

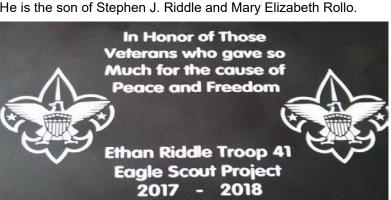
Troop 41 Eagle Scout Ethan Riddle

By Michael Ortoski

JOHNSONVILLE - Ethan Riddle recieved his Eagle Scout rank this month and his first set of Palms.

The project he completed benefited the Legion Post 216 of Johnsonville. Riddle constructed a fire pit and a set of benches for when the

Legion holds their annual flag retirement ceremony. Riddle is a sophmore at Nore Dame High School in Easton Pa.





Every Consider Becoming a State Police Trooper?

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - Applications for the 2020 class at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy are being accepted now through June

30, 2019. Go to patrooper.com for more info.

The Pennsylvania State Police is an equal opportunity employer that seeks a diverse workforce, which reflects the communities we serve, while ensuring equal opportunities for all employees and applicants for employment.

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The 6013 Testing Cycle has been extended to June 30, 2019 and all qualifying applicants within the above testing cycle will be projected to enter the Academy in March of 2020 (6013 Testing Cycle will consist of applicants from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019).

On January 2, 2019, the Civil Service Commission will start offering the Pennsylvania State Police written examination more frequently

at authorized locations. In short, applicants will have the benefit of choosing a conducive date and time to complete their written examination prior to June 30, 2019.





March 26

Portland Fire Co Starts 7pm

March 27

Bushkill Twp Fire Co Doors 5pm Starts 7pm

March 28

Wind Gap Fire Co Doors 5pm; Starts 6:45pm

March 23

Immaculate Conception Doors 11am; Starts 1pm

March 24

St. Elizabeth Church Starts 1pm

March 25

Kunkletown Fire Co Progressive Jackpot - 7pm

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH























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Automotive Repair

Philly To Pittsburgh In A Half Hour? Pa. Turnpike Commission Quietly Awards Contract To **Study Cross-state Hyperloop Tunnel**

By Carnegie Mellon Hyperloop

PENNSYLVANIA - Commercial goods packed in giant capsules and moving in vacuum-sealed steel tubes at nearly supersonic speeds from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh?

That means packages hurtling from one end of the state to the other in under a half hour.

Pennsylvania transportation officials think it's less futuristic than it sounds, and they have committed \$2 million to study the cost and impact of building a "hyperloop" across the state.

"This is an emerging technology that's coming at us very quickly," said Carl DeFebo, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Turnpike. "It's smart for the Turnpike Commission to be prepared."

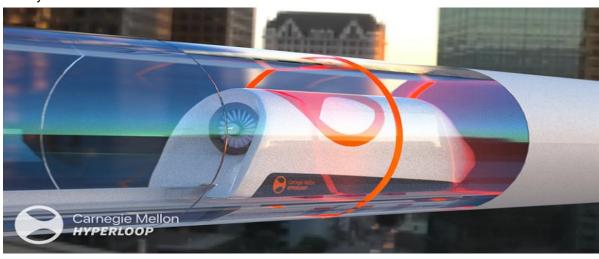
Popularized by engineer and tech entrepreneur Elon Musk, a hyperloop is a trainlike system of sealed pods zooming at more than 700 mph, just below the sound barrier.

No such system has ever opened, though India claims it is getting close.

For years, governments have been abuzz about the possibility of such an ultrahigh-speed transportation network in the face of naysayers who cite the high cost and question the practicality of planning such a project.

In Pennsylvania, DeFebo said turnpike officials are mostly interested in exploring how hyperloop technology can improve traffic conditions, noting that some 15 percent of vehicles on state roads are

And, more critically to turnpike officials, commercial vehicles account for some 50 percent of toll revenue. In other words, hyperloop has the potential of being a threat to an essential piece of the turnpike's annual revenue. To an agency already careening toward a financial catastrophe, toll money is a dire matter.



"If there's a new way for shippers to ship goods, we need to be a part of that. There's a chance it could take away a critical segment of our customer base," DeFebo said. "It's not going to replace tractor-trailers. It's not going to replace trains. But it'll work with existing modalities to be part of a wider transportation solution."

A hyperloop for humans, at least in Pennsylvania, is secondary to its commercial potential, DeFebo said. And it might not be underground.

Officials are exploring whether it could propel goods on the ground next to moving traffic or even suspended above state highways,

"There are fewer safety concerns with cargo than with passengers," he said. "So, when it comes to passengers, they would be more impacted by the G-forces. The hyperloop for freight, for instances, can have sharper turns, since we wouldn't be trying to smooth out the ride for passengers."

The study approved this month by the Turnpike Commission, will be conducted by Dallas-based consulting group Aecom, which constructed Musk's first SpaceX Hyperloop test track in the Los Angeles area.

Questions involving cost, design, engineering, environmental impact and acquiring right-of-way near the turnpike will be addressed by the Pennsylvania study, which is expected to be released by

Turnpike officials ordered the study at the direction of state Rep. Aaron Kaufer, R-Luzerne, who wanted to make sure Pennsylvania "didn't miss the boat" on hyperloop, as other states made similar moves to study the technology. Kaufer proposed that the zippy transportation system could have a northeast extension to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area, which includes parts of his district.

Martin Pietrucha, a civil engineering professor at Penn State University, said in the context of the state Department of Transportation's nearly \$4 billion budget, a \$2 million study is a paltry sum.