TOYS FOR TOTS



Andy Molitoris, center, proprietor of Photography by Andy in Trucksville, meets with representatives of the U.S. Marine Corps as he prepares to deliver a box of toys collected at his studio for the Marines' Toys for Tots campaign.

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Platts is awarded national scholarship

Misericordia University medical imaging major Jason Platts, of Tunkhannock, was awarded a national scholarship by Lambda Nu, the national honor society for the radiologic and imaging sciences.

Membership is based on an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above for students enrolled as a full-time medical imaging major for four semesters.



Platts

Students must demonstrate evidence of professional commitment beyond the minimum program requirements, such as independent research, involvement in college-wide student committees and medical imaging-related activities.

Platts, the son of Marcia Platts of Tunkhannock, and Thomas Platts, of Australia, is a senior, and was selected from 50 applicants nationwide for his commitment to the profession and compassion toward patients.

COLLECTING COATS FOR KIDS



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Mike Huntzinger, of the Kingston Township Police Department, displays a coat that was donated during a drop-off at the Shavertown Shopping Center. The coat drive was a cooperative effort between the PA Fish and Game Commission and the Back Mountain Police Departments.

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