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PRESS & JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

75 CENTS

Locked doors during church?

Religious leaders struggle with safety measure, message it sends

By Laura Hayes
laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Local churches have started locking either some or all of their doors during worship services in response to safety concerns from recent mass shootings.

The Press & Journal talked to religious leaders at eight churches and asked about their security protocol. Four said they locked either some or all of the doors during worship, three said their doors remained unlocked during services and one said the congregation has discussed security measures, but not yet made a decision.

Parishes such as Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary and New Beginnings Church were among those who lock their doors.

"A lot of people in the parish are worried about it. They're wondering who's walking in the vestibule or when Mass is going on, they're looking back to see who's hanging out back there. People have expressed that concern to me personally," said Father Ted Keating, pastor at Seven Sorrows.

Others such as Geyer's United Methodist Church do not lock their doors. Pastor Stevan Atanasoff said he understood locking school doors, but did not think the answer was to lock church doors.

"What kind of society is that to inherit and pass onto our children and grandchildren?" Atanasoff said.

Keating said people also expressed concerns to the diocese. Diocese of Harrisburg director of communications Joseph Aponick said while their schools are required to have emergency management plans — including response to active shooter scenarios — their churches aren't required to have a specific active shooter plan in place.

"But they are encouraged to develop emergency management plans and to focus on church security awareness, especially after the shooting at the church in Texas last fall and the recent school shooting in Florida," Aponick said.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been

Please see **CHURCH**, page A3



Scott Fagan holds a signed copy of a lithograph created by famed artist Jasper Johns inspired by his album "South Atlantic Blues," seen below. Fagan is sitting on the second floor of the Tattered Flag Brewery and Still Works, where he will perform March 16.

STAFF PHOTO BY DAN MILLER

'An unjustly lost figure in rock history'

At age 72, Middletown's Fagan finds fame, peace

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Fifty years ago, a 22-year-old New York City kid who grew up impoverished in the Virgin Islands recorded an album for Atco Records called "South Atlantic Blues."

The album was to be Scott Fagan's ticket to stardom.

Apple Records, which was founded by the Beatles, was deciding between Fagan and James Taylor to record the first non-Beatle album for the label.

A manager in the Big Apple had told Fagan that in six months he would be bigger than Elvis Presley.

Things didn't work out that way.

Instead, despite today being hailed a "folk-rock masterpiece," the album landed in the cut-out bin, that record store graveyard where vinyl LPs go to be returned because they didn't sell.



Scott Fagan will perform at the Tattered Flag. **SEE PAGE A5.**

Meanwhile, that guy named James Taylor was chosen to record for Apple. Everyone knows where he ended up.

Scott Fagan ended up in Middletown, of all places. He became part of the local arts and music scene, devoting himself to the Middletown Area Arts Collective.

Despite its obscurity, "South Atlantic Blues" was never completely forgotten.

Jasper Johns, who The New York Times recently called the United States' "foremost living artist," stumbled onto "South Atlantic Blues" and was so inspired by the music that he created a series of lithographs devoted to the album in 1970.

Titled simply "Scott Fagan Record," the lithographs can be found today in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

But otherwise, for years and years the breaks just didn't go Scott Fagan's way.

A guy named Jerry Schoen-

Please see **FAGAN**, page A5

Police: Threat made to 'shoot everyone' at FedEx facility

Press & Journal Staff

An employee of the FedEx facility on Fulling Mill Road in Lower Swatara Township threatened to "shoot the security guards and then come in the building and shoot everyone else" after being suspended from his job Feb. 22.

Township police report Gary Drake, 59, of the 4000 block of Heathrow Court, Harrisburg, was arraigned on charges of terroristic threats to cause serious public inconvenience and risking catastrophe. Cash bail was set at \$750,000.

Police report that Drake had been suspended from his job at a FedEx facility in the 100 block of Fulling Mill Road because of aggravated assault charges filed in August 2017 over an incident unrelated to his FedEx job. FedEx Ground is located at 111 Fulling Mill Road.

According to the criminal complaint, Drake approached a co-worker in a Harrisburg-area bar on Feb. 22 and told her not to go to work at her job at FedEx that night. He said he had been



Drake

suspended and escorted to the gate, and his work identification taken.

"I will wait in the parking lot for [the shift supervisor and the head business manager], then shoot the security guards and then come in the building and shoot everyone else!" the co-worker told police that Drake told her.

He was upset, she said, that because he was suspended, he could not pay his attorney in the aggravated assault charge case.

Police asked the co-worker if she thought Drake was laughing or joking. She said "he was dead serious," according to the criminal complaint. She said that she asked him if he was kidding and to "stop playing." She again told police that he stated several times he was going to come to work and kill his shift supervisor and the head business manager.

Police secured an arrest warrant and took Drake into custody at his residence without incident. The arrest report did not note whether weapons were found at Drake's home.

Prior to the arrest, police contacted FedEx security personnel. They heightened security, and changed the rotations of when their security officers went off

Please see **THREAT**, page A6

Lower Swatara police to hire three officers

By Laura Hayes
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Lower Swatara is searching for new three police officers to join the police department.

The township was initially searching for two officers. During a meeting Feb. 7, the board unanimously accepted the resignation of Officer Scott Flowers, whose resignation was effective Jan. 19, raising the search number from two to three.

Lower Swatara Police Department Acting Police Chief Scott Young said that Flowers had served with the department since 2008 as a patrol officer.

Hiring three officers will put the number of officers in the department up to 15, and Young



Young

said he hoped to hire additional officers next year.

"When we were at the heaviest, there were 17 officers including the chief of police," Young said.

There are challenges to not being at full force, Young said, particularly if there are numerous calls or if someone is sick or on vacation. Officers work extra shifts to cover the lack of manpower, Young said.

Having a full staff, he said, would reduce the number of overtime shifts which will ultimately save Lower Swatara money.

"We're always going to have overtime, but we don't want to have it where it's a financial strain on the township," Board President Jon Wilt said.

How does the township select its police force? In December, Young told the Board of Commissioners that 44 letters were

Please see **POLICE**, page A4

Foundation might run fund for residents to improve property

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

A community foundation is stepping forward to administer a new residential loan program that is being considered by Middletown Borough Council.

The offer comes from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, an organization with about \$100 million in assets that is active in Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Perry and Lebanon counties.

The loan program was proposed in January 2017 by Councilor Di-

ana McGlone.

Under the concept McGlone laid out, loans from \$2,000 to \$10,000 would be made available through the borough to residential property owners in Middletown, both for owner-occupied and rental properties. Loans could also even-

tually be made available to small business owners.

Loans would be for things such as facade improvements, new roofs; new windows; and upgrades to electrical and heating, ventila-

Please see **FUND**, page A6

Public notices in this week's Press & Journal

- **MIDDLETOWN:** Notice of Zoning Hearing Board Hearing. **A4**
- **DAUPHIN COUNTY:** Estate of Gwendolyn Fasolt. **A4**
- **DERRY TOWNSHIP:** Estate of

Melvin Ricker. **A4**



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2655 Foxianna Road, Middletown

**5-8 pm: March 9th,
16th, 23rd & 30th**

BINGO

Held 2nd Sunday
of each month



**SUNDAY
MARCH 11**

32 TOTAL GAMES
Packages start at 2 Large Guaranteed
6 cards for \$25 Jackpots

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EAT OUT FRIDAY

**February 16, 23 &
March 2, 9, 16, 23**
5-8 pm
*For Takeout Call
944-5488 after 4 pm*
Delicious 2.4 oz. Handmade
Chocolate Eggs for \$1
Peanut Butter, Butter Cream,
Peppermint & Coconut Dipped
in Milk, Dark or White Chocolate

*21st Annual
2018*
**SEVEN
SORROWS
FISH FRY**


**All You Can Eat
BATTER DIPPED FISH**
Also Available:
Lemon-Pepper Fish,
Crab Cakes,
Jumbo Fried Shrimp,
Pierogies,
Macaroni & Cheese
and more.
Delicious Desserts!

SEVEN SORROWS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Race & Conewago Sts., Middletown (in the cafeteria)
Sponsored by: Seven Sorrows Parish
For our full menu, please visit us at: ssbvm.org

Overflow
Parking
Available at
Feaser Middle
School

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Sat., March 17th, 9-11 am
Adults & Children 11 & Up: \$6
Ages 3-10: \$3 • Children under 2: Free





Easter Egg Hunt

Sat., March 17th, 11:15 am
Age Groups: 0-4 ~ 5-8 ~ 9-12
.....
Both events will be held at:
HIGHSPIRE FIRE HALL
272 Second Street, Highspire

GEYERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
presents...

Easter Eggs


**February 13-
March 20**

1605 Geyers Church Rd., Middletown • 944-6426

**Peanut Butter Coconut Cream
Butter Cream Peppermint**

90¢ ea. or \$17 box of 20

Eggs available at the church
Tuesdays, Noon-6 pm
Saturdays 8 am-Noon





Kielbasa & Perohi Sale

Sale Runs 2/21-3/21
Wednesdays: 11:30 am-1 pm & 4-6 pm
Saturdays: 9:00 am-Noon

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church
5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg PA 17109

will be selling delicious frozen Perohi, (pierogie)
and Kielbasa on sale in the Parish Hall.

Perohi Fillings Available: Potato & Cheese, Cabbage,
Sauerkraut, Farmer Cheese, Prune & Apple.

\$6 per FROZEN dozen Perohi
per ring Kielbasa

Kielbasa sticks will also be available for \$7.
717-652-0545
www.stannbyz.org





NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD |

LAVONNE ACKERMAN

Ready for spring? Make sure to change clocks

Welcome, March. Please come with your promise of spring and your warm breezes. We don't want any more wintry mixes, ice storms or frigid temperatures. Thank you in advance!

Spring is here in less than two weeks! Do not forget to spring ahead early Sunday when we turn the clocks ahead one hour!

So we miss an hour of sleep ... this is OK because warmer breezes will be blowing our way in just a short while. Spring, glorious, spring. We can't wait for your arrival.

Call, text or email me your news to share. Have a fantastic week!

Birthdays

Happy 17th cake-and-ice cream day to **Noah Yeich** of Lower Swatara on Friday, March 9. May the sun keep shining on you all day long, Noah!

Bill Mattes of Lower Swatara has 51 reasons to smile on Friday. I hope your March 9 birthday is the best yet. Happy birthday!

Many great wishes for a fantastic birthday are sent to **Ann Turns** of Middletown on Friday, March 9. If you see her, be sure to wish her a beautiful day.

Happy 91st birthday to **Rose Michalek** of Lower Swatara on Saturday, March 10. May it be a sweet day for you and your family. Congrats Rose!

More cake at the Yeich household! Happy birthday to **Brian Yeich** of Lower Swatara as he marks his big-deal birthday on Saturday, March 10. Enjoy it!

Randy Breon of Lower Swatara gets to celebrate another frosty-filled day on Sunday, March 11. Have a wonderful good time, Randy!

Happy me-holiday to **Michelle**

Wagner of Lower Swatara on March 11. Her super-duper cake day is on Sunday, have fun!

Craig Duke of Royalton celebrates his special day on March 11, too. Enjoy a birthday fun of sunshine on Sunday, Craig!

My good bud, **Denise Giulivo**, marks her rootin' tootin' happy birthday celebration on Monday, March 12. I hope all the grands surround you with lots of love!

Happy Sweet 16 beep-beep-honk day to **Drew Rhodes** of Hummelstown on Monday, March 12. It is a good week to celebrate such a special birthday. Be safe!

Kyerah Moore of Lower Swatara will hear the birthday song on March 13. May it be a sweet song. Happy 17th, Kyerah!

Dean's Lists

Congratulations to the following students named to the fall 2017 DeSales University (Center Valley, Pennsylvania) dean's list: **Rebekah E. Good** of Elizabethtown and **Jennifer L. Abraham** of Hummelstown.

Congratulations to the following Hummelstown students at Wilkes University (Wilkes-Barre) on being listed to the fall 2017 dean's list: **Holly Bettinger**, **Thomas Bowen** and **Todd Espen-shade**.

Congratulations to the following students named to the fall 2017 Clarion University (Clarion) dean's list: **Sarah Fox** of Hershey and **Kacey Stewart** of Middletown.

Congratulations to the following students named to the fall 2017 Geneva College (Beaver Falls) dean's list: **Megan Barr** of Elizabethtown; and **Sean Acker** of Hummelstown.

The University of Wisconsin-

Madison has listed **Sophie Beckfield** of Hummelstown on their fall 2017 dean's list. Congratulations.

Glad grads

Congratulations to **Robert Wierman** of Middletown. He received a master of science degree in computer information systems from Boston University in January.

Congratulations to Hummelstown graduates from DeSales University in January: **Robert M. Dotts**, master of the arts in criminal justice in digital forensics, and **Liam A. Hulse**, bachelor of the arts in biology.

Dinner is served

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 121 N. Spring St., Middletown will hold a community dinner of baked ham loaf, potatoes and green beans from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (or until gone) March 12. Dessert and drinks are included. Everyone is welcome. There is a cost. Enter through the parking lot doors.

Anniversaries

Happy 50th golden anniversary to **Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Shaffer Jr.** of Middletown. This special couple was married on March 9, 1968. Congratulations to you and have a wonderful celebrating time on Friday!

Happy 24th anniversary to **Roy and Pam Shonk** of Londonderry. They observe their romantic holiday on Monday, March 12. Enjoy!

Recipe for Beef Stew

*From the
Wedding Book Collection*

- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1 lb. cube beef

Route 283 reconstruction underway near Middletown

The Route 283 reconstruction project in southeastern Dauphin County resumed this week with the first of two major traffic pattern changes for the six-mile portion of Route 283 between the Toll House Road interchange and the interchange with the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate 283.

This highway carries nearly 56,000 vehicles daily, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

On Sunday night, March 4, the contractor began the process to shift eastbound traffic on Route 283 to the right, on the existing road and onto the temporary shoulder widening that was built last year.

It will take about a week to complete the traffic shift, which also includes installing a concrete barrier.

Two lanes of eastbound Route 283 traffic will be maintained during the daytime hours for the duration of the project. However, from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., traffic might be restricted to a single lane.

During the week of March 11, the contractor will start the process to split westbound traffic by maintaining one lane on the westbound road and the other lane on the eastbound roadway.

The single lane of westbound traffic on the westbound road will serve local traffic with access to and from the Vine Street, Union Street and Airport Connector interchanges. It will be designated for "Local Traffic," but motorists using it will still be able to continue to I-283 and Harrisburg area destinations. Motorists headed to I-283 are encouraged to use this lane for "Local Traffic."

The other westbound lane that will be established on the eastbound road will be designated as the "Express Lane" because this westbound traffic will have no access to the ramps for the Vine Street, Union Street and Airport Connector interchanges. Concrete barriers will separate westbound motorists in the Express Lane from eastbound traffic on the

eastbound road. Motorists headed to the Pennsylvania Turnpike or Eisenhower Boulevard should use the "Express Lane."

PennDOT urges drivers to use caution when traveling through the work zone and pay attention to the signing and message boards identifying the new traffic patterns.

The speed limit on Route 283 will be reduced from 65 mph to 55 mph while the new traffic configuration is in effect — probably until mid-to-late November.

This work is part of the \$89.4 million project that began last spring to rebuild six miles of Route 283 as well as the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Union Street, and Vine Street interchanges.

Westbound Route 283 will be rebuilt this year; eastbound Route 283 will be reconstructed next year. The structure work on the project includes the superstructure replacement of three mainline bridges, deck replacements of five mainline bridges, bridge preser-

vation work on three overhead bridges, and one new prefabricated retaining wall.

Rehabilitation work on three bridges over Route 283 was completed last year — the Newberry Road, Union Street and Vine Street bridges. The project also includes updated drainage and guiderail, signing and pavement markings, new highway lighting, and 12 new rain gardens to manage storm water.

Toward the end of the project, the construction work in the interchange with the Pennsylvania Turnpike also will establish a new traffic pattern for motorists from westbound Route 283 headed to the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

The existing loop ramp from westbound Route 283 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike will be removed, and this traffic movement will be made instead by making a left turn at a newly signalized intersection.

The overall project is scheduled for completion in 2020.

TOWN TOPICS

Reminder about daylight saving time on Sunday

Daylight saving time begins on Sunday, March 11. Turn your clocks ahead one hour.

Fish fry at Londonderry Fire Company slated

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, Middletown, is sponsoring its Fish Fry from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Call 717-944-2175 for takeout.

Bingo mania at fire company is March 11

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, Middletown, will hold its Bingo Mania on Sunday, March 11.

Doors and the kitchen open at noon, and bingo is at 2 p.m.

Craft vendors wanted for Frey Strawberry Festival

Craft vendors are wanted

for Frey Village's Strawberry Festival from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 2.

For more information, contact activities director Tracy Klein at 888-995-8361 or email kleint@diakon.org.

Annual fish fry at Seven Sorrows continues

Seven Sorrows Catholic Church, Race and Conewago streets, Middletown, is sponsoring its 21st annual Fish Fry on Friday, March 9, 16 and 23 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Call 717-944-5488 after 4 p.m. for takeout. Visit ssbvm.org for a menu and specials.

AARP tax services at Middletown Home

The Middletown Home, 999 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, again will play host to AARP tax services, free to the community.

Sessions will be held every Thursday morning through April 12 by appointment only.

Call 717-944-3351 to schedule

the appointment.

Ebenezer UM Church selling chocolate eggs

Ebenezer UM Church and Childcare, 890 Ebenezer Road, Middletown, is selling its homemade chocolate Easter eggs.

To order, call 717-944-6080 or 717-583-0502.

Perohi and kielbasa sale at St. Ann Byzantine

Perohi and kielbasa will be on sale during Lent at the St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church Parish Hall, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg through March 16.

Wednesday hours are 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays are 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call 717-652-0545 or visit stannbyz.org.

Easter bunny, breakfast, egg hunt in Highspire

Come enjoy breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 17 at Highspire

Fire Hall, 272 Second St.

There is a cost.

An Easter egg hunt will also be held that day for age groups 0 to 4, 5 to 8, and 9 to 12.

Middletown Thrift Shop has two-day Reno Sale

The Middletown Thrift Shop, 17 S. Union St. is sponsoring a two-day Reno Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 10 and Saturday, March 17.

Proceeds benefit the repair and renovation of the Middletown Thrift Shop building.

Homemade Easter eggs for sale at Geyers UMC

Geyers United Methodist Church, 1605 Geyers Church Road, Middletown, will sell homemade Easter eggs through March 20.

Eggs are available at the church from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

For more information, call 717-944-6426.

CHURCH: Some lock up doors

From page A1

39 mass shootings across the United States so far this year.

Aponick referred to the recent shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in February after Nikolas Cruz allegedly opened fire, killing 17 people and injuring 14 more, and at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas, where Devin Kelley killed 26 people on a Sunday morning last November.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Pastor Richard Eckert is the president of the Middletown Area Interfaith Council—an organization comprised of about 20 local churches and Historic B'nai Jacob Synagogue.

Church security has come up during the monthly meetings in January and February, according to Eckert. He said many of the churches were gathering information, including reaching out to law enforcement officers about possible seminars.

During meetings, some religious leaders have brought up locking doors or how to protect children in nurseries. Some leaders suggested having parishioners be aware during services, while others proposed installing cameras in the churches.

"No one has them, that I'm aware of," Eckert said.

A decision hasn't been made as a whole council, Eckert said, adding that a decision may be made this spring.

However, some churches have individually taken action. At St. Peter's, the church council decided in December to have two or three people patrol the halls and entrances during worship after a man who did not regularly attend the church came in during a service with a backpack. Parishioners were friendly, but alert, Eckert said.

"A sense of alertness has been here and with us, not just since Florida, but that brought it to the center again," Eckert said.

Eckert said the gospel called the church to be open and welcome to all. "The faith as we understand it and tried to live it is that all are welcome. So that means everybody. If they mean malice or if they're here to do bad things, well, they're welcomed. And we have to find a way to protect those entrusted to our care," he said.

However, he said that talking to the Press & Journal about church security during worship and other church activities, made him consider taking other security precautions, particularly if children are playing in the parking lot.

"When I sit and talk to you about it, it's almost like we're creating a dangerous reality," Eckert said.

Response to recent shootings varied church to church. Some parishioners have expressed concerns to the religious leaders while others haven't. Some pastors saw locking doors as a realistic response. Some leaders struggled with locking the doors to potential parishioners.

"Think about the message it's sending," Atanasoff said.

Atanasoff said the congregation hasn't discussed locking the doors, and the doors remain unlocked during services. Geyer's, St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church and Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church were among those reached out to by the Press & Journal that said they did not lock their doors.

"I have had more people say they wish we didn't have to lock the doors at all," Atanasoff said.

The diocese's insururer, Catholic Mutual, recently sent Catholic churches, including Seven Sorrows, information on what to do in active shooter scenarios and what churches could do to increase security.

Suggestions included locking doors, easily identifying ushers and equipping them with loud horns and cellphones in case of emergencies, having people patrol outside the church or have a surveillance vehicle near the church entrance, making sure ushers and staff had cellphones and clearly marking exits.

Seven Sorrows decided to lock all of its doors during services. At the start of worship at Seven Sorrows, the doors will be locked and ushers will stand by the door to let in anyone who is late.

"I think we need to be cautious, but I don't think we need to go to extremes," Keating said.

Keating said while he wasn't sure how effective locking doors

was during an active shooting, he said it would delay the shooter.

"Any time you can cause a delay or inconvenience, I think that's to the benefit to everyone in the congregation," Keatingsaid.

What about visitors to the church?

"That's what worries me about doing stuff like this. That's a concern of mine. It can turn people off if the doors are locked. I personally would like to keep the doors open all the time ... I think a church needs to be a place of welcome, and a locked church—I think a lot of people aren't going to church today as it is—and a locked church doesn't help. That's a concern of mine—of new people coming in and not hearing my announcement that the church is locked," Keating said.

New Beginnings Church has locked some of its doors for several years, according to Pastor Britt Strohecker who is an Army veteran.

It recently made the decision to lock all of the doors.

He said the congregation felt vulnerable leaving one door unlocked because visibility out of the sanctuary to the unlocked door wasn't good.

"People really need to take this problem seriously," Strohecker said.

The threat is there and it exists, he said, adding that there was not a "one-size-fits-all" solution to the issue.

"You can run, you can hide or you can fight," Strohecker said.

In the case of an active shooter scenario, he said churches needed to consider all possibilities and how to respond to them, including consideration of the church's layout and making sure all of the parishioners are aware of the plan—everything it takes to make the "run" or "hide" options viable and to avoid a gunfight.

"If only three to four people know what the plan is, then you don't have an effective plan. If the worst happens, then you're going to face disaster," Strohecker said.

At New Beginnings, Strohecker said they have constant surveillance of the doors. Additionally, several people—including law enforcement officers in the congregation—have concealed carry permits.

"I do know that if worst comes to worst we have a number of people who are armed in our congregation," he said.

New Beginnings and Seven Sorrows are not the only area church that locks its doors during worship.

At the Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown, interim pastor Bruce Humphrey said the side and back doors are locked during services, leaving the only entrance through the main doors.

Evangelical United Methodist Church also locks all but its main doors during worship.

"It's a sad thing to have to talk about something like this, but it's important to be prudent and prepared," Pastor Lee Ellenberger said.

Pastor Brad Gilbert of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church said the congregation has discussed church security, but hasn't made a decision.

Other churches do not have plans to lock its doors. The Rev. David Smiley of the Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church said its session of ruling elders have discussed security and decided to keep its doors unlocked during worship.

"Martyrdom has been part of the history of the church," Smiley said.

Ushers are near the entrance of the church to greet people, and Smiley is able to see where the ushers sit.

It's not uncommon for people to come into the church after the service has started, he said. Some people have come in over halfway through.

The consensus of the elders was to err on the side of having people be able to hear the worship service.

Keating said he didn't know whether Seven Sorrows would continue to lock its doors. "I'm not anticipating that for the duration of our time here, we're going to be locking the doors," Keating said.

Churches, Strohecker said, need to come up with emergency response plans immediately.

"This is not something to delay on," he said. "You need to get away from thinking that it can't come here."

OBITUARIES



June Mann
MIDDLETOWN

June Mann, 92, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, March 1, 2017 at the Middletown Home.

She was born on July 25, 1925 in Royalton and was the daughter of the late Harry E. and Mary E. (Geesey) Hammaker.

She was a member of the Royalton Emmanuel United Methodist Church and was a former factory worker for the former Roughware Clothing, Middletown. She also was the head cook at the Royalton Senior Center for many years. June was a member of the Women of the Moose, Middletown and The Middletown VFW Ladies Auxiliary. She enjoyed fishing, yard sales, ceramics, bingo and spending time on the river, where she was known as Sergeant Major Mann. Above everything else, she enjoyed spending time with her family.

In addition to her parents, June was preceded in death by her loving husband, Russell W. Mann, two brothers, Charles D. Hammaker and Earl Hammaker Sr., step-daughter Linda "Brooke" Breslow, grandson, Stephen A. Gates, a great-granddaughter, Brianna Rose Moore, and a son-in-law, A. Dennis Mollura.

June is survived by her loving children, Donald L. Hammaker and his wife Carolyn of Middletown and Rosemary C. Mollura of Avon, OH; two sisters, Geraldine Sides of Middletown and Sarah Lighty of Middletown; five grandchildren, Michele K. Moore (Terry), Lisa M. Leggore (Paul Sr.), Donnette L. Zimmerman (Donald), Tracy C. Erickson (Keith), Andrew R. Mollura; five great-grandchildren, Matthew S. Hughes, Roger L. Moore, Olivia J. Folmar, Timmy A. Erickson, and Tyler L. Erickson; a great-great-granddaughter, Kadence L. Hughes; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family.

A tribute to June's life was held on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the Matinchek Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., Middletown, with the Rev. Dan Gilbert officiating. Viewing was from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Monday at the funeral home.

Burial was in Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, Harrisburg.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name to the Royalton Senior Center, 101 Northumberland St., Middletown, PA, 17057 or to the Middletown Home Activities Department, 999 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057.

The family would like to send a warm "Thank You" to all of June's friends and the staff at the Middletown Home for the wonderful care that was given to June Bug over the years.

Condolences may be sent online at www.matinchekfuneralhome.com.



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Dorothy Rodriguez
HUMMELSTOWN

Dorothy B. Rodriguez, 93, of Hummelstown, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, February 24, 2018.

She was born on April 20, 1924 in Harrisburg and was the daughter of the late John and Margaret (Eckert) Baker.

Dorothy attended Penbrook United Church of Christ and was their 2004 Volunteer of the Year. She also loved watching and playing golf, which led her to start the Charles C. Rodriguez annual charity golf tournament, with proceeds supporting cancer research.

In addition to her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by her loving husband Charles C. Rodriguez.

Dorothy is survived by her children, Dennis Rodriguez of Hummelstown and Sonia Lott and her husband James of Laurel, Md., and three grandchildren Jamie Lott, Samantha Hawkins and Carla Jackson.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 4 p.m. at the Penbrook United Church of Christ, 56 Banks St., Harrisburg, PA 17103.

Internment was at Ft. Indian-town Gap National Cemetery, An-nville at 2:30 p.m. Those attending the graveside service met at Ft. Indian-town Gap National Cemetery office at 2:15 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made in Dorothy's name to the American Cancer Society, 112 Sipe Ave., Hummelstown, PA 17036 or to the Penbrook United Church of Christ.

Condolences may be sent online at www.matinchekfuneralhome.com.



Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc.

**MISS A WEEK.
MISS A LOT.
PRESS&JOURNAL**

VOLUME 128 – NO. 10

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Shirley Miller
MIDDLETOWN

Shirley M. Miller, 86, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at M.S. Hershey Medical Center.

Honoring Shirley's wishes there will be no public service. Services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

The family has entrusted the care of the Matinchek Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., 260 East Main St., Middletown with the funeral arrangements.

For full obituary or to leave condolences online please visit www.matinchekfuneralhome.com.



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ESTATE NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Letters
Testamentary have been granted in
the following estate. All persons
indebted to the said estate are required
to make payments and those having
claims or demands are to present the
same without delay to the Executors
named below.
ESTATE OF GWENDOLYN A.
FASOLT, late of Dauphin County,
Pennsylvania, (died February 2, 2018).
Cynthia A. Kirkpatrick and Darlene
L. Kapp, Co-Executors and Michael
Cherewka, Attorney: 624 North Front
Street, Wormleysburg, PA 17043.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING
BOROUGH OF MIDDLETOWN
ZONING HEARING BOARD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the
Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough
of Middletown will meet to conduct a
hearing on Thursday, March 15, 2018
beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Borough Hall,
60 West Emaus Street, Middletown,
PA, regarding the following appeal:
The Board will consider the application
of Timothy A. Griesemer, 606 Vine
Street, Middletown. The property is
a single family detached dwelling
(Tax Parcel No. 42-029-001) and is
Zoned R-1.
Applicant is proposing to construct a
detached garage in the rear yard and
is requesting variances to maximum
size (1000sf allowed, 1600sf proposed)
and maximum accessory building
height (16ft allowed, 22ft proposed)
under Zoning Ordinance Section
260-1501.B&G.
All persons interested in attending the
hearing should use the rear entrance of
Borough Hall; parking is available in the
rear of the building; enter through the
Glass Door. The hearing will be held on
the Second Floor in Council Chambers
or Conference Room accessible via the
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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have been granted to the undersigned
Executor. All persons therefore in-
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make immediate payment, and those
having just claims will please
present the same, duly authenticated,
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David L. Horst – Executor
c/o Keith D. Wagner - Attorney
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Perhach and another individual
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Feb. 13 from a bin on the property
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block of South Wilson Avenue in
Elizabethtown, according to
arrest papers.

Perhach on Feb. 27 was charged
with receiving stolen property. A
preliminary hearing before Judge
is set for April 2.

OD avoided; man asks woman to call 911
A possible drug overdose was
avoided when a man walked up
to a woman in the 200 block of
Ann Street just before 1 p.m. Feb.
24 and told her he had just taken
30 pills in a suicide attempt.

The man asked the woman to call
Middletown police, which she did,
police said. The man said he had
taken 10 pills each of three different
kinds of pills that had all been
legally prescribed to him.

The 33-year-old man, who was
not identified, said that he had
been battling depression, police
said.

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Police: Man wanted to shoot neighbor

A Middletown man who allegedly told his dental hygienist that he was planning to shoot his neighbor has been arrested by Lower Swatara Township police.

David J. Klingeman, 55, of the 200 block of Keystone Drive, was arraigned before District Judge Kenneth A. Lenker on March 2 and charged with terrorist threats and disorderly conduct.

His bail was set at \$200,000. However, Klingeman was not listed as being in Dauphin County Prison as of Tuesday. His preliminary hearing before District Judge Michael Smith is scheduled for



Klingeman

March 22.

According to arrest papers police filed with Smith, Klingeman told the dental hygienist of his plans to shoot his neighbor while Klingeman was being treated by the hygienist.

The treatment took place on Feb. 23 at a dentist's office in the 700 block of Spring Garden Drive in the township, according to police.

Klingeman during the treat-

ment allegedly told the hygienist that he had not worked for three months and had been caring for his ailing father, who had recently passed away.

According to police Klingeman told the hygienist that as part of his inheritance he would be receiving 12 guns and that he "will shoot his neighbor ... and spend the rest of his life in jail."

— Dan Miller

POLICE AND COURTS ROUNDUP

Man threatened to kill all Middletown police

A Middletown man is in Dauphin County Prison on \$250,000 bail after he allegedly made a 911 call to county dispatch on Feb. 26 saying he "wanted to shoot all the police in Middletown," according to arrest papers police filed with District Judge David Judy.

The caller, 44-year-old Matthew Chandler of the 200 block of East Main Street, also reportedly said during the call that police should "put him in jail," according to arrest papers.

After tracking the call to Chandler's cellphone police surrounded his residence in a tactical manner with rifles deployed. However, Chandler turned himself in without incident.

He was arraigned before Night Court Judge Steven M. Semic and charged with making a false alarm and false reports, and terroristic threats. His preliminary hearing before Judy is set for March 19.

The man was taken to a local hospital by emergency medical personnel.

Pineford resident accidentally shoots self

A resident of the Beechwood Building in Pineford in Middletown was taken to the hospital after he accidentally shot himself in his apartment while cleaning his Glock 43 9 mm handgun on Feb. 22.

The man had removed the magazine from the weapon but did not realize a round was in the chamber, police said. The round went into his left hand and exited at the base of his left palm through the wrist, police said.

The incident was reported to borough police at about 3:15 p.m. Feb. 22 by emergency room personnel at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, where the man had been taken for treatment.

There are no plans to file any charges, borough police said.

Man jailed for fight at tavern

A Middletown man is in Dauphin County Prison on \$25,000 bail after police say he assaulted a man during a fight in the Black Horse Tavern at 101 E. Main St. on Friday, March 2 between 2:23 and 3:25 a.m.

Shawn Michael Beaver, 27, of the first block of Juanita Street, was seen hitting the victim in the head with an unknown object, according to arrest papers police filed with District Judge David Judy.

Police said the attack caused serious injury to the victim's eye and face and that the man was taken to the hospital.

Beaver was arraigned before Judy on March 2 and charged with aggravated assault and disorderly conduct. His preliminary hearing is March 19.

Man faces DUI and drug charges

State Police have filed drug charges against an Elizabethtown man after his car overturned in a single vehicle accident at mile marker 6.4 eastbound on Route 283 in Londonderry Township on Feb. 18.

Kenneth Neil Peiffer, 48, of the 600 block of West Ridge Road, had fled the scene and was found by police sitting in a nearby unlocked van.

Police confiscated from Peiffer's person baggies that field-tested positive for crack cocaine, along with \$1,662 in cash, according to arrest papers police filed with District Judge David Judy. Police put in a lab request to confirm the confiscated materials as crack cocaine and methamphetamine.

Police on Feb. 18 filed charges against Peiffer of manufacture, delivery or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver; possession of a controlled substance; use/possession of drug paraphernalia; DUI controlled substance combined with alcohol; disregarding a traffic lane; speeding; careless driving; and failure to notify police of an accident resulting in damage to a vehicle.

A preliminary hearing is not yet set.

Middletown man charged with DUI

Borough police charged a Middletown man with DUI after he was seen driving in the wrong lane to make a left turn at Vine and East Main streets on Feb. 25.

Travis Matthew Imboden, 22, of the

100 block of North Wood Street, refused to consent to a blood-alcohol test, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

Imboden was charged with making an improper left turn, DUI, and having tinted rear windows. A preliminary hearing is set for April 2.

Man jailed after threatening father

A Lower Swatara Township man is in Dauphin County Prison on \$100,000 bail after he allegedly pointed a gun at his father and threatened to kill him during an argument over a cellphone.

The incident occurred on Feb. 25 at the victim's residence in the 6300 block of Schoolhouse Road in Conewago Township, according to arrest papers State Police filed with District Judge David Judy.

According to arrest papers, James Allen Carbaugh, 30, of the 1500 block of Woodridge Drive, was pointing the gun at the victim with one hand and hitting him with the other. The victim escaped into the woods and called 911.

Carbaugh was arraigned before Judy on Feb. 26 and charged with criminal attempt-aggravated assault, terroristic threats, simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, and harassment. He is to be arraigned in Dauphin County Court on June 1, after being bound over on all charges during a March 5 preliminary hearing before Judy.

Woman charged with DUI following crash

A Middletown woman was charged with DUI after she crashed her vehicle at the intersection of Waltonville and Roundtop roads in Londonderry Township on Feb. 6.

Rebecca Rose Ernst, 29, of the 2000 block of Market Street Extended, drove straight through the intersection onto the grass and into multiple objects, State Police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

Ernst was located about a quarter-mile away from the crash. She told police she did not have any identification on her.

Police said that Ernst refused their requests to be field-tested regarding suspected intoxication. She also would not submit to a blood draw, police said.

Ernst's driver's license later was discovered in her bra by a female employee at the Dauphin County Booking Center, police said.

Ernst on Feb. 22 was charged with DUI, public drunkenness, running a stop sign, careless driving, and causing an accident resulting damage to an unattended vehicle or property.

Her preliminary hearing is set for April 9.

Suspected hit-and-run damages vehicle

The passenger side door and quarter panel of a 2017 white Ford Mustang was damaged as a result of a suspected hit-and-run reported to Middletown police on Feb. 26 by someone living in the 600 block of Spring Street.

The owner was not sure where the vehicle was parked when the damage occurred, police said.

POLICE: Lower Swatara public safety director post still open

From page A1

sent out to people who met the requirements of Act 120, which requires that any person employed as a municipal police offer to have completed a police work course. Young said that they received 11 applications back.

According to Lower Swatara Interim Manager Frank Lynch, the Civil Service Commission reviews resumes and issues disqualification letters if the candidate is not a fit. During this search process, one of the commission members, Edward Mentzer, passed away in January 2017.

An alternate was brought in to make up a quorum of the commission, and in January 2018, the board unanimously appointed a new member to fill Mentzer's position and an additional alternate.

Interviews for the six candidates were scheduled over two weeks. Then, Young said, the detectives will conduct background checks, rank the candidates and send the contenders to be interviewed by the Board of Commissioners.

On Feb. 21, Young told the board that

one interview was complete and other interviews were set up.

The process was expected to take three to four weeks in total.

The township is also still searching for a public safety director.

The position has been vacant since former manager Frank Williamson resigned in July 2017 after serving as manager for three months.

Public safety director is in charge of the administrative and operational duties for the police department, coordinates Lower Swatara's emergency preparedness and acts as a liaison to the volunteer fire department and EMS.

Williamson was Lower Swatara's assistant township manager and public safety director since August 2016. After becoming manager, Williamson continued to act as public safety director until a new administrator was hired.

Wilt said that the board was still actively searching and doing its due diligence, adding that there were several things in flux at the moment.

"No one wants to make a rash decision,"

he said in February.

Board approves protective equipment

The board unanimously approved nine protective vests for police officers.

The vests will be outfitted with a radio holder, a pouch to hold two rifle magazines and a tourniquet pouch. The vests, accessories and reimbursement for two already-purchased vests would cost approximately \$4,400.

According to Young, everyday police gear weighs approximately 27 pounds and has a five-year warranty.

"There aren't too many of us who don't have lower back problems," he said.

The new vests contain ceramic plates, which Young said would be able to stop a rifle round—something the current vests are unable to do. Young recently saw a demonstration of the vests' durability. The plates were able to withstand five armor-piercing rounds and up to 22 rounds from an assault rifle.

The vests would be placed in 10 squad cars and one at Middletown Area High School for the school resource officer.

Fagan to perform at Tattered Flag on March 16

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Scott Fagan and his band will perform the entire “South Atlantic Blues” album during a show at Tattered Flag Brewery & Still Works at 1 S. Union St. in Middletown on Friday, March 16.

The performance is to start at 8 p.m. in the brew pub on the second floor of Tattered Flag. There is no cover charge.

After playing the album, Fagan and the band will play a number of other songs that Fagan has recorded over his 53-year career as a songwriter and performer.

Fagan performed this show during a concert tour of Europe in 2016 that followed the November 2015 re-issue of “South Atlantic Blues.”

Described by the website Dangerous Minds as “an eccentric, genre jumping pop/psych/folk masterpiece,” “South Atlantic

Blues” was recorded by Fagan on Atco Records, a division of Atlantic Records, in 1968.

The 10 songs on the album, all by Fagan, tell the story of his upbringing and life in the Virgin Islands, where Fagan and his family moved after he was born in New York City.

Fagan will play rhythm guitar during the concert at Tattered Flag. He will be accompanied by area musicians Tim Greismer

on drums, Kim Naddeo on bass, Rafael Martinez on conga drums, and Duane McKenney on guitar.

This will be Fagan’s first performance in the Elks Building since the now 107-year-old structure has been converted by Tattered Flag into the brewery and still works.

Fagan, a Middletown resident since 2004, used to perform in the former Elks Building on a regular basis as part of the Middletown Area Arts Collective, a group of

Middletown-area artists and musicians that for a number of years was based in the Elks Building.

He remembers the building being “in real disrepair. When it rained it was a flood every time. There was artwork on the walls, sculpture, electronic machines, a sound system,” Fagan told the Press & Journal in a March 1 interview upstairs in what is now Tattered Flag.

He told the Press & Journal that

he is pleased at how the building has been restored into a new use. The upstairs is still similar enough that Fagan recalls where the band used to set up for the gigs in the former Elks Building.

They will set up in the same spot March 16, in front of the new windows with the view of South Union Street down below.

“South Atlantic Blues” is available for purchase by going to scottfagan.com or amazon.com.

“I’ve been all over the place and the people here are as good as anywhere. I’m certainly not naive, but good people are a wonder in the world, and when you find them, you better hold onto them. I go back and forth to the Virgin Islands, which is my home, but I’m a Middletowner by choice.”

Scott Fagan

FAGAN: Musician says he has no plans to leave Middletown behind

From page A1

baum was in Fagan’s corner, and wanted to record Fagan at Atco. But Schoenbaum had a falling-out with Atco, leaving Fagan high and dry as far as Atco was concerned.

Some of the bad breaks were likely self-inflicted. When you’re trying to break into the music business, you don’t go out of your way to call attention to everything that is bad about the music business.

But that’s what Fagan did. In 1971, a rock opera he co-wrote with Joseph Kookolis called “Soon” — which vilified the ills of the music industry — debuted on the Broadway. It closed after three performances.

Among the cast members were Barry Bostwick (who in 1972 would originate the stage role of Danny Zuko in “Grease”) and then go on to star in the movie “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” in 1975), Nell Carter (later the star of TV’s “Gimme a Break!” and a Tony winner in 1978 for “Ain’t Misbehavin’”), and a then-unknown actor named Richard Gere.

“I was naive in those days,” Fagan, now 72, told the Press & Journal during a March 1 interview at Tattered Flag Brewery & Still Works in Middletown. “We thought if we brought it out in the open, things would change.”

Instead, after “Soon,” Fagan never got another recording or publishing deal. Back then artists didn’t have YouTube or the Internet to promote themselves to the world. You needed a publicist, but Fagan was kryptonite.

That’s basically how things went for Fagan for the next 44 years.

Fagan ended up in Middletown following his older sister, Gale Blake, who sometime around 1965 had played a gig at a club called the Beachcomber on Walnut Street just outside Harrisburg.

Blake was part of a traveling hula dancer troupe, with the stage name “Leilani.”

“She met some folks and looked around and found Middletown. It was so different from the kind of high drama we had lived in all our lives, that she said, ‘I want to settle here,’” Fagan said. “She stayed here. I would come from New York or from wherever, to visit her. Through the years I developed an affection for the quiet, the relative peacefulness.”

For more than 20 years, Blake was president of the Middletown Friends of the Library. As her health declined, Fagan began spending more time in Middletown to be with her.

By 2004 he was living in Middletown, although dividing his time between here and the Virgin Islands as he still does today.

When Blake died in April 2008 at age 64, her house was packed with books. Her estate donated them to the Middletown Public Library, and the library raised \$7,000 from selling the collection, Fagan said.

By then, Fagan had immersed himself in the Middletown musical scene and formed a band, the MAAC Island Band. He became part of a tight-knit community of “rock-solid supporters of the arts in Middletown,” as Fagan puts it today.

Meanwhile in 2005, unbeknownst to Fagan at the time, there was another of those improbable discoveries of “South Atlantic Blues.”

Years later Fagan learned that the album had become the subject of lively discussion on an Internet forum out of Jakarta, Indonesia, led by “Jakartajive.”

“These comments would pop up — ‘That’s a work of genius’ and ‘Man, that’s a masterpiece.’ It was always wonderful to see, but I can’t send me children to school based



PHOTO BY RICHIE MATTHEWS

Scott Fagan plays guitar in this photo taken in Dauphin County in 1969.

on that,” Fagan said, affecting the Virgin Islands lingo that occasionally crops up in his speech.

“Jakartajive” was Hugh Delar, who after finding the album in a cut-out bin had written a five-page article about “South Atlantic Blues” in a magazine called Shindig.

Not long after, Fagan was contacted by Chris Campion, who wanted to re-issue “South Atlantic Blues” on Campion’s own label, Saint Cecelia Knows Records.

In November 2015, “South Atlantic Blues” was re-issued by Saint Cecelia Knows and by Fagan’s own Middletown-based label, Lil’ Fish Records.

Campion praised the album as “a genuine lost classic” ... a mystical, mythical, deeply soulful folk-rock masterpiece.”

Campion also hired a big-time New York City publicist, Shorefire.com, to promote the re-issue.

All of a sudden, Scott Fagan — who was barely known in Middletown — became the subject of articles in The New York Times (Nov. 25, 2015), London’s The Guardian (Nov. 19, 2015), and more.

“All these things were receptive because the information was coming from a reputable publicist, rather than from a disgruntled artist in Middletown, Pennsylvania, wherever that is,” Fagan told the Press & Journal. “And that is what made the difference. A good publicist. I’m 53 years in the music business and doing all I can to write all the best stuff I can write and committed to singing me heart out and blah, blah blah. None of that has changed in 53 years. What’s changed is the publicist. That’s what made the difference. I’m telling you the truth.”

The accolades kept coming. In anticipation of the re-issue, WX-PN-FM in Philadelphia made “In My Head” from “South Atlantic Blues” the radio station’s “Gotta Hear Song of the Week.”

Quoting an account posted by the website Dangerous Minds, the station hailed Fagan as “one of those amazing, unjustly lost figures in rock history — a man who made brilliant work that unaccountably disappeared, though it had every chance at widespread attention.”

Dangerous Minds praised “South Atlantic Blues” as “an eccentric, genre jumping pop/psych/folk masterpiece that, much like

Skip Spence’s now-revered Oar, sank like a cinderblock.”

Fagan’s distinctive vocals on the record inspired comparisons to Scott Walker, Donovan and David Bowie.

Fagan over his long career crossed paths and even performed with some of the biggest names in rock ‘n’ roll — even if at the time they weren’t yet big.

In 1966 he was part of a house band at the Cafe au Go Go in Greenwich Village that also included Richie Havens, David Clayton Thomas — later to become lead singer of Blood, Sweat and Tears — and a guy named Jimmy James who was fronting his own band, the Blue Flames. James would go on to achieve global superstardom as Jimi Hendrix.

Fagan said he never met James Taylor, but he doesn’t hold a grudge against Taylor for him getting the Apple deal and not Fagan.

“In their defense, James was spending time in England working hard to be the artist chosen,” Fagan said.

Noting that many American musical artists first became famous in England, Fagan even today wonders how things might have been for him had he left the Virgin Islands for Europe in the 1960s, instead of returning to his native New York City.

Now almost three years on, it looks like the rediscovery of Fagan and “South Atlantic Blues” is here to stay.

Fagan did a concert tour of Europe in 2016, doing most of the dates in the United Kingdom, where he performed the entire “South Atlantic Blues” album and other songs.

“Really that is where I have been rediscovered and that’s where the largest fan base is,” Fagan said of the European gigs. “Everyone of these places treat me like the prodigal son. It’s a beautiful thing.”

One show from Cafe OTO in London is becoming a new album for Fagan to be released as “Live in London.” Fagan recently finished mixing the album at Melody Place, a recording studio on Jonestown Road in Harrisburg.

A second new album will include the first recordings ever made of songs from the rock opera “Soon.” Fagan will promote that album with another tour of the UK and Europe kicking off this fall.

Another new album is to be

recorded here or in Austin, Texas. Fagan said he hopes to record the album here with the musicians he has been working with at Melody Place. Fagan is also to be the subject of a biographical film.

After 50 years, Fagan today is grateful that the breaks are finally going his way.

“My success is better late than never,” he said, although “I wish I was younger and had more energy.”

He admitted to being bitter in the early years, especially after what happened with “Soon.” His partner in writing the opera never wrote another song and “died young,” Fagan said.

But experience taught Fagan that bitterness gets you nowhere.

“When one is bitter and is angry, it just poisons everything in one’s life,” he said. “I’ve not been bitter and resentful for the past 39 years. Before that I had some struggle with it. Thirty-nine years I’ve been living in gratitude with a fairly good attitude, and raring to go. So when these wonderful developments occurred I wasn’t astounded because I think if you put out good vibes, you sort of live in that.”

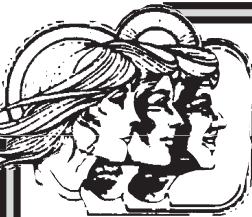
The money hasn’t come yet, “but the possibility is getting closer all the time. I can tell you that I am not in it for the money, thank God.”

Fagan said people needn’t worry that with all this sudden fame and fortune, he will pack up and leave Middletown behind.

“I’ve been all over the place and the people here are as good as anywhere,” he said. “I’m certainly not naive, but good people are a wonder in the world, and when you find them, you better hold onto them. I go back and forth to the Virgin Islands, which is my home, but I’m a Middletowner by choice.”

Nevertheless, when you have a life story like Fagan’s, you learn to never completely shut the door on anything. As Fagan puts it, “I no longer think I thoroughly understand how things work.”

“If I fell in with some wonderful wench and she swept me off to live in Switzerland or something, I’d send you a bunch of post cards from Switzerland,” he said of what the future holds. “The likelihood of me moving to Switzerland is zip, zero. So I don’t think anyone needs to worry about Scott abandoning” Middletown.



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**PRESS & JOURNAL**





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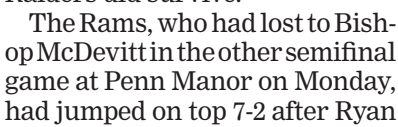






## Middletown gets win in third-place game, will play Friday

On Feb. 28, starting off the game's second period with a slim 16-13 edge over the Rams, the Raiders took control after Kennard-Dale had pulled to within two points, 20-18, with 5:52 left in the first half. Using its amped-up defensive game plan to full advantage from that point, the Middletown team ran off 15 straight points to



But Kennard-Dale did not get as far as they did without being a good, competitive team and it showed in the second half. Scoring the first 4 points of the second half, and with Freese, Thomas

Kennard-Dale also made the state tournament. They will play Imhotep Charter (26-2) at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Abraham Lincoln High School in Philadelphia.



Regional tournament action at Wilson High School in Reading began at 106 pounds. Sophomore Luke Fegley got things rolling for the Blue Raiders with a first-period pin over Saadiq Williams of Belmont Charter. Fegley followed that up with a 9-1 major decision over Annville-Cleona's Matthew Inman. That win earned him a semifinal matchup with Trinity standout Patrick DeMark, who would secure the win over Fegley before going on to win the regional championship.

Berstler soundly defeated Catasauqua senior Tyler Melendez by major decision 11-0 and earned another hard-fought 3-1 win over local Susquehanna Township

Malay earned a 5-2 decision over Andrew Park of Faith Christian Academy, before being knocked out of the regional competition. Malay captured 22 wins in his sophomore season.

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## SHANK: Farm holds many firsts

From page B1

Mansfield State. I was hunting on the weekend at my parent's cabin in Lycoming County. The shot was taken and the deer bolted from eyesight. As I walked toward my shot, not more than 50 yards away was a brown carcass of a deer. My arrow hit the deer's heart and it ran a short distance before expiring.

In my eyes, I had just accomplished the unbelievable. I took a deer with my bow all by myself. I hugged that deer and patted it. I screamed with excitement. To me, it was the biggest deer in the woods. It was a doe and it didn't matter.

My first turkey came from a Potter County mountaintop near Kettle Creek. I was walking an edge of mountain, periodically looking down the side for feeding turkeys. Suddenly, I caught dark objects walking and feeding. It was a flock of wild turkeys heading along the side of the mountain.

I took a strategic move and hustled along the mountaintop in a sprint. When I thought I was in front of them, I dropped down to the bench where they appeared to be heading. I slid and fell, but managed to get set up without causing too much of a commotion. I waited and waited for the intercept as my first fall turkey headed toward me. It wasn't just one, but an entire flock was walking directly to me.

I didn't wait and as the first turkey showed herself to me. I shot. Turkeys flew everywhere. They landed in the trees and ran past me.

One, however, remained motionless on the ground. My shot was clean and my first wild turkey was mine. I carried that turkey for miles on my shoulder as I walked along Route 44 to my truck.

I smiled at every vehicle that passed me. I was one happy and proud hunter on my first turkey.

Well, those two stories were of the big-game type. Not to be forgotten is my first pheasant. Pheasants back in the 1960s

were a premium small-game trophy. I took my first off of the Park Huffman Farm near Route 441. My father and Mr. Huffman worked together at Bethlehem Steel and I was able to hunt his farm quite readily.

That farm holds many firsts for me. The pheasant was hiding in a cut-corn field. As I walked along the mowed corn stalks, it flushed cackling as it took flight. It was the first pheasant I saw that was a male and I was able to shoot. My Remington 870 pump did its job that morning. My first pheasant fell to the ground. I hurried over to it, picking it up, admiring its beautiful feathers. I accomplished a wing shot and actually hit a flying target.

I put it into my coat making sure the long tail feathers stuck out the side pocket. Everyone was going to see my prize. My dad was so proud of me that day. It was my first winged trophy.

Mr. Huffman's farm holds so many firsts with me that I will never forget any one of them. My first squirrel was shot with a 20 gauge shotgun from one of his woodlots, as well as many muskrats that were trapped from his pond.

Adventures in the woods and waters contain "firsts" for many of you. With that first comes many more in sequence, and the numbers can and will add up.

Each outdoor hunting accomplishment possess its own special qualities, but none rank higher than your very first one. Keep them contained and cherished in your outdoor memory and never forget them.

*Tom Shank has been writing Woods and Waters for the Press & Journal for about 10 years. His expertise has been gained through more than 50 years hunting, fishing, trapping and exploring the full gamut of nature. The Susquehanna River and his cabin in Lycoming County are his true loves. Woods and Waters is his playground in life, and to write about it for the Press & Journal is a dream come true.*

## LOWER SWATARA POLICE ROUNDUP

# Antique necklace stolen; hotel disturbance

Police report an array of items including an antique gold necklace valued at \$1,100 was stolen during a burglary of a home in the 2000 block of Brentwood Drive sometime between Feb. 18 and Feb. 20.

In addition to the necklace, \$50 in coins and cash as well as a Techno Pavé watch and a second necklace were stolen. Investigators said all of the items were in a small safe that was taken from one of the bedrooms in the home. Total loss was estimated at \$1,250.

Investigators believe one of the sons of the homeowners might have been in the home at the time of the burglary. Reportedly he told police he heard a loud noise in the home and went into a bedroom to hide. Police were called about the incident Feb. 20.

Police were unable to find any signs of forced entry.

### Charged after disturbance

Johanna Markham, 45, of the 1000 block of Lumber St., Middletown, has been charged with

simple assault, strangulation and harassment, police report.

Police said Markham and another female argued at their home at 8:25 p.m. Feb. 19. The disagreement involved use of a car and escalated to where Markham allegedly strangled the victim.

Police said both suffered minor injuries but declined medical treatment.

Markham was scheduled for a preliminary hearing May 30 before District Judge Michael Smith.

### 2 cited for public drunkenness

Citations for public drunkenness were issued to Brandon Banks, 29, of Lusby, Maryland, and Patrick Shannon II, 29, of Coatseville, police report.

According to police, the two created a disturbance at the Holiday Inn in the 800 block of South Eisenhower Boulevard at 3:23 a.m. Feb. 18. The case report noted that they refused to leave the lobby of the inn after being told a room would not be rented to them. Police said they were

inebriated and made allegations of racism to the business's employees.

Banks and Shannon were taken to the Dauphin County Judicial Center, where they were cited and held in custody for several hours before being released, police noted.

### DUI charge after crash

Thomas J. Otzel Jr., 35, of the 1000 block of Chambers Street, Steelton, has been charged with DUI-controlled substance schedule 1, court records note. The case stems from a one-vehicle crash involving Otzel at 10:52 p.m. Nov. 15 in the area of North Union Street and Longview Drive.

According the arrest report, Otzel was driving a 1983 Buick Park Avenue and struck and damaged a utility pole. Otzel was treated at the scene by emergency medical services and transported by Life Lion to an area hospital for treatment. Police did not specify the severity of injuries. The car sustained significant damage to its front

end and was towed.

Details about what led to the charges being filed against Otzel were not reported. A preliminary hearing has been set for March 29 before District Judge Michael Smith.

### Drug allegations against teenager

Police report juvenile allegations of possession of a small amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia have been filed against a 15-year-old Middletown resident.

The case stemmed from an incident at the Middletown Area High School at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 22.

According to police, the teen's book bag was given to school personnel because a person who had the book bag said it smelled like burnt marijuana.

Reportedly a broken glass pipe, several burnt marijuana cigarettes and marijuana residue on another pipe were found in the book bag.

Police said the student's mother was contacted and she took her child home.

## Solid victory for the Blue Raiders



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY EARL HAMMAKER

Above left: Ryan Hughes, Middletown's leading scorer on the season at more than 21 points a game, goes up for a shot Wednesday, Feb. 28, in the Blue Raiders' victory vs. Kennard-Dale. Above right and at right, Chris Plummer and Brady Fox also go strong to the hoop in the game vs. the Rams. Middletown will begin its state tournament play vs. Montoursville at 8 p.m. Friday at Shikellamy High School in Sunbury. See more on the Blue Raiders on page B1.



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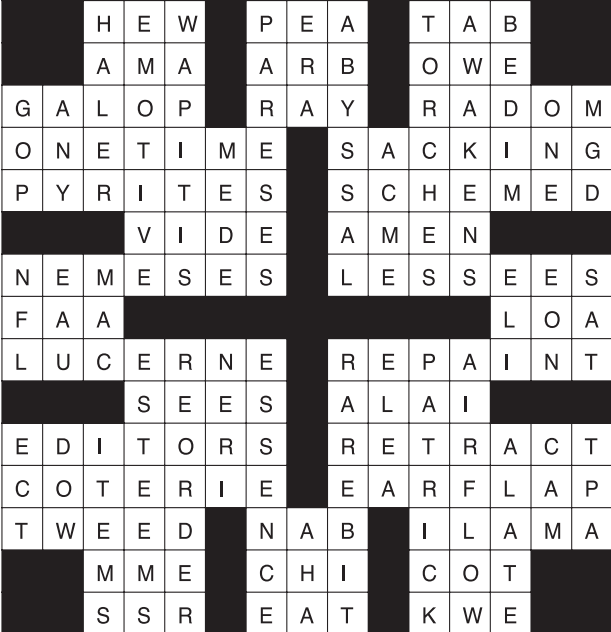
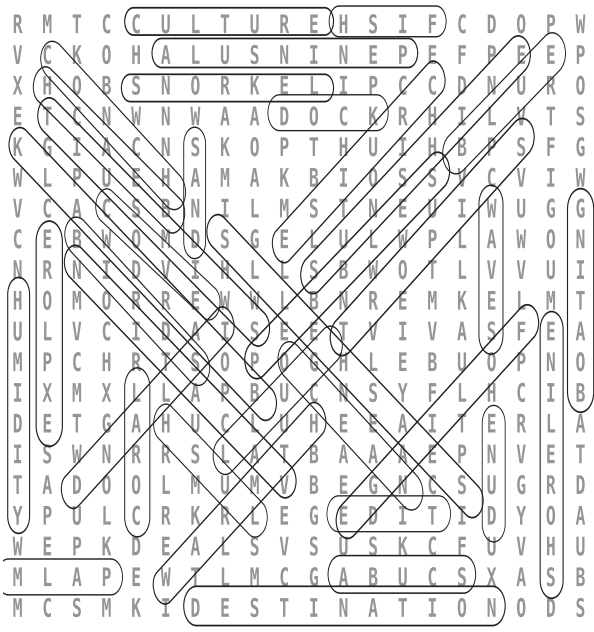
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### EDITORIALVIEW

# Minus a few questions, new rec board is promising

Area residents who want to take advantage of community recreational programs will have a new acronym to remember — MARA. Barring an unforeseen rejection of the plan Tuesday night by the Middletown Borough Council (after the deadline for this edition), the Middletown Area Recreation Alliance will replace the longstanding Olmsted Regional Recreation Board.

On the whole, we see this as a positive. Advocates of the change say it will bring more options to people who want to take advantage of programs, and eliminate the need for the duplication of services.

Running the alliance will be representatives of the Middletown Area School District, Lower Swatara Township, and the boroughs of Middletown and Royalton.

MASD school board President

Linda Mehaffie said programming such as ballroom dancing, yoga, zumba, pickleball, soccer, volleyball, sewing and tennis — activities not currently offered — could be implemented with MARA, along with bus trips to places such as New York City — something Mehaffie said the Olmsted board used to offer, but has not in recent years.

There might even be a focus on walking trails, open spaces, river walks, dog parks, sand volleyball, Wi-Fi at parks, athletic fields and synthetic turf fields, and after-school care or computer courses at the school district or youth sports summer camps.

The alliance is modeled on the regional recreational structure in the Mechanicsburg Area School District.

Our concerns are few, but not inconsequential.

1. What will the costs of the programming be for residents? It's hard to say at this point. Will the price point be too high for residents if officials want the program ultimately to be self-sustaining?
2. The alliance likely will have a policy that programs will need to be self-sustaining or they will be eliminated. How severe will that be? Will it cause ill-will if a program is popular but not financially solvent and it gets removed? Making money is a good business model, but does it fit a community rec program?
3. At the end of five years, the school board and the three municipalities can decide whether to extend the agreement if it is working. So what if it's not? Where does that leave programming?
4. Maybe the biggest concern involves the swimming pool in Middletown. The study on which

MARA is based recommends the borough take sole responsibility for the pool, a source of enjoyment for many during the warm summer months. Borough Manager Ken Klinepeter told council during a meeting in 2017 that the school district, Lower Swatara and Royalton did not want to be involved in running the swimming pool under the new alliance due to concerns over liability. The pool ran a deficit of from \$4,000 to \$5,000 in 2017, Klinepeter told council. We would hate to see it cease to operate.

5. We were happy to hear that Lower Swatara Commissioner Todd Truntz raised the issue of concerns he had received — mostly from the Lower Swatara Township Athletic Association — that MARA would step on its toes, but he was “assured that that’s not the case ... LSTAA would have preference to use town-

ship fields and the township would continue to maintain the fields as they have,” Truntz said. It is key to have strong relationships with youth organizations in our communities.

All these concerns can be addressed, and we are supportive of the change. But we all realize that change can be difficult and, even in the best-case scenario, uncomfortable for those involved.

We agree with Frank Lynch, interim township manager at Lower Swatara: “In an age of diminishing resources, you really need to cooperate to get the best bang for your buck.”

This is a great opportunity for the school district, Lower Swatara, Middletown and Royalton to come together and create something great for all the residents. We look forward to seeing where it leads.

# Common sense: Allow certain school employees to be armed



DICK BRANDT

I am writing in response to the recent event in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people, including children, were murdered in a high school.

I have advocated privately on the matter of school shootings since the one at Columbine High School many years ago. My position on this matter has not changed since that time and my conviction on this matter has only grown after 34 years in law enforcement.

My advice on this matter will be focused on school shootings, but obviously it could be modified and used in any institution that may be vulnerable to this type of attack. When there is an attack on a school and our children are needlessly murdered in their school, there is always an immediate need to search for an answer to stop these horrific attacks. You can see that process evolving right now in the Parkland shootings.

The standard knee-jerk reaction is that we need to pass new laws to stop these atrocities. The main thrust right now seems to be that we need to pass laws banning certain guns and make changes in our mental health laws to keep guns that are not banned out of the hands of the mentally ill.

Well, I hate to burst the bubble of everyone advocating these new laws, but it will not work and I will tell you why. Let me first state that I made my living enforcing our laws for over three decades. I and every other law enforcement officer in this country realizes we need laws. Our country would fall into chaos and anarchy without laws.

Our country was founded as a republic and therefore is based on the rule of law through our Constitution. But laws are not the answer to everything.

The reason new laws will not work to stop people who are intent on killing our children is very simple — criminals, by their very nature, do not obey laws. Period. You cannot pass any law that will stop a criminal, a mentally deranged person, a terrorist or a just plain evil person from doing what they intend to do. Once again, I am not saying laws are not necessary, but they will not stop people who are intent on doing something.

We have protection-from-abuse laws which are supposed to protect people from abusive spouses. Once again, a good law, but that piece of paper has not protected many people from being further abused or even killed by their spouses. We have laws against selling or even possessing heroin. You can see how those laws are working in the current heroin epidemic.

So, if new laws will not work, what will? The answer to that question to me has always been simple and clear: Allow certain school employees to be armed. Those school employees could be anyone who works for the school district — teachers, administrators, maintenance workers or other staff. The only way to stop an armed individual from killing school children is an armed response. In order to minimize any damage being done by an armed attacker, the armed response needs to be very timely. Only people who are armed and inside a building that is under attack will be able to mount a timely intervention and save lives.

By the accounts I have seen so far, the Parkland shooter was only actively shooting for six minutes. The average police



response time in our area is at least that long or longer at times, and we have excellent response times compared to other areas. There is always a lag time in police response. When someone becomes aware of a criminal incident, they dial 911. The 911 operator needs to get the basic information from the caller like what is happening and where it is taking place.

Naturally people are very excited when someone is shooting in the background and sometimes just getting that information can take many seconds or even minutes. The 911 operator then forwards that information to the police dispatcher who will send it digitally to the officer's in car computer and in shooting situations they will also call them on the radio to relay the information. Once the officer receives the information they will head to the location as fast as possible; but, if they are physically miles away from the incident it will take them several minutes to arrive. Then they will enter the building and find the shooter and neutralize them.

As you can see, all this takes time, and it is what I call lag time. It is present anytime you call 911 for a police officer for anything. In most calls, it does

not matter, but when someone is killing people it matters a lot. That is why I say that only someone at the location of the shooting when the shooting starts can stop the shooter in a timely manner and keeps the bloodshed to a minimum.

We do have a school resource officer, and that is an excellent program and a step in the right direction in protecting our children. But the SRO is based in the high school and also is responsible for the middle school and two elementary schools in his jurisdiction. Obviously, he is only one person and cannot be everywhere at once. Having armed persons in every school is the only viable way to protect our children all the time.

I know many people are opposed to this idea, but most of them base their opinions on this matter on their fear of firearms and not common sense. On that note, I am not suggesting we just hand out firearms to school employees and say good luck. A program can certainly be developed that can deploy armed school employees safely and effectively.

First this would need to be an entirely volunteer effort on the part of school employees. They might be risking their lives by doing this and should recognize that fact up front and be able to deal with that fact and the fact that they may have to take another human being's life to save our children.

I am confident that there will be no shortage of volunteers. Some of our teachers are veter-

ans, and some have combat experience. I would be surprised if some of them do not volunteer.

After you have some volunteers, they need to be properly vetted and then trained. This process could be combined by making them take Act 235, the lethal weapons act, which would allow them to carry weapons in performance of their jobs. They could also obtain concealed carry permits through the county where they live. Both will subject them to criminal background checks to make sure they can possess a firearm.

You also could require that they take the same psychological test that police officers must take before they can become a police officer. Further background investigation could be done on each individual if deemed necessary, but these would be the basics as far as the vetting process goes.

Act 235 will teach them the basic laws governing the use of lethal force by a civilian and they will also have to prove their proficiency with a firearm through a qualification course. This will give them the basic training they need to carry a weapon. The concealed carry permit will allow them to carry a firearm concealed on their person, which in my opinion is how the weapons should be carried in a school.

Further tactical training could be done by our local police departments and the county tactical team. I do not want to speak out of turn because I am now retired, but I believe our local police and the tactical team would provide this service, probably free of charge. Our police and tactical team need to train in the schools they protect anyway, and this could easily be done over the summer school break. The school volunteers could also qualify with their

firearms over the summer each year. Once again, I am sure our local police would be happy to help with this.

I know there will be opposition to this. I have already seen that the teacher's unions and others have come out in opposition to this idea. They already have talking points against this like there will be accidental shootings or the police may shoot a teacher when they arrive at the scene of a shooting.

On the accidental shooting: In 34 years as a police officer, there was only one accidental discharge of a firearm by an officer I worked with. He shot a locker in the locker room while unloading a backup weapon — after his shift was over. He at least obeyed the most important gun safety rule and did not have the weapon pointed at anyone when it went off.

In my book, one accident in 34 years of handling guns untold numbers of times by many officers is an acceptable risk.

On the point that a teacher might be shot by a responding officer, all they must do is obey an officer's commands when they arrive and there will be no problems. If an officer tells you to drop the weapon, do it. Otherwise you probably will be shot. Once again it is all common sense, which seems to be rare these days.

The solution to this problem is common sense. You can only stop an active shooter with an armed response. Nothing else being talked about will stop another child from being killed. The people doing these despicable acts do not care about our laws or anyone's good intentions. Only meeting fire with fire will stop them.

*Dick Brandt is the former chief of the Lower Swatara Township Police Department.*

# When it comes to new congressional districts, respect the constitution



MIKE FOLMER

My love and respect for the constitution is why I ran for office and it's also why I recently joined in legal action to block the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's newly mandated congressional maps.

I carry — and read — both the U.S. and Pennsylvania constitutions. We are in a constitutional crisis thanks to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's actions to make the other two branches of government irrelevant. Most alarming, they're apparently doing this simply because they think they can.

Judges are essential elements of a constitutional republic. Their role offers numerous protections of core government principles written into both

our federal and Pennsylvania constitutions. These principles have worked for decades but are now in jeopardy due to a lack of respect for the constitution.

Both our constitutions first establish the Legislature, empowering it to make law — and, to ensure due deliberation, splitting it in two: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The executive branch was established to enforce laws; the judiciary to interpret laws.

Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution gives state legislatures responsibility for: “The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each state by the Legislature thereof.”

Pennsylvania's constitution gives the Legislature responsibility to establish congressional districts using the same process as all other legislation: introduce a bill, consider it on three separate days in each chamber, vote on it, and send to the governor to be signed.

I opposed the 2011 bill that adopted congressional maps. However, it became law using the required constitutional mandates of bill introduction, consideration by both chambers, and enactment into law.

Six years and three elections later, the state Supreme Court is usurping legislative and executive authority by establishing districts on its own without legislative or executive involvement. They declared the 2011 maps unconstitutional — using standards found nowhere in the state constitution. Then they dictated a timeline to draw new maps outside the constitutional requirements for how a bill becomes law.

Unfortunately, the outcry for changing how congressional districts are determined has been entangled with court actions. Those proceedings have nothing to do with permanently changing the way redistricting is done. Citizens who have visited my office in the hopes of permanent change have been

deceived by those seeking to change the political makeup of Congress.

As chairman of the Senate State Government Committee, I remain committed to carefully examining the process by which congressional districts are drawn. It's why I've scheduled a public hearing on bills to change the process.

For now, we have four state Supreme Court justices relying on a California law professor to draw new maps — one person. No public explanation has been offered for how the maps were redrawn. No public hearings were held. No recourse was provided to the public to challenge the new maps. The maps were presented via court order as if written on stone tablets from on high.

Judges are not deities. Their actions must be grounded in the constitution — they, too, are elected in Pennsylvania. When they don their robes, they are to leave political affiliation behind. Otherwise, the judiciary becomes a political weapon.

When courts exceed their authority as the state court has done, our system of government no longer works. Our constitutional republic has issues but nonetheless allows all parties — including minority opinions — to be heard and to work out differences. It's what's given our nation both stability and liberty. People of good faith can disagree.

Judges have to respect the constitution. If they don't, we have a right — an obligation — to say something. And so I have. I have too much respect for the constitution to do otherwise.

Like judges, I swore an oath to support, obey and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of this commonwealth. To act differently fails to respect the constitution we're all sworn to uphold.

*Mike Folmer is a Republican member of the Pennsylvania Senate whose 48th District includes Middletown. His Capitol office telephone number is 717-787-5708.*



# CHURCHNEWS

### New Beginnings Church of Middletown



We are an independent body of believers offering God’s invitation for a new beginning to all who seek it. We exist to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of all people through faith in Jesus Christ. We are a Safe Sanctuary congregation. We invite you to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children’s church is provided. Our congregation meets at Riverside Chapel, 630 S. Union St., next to the Rescue Fire Company. Sunday School for all ages is at 9 a.m.

We are handicap accessible via ramp at back door. For additional church information call 717-944-9595. For security purposes our back and side doors will be locked every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. at the start of worship. The only door for entry after that will be the front door.

Sundays: Youth Fellowship meets every Sunday evening from 5 to 7 p.m.

Mondays: Men meet every Monday morning for prayer at 6 a.m. Community men are welcome; Sociable Seniors group meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. All are welcome.

Wednesdays: Craft Group meets at 1 p.m.; Choir practice at 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Blanket makers meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 9 a.m.; Intercessory Prayer meets at 6 p.m., followed by Bible Study at 7 p.m.

Saturdays: We clean the Middletown Food Bank the 3rd Saturday every other month. The community is invited to participate in these important areas of our church life.

Ushers for March: Cindy and Dick Myers, Binny Dupes and Dave Judy. Greeter: Dick Wagner. Children’s Church Leaders for March 11: Bonnie Harper and Nancy Leister.

Middletown’s Care-A-Van,

that transports senior citizens to appointments and shopping, is in need of drivers. If you are 75 years old or under and would like to volunteer a half day a month or more call 717-743-0788 for information.

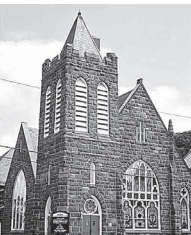
Our prayer garden in the rear of the yard has an 8-foot cross made out of nails and is illuminated at night. From spring to winter benches are provided to use to meditate or just enjoy the beauty and quietness along the Swatara Creek.

Pastor Britt writes a daily devotional on the Facebook page “Pastor Britt Strohecker.” In addition, he posts a pod cast of Bible study many days on Facebook via YouTube. We invite everyone to tune him in for inspiration for their day.

Our Sunday worship service is broadcast on the MAHS radio station, WMSS 91.1 FM at 3 p.m. every Sunday afternoon. Listen on the radio or the Internet at [www.pennlive.com/wmss/audio](http://www.pennlive.com/wmss/audio). Check us out on our website at [www.newbeginningschurchmiddletownpa.com](http://www.newbeginningschurchmiddletownpa.com).

Pastor Britt’s parting words each Sunday: “Nothing in this world is more important than the love of Jesus Christ!” We invite you to come and experience this love.

### Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown



The Presbyterian Congregation is located at the corner of Union and Water streets in downtown Middletown. We are a body of Christian people who reach out to others by sharing God’s Word, love, and fellowship. Warm greetings to one and all as we seek to grow closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thurs., March 8: 7:15 p.m., choir.

Please join us at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 11 as our Pastor Bruce Humphrey leads us in worship. Our sanctuary is air-conditioned and handicapped accessible, and there are also hearing devices for anyone wanting to use one. Nursery is available during the service, as well as Bible Listening bags for children to utilize during the service. Do join us!

Thurs., March 15: 7:15 p.m., choir.

### Evangelical United Methodist Church



Evangelical Church meets on the corner of Spruce and Water Streets at 157 E. Water St., Middletown, south of Main St., behind the Turkey Hill convenience store. We invite you to attend our Sunday morning activities: Sunday school is at 9 a.m. and worship is at 10:15 a.m. When you walk in the door, you will see people of all ages and walks of life, some dressed formally and others casually in jeans and sneakers. Come as you are.

Our greeters wear nametags, so they are easy to find and they will be happy to help you if you need any assistance or have a question. We celebrate communion the first Sunday of each month. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, and as a congregation in the United Methodist Church, we welcome all (baptized or unbaptized) to partake of the holy sacrament. We invite you to experience life at Evangelical UMC. Whether you are looking for a community, are lonely, searching for the meaning of life, or want to know more about Jesus, our doors are open for you. Check our website to learn more about us: [www.eumch.org](http://www.eumch.org).

This week’s worship assistants are as follows: Pastor – Lee Ellenberger; Liturgist – Deb Weaver; Organist – Don Cowser; Sr. Choir Director – Erich Schlicher; Children’s Time – Lee Ellenberger; Audio Visual – Steve Moyer; Jamal Warren and Justin Hahn; Head Usher – Wendy Kauffman;

Sun., March 18: Youth at United Methodist (Easter eggs).

Our electronic newsletter can be accessed anytime at [www.pcmndt.org](http://www.pcmndt.org)...click on “resources”...click on “newsletter.” (These are PDF files should open with Adobe Acrobat).

The Parish Nurse is available by calling the church office at 717-944-4322. For further information, see our website [www.pcmndt.org](http://www.pcmndt.org), visit our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/PresbyterianCongregation](http://www.facebook.com/PresbyterianCongregation)), or call the office.

### Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church



Calvary Church has been a part of the Middletown Borough community since 1936. It has been our privilege to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ all these years and to do so knowing the good news has never changed in over 2000 years. We firmly hold to the Apostles’ Creed and the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Larger and Shorter Catechisms as clearly teaching what Scripture teaches. If we believe the Gospel of Christ, then by trusting in his death and resurrection for sinners we can and will be forgiven and saved from God’s wrath. Please join us each Sunday to hear the Gospel.

Our services are at 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. We are located at the corner of Spruce and Emaus streets here in Middletown. We have a fellowship meal following the 10:15 a.m. morning service on the first Sunday of every

month, free to all who come. We also have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and a Bible Study each Wednesday at 7 p.m. We are now studying the power of prayer.

### Ebenezer United Methodist Church



Ebenezer United Methodist Church and Childcare, 890 Ebenezer Road, Middletown invites everyone to join us for worship on Sunday mornings lead by Pastor Brad Gilbert. Our services are relaxed and casual. We offer a traditional service at 8:45 a.m. and a contemporary service with a band (electric guitars) at 10:45 a.m. At 10 a.m., between services, there is a variety of Christian Education classes for all ages.

We have several things happening at Ebenezer and all are welcome. There is a prayer time, “Partners in Prayer” that meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Through scripture, song, and meditation we experience the joy of God’s presence. Have a favorite board game? “Game Night” is every third Monday at 6:30 p.m. In February and March, due to egg making, Prayer Night will be the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

and Game Night will be the third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Our home-made chocolate Easter eggs are available. We also have chocolate pretzels. For purchasing information please contact Mel Bollinger at 717-583-0502, [eve2mel@verizon.net](mailto:eve2mel@verizon.net) or Bill Hoch at 717-944-6080. We also offer a variety of other groups including Bible studies.

Any questions please call us at 717-939-0766 or e-mail us at [ebenezerumc890@outlook.com](mailto:ebenezerumc890@outlook.com).

### St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Spring & Union Streets (121 N. Spring St), Middletown is a Reconciling In Christ Church. Please join us for worship. Our worship times are: Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m. Sunday Church School for all ages begins at 9 a.m.; Wednesday morning at 10 a.m.; Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Lenten Evening Prayer; Saturday evening at 5 p.m. Please enter the church through the parking lot door. Our Sunday worship service is broadcast at 11 a.m. on WMSS 91.1FM.

Church and Community Events:

Sat., March 10: 5 p.m., Holy Communion – Sanctuary.

Sun., March 11: 9 a.m., Luther Hall Sunday class; 10 a.m., Holy Communion - Sanctuary; 3 p.m., Interfaith Lenten Service, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 121 N. Spring St., Middletown. Refreshments after the service.

Food Pantry News: Especially needed are personal care/toiletry items: toilet tissue, deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos, conditioners, cotton swabs, tissues, soap, paper towels, etc. Items collected are taken to the Middletown Area Interfaith Food Pantry located at 201 Wyoming Street, Royalton. Individuals may

also take items directly to the food pantry, which is open Tuesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 pm. The Community Action Commission office is open Tuesdays and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the same location. Food Pantry Sunday is April 1 (the first Sunday of each month).

Visit our website at [www.stpetersmiddletown.org](http://www.stpetersmiddletown.org).

Check us out on Facebook - St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Middletown, PA. Go ahead “like” our Facebook page. Remember, if you “Like” and “Follow” us on Facebook when there are new “posts” you will be notified. Thanks.

Scripture for March 11: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

## Science author, theorist Johnson to speak at Penn State Harrisburg

Steven Johnson, science author and media theorist, will present “Innovation: Where Good Ideas Come From,” at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 13, in the Student Enrichment Center theater at Penn State Harrisburg.

Johnson is considered the leading light of today’s interdisciplinary, collaborative, open-minded approach to innovation, according to a press release from PSU. His writings have influenced everything from cutting-edge ideas in urban planning to the battle against 21st century terrorism.

Johnson’s work inspired the Emmy-nominated PBS series, “How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson,” that aired in 2014. The book version of “How We Got to Now” debuted at No. 4 on the New York Times bestseller list and was a finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award.



Johnson

Johnson is also the author of the bestselling “Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation.”

He was chosen by Prospect magazine as one of the Top Ten Brains of the Digital Future, and The Wall Street Journal called him “one of the most persuasive advocates for the role of collaboration in innovation.”

His new book, “Wonderland: How Play Made the Modern World,” revolves around the creative power of play and the ideas and innovations that set into motion the many momentous changes in science, technology, politics and society. Inspired by the book, Johnson launched a new podcast series about the past and future of play and innovation.

The presentation is free and open to the public; however a ticket is required.

For tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pnc-thought-leaders-lecture-series-at-penn-state-harrisburg-presents-steven-johnson-registration-41422588076>

## Area gasoline prices hold steady during last week

Average retail gasoline prices in Harrisburg fell 0.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.73 a gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 241 gas outlets in Harrisburg.

This compares with the national average that increased 0.9 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.52 a gallon.

Prices Sunday were 30.1 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 11.3 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 8.3 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 21 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

According to GasBuddy historical data, gasoline prices on March 5 in Harrisburg have ranged widely over the last five years: \$2.43 a gallon in 2017, \$1.89 a gallon in 2016, \$2.56 a gallon in 2015, \$3.59 a gallon in 2014 and \$3.69 a gallon in 2013.

Areas near Harrisburg and their current gas price climate: **Lancaster:** \$2.75 a gallon, down 2.4 cents.

**Reading:** \$2.70 a gallon, down 5 cents.

**York:** \$2.80 a gallon, down 0.5 cents.

“Despite the rough ride crude oil received in the latter half of last week, gasoline prices managed a rally, pushing the national average for the week into positive territory for the first time in a month. This confirmed what was noted here last week; March comes in like a lamb but goes out like a lion. Oil aside, there are early indications that gasoline prices are about to strengthen helped by a noticeable number of refineries out for maintenance and a stronger demand outlook than we saw last year,” said Dan McTeague, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.

“Geopolitics, trade skirmishes, growing fuel exports and the ever sensitive relationship between oil and the value of the greenback are all factors that are likely to help the gasoline bulls as temperatures and global political intrigue rise in apparent unison,” he added.

## Tax time offers opportunity to assist military families

Individuals filing their 2017 Pennsylvania personal income taxes can help Pennsylvania’s military personnel and their families by donating part or all of their refund to the state’s Military Family Relief Assistance Program.

The program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, provides grants of up to \$3,500 to Pennsylvania members of the armed forces and their families who have a direct and immediate financial need as a result of circumstances beyond their control. The tax form includes

instructions on how to donate.

Since the program began in 2006, more than \$1.78 million has been donated by individuals filing their Pennsylvania personal income tax returns and through private donations.

Members of the armed forces who are residents of Pennsylvania are eligible to apply for assistance while they are serving on active duty for 30 or more consecutive days. All members of the armed forces who were discharged for medical reasons are also eligible to apply.

To learn more, visit [www.mfrap.pa.gov](http://www.mfrap.pa.gov).

# DIRECTORY OF SERVICES



**Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church**  
10 Spruce Street, Middletown • 717-944-5835  
Sunday School - 9 am • Morning Worship 10:15 am  
Evening Worship - 6 pm  
[www.calvaryopc.com](http://www.calvaryopc.com)



**Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
329 Market Street, Middletown  
Pastor C. VICTORIA BROWN, M.Div. • 717-215-280-0798  
Church School - 10 am • Worship Service - 11 am



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**  
“Love God, Love People, Make Disciples”  
890 Ebenezer Road, Middletown  
(Corner of 441 & Ebenezer Road)  
Phone 717-939-0766  
Sunday Worship:  
Traditional - 8:45 am • Contemporary - 10:45 am  
Christian Education (All Ages) - 10 am  
Christian Child Care - 717-985-1650  
BRAD GILBERT, Pastor  
[www.ebenezerumc.net](http://www.ebenezerumc.net)



**Evangelical United Methodist Church**  
Spruce & Water Sts., Middletown  
717-944-6181 • [www.eumch.org](http://www.eumch.org)  
Sunday School (all ages) - 9 am  
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am



**Geyers United Methodist Church**  
1605 South Geyers Church Road, Middletown  
717-944-6426  
PASTOR STEVAN ATANASOFF  
Worship - 9 am - Followed by Coffee Fellowship  
Sunday School - 10:30 am



**New Beginnings Church**  
at the Riverside Chapel  
630 South Union St., Middletown • 717-388-1641  
Sunday School - 9 am • Worship Service - 10:30 am  
PASTOR BRITT STROHECKER  
Everyone Is Welcome!



**Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown**  
Union & Water Sts., Middletown • 717-944-4322  
Church School - 9:15 am • Worship - 10:30 am



**St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
121 N. Spring Street, Middletown  
Church Office 717-944-4651  
REV. DR. J. RICHARD ECKERT, Pastor  
Sunday Worship - 10 am  
Sunday Church School - 9 am - for all ages  
Saturday Worship - 5 pm - in the Chapel  
Wednesday Worship - 10 am in the Chapel  
Worship Broadcast on 91.1 FM - 11 am  
We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation



**Seven Sorrows BVM Parish**  
280 North Race St., Middletown  
Parish Office 717-944-3133  
REV. TED KEATING, JR., Pastor  
Saturday Evening Vigil - 5:30 pm  
Sunday Masses - 8:00 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm  
Confessions: Saturday - 7:30-7:50 am, 4:30-5:15 pm



**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
64 Ann Street, Middletown  
PASTOR NAYLO HOPKINS  
Pastor James Lyles, 10xBetter  
Phone 717-944-6242  
Sunday Worship - 9:15 am  
Small Groups - 10:30 am

To list your church service here, call 717-944-4628 or email [info@pressandjournal.com](mailto:info@pressandjournal.com) for more information.



# OUT & ABOUT



The Londonderry Fire Company's social hall was filled during the Friday fish fry on March 2.

## FISH FRIES REEL IN A BIG CATCH



Volunteer Joe Dailey pours Worcestershire sauce into a bowl while making dill sauce at Londonderry.

Fridays during Lent, the social halls at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Londonderry Fire Company are filled to the brim.

Seven Sorrows volunteer Lisa Fortunato said the church served 2,045 people in the first two weeks of Lent. Last year, they served 6,236 meals and raised \$30,699.60. "I love it because it brings so many different people together," Fortunato said.

Londonderry Fire Chief Bart Shellenhamer said they served 1,225 people during the first two weeks. On average, the firefighters

served 602 people a week last year and raised around \$20,000.

Shellenhamer said the funds go toward everyday expenses and the operation of the firehouse.

Seven Sorrows' fish fry runs through March 23 at 360 E. Water St. Meals are served from 5 to 8 p.m.; doors open at 3:30 p.m.

Londonderry's fish fry at 2655 Foxianna Road runs through March 30, and meals are served from 5 to 8 p.m.

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY LAURA HAYES



Morgan Mohar takes Carol Marks' order during Seven Sorrows' fish fry.



Volunteers like Veronica Martin and Erin Hess-Moore were busy running orders during Seven Sorrows' fish fry.



Louise Gantz cuts a pie during the Londonderry fish fry.



David Halcovich and Piper Lidle enjoy macaroni and cheese at Londonderry.



Lou Tschachler stirs macaroni and cheese at Seven Sorrows.



Volunteers were busy March 2 serving people during Seven Sorrows' fish fry.