



HENRY PODESCHI, 13, hangs submitted drawings on the wall of the Bloomsburg High School cafeteria during Tuesday evening's meeting about the new Kidsburg.

New Kidsburg to feature tree house, play phones

By **GARY PANG**
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BLOOMSBURG — A preliminary design of the new Kidsburg features a tree house and a pirate ship linked by a shaky bridge.

Volunteers hope to start construction in June and finish everything in five days, playground designer **Dennis Wille** said.

Wille unveiled the design — based on suggestions from children — at Bloomsburg High's cafeteria last night.

Children submitted about 1,000 drawings of what they wanted, said **Deb Huckans**, co-chair of the Kidsburg 2.0 committee.



PLAYGROUND DESIGNER Dennis Wille asks who was involved in other Bloomsburg Town Park playground projects. **PHOTOS BY JIMMY MAY**

So far, \$107,000 has been raised for the effort, Huckans says. To build the new playground, the group needs \$250,000.

The 2011 Lee flood ruined the original Kidsburg, built in 1993.

Phones for kids

A maze, an obstacle course and slides are among the features planned at the new site.

Children will also be able talk to each other on "phones" placed in different sections of the playground. PVC pipes will carry sounds from one "phone" to another, Wille explained.

The new Kidsburg would have a separate area for children ages 2-5. That space would have a playhouse, baby swings, a spring pony and giant turtle figurines.

Higher, farther

Volunteers collected de-



PLAYGROUND DESIGNER Dennis Wille talks about his work.

sign drawings from young artists at Bloomsburg, Central Columbia, the Children's Museum and elsewhere.

The top 20 drawings were showcased at Tuesday's event, along with 59 other pictures.

The new Kidsburg will be built on the old tennis courts next to the basketball court off

Market Street, Huckans said. It'll be on higher ground and farther from the Susquehanna River than the original site.

For more information: www.kidsburg.org.

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