

Kids' baseball skills honed B1

BIKE GIVEAWAY A4



Channing Tatum visits, signs vodka bottles A6

PRESS & JOURNAL

LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1854 | PRESSANDJOURNAL.COM WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018 | 75 CENTS

Property owner loses zoning decision

Board rules that more than two unrelated people can't live together

By Dan Miller danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Middletown zoning hearing board by 3-0 vote on June 28 denied an appeal filed by a property owner of a borough law prohibiting more than two unrelated people from living in a house.

The board did not give a reason for its decision, and board Chairman Jack Still declined comment after the vote.

The board will issue a written decision with findings of fact and conclusions of law on or before Aug. 10, from which either party — the property owner or the borough — can appeal the case to Dauphin County Court, Still said.

Borough Zoning and Codes Officer Al Geosits, who in February brought the citation against property owner Sweet Arrow Properties for leasing a house at 239 W. Water St. to four unrelated people, declined comment after the vote.

Attorney Jim Diamond, who as borough solicitor represented the borough in the case, also declined comment, saying he would await the written decision to be issued by the board.

David Lanza, an attorney representing Sweet Arrow Properties, said afterward he didn't know if his clients will appeal the case to county court.

Please see ZONING, page A5

Nerf battle! Hoffer Park events open to everyone

By Dan Miller danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Close to 30 kids and adults showed up for Middletown's inaugural "Nerf Battle" in Hoffer Park along Mill Street on a steamy June 30 afternoon.

The event was put together by Strummer Woodworth, a 9-year-old resident of the 600 block of Hoffer Street, who with his dad Mike has made Middletown home base for the new Dauphin County Nerf Club.

"Nerf" is the brand name for a bunch of different kinds of equipment that are used in games where people shoot each other with small foam projectiles.

The games, better known as "battles," can be as simple as tag, where players on one team try to shoot and hit players on the other team with the Nerf projectiles, before players on the other team hit them first.

Or the battles can have an objective, like Capture the Flag

Please see NERF, page A3

Happy Fourth of July!



SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY OLIVIA MADDOX
Fireworks explode Saturday during the Stars & Stripes Salute at Londonderry Township's Sunset Park. See more photos on page B6.



STAFF PHOTO BY JASON MADDOX
Tracey Black and Jeff Templin portray Ms. America and Uncle Sam to get the crowd in the Fourth of July spirit at the Stars & Stripes Salute.

Borough wonders: What happened to \$1.1 million?

Audit finds reports of shredded documents, missing meeting minutes related to former water, sewer authority

By Dan Miller danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Where did the money go?

That's what Middletown Borough Council now wants to know, regarding \$1.1 million of \$1.3 million that council transferred Dec. 30, 2015, to a borough authority that no longer exists.

The payment is the subject of a forensic audit that council had completed by RKL, a Lancaster-based accounting firm, with the final report dated May 24.

The audit also found reports of documents being shredded in the borough office in December 2015.

"The nature and contents of the shredded documents are unknown," RTK says in the conclusion to its report.

RKL could not find meeting minutes for when the Middletown

Audit outlines where \$43.2 million in Suez deal went. SEE PAGE B3.

Borough Authority did exist, making it harder to determine what happened to the money.

The audit also raised questions about the procedure council used during its Dec. 30, 2015, meeting to transfer the \$1.3 million to the authority. No one who served on the council then remains in office.

An overview of the audit was presented to council June 19 by Emily A. Bomberger, a certified public accountant with the Business Consulting Services Group of RKL.

"We struggled a little bit because the records related to the authority were not intact," Bomberger told council June 19. "It had been dissolved for awhile by the time that we came

on board and started looking at these transactions."

Bomberger, pressed by current councilors for details about the document shredding that allegedly occurred, had little to add.

"We don't know what that material was, unfortunately. We don't have any records," she said. "It's just hard for us to make a conclusion" about what may have been shredded, and why.

Except for one check dated Jan. 4, 2016, for \$241,062.67 that the former authority made out to its legal counsel at the time, RKL could not find documentation regarding what the authority did with the money.

That leaves over \$1.1 million unaccounted for.

The borough paid RKL \$23,998 for the audit, Finance Director

Please see MONEY, page A5

Happy holiday: Couple marks 75th anniversary

By Laura Hayes laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Gwendolyn Richards was in training to be a nurse when she married Walter Sener.

The year was 1943, and the United States was in the throes of World War II. Gwendolyn, who was from Royalton, met Middletown native Walter when they attended Middletown High School. The pair had been dating since they were seniors.

Today, on the Fourth of July, the Seners are celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary. Sitting recently in their home in Hummelstown, which Walter built decades ago, the pair of 96-year-olds

Please see 75TH, page A5



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA HAYES
Gwendolyn and Walter Sener have been married for 75 years.

Lower Dauphin teacher accused of multiple crimes involving young girls

Press & Journal Staff

A Lower Dauphin School District teacher had inappropriate contact with five female students ages 11 and younger and now faces multiple charges, according to State Police.

James William Mentzer, 39, of Hummelstown, was charged Thursday with institutional sexual assault, unlawful contact with a minor, indecent assault, and corruption of minors (five counts) as the result of an in-depth child abuse investigation that began Feb. 16 at East Hanover Elementary School, East Hanover Township.

School administrators contacted the State Police in Harrisburg to report the suspected child abuse involving Mentzer. He was

placed on administrative leave in February when allegations of misconduct were brought to the school's attention, and he is still employed by the district.



Mentzer

The investigation revealed Mentzer had inappropriate contact with five female students — ages 8, 9, and three 11-year-olds — beginning in August 2017 at the school.

"Should the outcome of those proceedings meet the standards contained within the School Code, or should Mr. Mentzer no longer possess the credentials of a professional educator, the Dis-

trict will take appropriate actions to address his employment with the District, up to and including termination as may be required by law," according to information provided by the district.

Mentzer has been an elementary school teacher with Lower Dauphin full-time since 2003. He is awaiting arraignment at the Dauphin County Judicial Center.

The State Police in Harrisburg were assisted by the East Hanover Elementary School administration, the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office, the Dauphin County Children's Resource Center, and the Dauphin County Children & Youth Services.

Anyone with information about other possible victims is asked to contact the State Police in Harrisburg at 717-671-7500.

Public notices in this week's Press & Journal

- **HIGHSPIRE:** Ordinance 615 Notice A4
- **HARRISBURG:** Estate of James David Prifer A4
- **DERRY TWP:** Estate of Julie A.



OURCOMMUNITY



NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD | LAVONNE ACKERMAN

Think about all the sacrifices made on Independence Day

Happy Independence Day! I hope that your holiday is full of good old fashioned Fourth of July fun. Happy birthday to our country ... 242 years old.

The Declaration of Independence was signed at Independence Hall in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. This is the day the 13 original colonies approved the document and we ceased to be a British colony. We became a sovereign country and an independent nation.

What a struggle our young nation had in front of it. Why not pause and think about it. I'm thinking about the 56 men who signed, knowing the risk was death. I wonder what it must have been like. We can be grateful that we still have men and women serving our country and risking their lives.

I hope you proudly wear red, white and blue and say a prayer for those who are defending our freedom. God bless and have a wonderful week.

Birthdays

Happy cake day to **Aaliyah Garfield** of Middletown. This girl turns 11 on Wednesday, July 4. Have a wonderful red, white and blue day!

Brandon Popp shares his big-deal 25th birthday with the USA on Wednesday, July 4. Congrats and enjoy!

Nathan Reese of Lower Swatara marks his 22nd cake-and-ice cream day as our nation turns 242 years old on Wednes-

day, July 4. Have a happy!

Brad Strite of Lower Swatara has 35 reasons to celebrate his cool-parade July 4 birthday on Wednesday. I hope it is the best yet, Brad!

Happy birthday streamers are popping for **Madison Bayhart** of Lower Swatara on Wednesday, July 4. Have a wonderful 24th me-holiday!

Best wishes to **Tim Carpenter** of Lower Swatara on Independence Day, Wednesday, July 4. Hoping your day is full of too much fun, Tim!

Happy birthday balloons will fill the sky for **Carl Stevenson** of Middletown on Thursday, July 5. Happy 17th cake day, Carl.

Hanna Wilsbach of Middletown will hear the birthday song on Friday, July 6. She hits cake day No. 17. Have a fantastic birthday, Hanna.

Abbey Leister of Lower Swatara turns 14 on Friday, July 6. Enjoy your totally special day all weekend, Abbey!

Cole Golden of Lower Swatara will have 19 brightly burning candles atop his birthday cake on Saturday, July 7. Congrats and best wishes to you, Cole!

If you see **David Hurlock** out and about Lower Swatara on July 7, be sure to give him a rowdy happy birthday shout-out. He has 58 reasons to smile on Saturday.

Here is a huge shout-out to **Charlie Stare** of Lower Swatara on Sunday, July 8. I hope your birthday is amazing and just

how you like it, Charlie. God bless you!

Happy 24th razzle-dazzle birthday to **Kayce Deibler** on Sunday, July 8. I hope your sparkles and glitter birthday is full of everything you love, Kayce! Enjoy.

Mackenzie Trafka celebrates her quarter-of-a-century birthday on Sunday, July 8. I hope your big-deal birthday is the best one yet. Enjoy!

Wishing **LeeAnn Coble** of Middletown a marvelous Monday birthday on July 9. May the cool breezes delight you on your special day!

Nancy Witkowski of Lower Swatara will hear the birthday song on Tuesday, July 10. I bet is will sound beautiful. Have a wonderful week celebrating, Nancy!

Anniversaries

Happy 38th anniversary to **Joe and Norma Mateer** of Lower Swatara. They celebrate their wedded bliss day on Wednesday, July 4. Have a blast!

Best wishes for a glorious anniversary to **Scott and Suzanne Hile** of Lower Swatara. They observe their romantic holiday on Monday, July 9.

Red, White and Blue Shortcakes

*From the
Wedding Book Collection*

- 2 1/3 c. Bisquick baking mix
- 1/2 c. milk
- 3 Tbp. sugar
- 3 Tbp. butter, melted

- 1/3 c. sliced strawberries
- Whipped cream or vanilla ice cream
- 1 1/2 c. fresh or thawed frozen blueberries
- 1 1/2 pt. strawberries, sliced and sweetened

Heat oven to 426 degrees. Mix baking mix, milk, sugar and butter until soft dough forms. Fold in 1/3 c. strawberries. Drop dough by 6 mounds onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Split shortcakes while warm.

Fill with whipped cream and blueberries. Top with sweetened strawberries and whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. Makes 6 shortcakes.

Historical society flea market

This Saturday, July 7 is the "Christmas in July" flea market at the Highspire Historical Society, 273 2nd St., rear at Lusk Avenue, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Come out to find many items: newly donated jewelry, books, linens, toys and more. Schmidt's Sausage and assorted Lays chips will be on sale.

Spaces are available for rent. Bring a table or blanket. Call 717-939-0385 or 717-566-6828 for more information. The rain date is Saturday, July 14.

Ladies brunch

All ladies are cordially invited to attend "A New Image" brunch buffet to be held at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 11 at Hershey Italian Lodge, 128 Hillcrest Road.

This is presented by Hershey Area Women's Connection, affiliated with Christian Women's Clubs of America.

A mini concert will be presented by Heart and Soul, featuring Ed and Maureen Mashas, vocalists from Harrisburg. The speaker, Jean Hartman of Northumberland, will share "Living Right Side Up in an Upside Down World."

For reservations, call Edna at 717-652-0997 or Mary at 717-533-3497, or email roseyposey3@verizon.net.

God's Closet

Heads up, God's Clothes Closet will be open for shoppers on Saturday, Aug. 4. Doors open at 8 a.m.

All are welcome to come and shop for free until noon at Evangelical United Methodist Church, 157 E. Water St. in Middletown.

If you have gently used (good) clothing with no tears or stains, the church would like to accept your donations from July 16 through Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon and 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as from 11:30 a.m. to 12: p.m. Sundays.

Items may include clothing for men, women, teens and children; summer and winter, including shirts, slacks, jeans, dresses, skirts, sweaters, sweats, shoes, purses, belts, hats, coats

and jackets. Also needed are linens, sheets, towels, comforters, blankets, and curtains.

Use the entrance to the Educational Building, which is on the left as you face the front of the church. Collection is on the bottom floor.

Quote of the Week

"My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure." — Anonymous

Question of the Week

What do you like best about the United States?

"It's a free country. We have a lot of great states!" — **Victoria Kelly**, 10, Swatara.

"We have freedom." — **Arianna Lavery**, 11, Middletown.

"Tacos!" — **Rachel Gatesman**, 10, Lower Swatara.

"I like that the flag has red, white and blue!" — **Max Williams**, 10, Lower Swatara.

"We have Hersheypark, I like to play games at the arcades." — **Kellen Trafecanty**, 3, Lower Swatara.

"I like all the stuff we have, activities, sports — everything!" — **Jaxon Monroig**, 11, Lower Swatara.

Proverb for the Week

An evildoer listens to wicked lips; and a liar gives heed to a mischievous tongue (17:4).

Reach LaVonne Ackerman at 717-649-7366 or by email at LaVonneAck@comcast.net.

BINGO

Bingo Mania

Held 2nd Sunday of each month

28 TOTAL GAMES

Packages start at 2 Large Guaranteed Jackpots

6 cards for \$25

\$5.00 OFF with this ad! Exp. 07/08/18

SUNDAY JULY 8

Doors & Kitchen open at noon Bingo starts at 2 pm

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To place your business in this directory

contact the Press And Journal at: 20 S.Union Street, Middletown
E-mail: info@pressandjournal.com
Phone: 717-944-4628

Bunting added at historic borough cemetery

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Black fencing surrounding the historic German Lutheran Burial Ground on North Pine Street in Middletown has been decorated with 15 patriotic pieces of bunting, to commemorate a graveyard that predates the nation's first Independence Day in 1776.

The buntings were purchased and installed by the Middletown Borough Historical Restoration Commission. The commission bought the buntings using funds that are provided to the commission by borough council in the general fund budget.

Located between Hoffman Avenue and High Street, the small cemetery was dedicated by George Fisher in 1760. About 200 people were buried in the cemetery over the next 40 years.

The German Lutheran Congregation in Middletown was responsible for the cemetery until 1875. Afterward neglect began setting in and the grounds were desecrated by a few local businessmen who used the cemetery for their own purposes, according to a history provided by the commission.

It's likely that the graveyard holds the remains of some who fought in the Revolution, says commission Secretary Bob Hauser.

STAFF PHOTO BY DAN MILLER

Patriotic bunting in time for July 4 has been placed by the Middletown Historical Restoration Commission on fencing surrounding the historic German Lutheran Burial Ground on North Pine Street near East High Street. The graveyard dates to 1760.

But during the years of neglect headstones were frequently taken out to be used in the foundations of homes that were being built.

The few surviving stones that were left were placed around a monument that was set in the center of the graveyard in 1940 by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1925, St. Peters Evangelical

Lutheran Church went to court to stop a businessman from using the land for anything but a graveyard. Dauphin County Court sided with the church, and in 1929 the county court ruling was upheld by the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

In 1940, St. Peters and Daughters of the American Revolution struck an agreement for the DAR to take care of the cemetery.

In March 1966, Middletown council voted for the borough to assume upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery, and set aside \$1,000 a year for this purpose.

The Historical Restoration Commission has stepped in in recent years. In 2016, the commission used funds in its budget provided by council to fix the fence that encloses the graveyard.

TOWN TOPICS

Community blood drive coming to VFW post

A Community Blood Drive will be held on the Bloodmobile at Middletown VFW Post 1620, 200 Pike St., from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 5.

For more information, call 800-771-0059 or go to 717giveblood.org.

Fire hydrant testing coming to borough

Suez will conduct fire hydrant testing from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. through July 13.

Water may be temporarily discolored. It is not harmful to consume, but could cause problems if used for laundry.

MASD free summer lunch program in place

The Middletown Area School District is part of the Summer Food Service Program. Free lunches are being provided,

rain or shine, Monday through Friday, to children ages 18 and younger.

It is not necessary to register. Sites are Middletown Area High School cafeteria, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., through Aug. 3; Fink Elementary School, War Memorial Field concession stand, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., through Aug. 10; and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Middletown, 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., through Aug. 10.

Slavic American Festival scheduled in Harrisburg

The Slavic American Festival will be held from noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, July 15 at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg.

The Divine Liturgy (Mass) will be celebrated at 10 a.m.

There will be food, raffles, bingo and entertainment. The public is invited. Parking and admission is free.

For more information, call 717-652-1415 or visit stannbyz.org.

Career fair for new hotel being held July 9

Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites is hiring at a Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, July 9, at Penn State Harrisburg, Main Library, Morrison Gallery, 1st floor, 777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown.

There will be on-the-spot interviews, with no appointment necessary.

For more information, go to www.shanercorp.com.

Library plans summer reading program

The Middletown Public Library, 20 N. Catherine St., is holding its reading program through Aug. 6.

Featured at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 9, is the group Sciencetellers.

For more information, visit www.middletownpubliclib.org. or call 717-944-6412.

VBS Day Camp will be held in July at church

VBS Day Camp will be held at Middletown First Church of God, 245 W. High St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 9 through 13 for kindergarten through fifth grade.

Register at www.middletown-cog.org/vbs.html or call 717-944-9608.

Londonderry Fire Company holds bingo

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, Middletown, will hold its Bingo Mania on Sunday, July 8.

Doors and kitchen open at noon. Bingo starts at 2 p.m.

Live music on deck at Sunset Bar & Grill

Jeffrey J. Walker will perform on the deck at Sunset Bar & Grill, 2601 Sunset Drive, at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 5.

Teenager charged with killing baby chick by beating it against fence

A 15-year-old Middletown resident has been charged with animal cruelty for allegedly abusing and causing the death of a baby chick.

Police say the chick was inside a plastic bag that the youth was beating against a neighbor's fence in the 400 block of North Spring Street on June 20.

The youth removed the chick from the bag and threw the chick at the fence. The chick was found dead on the ground, police said. The fence was also damaged.

The youth also is charged

with criminal mischief, damage to property, and disorderly conduct.

Police said the youth's family had been informed of a Middletown ordinance that prohibits raising chickens in the borough.

Besides the chick in the bag, two other baby chicks were found in the trash of the residence, police said. One was dead and the other was injured and died later.

The family had three other living chicks but had not yet been cited for violating the borough ordinance, police said.



Youngsters take part in the action during the first Dauphin County Nerf Club battle at Hoffer Park in Middletown on June 30.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BECKY DOLAN

NERF: Next battle will be July 29

From page A1

or other varieties where players from one team try to seize precious cargo before players from the other team get it.

The possibilities are as endless as one's imagination and if your own imagination comes up short, there's always YouTube.

Strummer just started playing Nerf battles in his own backyard on Hoffer Street about seven months ago, but he's obviously gotten into Nerf in a big way.

"I always liked playing tag but at my school I was one of the slower kids," said Strummer, who will be a fifth-grader at Reid Elementary School.

But with Nerf, size and speed don't matter as much. A good shot can take down a gazelle. Someone in a wheelchair can play Nerf, Strummer pointed out.

"It's a good family activity and a good physical activity," said Mike, who was appointed to an open Middletown Borough Council seat in May.

On June 4, Strummer and his mother Katie appeared before Mike and the rest of council asking permission to use the Hoffer Park area as the venue for Dauphin County Nerf Club battles to be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month, from June 30 through Oct. 27.

Borough Manager Ken Klinepeter was assigned to look into the matter, and after some investigating found that Strummer's request to use the borough-owned land would not be a problem.

Despite his young age it wasn't Strummer's first rodeo when it came to public speaking. In June 2017, Strummer was among residents addressing Middletown Area School Board asking that the board not approve transferring Earl Bright from his job as principal of Reid.

Strummer and the others didn't win that battle, but "we've always encouraged him to speak up for himself and stay involved with things that impact him," Mike said of Strummer—who is named after the late Joe Strummer, who was lead vocalist of the influential and ground-breaking rock group The Clash.



Despite the heat, about 30 people showed up to play in the first Dauphin County Nerf Club battle in Hoffer Park in Middletown on Saturday.

You can take part

Look for the next Dauphin County Nerf Club battle to be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 28, in Hoffer Park along Mill Street in Middletown. The rain date is Sunday, July 29. The battle is open to anyone 7 years of age or older from Dauphin County, including adults. The event is free, but you must bring your own blasters, darts and eye protection.

The land picked for the Nerf battles extends west from the main entrance of Hoffer Park to just before the bridge going into Royalton. Strummer said the tract is ideal because it has a lot of shade and a lot of trees players can hide behind for cover.

The Nerf battles are open to anyone 7 years of age or older, including adults. Strummer and his friends often ask Mike to play so they can have "a big target."

There is no charge to play, but all players must bring their own Nerf darts, "blasters" and other equipment. Players must also bring their own eye protection.

Afterward, the players will clean up the area so it doesn't look as though anyone was there, Mike said.

Each announced date will have a rain date of the following day, a Sunday, Mike said. Playing in the rain could increase the risk of injury and besides, Nerf Blasters get jammed up from the water. Strummer has been publicizing the Nerf battles through Facebook, Instagram and fliers being put up around town.

The idea to host a Dauphin County Nerf club in Middletown came to father and son while they were driving home from a "Nerf Night" at the YMCA in Carlisle.

Mike and Strummer wanted to find a closer place for Nerf battles. Also, the Carlisle YMCA charges a fee for its Nerf battles, although you don't have to bring your own stuff.

If the outside Nerf battles are a hit, the Woodworths may see about keeping things going over the winter, perhaps by moving the games into the MCSO next to the Municipal Building.

OBITUARIES



Margaret Louer

MIDDLETOWN

Margaret J. "Peg" Louer, 77, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at her home.

She was born February 1, 1941 in Middletown and was the loving daughter of the late Russell Sr. and Elizabeth (Brandt) Hulstine.

Margaret was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Hummelstown.

She graduated from Middletown High School class of 1959. While in high school, she was a head drum majorette, which she enjoyed very much.

Margaret loved children and ran a daycare in her home for many years. She loved caring for her great-grandchildren. She enjoyed being outside on the deck with her neighbors, friends and family.

In addition to her parents, Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Terry L. Louer Sr. and sister, Barbara Slider.

Margaret is survived by her son, Terry Louer and his wife Denise of Middletown; daughter, Sheri Bright and her husband Scott of Port Royal; grandchildren, Randi Bloes, wife of Nate, Cory Bright, Ashley Duignan, wife of Ryan and Christian Louer, husband of Katelyn; great-grandchildren, Ava and Coen Bloes, Parker Bright and Connor, Aidan and Brendan Duignan; brother, Russell S. Hulstine, husband of Cheryl; and sisters, Doris Daller and Betty Grier.

In keeping with Margaret's wishes, there will be no services.

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

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



Dolores Fricchione

MIDDLETOWN

Dolores J. Fricchione, "Dodie," 84, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, July 1, 2018 at her home surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on December 15, 1933 in Middletown and was the daughter of the late Herdman and Frances (Snader) Anderson.

She was a member of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Middletown, where she was an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, an auxiliary member of Seven Sorrows Legion of Mary, Golden Group at Seven Sorrows, member of RCIA, and Arimatheans.

In addition to her parents, Dodie



Shelvey Schauer

MIDDLETOWN

Shelvey Louise Schauer, 74, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Thursday, June 28, 2018 at Rest Haven Nursing Home, York.

She was born on March 5, 1944 in Harrisburg and was the daughter of the late Ralph and Lee Emma (Kohr) Kinsey.

She was of the Protestant faith and a former member of Glad Tidings, Middletown. She was also a former den mother and treasurer for both Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

In her later years, she enjoyed traveling. Shelvey was retired from TMI where she was an engineer assistant.

In addition to her parents, Shelvey was preceded in death by her nine siblings.

She is survived by her three sons, Russell J. Schauer Jr. and his wife Merriam of Elizabethtown, Dale R. Schauer of Union Deposit, and Joseph M. Schauer of Maryland; three grandchildren, Russell J. Schauer III, Angela Lamb, and Tiffany Ben-Canaan; and four great-grandchildren, Nicholas P. Schauer, Sophia M. Ben-Canaan, Mason A. Lamb and Emma Ben-Canaan.

A tribute to Shelvey's life will be held on Friday, July 6, 2018 at 11 a.m. at the Matinchek Funeral Home and Cremation Services Inc., 260 E. Main St., Middletown, with the Rev. Lori Hatch-Rivera officiating. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Friday at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery, Middletown.

In lieu of flowers please send donations in Shelvey's name to American Cancer Society, 112 Sipe Ave., Hummelstown, PA 17036.

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



Paul Henry Jr.

MIDDLETOWN

Paul B. Henry Jr., 85, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on August 16, 1932 in Harrisburg, Pa. and was the son of the late Paul B. Henry Sr. and Tirzah J. (Yohn) Henry.

Paul retired from the United States Air Force with more than 20 years of continuous service, some of which he served during the Korean War. He was also a retired electrician for IBEW 143. After retiring from IBEW, he was the owner of Delmar's TV in Lemoyne, Pa. Paul was lovingly employed by his nephew Howard Henry, owner of Howard Tire and Auto, from 1998 to 2014 as a chief mechanical/systems operations technician.

When his illness would allow, Paul attended Valley Baptist Church, Middletown. Paul was an avid bowler, golfer, and fisherman.

In addition to his parents, Paul was preceded in death by two brothers, George W. Henry and William D. Henry and twin great-grandsons, James and Isaac McGowan.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Bert Lyvonne (Cooley) Henry; four daughters, Paula L. Landis and her husband Michael of Newport, Kim K. Henry of St. Petersburg, Fla., Patricia D. Updegraff and her husband John of Harrisburg, and Darlene Bordner and her husband Michael of Grantville; a brother, Louis

D. Henry of Florence, S.C.; four granddaughters, Stephanie E. McGowan, Melody C. Brewer, Shannon E. Evans (Joe), and Stacy R. Young; nine great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A tribute to his life was held on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Matinchek Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., 260 E. Main St., Middletown, with the Rev. Jerry Cowan and Dr. James Luck officiating. Viewing was from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Burial with full military honors was at Ft. Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville.

Memorial contributions in Paul's name may be made to, Valley Baptist Church, 1190 N. Union St., Middletown, PA 17057 or to Hospice of Central PA, 1320 Linglestown Rd., Harrisburg, PA 17110.

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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 615 of 2018
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHSPIRE, DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHSPIRE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HANDICAPPED-ONLY PARKING SPACE AT 244 PENN ST., HIGHSPIRE, PA.

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highspire, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same as follows, to wit:

Section One
Chapter 15, Part 3, Section §305 of the Codified Ordinances of the Borough of Highspire is hereby amended by adding the following location where parking shall be limited to vehicles displaying a handicapped driver or passenger permit:

Street	Side	Location	Space
Penn St.	North	244	One Standard Parking Space

Said handicap only parking space shall be valid for up to a period of five (5) years provided the applicant is residing at this residence and may be renewed upon application for additional periods of time by resolution of Borough Council.

Section Two
Any ordinance or part thereof in conflict with the provisions hereof is hereby repealed except that nothing in this ordinance shall affect any act done or liability incurred, or any suit or prosecution pending or to be instituted under any repealed or superseded ordinance.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 17th day of July 2018.
BOROUGH COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF HIGHSPIRE

Council President

Attest:

Borough Secretary
APPROVED this 17th day of July 2018, by the Mayor of the Borough of Highspire, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

By
Mayor

The Proposed Ordinance will be considered for adoption at the regular meeting of the Highspire Borough Council on July 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Highspire Borough Municipal Building. All interested residents are encouraged to attend.

#217 0704-1T

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ESTATE NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Letters of Administration on the Estate of Julie A. Fake, Deceased, late of Derry Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, have been granted to the undersigned Administrator. All persons therefore indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having just claims will please present the same, duly authenticated, for settlement, without delay. David O. Fake – Administrator, c/o Keith D. Wagner, P. O. Box 323, Palmyra, PA 17078 – Attorney.

#218 0704-3T

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate Notice
Letters of Testamentary on the Estate of James David Prifer, deceased, late of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted thereto are requested to make immediate payment and those having claims against said estate shall make them known without delay to: Megan Huban, Executrix at 618 Garfield Ave, Glenside, PA 19038.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY DAN MILLER

Nine-year-old Kyle Colon and his 10-year-old brother Zach Colon of Middletown pose with their new bicycles during the 2018 Wheel A Thon at Wesley United Methodist Church.

Wheel A Thon gives bikes to kids who made the grade

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Eighty-four new bicycles were given to children from Middletown and from throughout Dauphin County during the 21st annual Wheel A Thon held by Youth 10x's Better Ministries on Saturday at Wesley United Methodist Church.

As in past years, new bicycles were presented to children in grades 3 through 12 who brought a final report card for the previous school year with no Ds or Fs.

"They were so happy I actually started crying," Sharon Hart of Middletown said when she saw her two sons, Kyle, 9, and Zach, 10, being presented with their new bicycles.

It was the first new bicycle for both boys, who attend Reid Elementary School. Kyle is going into third grade while Zach will be a fifth-grader.

Also getting a new bicycle was 7-year-old Devin Jackson of Middletown, who will be a third-grader at Fink Elementary School.

It wasn't Devin's first bicycle, but the one he has at home still has training wheels, said Devin's mom, Jessica. This new bicycle will fit him much better.

Twelve-year-old Robert Hudson of Harrisburg was excited about the new bicycle he earned with his good grades.

"Now he can ride to go to karate lessons" instead of having to walk, said Robert's mom, Karen Arter.

Many other shiny new bicycles that were not given away during the event were lined up in the parking lot behind the church on Ann Street.

In a typical year, the Rev. James Lyles of Youth 10x's Better Ministries buys or gets donations from the community for up to 150 new bicycles.

He will have plenty of other opportunities to give away the rest of the new bicycles, said Lyle's wife, Stephanie Lyles, who also works hard to help make Wheel A Thon happen each year.

Some of the other bicycles will be given away to support the 10x's Better Ministries' "Reading Better for the Cheddar" program in Harrisburg

Robert Hudson of Harrisburg poses with the new bicycle he was presented during the 2018 Wheel A Thon.

schools. Students earn a \$2 bill for every book they read. But before getting the money, the students must write and submit a composition to show that they understood what they read, Stephanie Lyles said.

"We're trying to get them to read better," she said.

Students who read the most books in the program will receive a new bicycle, she said. Bicycles are also given away to needy families, especially during the holidays.

The Rev. Lyles also will give away some of the bicycles during smaller Wheel A Thon events that he holds in Harrisburg and Rutherford.

As before, vendors and community organizations sponsored and provided support for Saturday's Wheel A Thon in Middletown.

Vendors such as Papa John's Pizza, Harrisburg Dairies and Bethesda Mission provided free food and beverages. Other sponsors included Members 1st and Transparency Matters.

There were also free pony rides, bicycle and vehicle safety offered by Middletown Police Department, and a Kids Smoke House to promote fire safety that was brought to the event by the Lower Swatara Fire Department.

Middletown Police Department Officer James Bennett accompanies 12-year-old Asja McMillian of Harrisburg on a course designed to simulate driving under the influence during the 2018 Wheel A Thon at Wesley United Methodist Church on Saturday.

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MONEY: Many questions surround \$1.3 million

From page A1

Kevin Hartman told the Press & Journal.

A forensic audit to examine borough finances under former Council President Chris McNamara was proposed in December 2015 by Robert Reid, the borough’s former longtime mayor who had just been elected to council.

In January 2016, a new council majority following McNamara’s loss in the 2015 election voted 7-1 for a “special audit” to be done of borough financial activities from Dec. 30, 2014 through Dec. 31, 2015.

Check information

The authority owned and operated the borough water and sewer systems until Jan. 1 2015, when responsibility for the systems was turned over to Suez water under terms of a 50-year lease that council and the former authority approved in September 2014.

The lease deal with Suez called for the authority to go out of existence, but that didn’t happen until May 2016 when council and the borough finally succeeded in dissolving the authority.

RKL as part of its investigation “pulled an initial sample” of checks that were cut after the Dec. 30, 2015, council meeting, Bomberger said.

According to the final RKL report, provided by the borough to the Press & Journal, the majority of these checks pulled were dated before Dec. 30, 2015 — except for the \$241,062.67 check the authority paid to the law firm of Stevens & Lee in Harrisburg.

Bomberger told council the borough might be able to get information on all checks — not just a sampling — that were written by the authority, or by the borough, during the time period by contacting the bank.

“They most likely would have to provide all the checks,” Bomberger said. The bank would likely charge a fee “but I don’t think it would be too significant.”

Mayor James H. Curry III and Councilor Mike Woodworth urged the borough go back to the bank.

“We should pull all those checks and find out where that money went. That’s our money,” Woodworth said.

How was check processed?

The forensic audit raises questions about the procedure used in transferring the \$1.3 million from the borough to the former authority.

According to the RKL report, the check was “not processed routinely” in that the borough employees whose job it was to process checks were bypassed.

Instead, the check was processed by someone who logged in in place of another person who was among those authorized by the borough to process checks, according to the report.

The person whose log-in credentials were used is believed to have been on medical leave at the time,

although Bomberger told council RKL could not confirm this.

Bomberger told council that both the person with the credentials and the person logging in were believed to be with Susquehanna Group Advisors, the consulting firm hired by the borough that was acting as the borough’s finance director at the time.

The RKL report identifies both individuals as working for SGA and being listed among those who had the ability to process checks.

Susquehanna Group Advisors no longer works for the borough, after council in 2016 hired a finance director and brought borough finance operations in house.

According to the RKL report, the assistant finance director — who was employed by the borough, not SGA — was out of the office for medical reasons on Dec. 29 and Dec. 30, 2015.

“So somebody used (the person’s) log-in because he was out on medical leave, to create a check for over \$1 million?” Curry asked Bomberger at one point.

“It would appear that way,” she responded.

In its conclusion in the report regarding the \$1.3 million transaction — which Curry requested Bomberger read word for word into the public record — RTK says that a borough employee told the firm that “a significant amount of document shredding occurred in the borough office” at the time of the transaction.

Regarding the \$1.3 million check from the borough to the authority, “no documentation of the check’s purpose or explicit approval was maintained or provided” upon return of the borough assistant finance director, identified in the report as the person “primarily responsible” for processing checks.

By the time the assistant finance director returned on Dec. 31, the \$1.3 million check from the borough to the authority had been processed, and signed by then-Council President Chris McNamara and Suzanne Sullivan, another councilor who was authorized to sign off on checks.

Council during a Dec. 23, 2015, public meeting had voted to accept the resignations of then-borough Manager Tim Konek, Public Works Superintendent Lester Laman, and borough Secretary Amy Friday. All three were hired during McNamara’s tenure as president. McNamara lost his re-election bid in November 2015.

More questions

Compounding the unanswered questions is the procedure council used during the Dec. 30, 2015, meeting to transfer the \$1.3 million to the authority.

The transfer was covered in a vote council took to ratify all borough expenditures for all of 2015.

According to minutes from the Dec. 30, 2015, meeting that are included in the RTK report, resident and former councilor Rachelle Reid requested a list of the expenditures to be ratified,

and asked council to allow more public comment.

Reid’s request was denied by a 4-3 vote of council, which had nine members at the time, two of whom were absent.

Council later the same meeting approved the 2015 expenditures by 5-2 vote. No mention was made of the \$1.3 million to the authority, which RTK in its conclusion found “unusual” given the amount, and that council just two weeks before had voted to raise the electric rate by a penny per kilowatt hour to close a deficit in the 2016 budget.

That electric rate increase would bring in about \$660,000 of new revenue — roughly half the \$1.3 million that council had approved paying the authority without public discussion, according to the RTK report.

The RTK report also notes that council paid the \$1.3 million to an entity — the authority — that was supposed to be dissolved under terms of the 50-year lease of Middletown’s water and sewer systems approved in September 2014 by council and the authority.

The authority ended up fighting to stay alive — in the process hiring Stevens & Lee to thwart council plans to dissolve the authority.

That led RTK in its conclusion to allege a “conflict of interest” regarding council’s vote to transfer the \$1.3 million to the authority.

“The decision had been made by borough council to dissolve the authority due to the concession lease agreement,” RTK said in its conclusion. “Several members of borough council also sat on the authority. In authorizing this payment to the authority, which funded a legal retainer for the authority, the borough was essentially funding the legal defense against its own motion. It is difficult to ascertain if these council members were acting in the best interest of the borough when authorizing this payment.”

None of the seven councilors participating in the 5-2 vote approving the transaction are still in office. The RTK report notes that “the majority” voting to ratify the 2015 expenditures, including the \$1.3 million to the authority, “lost their seat on council the following day” due to not being re-elected or not running again.

Represented by Stevens & Lee, the authority on March 7, 2016, sued the borough in Dauphin County Court to block council from dissolving the authority. The authority was dissolved as of May 19, 2016, according to court documents.

Curry requested that the entire RKL report be made public as part of minutes from the June 19 council meeting.

Council President Damon Suglia supported Curry’s request. Council is expected to act on approving the minutes during its next meeting July 9.

Suglia did not respond to requests via phone or email seeking comment regarding what council plans to do with the RKL report.

75TH: Wife says marriage is lot of give and take

From page A1

reflected on what it’s been like to be married for 75 years.

“Boring,” Walter said.

“We lasted for 75 years. It’s a miracle,” Gwendolyn added.

They both were kidding, as they did often during the interview in which they recalled their lives.

High school days

Gwendolyn and Walter were in the same study hall at Middletown High School. Was it love at first sight?

“No,” Gwendolyn said. “I didn’t like him. ... I just wondered who he thought he was.”

It wasn’t until senior year that they started dating, although they don’t remember exactly how. They were in school plays together, and during one of the operettas, Walter sang “Come Marry Me” to Gwendolyn, although Gwendolyn didn’t think that that won her over. After basketball games, the dance band, in which Walter played the cornet, performed. Walter would drive Gwendolyn home afterward.

They graduated from high school in 1940. The year after, Gwendolyn worked at Hershey before starting training to become a nurse, and Walter worked at a grocery store in Royalton.

War and marriage

But then Walter had the chance to start working at Olmsted Air Force Base.

“World War II was hot, and they were recruiting anybody who was human,” Walter said.

When they got married in 1943, Walter was stationed in Miami with the Navy, where he was working on airplanes. Gwendolyn said he sent her a letter that said, “If you come down, I’ll try to get leave and come over to Jacksonville and see you, and then we can get married.”

“That was a horrible mistake,” Walter said.

Nurses were not supposed to be married while they were in training, but Gwendolyn still went down to Florida.

Because the Navy chapel was backed up for weeks, everyone was getting married at a justice of the peace’s home.

The courthouse was open late one day, but when they arrived they thought they were too late to get a marriage license — all of the stall windows were closed. Then one of the screens went up, and Walter and Gwendolyn heard, “Can I help you folks?”

The next day, they went to the justice’s house. Walter has an unusual memory from the ceremony. The justice was staring at himself in a mirror instead of looking at the couple.

After the ceremony, they took a train back to Miami. It was hot — the train was filled with troops and the windows couldn’t be opened.

“It was the hottest wedding night I ever had or anybody ever had,” Gwendolyn said.

They kept their marriage a secret for 14 months until Gwendolyn graduated from training. A few people knew. Walter’s parents figured it out when his allotment checks stopped coming home and started going instead to Gwendolyn’s aunt.

On the night of Gwendolyn’s graduation, she introduced him as her husband. All of the instructors were surprised.

“I said, ‘I thought everybody knew,’” Gwendolyn recalled.

Weekend warrior

While Gwendolyn worked for a time as a nurse, Walter ended up working for the Department of Defense for 37 years. In Middletown, Walter overhauled aircrafts, engines, instruments — all types of airplane materials.

Walter eventually came back to work at Olmsted, and part of his job was to help close the base in 1969, including moving civilians and military personnel. To keep “paying the rent” and keep his kids in school, Walter started working in Washington, D.C. He commuted from Hummelstown for 11 years.

He called himself a “weekend warrior” — he worked in Wash-

ington and drove home every weekend. Walter wasn’t the only person from the Middletown area who worked there, and he said they would carpool down together and take turns driving.

He was the liaison for Headquarters Naval Sea Systems Command — basically, the liaison for naval field activities — and after people learned that Walter was involved in closing Olmsted, he was selected to be part of committees that closed other bases.

Closing bases often made him enemies.

“You’re going to close a facility and [tell] 3,000 people, ‘You’re not coming to work next week.’ ... It wasn’t a popular job,” he said.

When Walter would come home from Washington on Friday nights, he would play his horn in combo bands or parades, and Gwendolyn would sit in the corner of the clubs, crocheting.

After Walter retired in 1977, they bought a motorhome and traveled across the country. On their refrigerator, the Seners have a plaque for each state they visited. They enjoyed national parks, and Gwendolyn said she loved visiting the Oregon coast.

The pair had three kids who went to Lower Dauphin School District — Walter III, who lives in Palmyra; Alan, who lives in New York City; and Judith Lynn, who passed away in 2012 in California.

“His dimples”

Alan started coming back to Hummelstown two years ago after his mother broke her ankle.

“I think they negotiate the television clickers very well,” Alan said of his parents’ relationship.

A marriage is a lot of give and take, Gwendolyn said.

When asked what did they like about each other, Gwendolyn said, “I always told him, I married him for his money, his car and his dimples. So after we got married, he had a Navy salary, sold his car and the only thing he had left was his dimples.”

“If you find someone that you like immensely, do it. Don’t look back,” Walter said.

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and healing to those who are recovering.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN MILLER

Parties involved in the zoning board case listen as Chairman Jack Still reads a statement at the meeting June 28. From left are Dennis McGlone and Diana McGlone of Sweet Arrow Properties; attorney David Lanza; the court stenographer; zoning board Solicitor David Wion; Still; zoning board member Donald Graham; zoning board member Robert Fallinger; Middletown Zoning and Codes Officer Al Geosits; and borough Solicitor Jim Diamond.

ZONING: Ruling could affect Penn State housing

From page A1

“We are considering all our options. I think it’s clear from both hearings they really couldn’t come up with a reason why they would enforce this ordinance against my client, and not enforce it against any other landlord in the municipality that we know of,” Lanza said.

Lanza accused the borough of selective enforcement of the ban, noting that one of the two principals of Sweet Arrow Properties is Diana McGlone, who resigned from borough council in March.

As evidence of what he contended is a pattern of harassment against McGlone, Lanza referred to comments allegedly sent to McGlone by a borough official via Facebook Messenger while McGlone was on council.

Lanza tried to introduce the text messages as exhibits in the hearing. Zoning board Solicitor David Wion denied the request, saying that the material was not

relevant to the issue before the zoning board.

Lanza also pointed to Geosits’ testimony during the hearing that “we wouldn’t be here” had the tenants in the house gotten married to each other.

“They don’t really seem to have a reason as to why it is that it matters that the residents are related or unrelated,” Lanza said. “It makes it seem very arbitrary.”

McGlone called the board decision “a sad day,” in that “you have municipal leaders now saying to the community that you are not welcome to live in the borough of Middletown, unless you are related by blood or marriage, and now they have granted blanket authority for the codes official to knock on every door in this community and basically evict individuals from their homes.”

Just five people — including two borough councilors — were in the audience to hear the zoning board announce its decision, in contrast to council chambers being packed

when the board held its hearing on May 8 to consider McGlone’s challenge to the ban.

Sixteen people spoke about the ban during the hearing, including Penn State Harrisburg students who contended that the ban made them feel unwelcome in the borough. The four unrelated people living in the house on West Water Street were Penn State students.

The board also heard from landlords who said that the borough in enforcing the law was asking them to violate federal law that makes it illegal for landlords to ask about a tenant’s marital or familial status.

But some borough residents spoke in favor of the ban, as deterring property owners from buying up houses in neighborhoods and converting them into rental units.

Besides altering the character of the neighborhood, this trend has contributed to a lack of parking, these residents told the board.

The West Water Street house recently was vacated because Penn State’s spring classes are over.



“He’s my celebrity man-crush.”

Jenna Solek, Channing Tatum fan



Sisters Jillian and Jenna Solek drove to Hummelstown from Albany to have Channing Tatum sign a bottle of his vodka.

“It’s Channing Tatum. He’s the sexiest man alive.”

Paris Ramuno, Channing Tatum fan



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Channing Tatum signs vodka bottles in Hummelstown: ‘It was amazing’

By Laura Hayes
laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

HUMMELSTOWN — Sisters Jillian and Jenna Solek left work at noon to drive more than four hours from Albany, New York, to Hummelstown for one reason: Meet Channing Tatum.

“He’s my celebrity man-crush,” Jenna said Wednesday evening.

The actor, known for his roles in movies such as “Magic Mike,” “21 Jump Street,” “Step Up” and “She’s the Man,” was at Fine Wine & Good Spirits Premium Collection to sign bottles of his Born and Bred Vodka.

Jillian and Jenna bought six bottles each, the maximum Tatum would sign. People could buy bottles starting at 9 a.m., according to Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board spokesman Shawn Kelly. All were sold by 11:45 a.m.

The sisters arrived in Hummelstown on Tuesday afternoon and stayed in line until the signing, camping out in the parking lot. It really wasn’t that hard, they said.

“We had such a good group of people,” Jenna said.

Others traveled to Hummelstown from around the state — a small sampling included York, near Philadelphia and the Lancaster area— and farther.

This was the first time that Paris Ramuno had camped out for an event.

Ramuno lives outside Philadelphia, and she and her friend Jen Hornstein brought blow-up mattresses to make sleeping outside the liquor store a little more comfortable.

“It’s Channing Tatum. He’s the sexiest man alive,” Ramuno said.

A fan of Tatum’s movies “Step Up” and “She’s the Man,” Ramuno said she wanted to come to the bottle signing to be able to get a picture with the actor and just be “in close proximity.”

Tatum started signing bottles at 6 p.m. The line was broken into groups and they were escorted into the store. Attendees couldn’t bring large bags into the store or



Channing Tatum takes a photo with Nicole Gracey at Fine Wine & Good Spirits Premium Collection in Hummelstown on June 27. See many more photos at [www.pressandjournal.com](#).



Hundreds of people lined up in front of the Fine Wine & Good Spirits Premium Collection store in Hummelstown on June 27 for a chance to meet actor Channing Tatum.

ask Tatum to sign other items.

One by one, attendees met Tatum. He chatted with them as he signed the bottles, giving some hugs and posing for a photo.

“I can’t breathe. He asked me

to dance,” York native Michele Noll said after Tatum signed her bottles. Noll and Nicole Gracey waited in line since 2 p.m. Tuesday.

“He was so personal,” Trish Harris said. Harris traveled to

Hummelstown from Taneytown, Maryland, to see Tatum. “It was amazing.”

The Liquor Control Board, Kelly said, frequently works with celebrities and vendors and tries to offer events such as this to draw people to stores. For example, actor and musician Dan Aykroyd signed bottles of his vodka at the same location in October 2016, and Zac Brown signed bottles of his wine there in September 2017.

“Channing Tatum seemed like a good fit for this area,” Kelly said.

Tatum finished signing bottles around 11:30 p.m.

“It was absolutely a success. He was very happy with the turnout,” Kelly said.

According to its website, Born and Bred Vodka is distilled at the Grand Teton Distillery in Idaho. The vodka is made from Idaho potatoes and water from the Grand Teton mountains.

Police, constable honored for efforts at fatal fire

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Three Middletown police officers and a state constable were honored July 2 for their heroism in trying to rescue a woman from a house fire at 208 E. Roosevelt Ave. on March 19.

A group of 12 borough firefighters and emergency medical personnel had been similarly honored at the start of a Middletown borough council meeting May 16.

As he did on May 16, state Rep. Tom Mehaffie, R-Lower Swatara, presented certificates acknowledging heroism to each of the four law enforcement personnel during the July 2 ceremony that was held in the office of Middletown Police Chief George Mouchette.

Honored were Constable Jeffrey T. Shank, Middletown Officers Adam Tankersley and Tyler Zehring, and Middletown police Detective Gary Rux.

Shank was first on the scene. He was driving home after serving warrants when he spotted fire coming from the back of the residence. He told someone outside with a cellphone to call 911. The first call to Middletown firefighters came in at 2:05 p.m.

The car port quickly was engulfed in flames. Shank couldn’t



Rep. Tom Mehaffie, R-Lower Swatara Township, left, on July 2 presents certificates for heroism to Officer Tyler Zehring, Detective Gary Rux, State Constable Jeffrey T. Shank, Officer Adam Tankersley and Police Chief George Mouchette. They tried to rescue a woman from a burning house fire on East Roosevelt Avenue on March 19.

open the front door or get into the house from the back.

Tankersley was the first from MPD to arrive. He and Shank broke out some windows and kicked the front door in.

“We heard a female yelling for help. We believed her to be in the back room which turned out to be her bedroom,” Tankersley said, but they couldn’t get in through the door. “It was just too smoky. We couldn’t even see but two feet

inside.”

A dog ran out after Shank and Tankersley kicked in the front door. Rux grabbed the dog and took it across the street and then ran back to assist Shank and Tankersley.

“The whole house was covered in black smoke” to where breathing was difficult even outside the residence, Rux said.

Shank and Tankersley smashed out more windows on the east and south sides of the house.

However, “the smoke was just too dark and too dense. We couldn’t even breathe,” Tankersley said.

They stripped off their gear to again try and get in, but the officers were stopped by Zehring, who was the shift supervisor for the day.

It was just dangerous for anyone other than the firefighters to go in, Zehring said. Firefighters climbed through the east side of the window and pulled the woman out.

Katina Nicol Wilkerson, 36, was taken to Lehigh Valley Burn Center in Allentown, where she died the next day. Cause of death was determined to be accidental, caused by inhalation of products of combustion, according to the Lehigh County Coroner’s office.

She left behind her 8-year-old son, Malachi, who was in school at the time of the fire. The dog survived, as well as two cats.

Investigators determined that the fire started from someone putting a cigarette butt in a coffee tin that was being used as an ashtray on a handrail. The tin was either blown or knocked off the rail, and landed in a recycling container, igniting the fire.

“Most people don’t realize it, but in almost every emergency the police arrive before anybody else arrives,” Mouchette said. “We have obviously some brave officers here who attempted to save lives, and put their own lives in danger, which makes me very proud to be their chief.”

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Williams, Lehman are PSU Student-Athletes of Year

Penn State Harrisburg baseball standout sophomore outfielder Bret Williams and women's track & field All-American Sarah Lehman are the school's 2017-2018 Male and Female Student-Athletes of the Year.

The Penn State Harrisburg Student-Athlete of the Year is awarded to the male and female student-athlete who has excelled above and beyond normal standards academically and athletically, according to the school. In addition, the recipients of this award demonstrated strong leadership abilities.

Williams was an essential part

of the Lions' record-setting 31-win season. Williams posted a .365 batting average and recorded 66 hits including 10 doubles, four triples, and a Capital Athletic Conference-leading 14 home runs. He had 57 RBIs, while scoring 53 runs. Williams also swiped 17 stolen bases.

One of Williams's best stretches came in the CAC playoffs. In three games against Southern Virginia and Christopher Newport, Williams went 6-for-13 with two doubles, three home runs, eight RBIs, eight runs scored and one stolen base. He was named CAC Player of the Week and helped the Lions advance to the CAC Championship

game.

Williams, who is from Mount Carmel, earned first-team All-CAC honors and was named to the ABCA Mid-Atlantic All-Region first team and to the All-Eastern College Athletic Conference first team.

"Bret had a great year. He was a big part of our team's success. We are looking forward to the next two years and seeing how he continues to develop and see if he can reach



Williams



Lehman

bigger goals," said head baseball coach Ryan Bown.

Williams earned a grade-point average of 3.22.

Lehman had a tremendous freshman campaign for the Lions' indoor and outdoor women's track & field teams. During the indoor season, she set the CAC Conference record in the triple jump at 11.48 meters.

Lehman captured the CAC Indoor Championship in the event,

and also took second in the long jump.

Lehman closed her indoor campaign by capturing the ECAC Championship in the triple jump.

Lehman, who is from Mechanicsburg, built upon that success in her outdoor season. She captured the CAC Outdoor Championship in the triple jump and was the runner-up in the long jump. Lehman also would capture the ECAC Championship in the triple jump.

Lehman's marks in both the triple jump (12.18 meters) and long jump (5.72 meters) qualified her for the NCAA Championships. Lehman took fifth in the triple

jump at 11.95 meters, earning her All-American status. At the NCAA Championships, Lehman was named the USTFCCA Mid-East Region Women's Field Athlete of the Year.

"We are thrilled that Sarah's efforts in the classroom and in the field of play have been recognized by the entire Penn State Harrisburg Athletic Department. Sarah's focus and drive show the true definitions of excellence. We are so proud!" said head women's track & field coach Danielle Lynch.

Lehman earned a GPA of 3.62, which earned her a spot on the CAC All-Academic Team.

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Learning basics of baseball



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAURA HAYES

Coach Steve Pickel shows the campers how to bunt during camp on June 27.

Blue Raiders coaches hold camp for dozens of players

By Laura Hayes
laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Stealing bases, bunting, fielding — 34 campers gathered in Middletown Area High School's fields to hone their baseball skills last week.

The baseball camp was led by the Blue Raiders baseball coaches and ran from June 25-28.

This is the first time MASD has offered a summer baseball camp in years.

Head coach Mike Lupia said they wanted to get the younger baseball players involved and playing baseball.

"We haven't had enough guys out at the high school level. Hopefully, if you do stuff like this ... hopefully the kids will keep playing when they get older and our numbers will go up," Lupia said. "We're definitely going to keep on doing" the camp.

The campers had different reasons for wanting to participate in the camp. Charles Lawrence said that he hoped to improve, and Troy Knoll said he wanted to get to know the coaches.

"I wanted to come out, gain better skills and have fun," Kaden Shomper said. "I'm here in two years."

The camp was open for kids entering third through eighth grade. A majority of the campers attend Middletown Area School District schools.

The camp, Lupia said, taught all areas and positions of baseball.



Conner Cleland dives for a ball.



Thirty-four campers participated in Middletown Area High School's baseball camp. See more photos at www.pressandjournal.com.



Troy Knoll runs under the ball for a catch.

On Wednesday, the kids started out the day throwing the ball back and forth before breaking into five groups where they rotated between stations and practiced bunting, stealing bases, fielding the balls and hitting.

"Regardless of what position they play, they're young enough to learn different positions," Lupia said.

For the younger kids, Lupia and the other coaches teach them the basics. He said they adjust their lessons when they work with the



Eli Webb practices bunting during baseball camp on June 27.

older students and offer more advanced suggestions.

Lupia said he didn't expect this many kids to sign up.

"We have a lot of great kids here," Lupia said. "Even if they learn one or two things here this week that makes them a better

player, it's all good because by the time they come to me when they're in ninth grade, hopefully that translates to a lot of wins on the field."

The Blue Raiders finished last season 10-9 and missed a spot in the District 3 playoffs.

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Middletown woman honored nationally for work at Giant

By Laura Hayes
laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

A Lower Swatara Township woman recently was recognized as one of Progressive Grocer magazine’s top women in the grocery industry. Jennifer Scott, who works for Giant/Martin’s as a category manager for breakfast and baking at the corporate office in Carlisle, was one of the women honored in the “Rising Star” division. Scott said she was excited to be selected.

“I felt like, man, that’s something to be proud of,” Scott said. Scott was one of nine Giant/Martin’s women to be recognized by Progressive Grocer, which is a national magazine that follows news and research in the retail food industry. According to the magazine’s website, there were more than 650 nominees and 362 people were honored and were featured in the June edition. There are three categories — senior-level executives for people with the title of vice president or higher, rising stars for people

with titles lower than vice president or lower, and store managers for store managers, store directors, and area or region directors. Progressive Grocer stated that these women have demonstrated “above-and-beyond achievements” from April 2017 to March 1, 2018. She also is a member of the Middletown Area School District School Board. Scott began working at Giant/Martin’s in 2012 to do sourcing for the company’s goods. “I was looking for a career change,” Scott said. Her previous job included negotiating contracts and bids. She was recruited by Giant/Martin’s. In 2016, she was promoted to category manager for baking and breakfast food. The women recognized by Progressive Grocer will be honored at a gala in Chicago in November. “Congratulations to these extraordinary and special leaders who put the customer at the heart of everything they do,” Matthew Lutcavage, Giant vice president of human resources, said in a press release. “We are humbled by their service and leadership to the community, their colleagues, their customers, and to our organization.”



Scott

Gas prices take slight dip

Gasoline prices in Harrisburg fell 1.5 cents a gallon last week, averaging \$2.85 a gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 241 stations. This compares with the national average that is unchanged vs. last week to \$2.84 a gallon, according to GasBuddy. Average prices July 2 in Harrisburg have ranged widely over the last five years: \$2.28 a gallon in 2017, \$2.32 a gallon in 2016, \$2.80 a gallon in 2015, \$3.72 a gallon in 2014 and \$3.37 a gallon in 2013. Prices on Sunday were 57.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago and are 15.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The U.S. average has dropped 10.7 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 62.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. Areas near Harrisburg and their gas price climate:

Lancaster: \$2.86 a gallon, down 1 cent per gallon from last week.
Reading: \$2.93, down 2.3 cents.
York: \$2.87, up 5.8 cents.
“Going into the July Fourth holiday, I can’t remember the last time oil markets were so active. Oil has surged over 10 percent just in time for summer’s busiest travel holiday, costing motorists over \$1 billion more than last year,” said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. “All the ingredients exist for the national average to inch closer to \$3 per gallon, just in time for the second half of the summer. Undoubtedly, the second half of the summer will be pricier than the first, thanks to OPEC’s production increase falling short of expectations, sanctions to be placed back on Iran by November and falling U.S. oil inventories.”

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LOWER SWATARA POLICE ROUNDUP

Gun, \$2,000 stolen; 5 charged for using toys without permission

A pistol and \$2,000 were reported stolen in a burglary in the 1000 block of North Spring Street between 5 and 11 p.m. June 19. Investigators said the front door to the apartment was smashed to gain entry. Investigators said the stolen Kel-Tec 9mm semiautomatic pistol was equipped with a 100-round drum. Reportedly the weapon was not loaded, and there was no ammunition in the home. The weapon was valued at \$1,000. The gun had been kept in one of the apartment’s closets, police said. Police added a safe also was stolen. Its value was estimated at \$100. The cash stolen included both paper and coin money, police noted.

Police are asking anyone with information about the incident to call them at 717-939-0463.

Defiant trespass charge

Elvir Delic, 39, of the 100 block of 17th St., Harrisburg, has been charged with defiant trespass in connection with an investigation alleging he was following individuals at an area apartment complex in the 2000 block of Georgetown Road. Police allege Delic was trespassing at the Springwood Glen Apartments after being told by its management not to be in the area. Delic allegedly followed individuals, prompting the manager of the apartments to serve him with a letter telling him he was not to be in the complex. Police did note Delvic’s parents are residents of the complex. Delic was arraigned before District Judge Michael Smith on June 22, during which time cash bail of \$25,000 was set. Court records as of July 3 noted he was in Dauphin County Prison after

failing to post bail. He is to appear before Smith on July 5 for a hearing. Delic had an earlier brush with township police that resulted in the filing of a disorderly conduct charge against him. Police were called on June 18 to investigate allegations that a man had approached several children at the Springwood Glen Apartment complex. Investigators found evidence that subsequently led them to file the charge against Delic. He is scheduled for a July 5 hearing before Smith on the citation.

Adults, kids cited for trespassing

Citations for defiant trespass have been filed against five individuals, three of whom are children, following an incident involving children’s toys. Police said Susan Peterson, 33, of the 1200 block of Montour Road, Loysville; Nicole Wolfers, 32, of the 100 block of C Lane, Harrisburg; and three children, ages 10, 11, 12, were cited after an incident at 4:15 p.m. June 22 in the 100 block of C Lane. According to police, the complainant was out of the state and said she watched via remote video the five people trespass on her property and play with toys at her residence. Police said the accused believed toys that were in the vicinity of the property were free and the homeowner no longer lived in the home.

DUI charges

A traffic stop for erratic driving ended in the arrest and filing of charges against a Harrisburg man by township police. Court records noted charges of DUI and DUI-high rate of alcohol have been filed against Dwight Garfield, 29, of the 4000 block of Sequoia Drive, follow-

ing his arrest at 2 a.m. June 2 in the 1000 block of Eisenhower Boulevard. The arresting officer said Garfield was driving a 2014 Toyota Corolla in an erratic manner and was stopped on suspicion he was driving while under the influence of intoxicants. An odor of alcohol was detected from the vehicle, the arrest report noted. Garfield was taken to the Dauphin County Judicial Center after he performed sobriety tests. The arrest report added that a blood sample from Garfield was tested for the presence of intoxicants. Results of the tests were not reported. He is scheduled to appear before Judge Michael Smith on Aug. 29 for a hearing on the charges.

Harassment citation

Christina Lopkoff, 41, of the 100 block of C Lane, Harrisburg, was issued a citation for harassment following her actions during an incident at 5:03 p.m. June 23 in the 100 block of A Lane, court records noted. Lopkoff allegedly yelled profanities at a relative while driving past her home.

Faulty brake light leads to arrest

Police stopped a Harrisburg resident due to a faulty brake light and subsequently arrested and charged him. Court records show Aaron Drexel, 26, of the 7000 block of Sunset Drive, has been charged with DUI, DUI-controlled substance (four counts) and DUI-high rate of alcohol. Drexel was arrested following a traffic stop at 12:05 a.m. June 9 in the 1000 block of South Eisenhower Boulevard. According to the arresting officer, he was driving a 1996 Honda Accord that crossed the fog

line on Eisenhower Boulevard several times. A subsequent interview with Drexel turned into a DUI investigation after which he was taken to the Dauphin County Judicial Center, where he was charged. He is scheduled to appear before Judge Michael Smith on Aug. 29 for a hearing on the charges.

Disorderly conduct citation

A citation for disorderly conduct has been filed against Janelle Beshore, 24, of the first block of Nissley Drive, Middletown, following an incident at 8:32 a.m. June 7. Police said the case was prompted due to an argument between Beshore and a neighbor.

Mirrors stolen

Police report someone removed and stole two mirrors from two vehicles parked in the first block of Ray Road. According to police, the mirrors from a 2000 Honda Civic and a 2017 Dodge Ram truck were pried out of their housings and stolen. Police believe the thefts took place sometime early June 21. No estimate of loss was reported. Police are asking anyone with information about the incident to contact them at 717-939-0463.

Guilty plea

Court records noted Caleb Gaumer, 52, of the 1000 block of Pineford Drive, Middletown, pleaded guilty to a citation for disorderly conduct following an incident at a convenience store in the 1000 block of Fulling Mill Road at about 10 a.m. June 20. According to police, Gaumer was seen urinating outside of the mini-market. Reportedly he told police the store’s restroom was occupied at the time.

Nye students honored for coloring work

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3052 recently recognized Nye Elementary School students for their outstanding work in their annual coloring contest. Left, District 18 Commander David Gyger, Principal Bryan MacLeod, Post Commander Scott Fritz and Post Trustee Susan Fritz congratulate second-graders Lauren Udenhoven, Kennedi Flors and Colin Shaffer for their work. Above MacLeod, Gyger, Fritz and Fritz congratulate fifth-grader Zoey Rohrbach, fourth-grader Emily Miller, and third-graders Anthony Fogle, Thaddeus Shadley and Isabella Tran.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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						H	O	U	S	E	K	E	E	P	E	R
	D	E	H	Y		D	R	A	T	E						
B	A	B	A			I	S	M		S	A	B	E	R		
I	C	B	M			Z	O	O			A	L	L	E	N	
A	C	E	S			E	R	A			R	A	B	B	I	
S	A	D				D	Y	N				H	A	S	P	

CHURCHNEWS

Ebenezer United Methodist Church



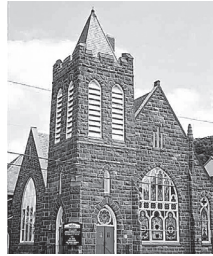
Ebenezer United Methodist Church and Child-care, 890 Ebenezer Road, Middletown invites everyone to join us for worship on Sunday mornings lead by Pastor Brad Gilbert. Our services are relaxed and casual. We offer a traditional service at 8:45 a.m. and a contemporary service with a band (electric guitars) 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. 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.

Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown



The Presbyterian Congregation is located at 290 N. Union St. 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.

Wed., July 4: Office closed – Happy 4th of

July. Sun., July 8: Communion. Mon., July 9: 6 p.m., Worship Committee.

Please join us on Sunday, July 8 at 10:30 a.m. as our Pastor Christian Neubaum 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!

Our electronic newsletter can be accessed anytime at www.pcmtd.org...click on “resources”...click on “newsletter.” (These are PDF files should open with Adobe Acrobat). For further information, see our website www.pcmtd.org, visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PresbyterianCongregation), or call the office.

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. Visit our website at www.stpetersmiddletown.org. 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. (no chapel July 4); 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., July 7: 5 p.m., Holy Communion – Good Shepherd Chapel – Everyone is welcome. Sun., July 8: 10 a.m., Holy Communion – everyone is welcome.

Communities That Care will meet at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Luther Hall on Thurs., July 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Summer Lunch Program: This summer all kids are invited to come to the church for a free, nutritious lunch, Mon. through Fri., 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. through Aug. 10. St. Peter’s is one of three locations in Middletown where the School District will serve lunch to any and all kids up to age 18 and differently-abled kids up to age 21.

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 July 1 (the first Sunday of each month).

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 the weekend: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13.

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.

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. New Beginnings Church invites 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.

Our prayer garden in the rear of the yard has an 8-foot cross that is 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.

July ushers: Beth and Gary Hinkle and Ellie Freeland. Greeter: Dick Wagner. Children’s church leaders for July 8: Kelly Hummert and Crystal Markovich.

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. Check us out on our website at 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.

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.

This week’s worship assistants are as follows: Pastor – Lee Ellenberger; Organist – Don Cowser; Special Music – Quartet; Children’s Time – Lee Ellenberger; Audio Visual – Steve Moyer; Jamal Warren and Justin Hahn; Head Usher – Julie Kupp; Greeters – Bill Mortimore, Forney and Mary Jane Rife; Nursery Caregivers – Gloria Clouser and Vickie Hubbard.

This week’s schedule of activities is as follows: Wed., July 4: Church office closed; 6 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous Group Book Study. Thurs., July 5: 6 p.m., God’s Kitchen at Wesley, meal provided by Evan.

Sun., July 8: 9 a.m., Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., Worship Service.

Tues., July 10: 2 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6 p.m., God’s Kitchen at Wesley, meal provided by New Thing Community.

New audit outlines where \$43.2 million in Suez deal went

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

A forensic audit completed for Middletown by RKL of Lancaster confirms how much money the borough paid its legal and financial advisors for their roles in negotiations in 2014 toward a 50-year lease of the borough’s water and sewer systems to Middletown Water Joint Venture, LLC.

The law firm of McNees Wallace & Nurick was paid \$675,000. The invoice does not say when the borough paid the firm. However, the invoice from the firm is dated Jan. 22, 2015.

Susquehanna Group Advisors received \$529,940, according to the final report from RKL dated May 24, paid Dec. 30, 2014 when the lease transaction closed.

The money to both firms was paid out of the \$43.2 million upfront payment that the borough received from the joint venture in return for borough council and the former borough authority approving the lease on Sept. 29, 2014. The lease of the water and sewer systems went into effect on Jan. 1, 2015.

Invoices from both firms are included in the RKL report.

According to minutes from the Sept. 29, 2014, council meeting, Susquehanna Group Advisors was to receive 1 percent of the \$43 million upfront payment — about \$430,000.

The invoice from SGA included in the RKL report does not provide any detail regarding how SGA ended up getting an additional \$100,000.

During the same Sept. 29, 2014, meeting, then-borough Solicitor Adam Santucci with McNees estimated that McNees would end up being paid \$400,000 to \$600,000 for its part in the lease transaction.

According to the McNees invoice in the RKL report, the firm invoiced the borough for professional services totaling \$730,000 regarding the lease transaction. However, McNees discounted that amount by \$61,300.

Neither McNees nor SGA work now for the borough.

Council ended the borough’s relationship with SGA in 2016, after council hired a full-time finance director and brought borough finance operations in-house.

McNees Wallace & Nurick had been borough solicitor since January 2012, but council on April 17 replaced the firm as solicitor with Eckert Seamans.

On June 4, the borough at council’s direction filed a class-action lawsuit against McNees Wallace & Nurick and Susquehanna Group Advisors in Dauphin County Court.

The lawsuit seeks damages from both firms, due to what the borough alleges was faulty representation that the firms provided to the borough during lease negotiations pertaining to the water sales shortfall provision in the lease.

The suit against McNees and SGA is pending in county court.

The water sales shortfall provision is the subject of a separate lawsuit pending in federal district court that the borough has filed against Middletown

Water Joint Venture LLC, which includes Suez, the private company that operates Middletown’s water and sewer systems under the lease deal.

The water sales shortfall provision led to a shortfall in water sales during the first three years of the lease, from January 2015 through December 2017, that Suez and the joint venture seek to recoup through an 11.5 percent surcharge that was added to Middletown water and sewer bills starting in April.

The borough in the federal lawsuit seeks an injunction blocking Suez from imposing the surcharge. The borough is also seeking changes in how the water sales shortfall provision is structured in the lease, contending that the provision amounts to a financial windfall for the joint venture.

The borough is awaiting a decision in the federal lawsuit by Chief Judge Christopher C. Conner.

Where the money went

The RKL forensic audit also details the “flow of funds” regarding the \$43.2 million up-front payment from the joint venture to the borough.

According to the report, \$21.5 million of the upfront payment went to pay off bonds that had been incurred by the borough and the authority.

Another \$8.5 million went to cover liabilities of the borough’s uniformed and non-uniformed pension funds, as well as future post-employment benefits.

According to the report, before the lease transaction the borough police pension fund had been 72.8 percent funded, the non-uniformed pension plan had been funded at 71.8 percent, and the police and non-uniformed post-employment plans had been funded at 28.6 percent.

Following the lease transaction, all these plans were “substantially fully funded” based upon actuarial valuations that RKL reviewed as part of its analysis, the report said.

Regarding remaining proceeds of the \$43.2 million payout, \$1.4 million went to cover transaction expenses, including the money paid to McNees Wallace & Nurick and SGA.

Another \$4.2 million was paid in escrow to the borough, another \$6.7 million in escrow to the authority, and a remaining \$761,331 was paid to the authority to be used as a “rainy day” fund.

The “significant amounts” being held in escrow by the borough and the authority were “to fund future expenditures,” RKL noted in its report. “While we reviewed the initial deposit of these amounts, the subsequent flow of funds is outside the scope of this investigation. We would suggest that the borough may want to further review the flow of funds related to these areas.”

The entire RKL report is expected to be made public as part of borough council agreeing to a request from Mayor James H. Curry III to include the RKL report with minutes from the June 19 council meeting.

Council is expected to act on approving the minutes during its next meeting July 9.

PRESS AND JOURNAL.com

WHENEVER & WHEREVER

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH 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



Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church
329 Market Street, Middletown
Pastor C. VICTORIA BROWN, M.Div. • 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



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



Geysers United Methodist Church
1605 South Geysers 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 for more information.

FROM THE VAULT

News from the Wednesday, July 4, 2012, edition of the Press & Journal

Restored glory: Stone house returns to serve future families

The stone house at South Wood and Ann streets was a labor of love.

It was built in 1959 by a mason named Ed Baumbach, who hauled stone from the Round Top quarry in Londonderry Township by a wooden wagon and cut it by hand. The two-story building was meant to be a doctor's office, though it never served that purpose. Baumbach was so proud of his work that he etched his name in one of the stones in the chimney.

Lately, it sat abandoned, its

ragged roof covered by tarps, its rain-ravaged main floor on the verge of collapse.

Then it was obtained by the Tri-County Housing Development Corp., a nonprofit that uses private and government contributions to renovate tumbledown houses for low-income residents to buy. Using its funds, including \$170,000 in federal funds given through a Dauphin County housing program, it renovated the stone house, hoping it would become someone's first home.

Officials cut the ribbon on the

restored home on Tuesday, June 26, showing off the work that construction crews had done and officially putting it up for sale. It has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a working fireplace and lots of long, deep closets in the second-floor bedrooms.

"I don't call it a house with closets — I call it closets with a house," quipped Robb Keith, president of Tri-County's board of directors.

The asking price is \$99,900. It already is under contract to be sold to a would-be buyer.

Library funding cut from budget

Middletown Borough Council has cut the Middletown Public Library from its 2013 budget, the first step in making the facility self-sufficient, councilors said.

The library should live off its endowments and contributions from patrons, businesses and neighboring municipalities, whose residents make up more than half of those who use the facility, said council President Christopher McNamara.

Council plans to ask Dauphin County and Middletown's neigh-

bors — Royalton, Lower Swatara Township and Londonderry Township — for help in funding the library, a fixture since 1926.

The library has \$375,000 in endowments saved in various bank accounts, money from the sale of old books and the wills of grateful patrons. It's unclear how much of that can legally be used to fund the library's operations — salaries, heat and electricity, for example — since some of the money was donated for specific purposes, such as

books or reading programs for kids. "It's my understanding that there are parts of the money that don't have a restriction," said Chris Courogen, borough secretary and director of communications.

The library costs the borough about \$240,000 a year, according to Middletown's budget, though councilors estimated that it actually costs about \$358,000.

Councilors vowed that the library would remain open despite the cut in funding.

Other headlines

- Borough hall gets a little tender loving care
- Woman charged with falsifying documents
- Former councilor dies in accident
- Injuries, losses mount for hard-luck Post 594

Hot buys

- Five-pound box of super jumbo hot dogs, \$12.99. Meat package No. 4, 5 pounds hamburger patties, 5 pounds fresh sausage, 5 pounds chicken legs, 5 pounds ground beef, 2 racks of pork ribs, 3 pounds of New York strip steaks, \$98.99. Groff's Meats, Elizabethtown.
- Hallmark Keepsake snowtop lodge, \$24.95, with a Hallmark Keepsake ornament purchase of \$50 or more. Middletown Pharmacy and Gift Shop, 436 E. Main St., Middletown.

POLICE AND COURTS ROUNDUP

Man charged with having heroin, two hit-and-runs

An Oberlin man faces numerous charges after police say he caused two hit-and-run accidents and was then found in possession of heroin, all in the same day.

According to arrest papers Elizabethtown police filed with District Judge David Judy, Ronald Lee Brubacher, 32, of the 1000 block of Chambers Street, rear-ended a vehicle stopped at a red light at East College Avenue and Route 230 in Elizabethtown shortly after 3 p.m. April 8, and then fled without stopping.

Three minutes later, Northwest Regional police were dispatched to the intersection near Turkey Hill in Mount Joy, where it was later learned that Brubacher had been involved in a second hit-and-run.

State Police aided by witnesses located Brubacher about 1.5 miles north of Route 283 on Deodate Road in Londonderry Township, where he was seen throwing blue wax baggies of suspected heroin into the creek. Police retrieved three unopened bags and three ripped bags from the creek.

Police searched Brubacher to find one more ripped wax baggie, three hypodermic needles, and a prescription pill bottle with several unidentified pills inside, police said.

Brubacher is listed in Dauphin County Prison and was arraigned May 8 on charges of possession of a controlled substance, use/possession of drug paraphernalia, DUI of a controlled and DUI while under suspension, tampering with evidence, and careless driving.

He waived a May 29 preliminary hearing and is to be arraigned on the charges in Dauphin County Court on Aug. 3.

Brubacher is also charged with hit-and-run and driv-

ing under suspension by both Elizabethtown and Northwest Regional police. Northwest Regional police have also charged him with careless driving.

Man charged after incident

Middletown police charged a borough man following an incident in the 100 block of South Union Street on June 19.

Claudio Aguilar-Gutierrez, 20, slammed through a bedroom door, causing injury to a woman who was behind the door, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

Aguilar-Gutierrez then picked up the woman and threw her onto the floor, resulting in bruising to her face and an injury to her back, police said.

Aguilar-Gutierrez was arraigned before Night Court District Judge Paul T. Zozos on June 19 and charged with simple assault.

He was released after posting \$5,000 unsecured bail.

A preliminary hearing has been set for Sept. 10.

Man charged with DUI of pot

Middletown police charged a borough man with DUI of marijuana after he was pulled over for failing to use a turn signal while turning left onto Grandview Avenue from North Union Street on April 13.

A search of the Volkswagen Passat driven by Aaron Michael Lentini, 22, of the 1000 block of Spring Street, yielded marijuana, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy. Lentini also had the active ingredient of marijuana in his system, according to a lab analysis of a blood draw, police said.

Lentini is charged with DUI of marijuana, use/possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, and turning move-

ments and required signals.

Lentini waived a June 18 preliminary hearing and is to be arraigned on the charges in Dauphin County Court on Sept. 7.

Woman out \$300 in gift card scam

A woman told Middletown police she was bilked out of \$300 as a result of a scam involving Apple gift cards and a hacked email account.

The victim told police she had received an email from a friend asking that she purchase three \$100 Apple gift cards.

The email asked the victim to scratch off the back of each card to reveal the code, and send photos of each code as an email attachment to the supposed "friend."

When the victim later tried to redeem the cards, she learned there was no value left on any of them, police said. Police determined that the friend's email account had been hacked.

Borough police advise anyone receiving such a request through email to make sure and verify that the request is valid, either by contacting the alleged sender in person or by some other method.

Two charged in Giant incident

A Middletown man and a Highspire woman were both charged with public drunkenness and three misdemeanor counts of harassment after they allegedly threatened three women during an incident at the Giant Food store at 450 E. Main St. on May 28.

A preliminary hearing is set for July 16 before District Judge David Judy for both Craig V. Smythe, 48, of the 200 block of Hoffer Street; and Rita L. Hammonds, of the 400 block of Wil-low Street in Highspire.

PUZZLES AND HOROSCOPE

WORD SEARCH | ANSWERS ON B2

Travel time word search	Clothing Cocktail Departure Destination Directions Essentials Gratuity Hotel International Itinerary	Meals Packing Passenger Peak Relax Reservation Road trip Room Schedule Season	Seat Ship Sightseeing Suitcase Suite Train Transfer Travel Tropical Vacation
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M	P	V	E	V	I	S	U	L	C	N	I	L	L	A	L	K	H	I	G
L	A	V	I	R	R	A	G	H	S	I	G	H	T	S	E	E	I	N	G
P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	O	G	C	I	P	V	S	L	S	V	L
L	V	T	T	G	U	M	F	N	N	T	N	X	R	E	I	N	P	N	S
A	P	D	R	K	N	B	A	I	O	T	E	C	F	S	O	C	P	X	L
C	I	I	O	S	U	I	K	K	E	I	L	L	P	I	U	T	B	E	A
I	R	R	P	H	D	C	D	R	C	I	T	F	T	K	H	I	U	U	I
P	T	E	R	I	A	S	N	R	A	Y	R	A	R	E	N	I	T	I	T
O	D	C	I	P	E	A	L	T	A	I	D	R	V	B	L	U	M	E	N
R	A	T	A	E	A	T	K	K	D	O	C	S	D	R	L	V	S	K	E
T	O	I	T	I	P	C	A	V	M	K	B	T	E	E	E	A	U	N	S
I	R	O	O	N	O	L	A	M	S	V	R	T	S	A	C	S	V	B	S
G	H	N	B	C	E	C	O	C	K	A	F	S	T	T	S	V	E	X	E
N	A	S	F	N	A	C	H	C	N	E	L	E	I	Y	N	O	S	R	I
L	A	E	D	T	C	E	X	S	K	A	X	U	N	O	D	L	N	C	M
G	K	A	I	A	D	A	F	A	E	F	S	K	A	N	N	I	A	R	T
X	R	O	P	U	L	E	K	M	G	N	I	H	T	O	L	C	E	K	K
P	N	R	L	E	R	T	R	A	V	E	L	F	I	P	U	R	K	A	F
O	O	E	R	U	T	R	A	P	E	D	O	L	O	M	O	O	R	E	O
R	D	P	X	G	G	R	A	T	U	I	T	Y	N	Y	D	P	P	P	M

Guess Who? answer: Kevin Hart

SUDOKU

					9			
	8			3	1		4	
7			5			9	8	
		4					1	
	1	3						
	2				3	7		
				9	5	2		
				4				
2	4			6		5		

Level: Intermediate

Puzzles are a 9-by-9 grid, broken down into nine 3-by-3 boxes. Nos. 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out the order by using the numeric clues provided. The more you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

6	8	9	8	9	1	7	7	2
8	9	1	7	7	2	9	6	8
7	7	2	9	6	8	9	1	
9	9	7	8	1	7	6	2	8
2	6	7	9	7	8	8	1	9
8	1	8	2	9	6	7	7	9
1	8	6	7	2	9	9	8	7
9	7	9	1	8	7	2	8	6
7	2	8	6	8	9	1	9	7

GUESS WHO? (answer below Word Search)

I am a comic actor born in Pennsylvania on July 6, 1979. I won several amateur comedy contests in the early years of my career. I was cast on a TV show in 2000. I have a comedy album that went 5-times platinum, and I recently starred in the "Jumanji" reboot.

CROSSWORD | ANSWERS ON B2

ACROSS

- Guinean seaport
- They __
- Electromotive force
- "McVicar" director
- Monetary unit
- Mother of Hermes
- Broadway actress Daisy
- Tobacco mosaic virus
- Expression of surprise
- African financial intermediaries
- Fully ripe egg
- Soothes the skin
- Editors write them
- Nashville-based rockers
- Surgical tube
- Lasting records
- Member of Ghanaese tribe
- Being in a vertical

DOWN

- Spasmodic contraction
- Cartilage disks
- Domestic help
- A way of drying out
- Small sponge cake
- Distinctive practice or philosophy
- Sword
- Type of missile (abbr.)
- Home to various animals
- American comedian Tim
- Scores perfectly
- A major division of geological time
- Spiritual leader
- Unhappy
- Unit of force (abbr.)
- Door part

DOWN

- Academic degree
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Large, stocky lizard
- Romanian river
- Stellar
- A way to change
- Surround completely
- A Philly footballer
- Dinosaur shuang_____aurus
- Slowly disappear
- Large antelope
- Not nice
- Piece of footwear
- Newt
- Seriously mentally ill
- Kilogram force (abbr.)
- Terrorist group
- Negative
- Time zone
- A blacksmith's

- workshop
- Baked dessert
- A way to perceive uniquely
- Breeze through
- Dry white wine drink
- Treated with iodine
- Not thorough
- Famous museum
- Supplements with difficulty
- Polynesian language
- Bangladesh capital (var. sp.)
- ___ and flowed
- Excessively theatrical actors
- Prejudice
- Swiss river
- Nonsense (slang)
- "Luther" actor
- Resist authority (slang)
- Pinch

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HOROSCOPE | WEEK OF JULY 4

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

When everything is going your way, you are glowing. But if things don't come naturally to you, frustration may set in. Find a balance.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

Panning stages are over and now you're about to turn your goals into reality. Just be sure to adapt to the changing environment as things unfold.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

You might be seeking ways to help others in need, but you do not have patience when things take longer than expected. Stick to the plan and see it through.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

It is important to support others' goals and the steps they take to achieve them, even if you do not necessarily agree with their formula for success.

LEO JULY 23-AUG. 23

Happiness has less to do with what is happening in the world and more with your own perceptions. Keep this in mind as you move forward in life.

VIRGO AUG. 24-SEPT. 22

Virgo, challenges at work may be tiring you out. People may seem like they are all over the map instead of working together. Try to get everyone going in the same direction.

LIBRA SEPT. 23-OCT. 23

Avoid going too far off in your own direction this week, Libra. Before making any rash decisions, take some time to ask questions and get answers.

SCORPIO OCT. 24-NOV. 22

If something doesn't initially work to your liking, don't be shy about giving it another go. The challenges ahead will be worth it when you ultimately succeed.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 23-DEC. 21

Your creativity and emotions are linked this week, Sagittarius. Pour your heart and efforts into a special project that reflects just how you are

feeling.

CAPRICORN DEC. 22-JAN. 20

Nothing in a relationship is unfolding as you had expected. That's OK. This sense of adventure that keeps you guessing is a welcome change.

AQUARIUS JAN. 21-FEB. 18

Working closely with others is one of your strong points. Disagreements on how to approach projects can be tricky, but you're up to the task.

PISCES FEB. 19-MARCH 20

Pisces, this week there may be little separation between your career and personal life. If that works for you, forget the naysayers.

VIEWPOINTS



MARK COHEN

Freedom Fighters for the First Amendment

Last week’s tragedy at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis hit close to home for me and two of my colleagues.

Brad Simpson, chief financial officer for the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, Robin Quillon, publisher of The Tribune-Democrat in Johnstown, and myself were meeting in a conference room Thursday just outside the newsroom at the same

Journalists matter. Unheralded, un-appreciated and sadly unknown.

newspaper that would be the topic of breaking news just a couple of hours later. I remember one victim who walked by me — sun-

glasses, hat and a grumpy hello. I said to myself ... yeah, he is a news guy.

Journalists matter. Unheralded, unappreciated and sadly unknown. Too bad it takes a tragedy like this to make them known. We thank and acknowledge police men and women, EMT personnel, firefighters, teachers and military personnel for their service. How about love for First Amendment Freedom Fighters?

We always say life is short, but how many of us live by that credo until something hits close to home? This business that we nobly chose is a family, and this tragedy has and will pull us together. However, we can never forget life is more powerful than work, and friends and family are paramount to happiness.

So, my brief encounter at the Capital Gazette with the gentleman who blew by me in a fast shuffle has a name. He is John McNamara and was known as Mac. Below is a brief on Mac which by no means captures his life, but gives you a snapshot about his dedication to our business.

McNamara held a wide range of jobs for the Capital Gazette newsroom over a career there that spanned more than 20 years.

Mr. McNamara, who has published two books on University of Maryland sports, was a longtime sports reporter and editor, according to his LinkedIn page and people who worked with him. More recently, Mr. McNamara covered news in Bowie, Maryland, a town west of Annapolis, on a daily basis, and was an editor of two of the Capital Gazette’s local weekly newspapers.

A friend to Mr. McNamara said he single-handedly informed the city’s residents about the community’s news and politics. Here is what this column is asking each of us to do. Remember that journalism and journalists are a pillar of democracy. Remember to enjoy each minute of life. Remember to look around and notice people who you briefly come in contact with. And, remember Mr. McNamara — and his colleagues. Proud journalists and friends whose lives were cut way too short.

Mark Cohen is president of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association.

Views are welcome

We want to hear from you. Send your letters to: letters@pressandjournal.com, or 20 S. Union St., Middletown, Pa. 17057. Letters may be edited for accuracy, clarity and length.

EDITORIALVIEWS

Working to honor the Annapolis Five

It was nearly a week ago that a gunman who authorities say had a longstanding feud with the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, opened fire at the newspaper office, killing five journalists.

For us, words are still difficult to come by.

It’s tragic. Even President Donald Trump, no fan of newspapers, said: “Journalists, like all Americans, should be free from the fear of being violently attacked while doing their jobs.”

We agree.
Gerald Fischman.
Rob Hiaasen.
John McNamara.
Rebecca Smith.
Wendi Winters.

They are dead. Their families are mourning. Journalists are rightfully shaken.

Yes, this “hits close to home,” as many media outlets around the country have stated repeatedly. That certainly is not to say that shootings at other businesses or in schools don’t resonate. But journalists are a tight-knit group. None of us on the Press & Journal Editorial Board knew the victims, or anyone who is

working at the Capital Gazette. But it wouldn’t have surprised us if we did. The degrees of separation in this industry are few.

Despite ongoing and increasing attacks on media — and, thank God, until last week they were only verbal — we feel we are doing an important job, guaranteed in the Constitution, to inform the public.

But we feel the wrath of those of you who lash out against the industry — and that includes the Press & Journal, which many of you including Mayor James H. Curry III are fond of bashing.

And how can we not hear comments by the president that go as far back as February 2017, when he started called news media “the enemy of the American people”? Comments such as that have been sprinkled through Trump’s political narrative since then.

We aren’t perfect, but we are not the enemy. Far from it. As a whole, we are hard-working, caring and conscientious people.

The accused shooter apparently had a persistent quarrel with the Capital Gazette over stories written about his legal battles. That, too,

rings a bell for us. We don’t always write about people at their best. That can lead to flat-out hostility from readers. But those threats are usually not physical, and rarely do they involve violence.

Outright hostility seems to be growing, however. The Associated Press reported that the Capital Gazette “received death threats and emails celebrating the shooting following the attack.” Former Breitbart editor Milo Yiannopoulos said, before the shooting: “I can’t wait for the vigilante squads to start gunning journalists down on sight,” although he later said he was joking. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center: “Andrew Anglin, the blogger and primary voice behind the racist and anti-Semitic website The Daily Stormer, posted a long diatribe about Yiannopoulos on Friday morning, and dismissed the deaths of the five journalists at the end. ‘But seriously — just straight talk here — there is no single group of people on the planet that is more deserving of just getting gunned down like animals,’ Anglin wrote.”

That is just a small sampling of the hateful, misguided comments about

the media.

We will mourn the deaths of five journalists. The Press & Journal will stay “Annapolis strong.” We will continue to report on controversial topics, but not forget the great news in our community, such as the local bike giveaway and the local couple celebrating their 75th anniversary, stories you can read about elsewhere in this edition.

We have just passed the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, and the words of President Abraham Lincoln given in November 1863 during the Gettysburg Address seem to apply.

“The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”

Our words can do little to honor those who died more than what has already been said, and we can’t ease the pain of those who left behind.

But we will continue to work hard at our profession. It’s a small way we can honor the five who are no longer with us.

Supreme Court restores worker rights



CHARLES MITCHELL

What if you could be fired from your job for refusing to give part of your paycheck to a private, political organization?

It sounds far-fetched. After all, this is America, where the Constitution protects our rights of free speech and free association. But for decades, government workers in Pennsylvania and 21 other states have faced an unjust workplace ultimatum: Pay a union, or lose your job.

Even government workers who choose not to join the union still must pay up, and even if they disagree with how unions spend their money.

Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court has righted this decades-old wrong. In Janus v. AF-SCME, the court struck down this coercive system, clearing a pathway for 330,000 Pennsylvania government workers to regain their long-denied First Amendment rights.

Mark Janus, an Illinois government worker and lead plaintiff in the case, argued that collective bargaining — or union contract negotiations with politicians and government agencies — is fundamen-

tally political. Directing more taxpayer dollars to pensions or other benefits means fewer dollars to fund public services — such as road construction or public safety measures. That is, unless lawmakers hike taxes to make up the difference.

Janus said — and the court agreed — that such choices are, by definition, political. And forcing government workers to support a union’s political activities violates workers’ constitutional rights.

This is a pivotal victory for public-sector workers across Pennsylvania. Teachers, public safety officers, and other government workers could soon be able to choose whether to pay a union without the fear of fines or firing.

But the Janus ruling isn’t self-enforcing. Another legal step must be taken to apply the decision in Pennsylvania.

Greg Hartnett teaches art in Indiana County’s Homer-Center School District, and for nearly two decades, the teachers’ union has taken thousands of dollars from his paycheck to fund activities he views as harmful to teachers, students, and his community. For example, the union demanded more costly contracts at the price of higher local taxes. When Hartnett disagreed, union leaders ignored him — but continued

taking his money.

Like Mark Janus, Hartnett believes he should not forfeit his rights to do the job he loves. “My constitutional rights do not end when I set foot in the classroom,” he says.

That’s why he and three fellow public schoolteachers filed a lawsuit last year against the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the state’s largest teachers’ union. While the court’s decision in Janus gives government workers grounds to assert their First Amendment rights, Hartnett’s case could be the vehicle that enforces the decision in the Keystone State.

After Pennsylvania’s justice system applies the Janus precedent, workers will still need to be informed of their restored rights and how to act on them.

Former teacher Keith Williams knows government union leaders will do everything they can to keep workers in the dark about their options. Williams recently stepped away from his teaching career in Cone-wago Valley School District in Adams County to join the nonprofit group Americans for Fair Treatment as director of outreach. His goal: Ensure government workers can exercise their post-Janus rights.

“I left my teaching career behind to ensure that government workers are educated

about their rights, equipped to speak out about the choices they make, and empowered to overcome obstacles standing between them and the freedoms most Americans take for granted,” Williams says.

Williams knows that unionized workers value their rights just as much as anyone. In a 2015 nationwide survey of union members, 76 percent agreed that employees should have the right to decide, without force or penalty, whether to join or leave a labor union.

As far as the impact of the Janus ruling on government unions themselves, most states already recognize workers’ rights to pay or not pay a union — and unions still operate in those states. The truth is, unions will represent workers more fairly when workers can vote with their wallets — voluntarily — on union priorities.

Coercion has no place in Pennsylvania’s workplace. The Supreme Court’s Janus ruling heralds a transformation in working conditions for public employees, but it’s just the beginning of the fight to ensure all workers in the commonwealth can exercise their First Amendment rights.

Charles Mitchell is president and CEO of the Commonwealth Foundation, Pennsylvania’s free-market think tank.

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Busy legislative session includes action on civil service, cannabis



MIKE FOLMER

With the passage of the 2018-2019 state budget, the commonwealth will spend \$32,714,991,000 in taxpayer money for the general fund.

This translates to \$89,630,112 a day, \$3,734,588 an hour, \$62,243 per minute, and \$1,037 per second. Minus one-time allocations to balance, this year’s budget was within the limits of my Taxpayer Protection Act as it grew less than the combined rates of inflation and population: 1.7 percent.

During budget deliberations, a number of other issues were also advanced — most notably, how election lines are drawn. Over the past year, legal and legislative actions collided with

one another, and I was pleased to help break the logjam by advancing a bill to establish an independent commission of citizens. Although the mapping of judicial districts was added to this proposal over my objections, passage by the Senate gave advocates another option to pursue in the House. And, while it fell short in the House, I look forward to continued discussions in the future.

An initiative that was unanimously passed by both chambers and is on the governor’s desk awaiting his signature is my bill to further the modernization of the Pennsylvania Civil Service Commission. This legislation built upon work we started two years ago when modest changes were enacted. The new law will continue efforts to better meet those seeking employment with the commonwealth — especially veterans. Hiring responsibilities will be

moved from the Civil Service Commission to the Governor’s Office of Administration. Merit-based hiring will not be affected as agencies will continue to hire people based upon their qualifications. The new structure will also retain the Civil Service Commission’s jurisdiction over appeals from employment decisions. Most importantly, there will be no changes to veterans’ preference requirements.

I was also pleased to address a court decision that had delayed an important component of Pennsylvania’s medical cannabis program: research. When medical cannabis came to Pennsylvania two years ago, one of the key provisions that made our commonwealth unique was the so-called “Chapter 20” provision providing for cannabis research. Of course, the devil is always in the details, and there were (and continue to be) many issues related to Chapter 20.

Thanks to the work of all four legislative caucuses, the governor’s office, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, temporary regulations were drafted over many months. Unfortunately, the ink on these regulations was barely dry when they were challenged in court, which granted a temporary injunction to delay implementation of the research provisions. As patients have been — and will continue to be — my focus, the new law will address the court’s misunderstanding of medical cannabis in general and Chapter 20 in particular.

My legislation to provide Pennsylvania notaries with the additional option of remote or online notarization also passed the Senate unanimously. My goal is to give notaries safe and secure online notarial tools. Hopefully, the House will take action on this bill in the fall. A number of efforts were also

initiated to advance bills providing for the total elimination of school property taxes. The plan was to build upon the constitutional amendment approved by the voters to allow for a “homestead exemption” — people’s primary residences. While there was much discussion on how to best reach this much needed and long overdue goal, we were not able to get it to the full Senate for a vote. Rest assured, our efforts will continue.

In the interim, I’d like to thank everyone who provided input and support for the measures we advanced and I look forward to securing additional accomplishments in the weeks and months ahead.

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

OUT & ABOUT

A colorful salute to America's birthday



Fireworks illuminate the cars parked near Sunset Golf Course on Saturday during the Stars & Stripes Salute.

Stars & Stripes event held Saturday at Londonderry Township's Sunset Park



The flags on Sunset Golf Course's putting green had the holiday spirit.



Umbrellas helped spectators on Sunset Golf Course's 10th tee deflect the sun.



The American flag waves proudly at Sunset Bar & Grill prior to the fireworks.



Spectators glow as the fireworks explode overhead.



Fireworks light up the sky.



Spectators play cornhole near Sunset Bar & Grill.



Honoring soldiers was part of the Stars & Stripes Salute.



The Whiskey Brothers Band entertained the crowd.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JASON MADDUX