

New detective,
sergeant for MPD A3

ISLAND DISCUSSIONS A4



Losing streak
continues for
Raider boys B1

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019 | 75 CENTS

THREE DEAD IN MIDDLETOWN DOUBLE MURDER-SUICIDE



Three people died in a double murder-suicide in an apartment at 134 S. Union St. last week, authorities say.

STAFF PHOTOS BY LAURA HAYES

Man suspected of killing his estranged wife and their 7-year-old son; vigil planned for tonight in front of South Union Street apartment

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

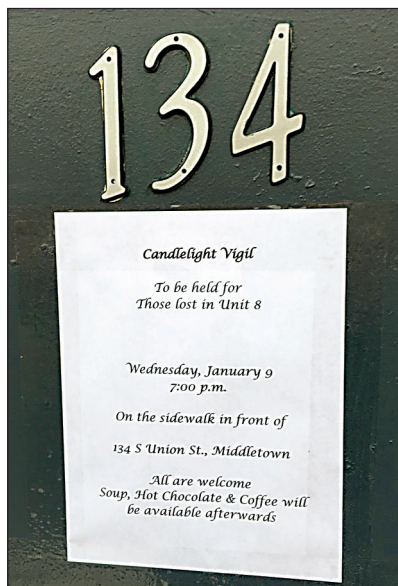
A 7-year-old boy was one of the people who died in the double homicide-murder in Middletown last week, Dauphin County Coroner Graham Hetrick announced Monday, and a candlelight prayer vigil has been planned for 7 p.m. Wednesday in front of the apartment building to help the healing process.

Middletown police released the names of the two adults involved in the double murder-suicide Monday afternoon — Marvin Caddell, 49, and his estranged wife, Night-flower Staats, 44 — and called it a “domestic incident.”

Caddell is suspected of killing the two before turning the gun on himself, authorities say. The 7-year-old was their child. His name was not released.

The three bodies were discovered Saturday night in the apartment building at 134 S. Union St. According to a press release, the coroner said the double homicide-suicide occurred Wednesday, “approximately.” Their bodies were not found until a welfare check Saturday.

“What precipitated the welfare check, I’m not exactly sure,” Dauphin County District Attorney Fran Chardo told the Press &



A note informing passers-by about a vigil Wednesday hangs on 134 S. Union St., where authorities say a double murder-suicide took place last week.

Journal on Sunday.

There will be an investigation into the timeline of the murder-suicide and any statements the apparent perpetrator might have made, Chardo said.

“But by all accounts it appears he killed the two people and took his own life,” he said.

Borough police had been called to the scene early Saturday evening to do a welfare check, only to

discover multiple fatalities.

Chardo said he new of no calls to police from residents of the building at the time of the murder-suicide despite at least three gunshots being fired in the apartment.

Police and members of the Capital Region Forensic Unit were seen going in and out of a multi-story apartment building just south of the M&T Bank on South Union Street on Saturday night. The building has 16 apartments on multiple floors.

On Facebook, Mayor James H. Curry III posted a link to a Crime-watch post regarding the incident Saturday and wrote, “Please be advised and say a prayer for those lives lost.”

Building owner plans vigil

The other tenants who live in the building, as well as all area residents, are invited to the vigil Wednesday, “to come out and be in community with one another, and to start to process what happened,” George Crist, who owns the building, told the Press & Journal on Monday. Crist is organizing the event.

“When things of this nature occur, it’s usually somewhere else. It’s not your neighbor. It’s just really, really hard to understand,” said Crist, a Harrisburg-based information technology entrepreneur

“When things of this nature occur, it’s usually somewhere else. It’s not your neighbor. It’s just really, really hard to understand.”

George Crist, apartment building owner

neur who acquired the building in 2014.

Crist said that he knew all three “pretty well.”

“All of my interactions with them were relatively normal, so this was very unexpected,” Crist said.

The family lived in the building for less than a year, Crist said. They were not from Middletown originally.

Crist recalled seeing the father and the son together fairly often. There was nothing to suggest that the man was anything less than “a caring and loving father,” Crist said.

The boy would see Crist and say, “Hey, Mr. Landlord!” Crist said. “He seemed like a perfectly normal happy kid.”

Crist said that, on Saturday night, he had received a message from the property manager of the building.

He told Crist that he had been called by Middletown police to open the door of an apartment.

Police had been asked to go to

the apartment to do what authorities say was a welfare check at the residence. However, police were not getting an answer.

About 20 to 25 minutes later, Crist got another call from his property manager saying that police had discovered fatalities in the apartment.

The manager at that time could not tell Crist who they were, because as soon as the bodies were discovered police had ushered the property manager out and were treating the apartment as a crime scene.

Crist learned the identity of the three residents when he arrived at the building at about 10:30 p.m., and the police shared with him what had happened.

While a neighbor was quoted in a published report saying that the welfare check was a result of an odor coming from the apartment, Crist said it was his understanding that that odor had come from another apartment, possibly from

Please see **THREE**, page A5

‘Missing’ money: Council asks AG for probe

‘Suspected improper use or misallocation’ of \$1.3 million in question by borough

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

A forensic audit presented in June rocked Middletown with revelations of \$1.1 million in “missing” money and allegations of 11th hour document shredding by borough officials before they left their positions at the end of 2015.

Now, six months later, borough council is requesting an investigation by the state Attorney General’s office.



Lloyd

Also, an examination of checks through the borough’s bank from 2015 and 2016 didn’t turn up anything “of significance” borough manager Ken Klinepeter told the Press & Journal last week. Looking at the checks related to the former borough authority from that time period was recommended in the audit as a way to get to the bottom of where the money ended up.

‘Suspected improper use’

Council at the end of its Jan. 2 meeting voted 7-0 to send a letter signed by President Angela Lloyd to the attorney general’s office. It requests an investigation into “the suspected improper use or misallocation of public funds” that the former council and/or former borough authority received following approval of the 50-year lease of Middletown’s water and sewer systems in September 2014 to Middletown Water Joint Venture.

The item was not on the agenda of the Jan. 2 meeting, but followed an executive session during which council discussed the matter behind closed doors.

Before going into executive session, Lloyd announced the session was being held to discuss matters involving “personnel and litigation.”

Please see **PROBE**, page A5

Public notices in this week’s Press & Journal

- **SUSQUEHANNA TWP:** Estate of S. Arlene Burkhart. **A4**
- **LOWER SWATARA TWP:** Notice of Zoning Hearing. **A4**
- **ROYALTON:** Borough Authority Audit Report. **A4**
- **LOWER SWATARA TWP:** Estate of Craig Bower. **A4**
- **MIDDLETOWN:** School District Auditor’s Report. **A4**
- **EAST HANOVER TWP:** Estate of Sharon Hartman. **A4**
- **ROYALTON:** Estate of Karla Ann Wingert. **A4**



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OURCOMMUNITY

TOWN TOPICS

Baseball and softball registration for LSTAA

Lower Swatara Township Athletic Association will hold registration for youth baseball, girls softball and teener baseball at the Lower Swatara Municipal Building, 1499 Spring Garden Drive, Middletown from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 19, and from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. Registration is open to all children living within Lower Swatara Township and Highspire. The online registration cutoff date is Feb. 3. For questions, including cost and fundraiser options, as well as online registration, visit www.lstaa.org or call Jason Wagner at 717-574-0536.

Blue & Gold Club to hold dinner dance Jan. 19

The Blue & Gold Club fundraiser dinner dance will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, at the American Legion Post 594, 137 E. High St., Middletown. For advance ticket purchases or information, call Larry Etter at 717-944-3123 or Middletown Area School District athletic director Cliff Smith at 717-948-3333. The event supports student programs in the school district.

Londonderry Fire plans Bingo Mania for Sunday

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, will hold its Bingo Mania on Sunday, Jan. 13. Doors and kitchen open at noon. Bingo starts at 2 p.m. For more, call 717-944-2175.

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PRESS&JOURNAL

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Elwood's Service Station
138 West Main Street, Middletown
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Vastine's Auto Service
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NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD | LAVONNE ACKERMAN

January means Farm Show time

Hi, folks!
As we approach mid-January, we look to find things to do to help us soldier through this gloomy season of deep winter. I think, technically, deep winter would be the first week of February (that is if we are looking for the halfway point). This could be depressing, but the 40-degree days we've been experiencing have not been too hard to take!

Did you know we are wrapping up 2019 Farm Show week? And there is little or no snow in the forecast! This is the 103rd Farm Show held at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show Complex & Expo Center at North Cameron and Maclay streets in Harrisburg. It kicked off Saturday and will end this Saturday, Jan. 12. There are hundreds of exhibitors and vendors, contests and demonstrators and more than 6,000 animals! Picture 1,000 pounds of butter, then imagine it shaped into a beautiful sculpture. It is not too late! You can go from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 9-11 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 12. *(Editor's note: See more about the Farm Show on page B2.)* Have a wonderful week!

Birthdays
Best wishes to **Jason Hardison**, who celebrates his big-deal quarter-of-a-century 25th cake day on Wednesday, Jan. 9. Congrats, and enjoy a very happy birthday, Jason!
Braedon Thomas of Middletown turns 20 on Wednesday, Jan. 9. Wishing you the best birthday yet, Braedon!
Here is a happy birthday shout-out full of blessings to **Elijah Einzig** of Middletown on

Thursday, Jan. 10. May your day be excellent and full of joy, Elijah! Happy 11th cake day.
Dawn Mattes of Lower Swatara will hear the birthday song Jan. 11. If you see her on Friday, be sure to give her a larger-than-life happy birthday greeting!
Andrew Yeich of Lower Swatara hits the 20 mark on Friday, Jan. 11. Enjoy your balloon-flying day all weekend, Andrew!
Happy 15th confetti-popping day to **Marley Fox** of Lower Swatara on Saturday, Jan. 12. I hope your day is full of big-deal happenings, Marley. Enjoy!
Alexandra Fisher marks her 24th birthday on Saturday, Jan. 12. May your day be full of fun and lots of love!
Kyle Renn celebrates his landmark 18th birthday on Jan. 12. I hope your Saturday is super with all the people you love surrounding you, Kyle!
Best wishes to **Emily Bortner** of Lower Swatara on her landmark big-deal 21st cake day birthday on Saturday, Jan. 12. Many blessings to you and your family, Emily!
Happy birthday greetings are sent out to **Mike Nickel** of Lower Swatara on Sunday, Jan. 13 as he adds another candle to his cake. Enjoy it all, Mike!
Tom Shank of Lower Swatara has 64 reasons to rejoice on Sunday, Jan. 13. I hope your week is super-duper fancy as you count your blessings. Happy birthday, Tom!
Many smiles and hugs are sent to **Anthony Albright III** of Middletown on Sunday, Jan. 13. May the good Lord richly bless you as you turn 9, Anthony!
Happy razzle-dazzle cake-and-ice cream day to **Katie Zimmerman**, formerly of Shopes Garden, on Jan. 14. I

hope 48 fantastic things happen to you on Monday.
Caden Hunter of Lower Swatara hits cake day No. 15 on Monday, Jan. 14. Here's to you and a marvelous week of celebrating, Caden!
Best wishes for a wonderful happy 15th birthday to **Dagan Hughes** of Lower Swatara on Monday, Jan. 14. I hope this is your best cake day yet, Dagan. Enjoy!
January township meetings
The following Lower Swatara meetings will be held at 7 p.m. in the municipal building located on Spring Garden Drive:
Board of Commissioners: Wednesday, Jan. 16.
Zoning Hearing Board: Wednesday, Jan. 23.
Planning Commission: Thursday, Jan. 24.
Municipal Authority: Monday, Jan. 28.

Garlic Spaghetti
6 cloves garlic, divided
1/4 c. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1 1/2 c. panko bread crumbs
Kosher salt
1 lb. dry spaghetti
1 Tbsp. butter
Lemon, 1/2 , juice and zest
1/3 c. freshly grated Parmesan
1/3 c. freshly chopped parsley
Mince 3 garlic cloves. Heat 3 Tbsp. olive oil over medium-high heat. Add 1/2 c. bread crumbs and garlic, season with salt. Cook until bread crumbs are golden, garlic is fragrant, about 3 minutes. Place contents on paper towel on plate and wipe out skillet.
Thinly slice 3 garlic cloves. Boil salted water in large pot, follow instructions on spaghetti package. Reserve one cup of

pasta water.
Return skillet to medium heat and add remaining Tbsp. oil and butter. When butter is melted, add sliced garlic. Cook about 2 minutes. Lower heat to medium-low.
Add pasta to skillet and toss. Stir in lemon juice, lemon zest, and cheese.
Add pasta water to thicken sauce as needed. Stir in parsley and 3/4 c. bread crumbs and toss.
Top with remaining bread crumbs and serve immediately.

Quote of the Week
"God has chosen you for a specific service — take the challenge to walk forward in that!" — Anonymous
Question of the Week
What are some fun inside activities to do in the winter?
"Play video games!" — **Jae-dyn Boone**, 9, Middletown.
"Watching movies. My favorite is Grinch!" — **Yareidy Muniz**, 9, Middletown.
"Play pinochle with my friends, play computer games, watch classic movies with popcorn and hot chocolate." — **Louisa Morgan**, Londonderry.
"Doing puzzles and games." — **Sidney Rondorf**, North Carolina.
"Baking homemade bagels from scratch." — **Bill Seaton**, Hummelstown.
"Playing in an organized basketball league." — **Ryan Souders**, 15, Middletown.
Proverb of the Week
Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words (23:9).

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

Elizabethtown Fair's Nolt honored with national Heritage Award

Sally Nolt of the Elizabethtown Fair in Elizabethtown was one of five volunteers presented with the Heritage Award at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions in November in San Antonio, Texas. Recipients were nominated by their fairs' staffs and/or board members. The awards recognize the achievements of outstanding fair volunteers. Each winner received a plaque and \$1,000, and each fair nominating the winners received \$500. The nominees were required to have at least 10 years of fair management experience, could receive no more than \$2,500 remuneration annually for serving in the position, and were required to be current members of IAFE. Other winners were Terry Atchison of the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days in Walla Walla,

Washington; Allen Heine of the Cedar County Fair in Hartington, Nebraska; Edsel Matthews of the Ozark Empire Fair in Springfield, Missouri; and Sharon Wessel of the Hennepin County Fair in Hamel, Minnesota. Nolt served as a teacher for 37 years and carried her love of children and education into her service at the Elizabethtown Fair, according to a press release from the organization. When the Elizabethtown Jaycees held the first Elizabethtown Fair in 1973, Nolt was a Jayceette and co-chaired the only food stand at the fair for several years. As the fair grew, she began helping with competitive exhibits, working with setup, tear-down, exhibitor registration, and judging. She formally became a member of the fair committee in 1983 when she was elected direc-

tor and secretary, where she still serves today. During the fair, Nolt is on the grounds each day from start to finish. She can be found in the office guiding volunteers, counting out ribbons, and dealing with daily issues, recording for an auction or contest, meeting with radio and television personnel, and encouraging exhibitors. In 1990, the Elizabethtown Fair nominated Nolt to serve as director on the board of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs. She was elected to be one of six directors representing Zone 4 in Pennsylvania and remains in service of that board today. During that time, she has served as Zone 4 secretary for four years and then as chairwoman. In 2017, she was elected to serve as vice president of PSACF for a two-year term. She will serve as PSACF president for 2019-2020.

Happy holidays in Royalton

Santa Claus joined, clockwise from rear left, state Rep. Tom Mehaffie, Dauphin County Commissioner Mike Pries, former Royalton Mayor Judy Oxenford and Dauphin County Commissioner George Hartwick at the Royalton Senior Center Holiday Party on Dec. 19.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH LD's Cassel and Dreon receive honors

Two Lower Dauphin High School seniors recently received monthly honors. Avery Cassel was named Young Student of the Month for November by the Rotary Club of Hummelstown. Avery is the daughter of Craig and Rebecca Cassel. She is a four-year member of the cross country and track & field teams. She is treasurer and a four-year member of the Mini-THON committee. She is a four-year member of the French Honor Society and band. She is a three-year member of the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society; and she is a two-year member of the Math Honor Society and Volunteer. She was a member of the Chick-fil-A leader Academy and a mentor in Lower Dauphin's outdoor education program. In the community, she is active with her church and with the Dauphin County 4-H Club. She also participates as a mentor in Study Buddies. She plans to attend Michigan Tech University to major in environmental engineering. Olivia Dreon was named Young Woman of the Month for November by the Hummelstown Women's Club. Olivia is the daughter of Ollie and Tanya Dreon. At the high school, she is a four-year member of the swim team. She is president and a four-year member of the National Art Honor Society; vice president and a four-year member of Class Council; and historian and a four-year member of Student Council. She is a four-year member of the high school's choral program, singing this year in the Women's Select Choir. She participated in the fall play and Dramapalooza for four years. She is a three-year member of the Gay Straight Alliance. In the community, she volunteers with the Hummelstown Arts Festival and represented the Arts Festival as their Miss Hummelstown candidate last year. She plans to attend Millersville University or West Chester University and studying fine arts or design with the goal of becoming a graphic designer.

Penn State holds its fall commencement

Penn State Harrisburg held its fall 2018 commencement ceremony Dec. 15 at Giant Center with about 740 degrees conferred. Penn State Harrisburg alumna and founder of JAL Executive HR Consulting Jane Leipold delivered the keynote address. As founder of JAL Executive HR Consulting, she works to identify strategies for growth, geographic expansion and operational improvement. Leipold began her business career as an engineer at AMP Inc. in 1981. In 1994, she was appointed manager of the AMP Engineering Education Program and served in several HR training and development roles before assuming the role of vice president of human resources for Tyco Electronics in 2001. In 2006, she was named senior vice president and chief human resources officer for TE Connectivity. She held this role until 2016. She is a member of Penn State Harrisburg's Board of Advisers.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR.
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Bloom new detective, Zehring is sergeant for borough police

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

A truck driver who became a cop is Middletown police department's new detective.

Borough council during its Jan. 2 meeting voted 7-0 to promote Patrol Officer Wade Bloom to the new second detective position, effective Jan. 1.

Council also voted to promote Patrol Officer Tyler Zehring to sergeant.

The Middletown department had one detective position, held since January 2018 by Sgt. Gary Rux.

Interim Police Chief Sgt. Dennis Morris during hearings on the 2019 budget requested council include funds for adding a second detective position. The investigative caseload is too much for one detective, Morris told council.

Council also hopes that adding a second detective will help reduce department overtime costs.

Morris during budget hearings said that the second detective position would be filled by elevating someone already within the MPD ranks. Morris had mentioned Bloom as the likely candidate for the job.

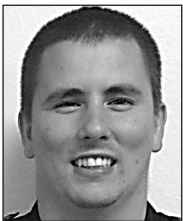
Bloom in the 1990s owned several tractor-trailers that he leased to different companies. He sold the rigs and took a year off to build the home that he lives in in Shermans Dale, Perry County.

He then worked for Roadway Express as a supervisor for six years.

Bloom started getting into the security field while working for Home Depot. He was an armed ci-



Bloom



Zehring

vilian guard at Carlisle Barracks before Bloom decided to enroll in the police academy.

Bloom started as a part-time police officer with the Middletown department on May 16, 2008. He has been full time with Middletown since Feb. 11, 2009.

Bloom is getting a pay raise of just under \$8,000 from being promoted to detective. His salary goes from \$77,996 to \$85,862.

Zehring as sergeant will also be paid \$85,862 a year. However, his pay is jumping by nearly \$18,000 — from \$67,995 — due to Zehring being low on the pay scale because he has been with the Middletown department less than four years.

Zehring was hired as a part-time officer in July 2015 and made full-time a year later.

Zehring's lack of experience — compared to other full-time officers with the Middletown department who had applied for the sergeant position — led Councilor Dawn Knull to vote against promoting Zehring.

"This is not because I'm against Tyler or against the police," Knull said before casting her vote. "He has only been with the department four years and I just feel that we have other seasoned officers that should be in the position."

Councilor Robert Reid also

voted against promoting Zehring to sergeant, although Reid did not say why. Reid could not be reached for comment.

Voting to promote Zehring were Council President Angela Lloyd, Vice President Michael Woodworth, and Ian Reddinger and Ellen Willenbecher.

Councilor Jenny Miller abstained, noting that her son is a full-time patrol officer with the Middletown department who would be supervised by Zehring as sergeant.

Miller also abstained on Dec. 18 when council voted to promote Rux to sergeant.

After Knull's comment, Woodworth noted: "I wish we had more seasoned officers that passed the sergeant's test to pick from."

Council in choosing Zehring promoted him over two other officers with more experience on the Middletown department, both of whom had scored higher than Zehring in written and oral exams given through the borough Civil Service Commission.

However, council is not bound by the scores in deciding whom to appoint to sergeant from the list of candidates certified by the commission, according to a borough ordinance.

Zehring also had been recommended for the sergeant's position by both Morris and by Mayor James H. Curry III. Curry pointed out just before the council vote.

Well before the vote to make him sergeant, Zehring had already made a significant impact on the department.

Zehring in 2016 was credited with more arrests — 99 — than

any other officer on the Middletown force, despite having spent most of that year on a part-time basis.

Zehring was quick to point out at the time that "one person doesn't make an arrest" but that each arrest is a team effort Zehring shared with multiple other officers on the Middletown department.

Zehring's mother worked for the State Police. That, and seeing members of his own family deal with the consequences of criminal actions, inspired him to a career in law enforcement.

He started with the Dauphin County Sheriff's Office in July 2013 and worked as a part-time officer with Royalton police before coming to Middletown.

Zehring's own cousin died from a heroin overdose in 2016.

Zehring's penchant for going after drug dealers led former Chief George Mouchette in 2017 to describe Zehring as "a pit bull" and the "best and brightest" among all officers on the Middletown department.

Counting Zehring the Middletown department now has four sergeants — the others being Rux, Morris, and Sgt. Scott Yoder.

Morris, however, has been interim chief since August, when Curry put him in that position when sexual assault charges were filed against Mouchette.

The charges against Mouchette are pending in Dauphin County Court. Mouchette is still employed by Middletown borough, although he has been on suspended without pay status since the charges were filed.

OBITUARIES



Terry Kennedy
DILLSBURG

In Loving Memory of Terry L. Kennedy, 55, of Dillsburg, who passed away Monday, December 24, 2018 in his home.

He was employed by Houck Roofing.

Terry is survived by his wife, Jen Lacy Kennedy; his father, Donald Nelson Kennedy of McAlveys Fort; his mother Patty Lou Baker of Middletown; brother, Donald Nelson Kennedy Jr. of Shrewsbury; numerous niece and nephews; and his beloved cat T.J.

He was loved very much and will be missed by his Mother and family.

Louise Franklin
MIDDELTOWN

Louise J. Franklin, 93, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at Frey Village Nursing Center, Middletown.

She was born on June 22, 1925 in Middletown Pa. and was the daughter of the late Rollie and Pearl (Brubaker) Franklin.

She was a member of New Beginnings Church, Middletown, PARSE, and Middletown Area High School Alumni Association. She attended the Thompson Business School in 1944.

In addition to her parents, Louise was preceded in death by her sister, Eleanor Books and her brother-in-law Samuel Books.

Louise is survived by her nephews, David W. Books and his wife Nancy of Greensboro, N.C. and Donald L. Books of Graz, Austria.

A tribute to her life was held on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 11 a.m. at the Matinchek Funeral Home and Cremation Services Inc., 230 E. Main St., Middletown, with the Rev. Britt Strohecker officiating. Viewing was from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Burial was in Middletown Cemetery, Middletown Pa.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to New Beginnings Church, 630 S. Union St., Middletown, PA 17057.

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



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Two new police officers hired in Lower Swatara as Vargo is sworn in as chief

By Laura Hayes
laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

With one hand on the Bible, Jeffrey Vargo was sworn in as the new Lower Swatara chief of police by Magisterial District Judge Michael Smith on Jan. 2.

"I'd like the officers of Lower Swatara Township to know that I'm honored to be their chief of police," Vargo said. "I look forward to continuing to move the agency in a positive direction while reducing crime, ensuring the safety of our citizens and building community trust through transparent actions and positive engagement."

Vargo's first day was Jan. 2. He told the Press & Journal that he had been looking to become chief of police, and knew of Lower Swatara's police department's reputation of being professional and distinguished, in part because he had worked as a patrol officer at Lower Swatara for several months early on in his career.

Vargo said he wanted to stay in Dauphin County and was comfortable with other agencies in the county.

"The timing was perfect," he said.

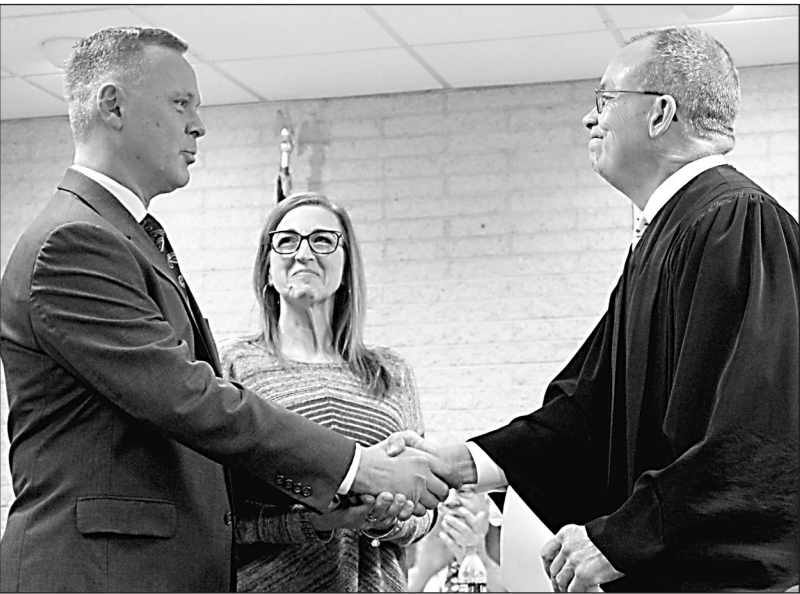
Smith said he's known Vargo for more than 20 years while Vargo served at the Susquehanna Township Police Department in a number of roles, including deputy chief most recently.

"You're getting a very good man here for chief of police," Smith said.

He said as a township resident, he was interested in how the department runs.

Working with Lower Swatara police, Smith said, has shown him that the department has good officers.

Commissioners hired Vargo, who is originally from Erie, on



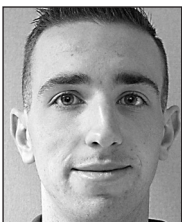
STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA HAYES

New Lower Swatara Police Chief Jeffrey Vargo shakes hands with Magisterial District Judge Michael Smith after being sworn in at the Jan. 2 Lower Swatara Township commissioner meeting.

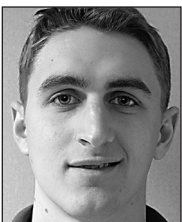
Dec. 20. Township Manager Betsy McBride told the Press & Journal that his salary will be \$90,000.

Vargo said he was honored to be appointed chief of police. Changes in leadership are significant for any police department, and people want to be involved in any changes, Vargo said, adding he would listen to recommendations.

"I understand the level of responsibility that it comes with. I assure you that I will do my best to live up to the level of confidence you've shown in me, and I will represent you, the citizens and the



Weinoldt



Shea

officers of the department with honor and integrity," Vargo said.

Everyone has a vested interest in the police department's success, Vargo said.

He said police would work with the community, be visible in the schools and continue to improve their services.

He thanked his family for their support of his career as well as his colleagues.

After Chief Richard Brandt retired from the Lower Swatara Police Department in 2016, the township restructured the department so that it was led by a public safety director, Frank Williamson Jr., who left in 2017.

On Jan. 2, The board also hired two new police officers, Derek Weinoldt and Timothy Shea,

bringing the number of officers to 16.

According to Vargo, both Weinoldt and Shea graduated from the police academy in 2018. They will join the department as patrol officers.

Vargo said this is their first police position. Weinoldt is from East Petersburg and graduated from Hempfield High School. Shea is from Hummelstown and was homeschooled.

Both of them are working on completing their associate's degree, Vargo said.

The township had budgeted for one of the police officer positions and the other will replace Detective Ryan Gartland, who resigned effective Jan. 6. Gartland told the Press & Journal that he was leaving to join the Swatara Police Department.

Board President Jon Wilt recently told the Press & Journal that a new detective likely would be chosen from within the department once Vargo started.

In November, Commissioner Michael Davies said the budget, which was approved by the board in December, included funds for a new officer in 2019. However, Wilt said that hiring new personnel wasn't a given just because it was in the budget.

Vargo said he didn't anticipate a new officer coming on in the foreseeable future because he wanted to collect data to examine the number of officers needed.

Additionally, the board hired Jennifer Mott, who Vargo said is from Mechanicsburg, as the new police department administrative assistant, replacing Kendra Riley, who resigned in September.

All three new employees started Jan. 7.

McBride said Mott's salary will be \$36,000, and Weinoldt and Shea will make \$24.42 an hour.

19 MAHS students qualify for FBLA State Leadership Conference

Twenty-seven Middletown Area High School students participated in the Future Business Leaders of America testing and qualified for the Region 15 Leadership Conference by placing in the top 10 of their categories.

At the conference Dec. 10, they competed against 225 students from 12 other schools in Dauphin and Lebanon counties, and 19 students qualified for the State

Leadership Conference that will be held at the Hershey Lodge from April 8-10.

First place

Jacob Buffington, Management Decision Making; Casey Eckert, Public Speaking; Luke Fegley, Management Decision Making; Mason Garza, Parliamentary Procedure; Jake Hottenstein, Parliamentary Procedure;

Ben Knisely, Parliamentary Procedure; Jaden Miller, Parliamentary Procedure; Grace Rico, Introduction to Public Speaking; Aiden Sessa, Parliamentary Procedure; Ben Staker, Introduction to Information Technology; Raymond Truntz, Management Decision Making; Clayton Wagner, Agribusiness; and Doron Yospa, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure.

Second place

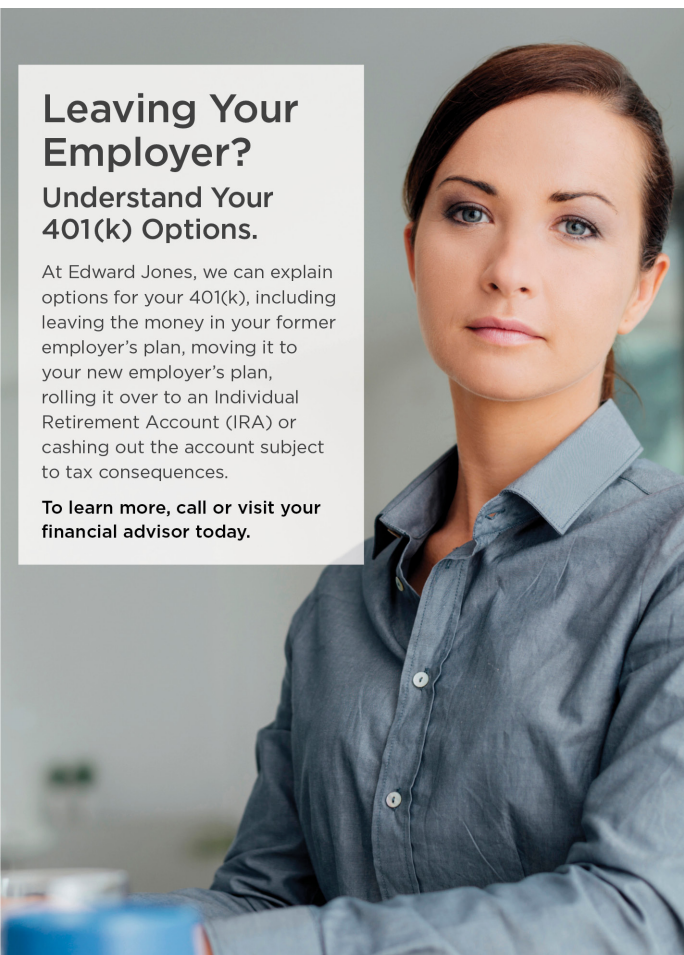
Alexis Fischer, Journalism

Third place

Dane Ebersole, Global Business; Garrett Miller, Global Business; Matt Spangler, Global Business

Members at-large

Serina Gurm
William Stone



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PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE NOTICE

Letters of Administration on the Estate of Craig D. Bower, date of death November 26, 2018, late of Lower Swatara Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment and those having claims will present them for settlement to:

Darryl B. Bower, Administrator c/o Pannebaker & Mohr, P.C. 4000 Vine St, Suite 101 Middletown, PA 17057 or to: Kendra A. Mohr, Esq. Pannebaker & Mohr, P.C. 4000 Vine St, Suite 101 Middletown, PA 17057

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING-DOCKET V2019-01

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lower Swatara Township Zoning Hearing Board will hold a Public Hearing at the request of the applicant, Schoolhouse Partners, L.P., for a variance from the provisions of the Lower Swatara Township Code of Ordinances §27-2402.15 to allow a reduction in the number of required off-street parking spaces. The property is located at the northwest corner of Longview Drive and Oberlin Road, Middletown, PA 17057. A Hearing will be held Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lower Swatara Township Municipal Building, 1499 Spring Garden Drive, Middletown, PA. All interested parties are invited to attend. Randall Breon Chairman

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE NOTICE

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY on the Estate of S. Ariene Burkhart, late of Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the said Estate are required to make immediate payment and those having claims will present them for settlement to:

Deborah L. McClenahan Schaffroth 4424 Fargreen Road Harrisburg, PA 17110-3210 Or to: Steve C. Nicholas, Esquire Nicholas Law Offices, PC 2215 Forest Hills Drive, Suite 37 Harrisburg, PA 17112-1099

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Sharon S. Hartman, Deceased, late of East Hanover Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, have been granted to the undersigned Co-Executors. 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. Amy J. Rodriguez, Steven M. Hartman, Andrea L. Leavelle and Kimberley R. Rittle – Co-Executors, c/o Keith D. Wagner, P. O. Box 323, Palmyra, PA 17078– Attorney.

#297 1226-3T www.publicnoticepa.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Royalton Borough Authority Balance Sheets for year ending 9/30/2018

Current assets:

Sewer System: Checking 29,565 Savings 1,753 Certificate of Deposit 47,558 78,876

Accounts receivable 40,326 Due from USDA 0 Escrow receivable 0 Due from Middletown Borough 0 Due from Water system 0 Total current assets 119,202

Property and equipment:

Sewer system 3,979,017 Less accumulated depreciation and amortization 1,194,683 Construction in progress 0 Total capital assets 2,784,334

Long-term portion due from Water system 0 Bond issue costs 0 Restricted assets:

Water system: Operations 44,088 PennVest 3,442 Savings, operations 3,252 Certificates of deposit 0 Total restricted assets 50,782 Total assets 2,954,318

Current liabilities:

Current maturity of long term debt 38,551 Accounts payable Vendors 3,503 Middletown Borough United Water 22,631 Accrued: Wages 80,270 Payroll taxes/insurance 58,442 Retirement plan 8,675 Accrued interest expense 8,524 Total current liabilities 220,596 Long term debt, less current maturity 1,995,115 Due to Royalton Borough 50,782 Total liabilities 2,266,493

Net Assets:

Invested-Capital assets 750,668 Unrestricted (62,843) Total net assets 687,825

Total liabilities and net assets 2,954,318

Thomas Orris, Secretary Royalton Borough Authority

#105 0109-1T www.publicnoticepa.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary/Letters of Administration on the Estate of Karla Ann Wingert, Deceased, late of Royalton Borough, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, have been granted to the undersigned Executor. 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 to Christopher L. Hoke, Executor, 820 Moore's Mountain Rd., Lewisberry, PA 17339.

#104 0102-3T www.publicnoticepa.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Auditors' Report

Middletown Area School District Year ended June 30, 2018

The independent auditor's report of Middletown Area School District dated December 12, 2018 has been filed and is available for public inspection at the school's business office on regular business days. The auditors, appointed by the Board of Directors of the Middletown Area School District, have completed the audit of the Middletown Area School District for the school year ended June 30, 2018. In accordance with the provisions of Section 2432 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, said report was filed on or about December 21, 2018, in the Office of the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County and that said report will be confirmed absolutely unless an appeal is taken therefrom within thirty days after the filing thereof. The Single Audit Report of Middletown Area School District dated December 12, 2018 is also available for public inspection at the school's business office.

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14 Bares Tip owners initially fined over septic before issue is resolved, complaints waived

By Laura Hayes laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Fourteen property owners on Bares Tip on Shelley Island in the Susquehanna River were cited after they failed to have their septic systems pumped and inspected by the end of last June.

However, the complaints were withdrawn after the residents were able to have the inspections completed. A discussion of the issue occurred at Monday's Londonderry Township Board of Supervisors meeting.

Township staff did not immediately respond to questions on how much the fine would have been or whether other island residents had been fined.

Township solicitor Jim Diamond said the 14 lots didn't get inspected due to weather, and the township codes department issued notices of enforcement which later became citations filed with District Judge David Judy for fines.

"To our kind of pleasant surprise, actually, the owners were able to find a company go out there, and they've already got the inspections done and had the reports in," Diamond said at the meeting.

"I'm glad that they accepted what we did. None of us wanted to go through this," said Brian Hafer, one of the Bares Tip residents.

The board unanimously voted to accept the reports as "curing" the compliance issues, gave the codes department and solicitor permission to notify Judy that the complaints would be withdrawn, and refunded \$500 paid by the group for the appeal.

"What I'm a big fan of with

"What I'm a big fan of with local government is we want to fix things, not just looking to penalize people."

Chairwoman Anna Dale

local government is we want to fix things, not just looking to penalize people," Chairwoman Anna Dale said, adding that she would be in favor of accepting the late reports.

Hafer said they had been fined \$300 and about \$90 in court costs. He believed they would have been fined more until it was resolved. Because it was resolved, Hafer said he believed the fines would be returned to them.

The supervisors asked if this would set a precedent.

"Do we lose our ability to enforce it if we accept this now?" Vice Chairman Mike Geysers asked. Diamond said it would not, because the residents had raised extenuating circumstances.

In 2013, the supervisors enacted the on-lot sewage disposal system management ordinance, which established regulations for installing, inspecting and maintaining sewage systems. The township was divided into two on-lot management districts and three sewer districts, and the districts were given a schedule on when their systems should be inspected and pumped.

Bares Tip is part of the on-lot management district that was to have septic systems pumped and inspected by June 30.

Bares Tip is part of Shelley Island not owned by Cube Hydro

Partners. Recreational lot tenants on Beshore Island and the northern portion of Shelley Island owned by Cube Hydro lost their recreational lot leases over compliance concerns regarding the township's floodplain ordinance and a Federal Emergency Management Agency inspection.

Hafer told the Press & Journal that they were informed in May 2017 that they needed to have their septic systems pumped. He said residents on Beech and Hill islands and Bares Tip met.

Beech and Hill island systems were pumped, and Bares Tip was supposed to be next.

"Then the monsoon hit," Hafer said.

Because they're on the tip of Shelley Island, the right-of-way has a natural spring, and with the rain over the summer, it never dried and a truck couldn't make the journey to Bares Tip.

Only two haulers had trucks small enough to even get to the island by barge, Hafer said.

They appealed to request more time to get a pumper out there. The residents were later able to find a pumper who was willing to come out to the islands.

Hafer is from Stewartstown and been on Bares Tip since 1979.

Township codes and zoning officer Jeff Burkhart said the septic systems on Bares Tip had been dry and didn't need to be pumped. Because residents use the island for recreation, Hafer said, people are typically on the island from May to October.

Diamond said this was the first time that this cycle had come up.

"I think now everyone understands the seriousness of these deadlines," Diamond said.

POLICE AND COURTS ROUNDUP

Erratic driver's blood-alcohol content was 4 times legal limit, police report

Middletown police charged a Hershey man with DUI after police received a call about the man driving erratically from a resident shortly before 8 p.m. Nov. 22.

The caller, who was behind a black Lexus being driven by Brad Ray Newhouse, 55, of the 400 block of Hockersville Road, said that he had observed Newhouse driving erratically from Bainbridge to Middletown, according to arrest papers police filed with District Judge David Judy.

The caller called police after the Lexus had turned right off of Route 441 and was heading north on Union Street, police said. Police then observed Newhouse's car crossing three times into the lane of oncoming traffic.

He was pulled over in the parking lot of the Middletown Swim Club.

Newhouse displayed signs of being impaired from alcohol, police said. Lab results of blood drawn from Newhouse at 8:38 p.m. showed that he had a blood-alcohol percentage of 0.333, police said. The legal level to drive is 0.08.

Newhouse is also charged with failing to keep to the right. His preliminary hearing is set for Feb. 19.

DUI charges after crash

State Police charged a Harrisburg man with DUI following an accident on Route 743 near Colebrook Road in Conewago Township just before 10:30 p.m. Dec. 8.

A blue Jeep Liberty driven by Austin Von Brunswick, 27, of the 100 block of South Second Street, side-swiped a silver Lincoln MKZ being driven by the victim, who had to be extricated from the vehicle by emergency personnel, according to arrest papers state police filed with District Judge David Judy.

The victim told police he was northbound on 743 and tried to avoid Brunswick's vehicle, which the victim said was heading for him in the victim's lane of travel, police said.

Police detected a strong odor of alcohol from Brunswick's breath. Signs of impairment

were detected during field sobriety tests, police said.

Lab results of blood drawn from Brunswick at about 11:10 p.m. showed a blood-alcohol percentage of 0.154 percent, police said. The legal level to drive is 0.08.

He also had the active ingredient of marijuana in his system, according to the blood draw lab results, police said.

Besides DUI and DUI of a controlled substance, Brunswick is also charged with recklessly endangering another person, being involved in an accident causing personal injury, disregarding a single lane of traffic, careless driving, and failure to use a seat belt.

His preliminary hearing is set for Feb. 19.

False ID allegedly provided

A Londonderry Township woman is listed as being in Dauphin County Prison after State Police charged her with DUI and attempting to conceal her identity following an accident in the 600 block of South Geysers Church Road shortly after 4 a.m. Dec. 31.

A purple Dodge Durango driven by Jessica Lee Baker, 48, of the 4000 block of East Harrisburg Pike, had struck a utility pole and gone down an embankment, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

Baker showed signs of impairment, police said. She also provided another woman's driver's license and claimed to be that woman, police said.

After Baker eventually provided her real name, police found that her license had been suspended for a DUI-related offense, and that she had active arrest warrants.

Baker was arraigned before Judy and charged with DUI of a controlled substance, false identification to law enforcement, driving an unregistered vehicle, driving under a suspended license, disregarding a single lane of traffic, speeding, careless driving, and contraband/controlled substance.

Her bail was set at \$25,000. Baker waived a Jan. 7 preliminary hearing and is to

be arraigned on all charges in Dauphin County Court on March 15.

Police: Driver had open beer

A Lancaster man was charged with DUI after Middletown police pulled him over for being stopped at a green light at the intersection of West Main and North Wood streets shortly before 2 a.m. Dec. 29.

Ian Taylor Hoover, 42, of the 400 block of East King Street, was then observed turning left onto North Wood without using a turn signal, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

Hoover showed signs of being impaired and an open can of beer was in the cup holder of the vehicle, police said. Hoover said he was traveling from Kentucky to Lancaster, but thought he was in West Virginia, according to police.

Hoover refused both breath and blood testing, police said.

A preliminary hearing on the charge is set for Feb. 19.

Probation check leads to arrest

Middletown police arrested a borough man on drug charges while police were serving a warrant in the 300 block of South Lawrence Street at about 12:15 p.m. Nov. 30.

A search of the residence of Tevin J. Brown, 26, of the South Lawrence address, uncovered marijuana, sandwich baggies containing suspected heroin residue, and a digital scale, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

Brown at the time was on probation with Dauphin County Court, police said.

Brown was arraigned Jan. 4 before Judy and charged with manufacture, delivery, or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana and use/possession of drug paraphernalia, obstructing the administration of law and other government functions, and tampering with/fabricating physical evidence.

He was listed as being in Dauphin County Prison on \$25,000 bail. His preliminary hearing is set for Jan. 28.

PROBE: \$940,000 for law firm

From page A1

The request for an investigation is based on findings of a forensic audit presented to council during its June 19 meeting by RKL LLP of Lancaster.

Council hired the firm in October 2016 — 10 months after newly elected Councilor Diana McGlone proposed having a “special” audit done to examine borough finances from Dec. 30, 2014 through Dec. 31, 2015.

Former longtime Mayor Robert Reid also publicly called for a forensic audit in December 2015, just weeks after being elected to council in November 2015.

'Last-minute' meeting

The borough's four-page letter requesting the investigation — addressed to Chief Deputy Attorney General Brian Zarallo with the office's Public Corruption Unit — cites much of the detail first made known through the RKL report regarding a \$1.3 million check made out to the former authority on Dec. 30, 2015.

Council approved payment of the check to the authority during what the letter to the AG characterizes as a “last-minute special meeting” council held, also Dec. 30, 2015, to ratify in one vote all expenditures the borough incurred for 2015.

The letter to the AG also notes that the Dec. 30 meeting was called by a council of which a majority of members, including President Chris McNamara, would be leaving office as of Dec. 31, 2015, due to either not being re-elected or not seeking re-election.

Former officials respond

John Patten, who chaired the former authority from February 2013 until when the authority was dissolved in 2016, said that council, not the authority, would have been responsible for financial issues concerning proceeds from the lease.

“The authority was the entity being leased to generate funds that council would decide what to do with,” Patten told the Press & Journal. “Once the lease decision was made, the authority really ceased to exist. We weren't further involved.”

McNamara in a text message responding to a request for comment from the Press & Journal suggested it is unclear exactly what the present council is asking the AG's office to investigate. “What does suspected improper use or misallocation of funds mean?” McNamara asked in the text message.

Money breakdown

The lease with the joint venture — which includes Suez, the private company that operates Middletown's water and sewer systems under terms of the lease — resulted in a \$43.2 million lump sum payment to the borough.

As also detailed in the RKL report, most of that \$43.2 million went to pay off borough debt.

After paying off debt and covering the fees of those who provided advice to council and the authority regarding the lease, enough money was left over from lease proceeds to cover paying \$4.2 million to the borough, \$6.7 million to the authority, and another \$761,331 to the authority for a “rainy day” fund, according to the RKL report.

The RKL report does not pinpoint the source of the \$1.3 million check to the authority that council approved Dec. 30, 2015. But the present council's letter to the AG identifies the \$1.3 million as proceeds from the \$43.2 million lease deal.

The letter also notes the \$1.3 million check being made out to the authority, despite the authority having committed to dissolving itself when the authority approved the lease in 2014.

Instead of dissolving when the 50-year lease went into effect on Jan. 1, 2015, the authority still was around and on Jan. 4, 2016, cut a \$241,062.67 check to Stevens & Lee, a law firm the authority hired to resist efforts by council to dissolve the body.

RKL determined the \$241,062.67 came from the \$1.3 million council approved as payment to the authority at the Dec. 30 meeting.

Bank not a help

The rest of the \$1.3 million remains unaccounted for, according to the council, resulting in the “missing” label being applied to the \$1.1 million following release of the RKL report in June.

At that time, then-Council President Damon Suglia and Councilor Michael Woodworth

both called for the borough to request from its bank information regarding all checks that were processed out of the \$1.3 million payment to the authority.

The borough of Middletown spoke to its bank to try and find out what happened to the \$1.1 million in “missing” money paid to the former borough authority, according to Klinepeter's email to the Press & Journal.

Shortly after the June 19 council meeting, borough staff visited the M&T Bank office in Middletown and requested copies of all checks written by the former authority from June 2015 through June 2016, covering the time period until the authority was dissolved, Klinepeter said.

The borough received the information in October.

According to Klinepeter's email, the information from the bank added nothing “of significance” regarding the \$1.3 million paid to the former authority, beyond what the borough knew from the forensic audit.

Conflict of interest?

The RKL report alleges the \$1.3 million payment council approved to the authority “may be a conflict of interest,” as despite the approved lease calling for dissolving the authority, several members of council were also members of the authority — including McNamara.

“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” to dissolve the authority, RKL says. “It is difficult to ascertain if these council members were acting in the best interest of the borough when authorizing this payment.”

\$940,000 to law firm

The Jan. 2 letter from council to the AG further notes that the authority paid Stevens & Lee more than \$940,000 in 2016.

Stevens & Lee filed a lawsuit on behalf of the authority against council in March 2016 as a further attempt to block the dissolution the authority had agreed to in September 2014.

The suit was dropped just six months later.

“The borough council is without any documentation that could substantiate such enormous fees (almost \$1 million) for a suit that ended on a motion to dismiss before discovery or a trial,” council says in the Jan. 2 letter.

Council also requests the AG look into how the \$1.3 million check to the authority was processed. As noted in the letter to the AG and as detailed in the RKL report, the check was not generated by borough employees whose job it would have been to do so.

“To date, it is unknown who accessed the check generating system or whether the check was, in fact, generated by an authorized issuer,” council says in its letter to the attorney general.

Shredding questions

Finally, the letter requests the AG's office investigate allegations that documents related to the \$1.3 million payment to the authority were shredded, according to the RKL report.

The report does not identify who did the shredding or what was shredded.

However, several key members of borough staff — all hired by the McNamara-led council — resigned abruptly in December 2015, after the elections made it clear that the McNamara majority would no longer be in power come Jan. 1, 2016.

“Current borough staff, most of whom began employment after the former borough council was not re-elected in 2015, have attempted to locate documents pertaining to the actions of the authority and the former borough council,” the Jan. 2 letter to the AG states. “Specifically, staff has attempted to find any documents associated with the former borough council's Dec. 30, 2015 action to approve the \$1.3 million allocation of funds from the general fund to the authority or the overall list of expenditures that the outgoing borough council ratified on that date. No such documentation has ever been located.”

“The current borough council notes that many governmental records associated with the former borough council and the authority are missing, including all minutes of authority meetings,” council adds in the Jan. 2 letter.

Deceased woman's brother had been trying to reconcile with her

By Dan Miller

danmiller@pressandjournal.com

The brother of the woman killed last week in a double murder-suicide was in the process of trying to reconcile with her after years of not speaking.

Nightflower Staats had the name Nightflower because she is half-Mohawk Indian, her brother Justin Rogers told the Press & Journal on Monday. Nightflower's father was full Mohawk.

She was born in London, Canada, in the southern part of Ontario wedged between Michigan to the west, and Buffalo and the rest of New York to the east.

Nightflower had dual citizen-

ship, as her mother was an American citizen, said Rogers. He and Nightflower had different fathers.

At 44, Nightflower was seven years older than Rogers. The two had one other sibling, a sister.

They grew up together in York, in a “normal” family, said Rogers, who now lives north of Scranton.

Rogers remembers Nightflower as happy and outgoing. He believes those same traits led her to want to leave home and go out on her own as soon as she could, which Nightflower did when she was 18.

From that time on Nightflower traveled around a lot. Rogers said he hadn't even spoken with Nightflower, until about five or six years ago.

Rogers said he doesn't know how long Nightflower and Marvin Caddell had been together, or if they had been together all the time since when their 7-year-old son was born.

Nightflower would send letters to Rogers on occasion, but the letters never had a return address.

Caddell seemed to move the family around frequently, and he would not allow Nightflower to let anyone know where they were, Rogers said.

Today, he looks back at this as a “red flag” that he now wishes he would have done more about.

Before Middletown, Rogers said he knew that Nightflower, Caddell and their son had lived

in Bensalem, and in Cobbs Creek in West Philadelphia, Rogers said. He didn't know what led them to move to Middletown.

Rogers said he has no recent photos of Nightflower. But they had been keeping in touch more in recent years, Rogers said. She had given him her email address.

Rogers had found photos of himself and Nightflower together when they were younger, back before she had moved out.

He had wanted to send some of those photos to Nightflower, so she could share them with her son.

“I was working on that,” Rogers said, referring to sending the photos to her. He was never able to do it.

THREE: Building owner trying to process what happened last week

From page A1

food on a stove.

'Really nice family'

“They seemed like a really nice family,” said John Morant, who is the property manager at the building.

Morant said he knew that Caddell and Staats had separated.

Otherwise, he didn't know of any issues or problems that could have led to what happened. He said he had not gotten any complaints about the family from any other tenants.

“I never knew him to be an angry kind of guy,” Morant said of Caddell.

Morant doesn't live in the building, so he didn't see the couple and their son very often. The mother and the father both seemed quiet.

The child was the most talkative of the three. Morant used the words “happy,” “smiling,” “lively” and “very bright” to describe him.

Morant said he last saw Caddell sometime in December, when Morant was having a refrigerator delivered to another apartment in the building.

Staats had moved out in October. Morant said he did not know that she had come back.

When police asked him to open the door to do a “welfare check” of the apartment, Morant said police told him that a pastor had asked them to check on the family. The pastor was concerned that the family had not been seen for a couple of days, Morant said police told him.

Morant remembered seeing Caddell's car, so he figured Caddell was home. When police opened the door, Morant could see Caddell's body on the floor. Morant said he immediately backed away from the door.

Boy didn't attend MASD schools

Lori Suski, superintendent of the Middletown Area School District, told the Press & Journal via email Monday that the boy did not attend school in the district.

Other MASD students reside in the apartment building where the double murder-suicide took place, however, Suski said. On Sunday, district staff who know of those students reached out to their parents to ensure that those students were all safe.

The principal and counselor at Fink Elementary School checked in with each of those students again Monday and contacted their parents to see if they needed counseling, but according to the principal, no one indicated a need, Suski said.

“Although the child did not attend our schools, the loss of any child, especially in these circumstances, is heartbreaking,” Suski said. “Thoughts and prayers are with those who mourn.”

Processing what happened

Like everybody else, Crist is having a difficult time processing what happened to the three people in his apartment building.

“You can never make sense of these sorts of things,” he said.

He's had the weekend to start processing it, Crist said, and about all he can resolve in his mind is that “all people are capable of great good, and also capable of inflicting tremendous harm.”

The three people were among about 40 people total who live in 16 apartments in the building.

Crist described the residents as “a diverse mix” that includes some members of the refugee community from Burma, some individuals, and some small families.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN MILLER

In this March 2015 file photo, George Crist stands in front of the building in the 100 block of South Union Street that he bought in 2014.

“There's a way to build a stronger community in all of this.”

George Crist, apartment building owner

Most of the apartments have turned over at least once in occupancy since Crist bought the building nearly five years ago. There are one or two tenants who are still here who were living in the building then.

Crist never has trouble finding tenants when someone moves out. The building is in a great location, he said, right across from the Karns grocery store and in walking distance or a short drive from a number of small businesses.

“It's been very successful from the standpoint of finding tenants,” he said.

“We've really built a nice community here. These are good folks,” Crist added, referring to all of the tenants collectively who live in the building.

Improvements made

When Crist bought the building in 2014 he told the Press & Journal that he did so because he wanted to be part of what was happening in downtown Middletown, and what he expected would be happening.

The downtown streetscape project was wrapping up, and since then the Elks Building has found new life with the Tattered Flag Brewery & Still Works.

Crist after buying the building sunk more money into the property for improvements, inside and out. He is leasing the retail space on the first floor to a tattoo parlor.


“We've done a lot here to try and improve this part of Middletown. The community has obviously invested a lot. All the right things are happening in the community that everyone should be proud of,” Crist said.

Crist said he will have coffee, hot chocolate and soup for anyone coming to the vigil Wednesday.

He suspects he will need more than “a Thermos” of hot chocolate, but he's fine with that.

“If a lot of people come out to celebrate this family, that is going to be a good problem. That would be all right,” he said. “There's a way to build a stronger community in all of this.”

Reporter Laura Hayes contributed to this story.



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O'Donnell reaches highest rank of Eagle Scout

After 12 years of dedication to scouting, Jacob O'Donnell of Troop 97 in Londonderry Township has been recognized for earning the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America.

Jake's Court of Honor recently was held at the Londonderry Scouting Complex in Londonderry Township.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank that the Boy Scouts of America has to offer. Only 6 percent of all Boy Scouts are able to reach the

rank of Eagle.

Jake began his scouting career as a Cub Scout with Pack 97 when he was in first grade. He then went on to join Troop 97 for Boy Scouts where he was a member of the Panda Patrol. While in Troop 97, he was inducted into the Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow, which is Scouting's National Honor Society.

Committee Chairman Ted Pauley of Troop 97 bestowed the rank of Eagle Scout to Jake on

behalf of the National Boy Scout Council.

Community service is an important part of reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Jake has completed almost 250 community service hours to date including volunteer work for the Epilepsy Foundation, the Autism Society, Adopt-A-Highway, Fountain of Life Food Bank, Londonderry Township flood relief projects, disaster drill "victim" for area hospital, Sunset Park trail clearing, Middletown Home, Geysers United Methodist Church, Middletown National Night Out, Toys For Tots, Londonderry Elementary School May



O'Donnell

Fair and numerous projects for the Londonderry Fire Company.

In addition, Jake has served in color guards for Helping A Hero, multiple Londonderry Township Fourth of July celebrations and at the Highspire Fire Company's State Firemen's Conference.

A community project that demonstrates leadership skills is required as part of the Eagle Scout rank. The Middletown Anglers and Hunters has been extremely supportive of Jake and Troop 97 over the years. Consequently, Jake wanted to give back to the organization that supported him, his fellow Scouts and the community as a whole. Jake organized a team to work on numerous projects at their facility in Londonderry Township. Among those projects, Jake repaired and painted the

target range and built shooting tables for the rifle range.

Jake demonstrated his leadership qualities by holding the positions of troop quartermaster and patrol leader within Troop 97. Jake has become an assistant Scout master with Troop 97 so that he can share his love of Scouting by encouraging younger Scouts. He said he plans to help them develop their camping and outdoor skills.

Jake was a member of the Ender Dragon Patrol during the Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree in Bechtel, West Virginia, with Troop C203, which he attended with 50,000 Boy Scouts from around the world in 2013. Jake said he particularly enjoyed Scouting's high adventure camps. He sailed at Sea Base High Adventure Camp in the Florida Keys in

2016 and canoed in the backwaters of Atikokan, Ontario, Canada at the Northern Tier High Adventure Camp in 2018.

Jake has logged in 108 nights of tent camping, 60 miles in trail hiking and more than 75 paddling miles to date with Troop 97. In addition, he earned 28 merit badges during his Scouting career.

Jake is the son of Tammy and Ralph O'Donnell of Londonderry Township. Tammy also has been an active volunteer and has done fundraising so that troop members can experience Scouting programs. Ralph has served Pack 97 and Troop 97 for more than 13 years as the troop treasurer and as a committee member.

Boy Scout Troop 97 is sponsored by Londonderry Fire Company in Londonderry Township.

Beauty & Wellness

Simply look and feel your best

At the dawn of a new year, many people resolve to reach for new heights. On the path to personal growth or improvement, one may find that making a few adjustments can greatly increase confidence and satisfaction.

The adage "don't judge a book by its cover" can inspire people to look beyond the outer shell to what lies beneath. However, how a person presents himself or herself undeniably has an impact on how this person is perceived. Therefore, individuals can make small changes that improve how they look and feel about themselves. This, in turn, may make people more self-assured.

- *Undergo a teeth-whitening treatment.* A bright, welcoming smile portrays friendliness and confidence. People who hide their smiles because of yellowing teeth can find that investing in at-home whitening strips or gels, or working with a dentist for professional whitening services, can dramatically change their looks.
- *Skip the pockets.* Rely on cloth-



ing that is pocket-less, especially if you're prone to putting hands in pockets. Body language experts say that people put their hands in their pockets when they are uncomfortable or unsure of themselves. Keeping one's hands free can project more confidence in all they do.

- *Get a tailored wardrobe.* Ill-fitting clothing may tell others you don't care about your appearance, even if you do. Sometimes off-the-rack clothing just doesn't fit as well as a person may hope, especially if that man or woman is between sizes. Working with a tailor or seamstress to make clothing fit better can help people feel more comfortable in everything they do.
- *Practice better posture.* Standing tall with shoulders back and head held high can do everything from project assertiveness to help clothes fit and fall better.
- *Properly groom your brows.* Men and women both can benefit from well-tended brows. These eye-framing wonders are one area on the face people tend to notice first. It pays to keep them well-groomed and neat.
- *Start exercising.* Exercise does wonders for not only maintaining a healthy, fit body, but it also can improve mood.

These suggestions are relatively easy tweaks to help a person put forth his or her best self.

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Boy Scout Troop 97 awards rank advancements, hands out merit badges and honors during court

Londonderry Township's Boy Scout Troop 97 had a lot to celebrate during the holiday season. Star Scout Mason Barrick served as the master of ceremonies for the troop's holiday Court of Honor banquet held at the Londonderry Scouting Complex. The troop recognized the reason for the season along with awarding six rank advancements, more than 25 merit badges and almost 50 special awards.

Jaime Gallick and Jesse Reigle were recognized by Life Scout Christopher Kiessling and Scout Master Matthew Pauley, who administered the Tenderfoot rank oath. Their new rank badges include an eagle and a shield symbolizing freedom and a willingness to defend that freedom. Two stars on their patch stand for truth and knowledge. Jaime and Jesse are at the beginning of their Scouting adventure and will continue to expand their knowledge and expertise in numerous subjects.

Jesse also earned the rank of Second Class Scout. Star Scout Luke Spangenberg acknowledged Jesse for his Scout spirit, his helpfulness and his ability to follow the Scout Law. Scout Master Chris Hoyt delivered the rank advancement oath to Jesse. The Second Class rank badge displays a knot suspended from a scroll reminding Jesse to do a good turn daily.

Life Scout Owen Wealand and Committee Chairman Mark Gallick delivered the rank of Star to Mason Barrick and Luke Spangenberg. Owen stressed the importance of leadership, thoughtfulness, consideration, enthusiasm and responsibility for this rank advancement. The star on their rank badge reminds Mason and Luke to encourage younger Scouts and to serve their troop and community.

Leo Nissley was sworn in as a Life Scout by Life Scout Ben Spangenberg and Scout Master Kevin Little. As a Life Scout, Leo has learned that life is a series of doors into the future. Doors will open with preparedness and when problems are addressed as opportunities to be creative in finding solutions. The heart on his rank badge encourages him to address obstacles and possibilities with his heart and soul.

Committee members Julie Myers and Ted Pauley presented more than 25 merit badges to the troop. The electronics and radio merit badges were the most popular among the Scouts. Merit badges in communication, cooking, citizenship in the nation, emergency preparedness, Indian folklore and personal fitness also were awarded.

Scout Master Garrett Little and Charter Representative Tim Nissley presented more than 50 awards to those Scouts who attended the National Jamboree on the Air and the USS New Jersey camping



Scouts and leaders of Boy Scout Troop 97 had a lot to celebrate during their holiday Court of Honor at the Londonderry Scouting Complex.



Above left, Jaime Gallick and Jesse Reigle were advanced to the rank of Tenderfoot at the awards banquet. Jesse then took the oath of Second Class Scout, which Jaime will achieve in the near future. Above right, Luke Spangenberg, seated, and Mason Barrick earned the rank of Star Scout. They serve as role models to younger Scouts and as leaders to their troop.



trips. Patches were also given to those who helped with the national Scouting for Food effort where Troop 97 collected more than 1,200 non-perishable items with Cub Pack 97 for neighbors in need.

Mason Barrick recognized Scout Master Kevin Little as the Volunteer of Honor. Little has been involved with Scouting for more than 13 years. He served scouts as a Cub Master in 2007 with Pack 97 and then became Troop 97's Scout Master in 2011. He has led Scouts on trips including the Florida Sea Base sailing expedition in the Keys in 120 degree heat, and hiking more than 130 miles in



Nissley



Little

and took a group of Scouts to the National Jamboree in the hills of Bechtel, West Virginia. He said he has enjoyed taking Scouts on winter klondikes and has led them to numerous summer camps on the East Coast. Little teaches more than a dozen merit badges.

The members of the troop "roasted" him with their favorite memories or "Kevinisms" from over the years. There was one common theme ... his sense of fun, adventure, positive attitude

and love of Scouting. Little said a true leader knows when to pass the baton to the next leader. Bill Lee took over as Scout Master Jan. 1. Little will remain in the troop as an assistant Scout master, where he will focus on leadership training skills.

The holiday-themed celebration ended with a festive gift exchange game complete with Jamie Barrick serving as one of Santa's elves to deliver a story that brought smiles and laughter to all.

Recent and upcoming events for Troop 97 include Klondike winter camping at Seven Mountains in Spring Mills as well as numerous Eagle Scout projects.

For more information, contact Kevin Little at 717-944-1957 or Ted Pauley at 717-944-2766.

Troop 97 is sponsored by the Londonderry Fire Company.

Gasoline prices in Harrisburg region down again —3.4 cents

Gasoline prices in Harrisburg fell 3.4 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$2.36 Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 241 stations in Harrisburg.

This compares with the national average that fell 3 cents per gallon vs. last week to \$2.22 a gallon, according to GasBuddy.

Average gasoline prices Jan. 7 in Harrisburg have ranged widely over the last five years: \$2.71 in 2018, \$2.58 in 2017, \$2.10 in 2016,

\$2.38 in 2015 and \$3.52 in 2014.

Prices Sunday were 34.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago and are 25.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has dropped 19.9 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 26 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Areas near Harrisburg and their current gas price climate: **Lancaster:** \$2.38 a gallon, down 3.9 cents per gallon from last week.

Reading: \$2.44 a gallon, down 3.4 cents.

York: \$2.32 a gallon, down 2.2 cents.

"After a brief hiccup that saw the nation's average gas price rise for two days last week, the overall trend remains in favor of lower gas prices, even as oil prices have rallied. The window for cheap prices continues to close, however, and by mid-February will likely be completely closed, so do take advantage of the low prices while

they last," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"While 11 states are seeing their statewide average under \$2 per gallon, nearly half of the nation's gas stations are selling under \$2 per gallon. In fact, while the average price remains higher, the median gas price in the U.S. sits at \$2.07 per gallon — much of which can be blamed on much higher gas prices on the West Coast."

Blue Raiders' losing streak reaches 9

3 close games but no wins for young squad

By Larry Etter
Press & Journal Staff

The Middletown boys basketball team had several chances to break its winless streak last week but came up empty all three times as victories continued to elude the young Blue Raiders.

In the first game, the Raiders took host Palmyra to overtime before falling in the extra period on New Year's Eve afternoon. In a 66-59 loss to Steelton-Highspire on Thursday, followed by a 47-33 setback to West Perry on Friday, the Raiders had leads but could not finish. In those two, the team victimized itself with fourth-

quarter fades.

The Blue Raiders fell to 1-9 on the season after starting 1-0, and first-year coach Chris Bradford is trying to turn things around for his youthful club that now has just one senior on the roster following the departure of three upperclassmen.

That has left the first-year coach with one junior, three sophomores and four freshmen to work with — no easy task in the competitive local basketball scene.

As a plus, the team does not play until this Friday, giving the coaching staff some much-needed practice time prior to hosting Milton Hershey.

Palmyra 82, Middletown 77 (OT)

The Blue Raiders played one of their best games of the season at favored Palmyra and had a chance to win in the final seconds of regulation. But a shot rimmed out instead, sending the game to overtime.

In the extra period, the Cougars got off to a great start and went on to outscore the determined Raiders 19-14 to lock up the hard-fought win.

The Raiders trailed by just one point, 16-15, after one quarter and were down by five, 31-26, at halftime.

The game appeared to be slipping away in the second half as the Blue Raiders put up just 10 points in the third and trailed by 10 heading into the final 8 minutes. But Tymir Jackson recorded 10 of his 20 points and Tyler Petroski added 7 of his 20 in the fourth to lead a 27-point explosion that ended with the teams battling to a 63-63 tie.

The last-second shot that could have won it for the Raiders missed the mark, however, forcing the overtime session.

Palmyra's Jack Wagner, who registered a game-high 31 points, started off the extra period with a pair of triples and set the tone for the finish. Tajae Broadie collected 6 of his 15 points and Jackson added 5 in the overtime, but they were not enough to secure a Middletown win.

The Cougars dropped in 10 points from the foul line to ice it. Jules Nester added 14 points for the Raiders.

The Raiders lost to Steelton-Highspire 66, Middletown 59 on Thursday at home, the Raiders had led 31-26 at halftime. Please see **RAIDERS**, page B2

Petroski started off the fourth quarter with another triple off a T.J. Daniels assist and scored again following a Steel-High basket by Erick Dickey to make it a 3-point game with 5:12 left.

But, with the Rollers controlling the boards on both ends of the court and Flowers and Dickey teaming for 12 points, Steel-High used a 14-13 scoring edge in the fourth quarter to turn back the Blue Raiders' bid for a much-needed victory.



SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY DONALD GRAHAM
Tyler Petroski fires up a jumper from the top of the key in Friday's loss at home to West Perry.

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Blue Raider girls split vs. Northern, West Perry

The Middletown girls basketball team split a pair of games last week to move to 4-6 on the season.

The Blue Raiders beat Northern York at home Jan. 2, 53-33.

Junior standout Katie Fitzpatrick had another big game, scoring 30 points, which included three 3-pointers and 5 for 5 from the free throw line. She added 2 rebounds and 2 steals.

Joci Koser registered 11 points, 5 rebounds and 3 assists, and Jae Keller had 6 points, 9 rebounds and 6 blocks.

Ayanna Reeves added 2 points and 6 rebounds, and Amanda Lee

had 3 points.

Hayli Akakpo-Martin had 3 rebounds and 2 assists. Jade Senior had 8 rebounds and 2 steals.

In the 47-36 loss at West Perry on Friday, Koser had 13 points and 3 rebounds, and Reeves had 10 points and 9 rebounds.

Fitzpatrick scored 8 points with 3 rebounds, 3 assists and 6 steals, and Keller added 2 blocks and 6 rebounds.

The team will play host to Northern Lebanon Jan. 9 and then travel to Milton Hershey on Friday before returning home against Steelton-Highspire on Jan. 15.



SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY DONALD GRAHAM
Above, Head coach Robert Pelletier watches a Katie Fitzpatrick jumper in a win vs. Northern York on Jan. 2. Left, Amanda Lee drives vs. Northern York.

Four Raiders picked as all-state football

Four Middletown Blue Raiders football players recently were named to the Pa. Football Writers' All-State team for Class 3A.

Junior running back Jose Lopez, already Middletown's all-time leading rusher, was picked for the team, along with three seniors — defensive lineman Cole Senior, his second straight selection, and linebacker Gage Radabaugh and offensive lineman Ethan Miller.

Lopez has 4,420 career rushing yards, and he broke the record in the Class 3A state title game

Dec. 8, a 35-0 loss to Aliquippa. He moved past Brady Fox's total of 4,372 and Jaelen Thompson's 3,818. Fox played from 2014-2017, and Thompson from 2013-2016.

The four were instrumental in Middletown's third straight trip to the 3A title game. The team lost 30-13 to Beaver Falls in 2016 and 41-24 to Quaker Valley in 2017.

Names familiar to Middletown fans dotted the all-state team, including several from Aliquippa — quarterback Eli Kosanovich, running back Avante McKenzie

(who scored four touchdowns against Middletown), wide receiver Will Gipson, defensive linemen Solvahn Moreland and Elijah Mike and defensive back M.J. Devonshire, who was named Player of the Year. Aliquippa coach Mike Warfield was picked as Coach of the Year.

Several other players from teams Middletown beat in the playoffs were honored, including Scranton Prep quarterback Lee O'Boyle and Conwell-Egan running back Patrick Garwo.

REGISTRATION

LSTAA Baseball and Softball registration for the 2019 season will be held at the Lower Swatara Municipal Building: 1499 Spring Garden Dr., Middletown

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th 9 am-Noon
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26th 1 pm-4 pm

Open to all kids living within Lower Swatara Township and Highspire.
First year players must bring a copy of birth certificate and proof of residency document.

For questions, including cost and fundraiser options as well as online registration, visit www.lstaa.org or call JASON WAGNER at (717) 574-0536

Volunteers for coaching are welcome and may sign up at registration. Online registration cut-off date is 2/3/19.

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.

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 schedule of activities is as follows: Wed., Jan. 9: 6 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous Group Book Study; 6:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal. Thurs., Jan. 10: 6 p.m., God’s Kitchen at Wesley. Sun., Jan. 13: 9 a.m., Sunday school and Confirmation Class; 10:15 a.m., Worship Service. Tues., Jan 15: 2 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry.

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Spring & Union Streets (121 N. Spring St), Middletown. We are 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., Good Shepherd Chapel; Saturday evening at 5 p.m., Good Shepherd Chapel. Please enter the church through the parking lot door. Our Sunday worship service is broadcast at 11 a.m. on WMSS 91.1FM.

Church: Sat., Jan. 12: 5 p.m., Holy Communion – Good Shepherd Chapel – Everyone is welcome. Sun., Jan. 13: 10 a.m., Holy Communion – everyone is welcome. Wed., Jan. 16: 10 a.m., Holy Communion – Good Shepherd Chapel – everyone is welcome. Free Little Library: St. Peter’s has a Free Little Library located at the entrance door by the parking lot. This Free Little Library belongs to everyone. Anyone may use it. The books are always free. It is not necessary to give a book to take a book. Come take a look, read a book! Interfaith Area Council Month of Caring for January: Please donate to your church, synagogue, or directly to the Middletown Food Pantry to help those in this community in our need. See needs below in Food Pantry News or monetary donations can be mailed to Middletown Interfaith Council, P.O. Box 207, Middletown, PA 17057.

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 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the same location. Food Pantry Sunday is February 3 (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: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-22.

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.

The community is invited to our new contemporary service on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. entitled “New Beginnings Unchained Worship Fellowship.” Persons who have no church affiliation or are seeking to grow in their faith in their relationship with God are invited. We invite you to come and check out our new service. Sundays: Children’s choir rehearsal Sundays at 10 a.m.; Youth Fellowship meets 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 2nd 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. January ushers: Pat and Harvey Givler, Bonnie and Joel Guzzo. Greeter: Paul Thompson. Children’s Church leaders for Sunday, January 13: Kelly Hunmert and Crystal Mrakovich. 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. Pastor Britt writes a daily devotional on the Facebook page “Pastor Britt Strohecker.” 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.

Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church

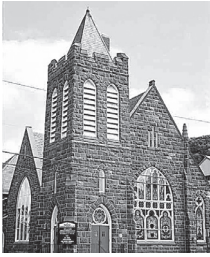


Calvary church has been a part of the Middletown Borough community since 1936. It has been our privilege to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ all these years and to do so knowing the good news has never changed in over 2000 years. We firmly hold to the Apostles’ Creed and the Westminster Confession 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 will be forgiven and saved from God’s wrath. Please join us each Sunday to hear the Gospel. Learn more at: www.calvaryopc.com.

Our worship 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 worship 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 and prayer meeting each Wednesday at 7 p.m. We are studying the power of prayer on Wednesday nights.

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. Please join us on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. as Pastor Christian Neu- baum 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!

Adult Forum resumes this week. You are invited on Sundays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for our Adult Forum, an opportunity to learn more about the Bible and issues of concern to Christians. All are welcome as we study the Bible and reflect on how the scriptures can inform and inspire us to “walk the talk” in our daily lives and to be responsible and faithful Christians as we confront the critical issues of our time. This week Phil Susemihl will share stories from “Someone To Tell

It Too”, a Christian ministry of listening. The theme for January is “May the Peace of Christ Be With You.” Our electronic newsletter can be accessed anytime at www.pcmdt.org...click on “resources”...click on “newsletter.” (These are PDF files should open with Adobe Acrobat). For further information, see our website www.pcmdt.org, visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PresbyterianCongregation), or call the office.

DMVA suggests veterans review their benefits

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs says the start of the new year is a good time for veterans to review their benefits with a professional to ensure they are receiving what they have earned. “All veterans should occasionally check with a Veterans Service officer to see if changes in a veteran’s circumstances or changes to benefit policies may have modified the programs a veteran may be eligible to receive,” said Brian Natali, chief of the Division of Veterans Services and Programs. “Veterans should take these important steps to secure their benefits, and there are numerous accredited Veterans Service Officers and organizations eager to help.”

Natali said safeguarding military paperwork, especially the DD-214, which is used to verify military service, is an important first step. The easiest way to manage military documents is to make sure they are filed in a safe place immediately upon leaving the military, the department said in a press release. Veterans can file their documents for free at their county courthouse of record to secure them until needed, which can often be decades into the future. Anyone needing assistance locating their military documentation can call the DMVA at 717-861-8910 or by emailing RA-REQ@pa.gov.

Another key step, says Natali, is for veterans to apply for federal health care and state benefits by visiting their local county director of veterans affairs or area accredited service organizations to take a look at what benefits they may be eligible for and to get help applying for those benefits. A complete list of county directors and their contact information can be found at www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs. In addition to connecting with a county director or an accredited service organization, Natali said that every one of Pennsylvania’s nearly 800,000 veterans should sign up for the DMVA Veterans Registry, a free tool that electronically delivers timely information about the many state benefits, programs and services available to veterans. Veterans, family members and people who work with veterans can sign up by computer or mobile device at www.register.dmva.pa.gov. “Veterans and their dependents should never pay for help to apply for veteran’s benefits. There are about 200 Veterans Service Officers in Pennsylvania who work with organizations such as the DMVA, county veterans affairs offices, and several veterans service organizations. They are experienced, trained professionals who provide veterans with the best advice and assistance at no cost,” Natali said. For more about the DMVA, go to www.dmva.pa.gov.

Therapeutic riding group seeks volunteers

The Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association in Grantville is looking for volunteers. CATRA will play host to a 90-minute volunteer orientation at 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, to teach the concepts and benefits of therapeutic riding. Attendees will be informed about volunteer opportunities. Volunteers must be 13 and older with parent or guardian permission. Anyone younger than 13 may volunteer with a parent or guardian. CATRA was founded in 1985 and offers therapeutic riding for special needs children, adolescents and adults. Therapeutic riding is used by individuals who present with any of a wide range of cognitive, physical and

emotional conditions, according to CATRA. Benefits in communication, motor skills and social skills have often been identified with therapeutic riding, according to a press release. CATRA is a working horse farm and home to a number of other animals including goats, dogs, cats, rabbits, chickens and alpaca. The organization is volunteer-run and has a variety of volunteer positions including therapeutic riding assistants, barn managers, maintenance workers, animal caretakers, and gardeners. Learn more about the Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association at CATRA.net. For more information, contact CATRA at 717-469-7517 or info@catra.net.

Harrisburg office of Sen. Toomey will move Jan. 15

Effective Jan. 14, U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey’s Harrisburg office will be moving. Currently, Toomey’s Harrisburg office is located in the Ronald Reagan Federal Building, which will be closed when the new federal court house is completed in 2022. In preparation, Toomey’s office is moving to open space at Strawberry Square, 320 Market St.

As phones are transferred to the new location beginning the morning of Jan. 14, Harrisburg-area constituents who require assistance during the move should call Toomey’s toll-free number at 855-552-1831. Full phone service should be restored by the afternoon of Jan. 15. Toomey, a Republican from Zionsville, has served in the U.S. Senate since 2011.



Be A Good Neighbor.

Give To Your Local Food Pantry.

Call 717-944-4322

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 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



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



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



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



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



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



Wesley United Methodist Church
64 Ann Street, Middletown
PASTOR NAYLO HOPKINS
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 Thursday, Jan. 4, 1973, edition of the Press & Journal

Car rams utility pole



A Middletown-area woman sustained injuries near town last Thursday when her station wagon hit a utility pole on North Union Street, about a quarter-mile north of Fulling Mill Road. A police report indicated the driver fell asleep while driving north on Union at 3:30 p.m.

Council to act on bids for new substation

Borough Council will award bids for the construction of a new electric substation at its Jan. 8 session.

Quotes were received at the December meeting and then turned over to the borough's electrical consultants, W. M. Lewis and Associates.

The new substation is to be built this year on borough property adjacent to its water storage tank along the Pennsylvania Turn-

pike. It is a vital link to service the expanding Village of Pineford as well as to upgrade Middletown's electrical distribution system in the second and third wards.

A new high-voltage service line will be extended from the present Mill Street substation to the new facility.

In other agenda items scheduled for next week's meeting, council will:

- Receive bids for two loads of

poles for the electric department.

- Consider the tax exoneration request of Dauphin County Chief Assessor Berry E. Taylor to remove the 1970 borough tax in the amount of \$13.23 for a trailer owned by Larry R. Bailey. The trailer has been removed from the borough.
- Hear a progress report from Councilman Vincent Tritch on the renovation plans for Hoffer Park.

Other headlines

- Borough youth in hospital after shooting
- Youth hurt in car-cycle crash
- Met-Ed seeks rate increase

Hot buys

- 20 percent off dresses and sportswear. Charleste Shoppe, 4 N. Union St., Middletown. Phone 944-9183.
- Warehouse clearance, savings up to 50 percent on ceiling, tile and floor. Panel City Inc., 2 S. Union St., Middletown.

Water treatment, renewal projects essential in 1973

Mayor Harry Judy and Borough Manager George Merkel both see disposal of solid waste as one of the key issues facing Middletown during 1973.

In a special report to this newspaper, Judy said solid waste management, and how Middletown is going to dispose of it — whether by recycling, incineration or landfill, is a most urgent question and problem.

Merkel, who has spearheaded the administrative spadework as president of the Lower Dauphin Council of Governments until he stepped down a year ago, said it now appears Middletown will be one of eight municipalities to back the recently constituted authority as it prepares to establish a permanent method of waste disposal.

The authority is expected to elect officers this month as well as adopt bylaws. All participating municipalities have appointed representatives to serve on the authority. Former Middletown Council President Edward Wilenbecher is the borough's representative.

Merkel also sees the construc-

tion of 43 low-cost housing units as a "must" in order to get the Rev. Charles Johnson Urban Renewal Project moving in its second "action" year. These units are programmed for construction on the borough's former parking lot on Wilson Street between Grant and Lawrence Streets.

HUD has approved the 43 units but funding has not been cleared to date. In recent weeks, work has been started to demolish vacant and blighted housing within the Johnson Project area.

"This is a good move," Merkel added, "but the main thing is the start of the 43 units to provide housing for residents now living within the Johnson Project area."

Judy and Merkel also emphasized the upcoming decisions facing First Ward residents whose homes were damaged in last June's flood. The federal government has funded a study of the First Ward and this project is known as the Paul T. Leicht Urban Renewal Flood Disaster Project. Merkel said the main purpose of the project is to obtain federal funds to help First Ward residents

affected by the flood to find new housing in areas not vulnerable to flood waters.

If the project continues and the funding is forthcoming, the program would enable residents to purchase other housing or build. Funding would go beyond the value of their present properties in order to relocate in flood-safe areas.

Construction of the new Liberty Fire Company's station has already been funded by the federal government and should become a reality in 1973.

Judy said citizens will be proud of the modern facility to be built at Emaus and Adelia streets.

Merkel said construction could get underway within two months since bids are due in approximately four weeks. If the planned timetable continues, the new fire station should be finished next November.

Judy said flood victims will continue to require help in 1973 as they strive to return to a normal life. Studies and decisions will have to be made by government — especially in the area of zoning.

Highspire joins borough to oppose bridge proposal

Highspire Borough Council on Tuesday joined forces with Middletown in opposing the proposed site of the PennDOT river bridge.

The long-range plan would provide for a bridge across the Susquehanna River between Fishing Creek and Highspire with an interchange connection to Route 230. Highspire's objection to the plan stems from the fact that the proposal could conceivably af-

fect both private residences and the Bethlehem Steel Corp. in the borough.

Last November, the Middletown Area Association of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Harrisburg opposed the plan, and in turn suggested that the bridge be built in Londonderry Township, which would connect with York County, and pointed to the benefits of the location to business and industry.

The proposal would connect with Route 283 in the township and I-83 in York County. For many years, residents of this area have pointed out the need for a bridge here which could conceivably relieve traffic congestion into Harrisburg.

Long-range planning, officials said, should also take into consideration the future of Harrisburg International Airport.

PUZZLES AND HOROSCOPE

WORD SEARCH | ANSWERS ON B2

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Cold weather word search | Blizzard Blowing Brisk Clouds Condensation Convergence Depression Hail Drizzle Flurry | Fog Forecast Freezing Grains Graupel Gusts Hail Ice crystals Icy Melt | Pellets Precipitation Sleet Slushy Snow Stick Temperature Visibility |
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Guess Who? answer: Dove Cameron

HOROSCOPE | WEEK OF JAN. 9

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Look forward to solid and passionate developments in the days to come, Aries. If you're seeking love, then sparks may soon fly. Be on the lookout.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21
Taurus, after some recent turbulence, rest easy knowing that calmer waters are ahead. Some tranquility and stability is just what the doctor ordered.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21
Expect big changes in your love life in the weeks to come. Count your blessings because you deserve all the good news that's coming your way.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Surprises are in store for Cancers who are willing to take risks. If you resign from your job, you may find a dream position shortly after.

LEO JULY 23-AUG. 23
Some cosmic goodness is in store for you. Be excited about your prospects. This year can start out on the right foot, especially as it pertains to domestic matters.

VIRGO AUG. 24-SEPT. 22
Things in your domestic sector are bound to settle down in a few days. If you planned improvements at home, you'll sail through those in no time with some help from friends.

LIBRA SEPT. 23-OCT. 23
Pivotal changes may come into your life. You may find out your family is increasing or learn that a career change is in the works. Count good fortune.

SCORPIO OCT. 24-NOV. 22
A talent that you used to feel insecure about can be an avenue to earn significant money. Don't hesitate to monetize and share your gifts.

SAGITTARIUS NOV. 23-DEC. 21
While you have been in a stable relationship for some time now, both parties may be looking to shake things up. It can go two ways: A breakup or

newfound depth.

CAPRICORN DEC. 22-JAN. 20
Venus, the ruler of your career sector, will point your professional efforts in the right direction. Your professional outlook might turn completely around.

AQUARIUS JAN. 21-FEB. 18
You may notice people in your social life are more friendly and accommodating lately. In fact, friends have always been there for you because they believe in you.

PISCES FEB. 19-MARCH 20
If you've been waiting for seed money to start a venture, then your patience will pay off. Expect some good news to come.

SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

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.

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

GUESS WHO? (answer below Word Search)

I am an actress and singer who was born in Washington on Jan. 15, 1996. I started acting in local community productions at age 8. I am best known for roles on "Liv and Maddie" as well as the Disney hit "Descendants."

CROSSWORD | ANSWERS ON B2

- ACROSS**
- Homestead
 - More (Spanish)
 - Type of notification
 - Approves
 - Mandela's party
 - "Mom" actress Faris
 - Predatory insects
 - Where honey goes
 - Canadian flyers
 - Of an earlier time
 - Indigenous people of Australia
 - Organize
 - All over
 - Made it through
 - Between-meals food
 - A quantity upon which an operation is performed
 - German mythological god
 - "Heavy" type of

- rock music
- Pharmacy chain Duane __
 - First responders
 - Mysterious
 - Leisurely stroll
 - Most naughty
 - Plant tissue
 - Small fish
 - Men's fashion accessory
 - Distant planet
 - Destroy
 - Location in Norse mythology
 - One who is deliberately cruel
 - __ Romeo, car
 - Of the ear
 - Former name of Tokyo
 - Male children
 - French/Belgian river
 - Tide

- DOWN**
- Grave
 - Alright
 - Sharp tooth
 - Bird genus
 - Important
 - One who studies carefully
 - Not very big
 - Astronomy unit
 - A way to open up
 - Trap
 - Handle of a knife
 - Indicates one from a part of W. Africa
 - Lucky number
 - Doctor of Education
 - Legendary Cubs broadcaster
 - Female parent
 - Mimic
 - Connects to the rim

- Small constellation
- Indicates near
- Consumed
- Criticize
- Shock therapy
- Type of cigarette
- The fashionable elite
- Shed tears
- Arm or branch of a bone
- Quell anger
- Where rock and rollers play
- "The Alchemist" author Coelho
- Choppers
- Lacks brightness
- Port in Yemen
- Brood of pheasant
- Approves food
- A type of sign

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VIEWPOINTS

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Deficit warning should have Pa. taxpayers on alert



ELIZABETH STELLE

Pennsylvania’s state budget looks an awful lot like a bucket with a hole in the bottom—taxpayers keep filling it up, but billions of dollars keep leaking out.

The latest projections show a \$1 billion increase in state revenues will pour in next year, according to the Independent Fiscal Office, a nonpartisan fiscal watchdog. That’s good news: It means our economy is growing.

Then there’s the hole in the bucket — and it’s a big one.

The IFO predicts a nearly \$3 billion spending increase leading to a \$1.7 billion budget shortfall. That’s a massive deficit, the likes of which, in prior years, have led to borrowing schemes and calls for eye-watering tax hikes.

Why would the state spend \$3 billion more next year? The Department of Human Services, with \$1.8 billion in projected spending increases, is the main reason. That’s a 15 percent increase!

Between budgetary gimmicks and expanding programs that trap people in poverty, decision-makers have lost their way when it comes to our social safety net. Welfare programs should help individuals find work and escape poverty, not grow dependency and state bureaucracy.

Yet, when the Legislature passed reforms to incentivize work for healthy, work-capable adults, Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed them.

Wolf also recently resurrected a failed welfare program that ended six years ago — without arranging to cover the millions of dollars in expenses.

Low-income Pennsylvanians don’t need a new handout; they need opportunity. Improving the state’s job climate and reforming our food stamp and Medicaid programs will build a bridge to independence.

Handouts don’t work for corporations either. Pennsylvania is addicted to corporate welfare, which has a proven record of failure. Yet, the state offers hundreds of millions to entice employers like Amazon, Kraft and WNS.

Just weeks ago in Luzerne County, WNS shut down after receiving \$700,000 of taxpayers’ money as a “job creation” incentive grant, putting 107 Pennsylvanians out of work. Despite similar corporate closures, \$847 million — amounting to half of next year’s projected state budget deficit — will be funneled to politically connected corporations.

Elected leaders know tax-

payers can’t keep up with the rate of welfare and corporate welfare spending. Thankfully, there are calls to avoid the \$1.7 billion deficit catastrophe by plugging the hole in the bucket.

When asked how the budget could be balanced in 2019, a spokesman for House Appropriations Chairman Stan Saylor replied: “Budgets are choices, and that deficit is predicated on the assumption that the General Assembly would enact a budget that’s \$35.6 billion, which is a 10 percent increase in spending. There are no votes in the Republican House caucus for that.”

Budget secretary Randy Albright, just before announcing his retirement, also voiced fiscal restraint in a recent budget briefing, saying tax hikes — aside from a natural gas severance tax, a Wolf favorite — won’t be necessary. Here’s a way both sides can show this is more than nice-sounding rhetoric: pass the Taxpayer Protection Act.

The TPA caps spending increases to the inflation rate and population growth, and requires a legislative supermajority to exceed that cap. Spending limits allow government to grow gradually — at a rate working families, who bear the brunt of irresponsible spending, can afford.

Currently, Pennsylvanians pay \$4,589 in state and local taxes per person. That’s 10 percent of the average income. In 1970, that number was only \$436 — one-tenth what it is today.

If we had enacted the TPA in 2003 and controlled spending, we wouldn’t be facing another deficit. In fact, Pennsylvanians would have kept \$10,000 per family of four in their pockets — money they could have used for school tuition, car payments or medical bills.

Notably, the TPA doesn’t cut spending — it simply slows spending growth so it doesn’t outpace economic growth. That’s why the policy is broadly supported by voters from both parties. Pennsylvania taxpayers deserve a break, and spending limits could guarantee it.

When budget season begins in earnest next month, lawmakers should reduce corporate welfare and spend smarter on social services to plug this year’s deficit. Passing the Taxpayer Protection Act would show that such fiscal responsibility is no fluke — it’s the new paradigm in Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth Stelle is director of policy analysis for the Commonwealth Foundation (commonwealthfoundation.org), Pennsylvania’s free-market think tank.

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EDITORIAL VIEWS

Tragic murder-suicide doesn’t have to be a blot on borough

What happened last week right here in the heart of Middletown won’t soon be forgotten.

It’s a tragedy — and that’s not a term that should be used lightly.

Three people are dead, including a 7-year-old boy.

We might never know exactly why Marvin Caddell killed his estranged wife, Nightflower Staats, and then their 7-year-old son before turning the gun on himself, as Middletown police and District Attorney Fran Chardo say occurred in an apartment at 134 S. Union St.

Police called it a “domestic incident” on their Crimewatch webpage. The couple apparently had split up. More details might come out as to why the double murder-suicide took place — but they might not.

Regardless, there is no one to charge with a crime, only three lives to mourn.

We are fortunate in Middletown. We have our share of crime. But the violent kind avoids us for the most part. Shootings are most definitely rare.

Many believe this horrific incident has put the borough in a bad light. In the short term, it probably has. Head-

lines and television stories about what happened likely will stick in the back of many people’s minds. The fact that the three people were short-term residents of the area should make no difference in the tragedy that occurred. It doesn’t change the impact of their deaths just because they didn’t grow up here and they likely were less well-known in the community than long-term residents would be.

Make no mistake: What happened here last week could happen anywhere. In fact, it does happen everywhere. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website states that, on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States.

Further, 72 percent of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner, and 94 percent of the victims of these murder-suicides are female, according to the group.

Should something like this put Middletown in a negative light in and of itself? No. There is no evidence at this point that this tragedy could have been prevented. This isn’t some random act of violence in the streets, either. The

public was likely never in danger during this tragedy.

We prefer to take the attitude of George Crist, who owns the building where the grisly event took place.

He has owned the building for more than four years, and he said there is much being done to “try and improve this part of Middletown,” and that residents should be proud.

He has organized a vigil at 7 p.m. Wednesday in front of the apartment building. He will have coffee, hot chocolate and soup for anyone who attends.

“If a lot of people come out to celebrate this family, that is going to be a good problem. That would be all right,” he said. “There’s a way to build a stronger community in all of this.”

Let’s hope so. Tragedy can bring a community together.

Attend Wednesday’s vigil. Remember those who died, even the person who allegedly pulled the trigger. This is a family who was wiped out. Their family members are mourning.

This tragedy doesn’t have to be a blot on Middletown. Let’s show those from outside our area that events like this can bring us together.

Strike a blow for lower taxes, gasoline prices



MERRILL MATTHEWS

Last year, Californians had the opportunity to get the government out of their pockets — or, more accurately, out of their gas tanks. Not completely, but it’s a start.

The Golden State’s Legislature increased gasoline and diesel fuel taxes and vehicle fees. Proposition 6, on the November ballot, would have repealed those tax increases and required voter approval for future gasoline and vehicle fee increases. The measure failed to pass. Californians should have known better.

Last year’s 12-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax increase pushed the state’s gas tax to 55.22 cents per gallon, the second highest in the nation after Pennsylvania. That’s on top of the federal gasoline excise tax of 18.40 cents per gallon.

The stated goal of the tax increase was to raise about \$6 billion a year for road repair. But when it comes to gasoline and diesel taxes, what states claim and what they actually do can be two different things.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, California raised \$4.8 billion from the state’s gas tax in 2016 — before the additional 12-cent tax took effect. Nearly \$4 billion went to “highway purposes.” But \$578 million was redirected to mass transit and \$247 million was spent on “general purposes.”

There’s more. The state collected \$6.97 billion from motor vehicle registrations. And

while most was devoted to highways, \$709 million was spent on mass transit and \$304 million, as well as \$408 million from toll revenues, was spent on general purposes.

So of the various California gasoline taxes and car fees, \$1.3 billion was redirected from road repair to mass transit and \$960 million for general purposes. Would Sacramento have

gasoline tax and fees however they choose. But it’s duplicitous to impose a tax ostensibly for the purposes of road and highway building and repair and then redirect those funds to other purposes. And then whine that the state needs even more money for infrastructure.

Another problem: Gasoline taxes are some of the most “regressive,” meaning they hit lower-income folks harder than

Put bluntly, high-gas-tax states don’t have a revenue problem. They have a spending problem. Had California utilized all those gasoline- and car-related tax revenues for road building and repair — nearly \$2.3 billion — it wouldn’t have needed to raise the gas tax.

States need to be held financially and politically accountable for spending decisions. If they claim they need a gasoline



needed that 12-cent increase if it had funneled all of that revenue to road repair?

California is not alone. Nationwide, the FHA says that about 25 percent of gasoline taxes are redirected to mass transit and other purposes. And those other purposes vary significantly. For example, about 25 percent of gasoline taxes in Texas are redirected to public education.

Now, states are free to spend

they do higher income.

Liberals tend to strongly oppose regressive tax structures; they prefer a “progressive tax system” — one that imposes higher rates on higher-income people.

Yet many of the states with the highest gasoline taxes — e.g., California, Washington, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, etc. — can be some of the most left-leaning states.

tax increase in order to repair the roads, that’s what they should use the money for. But they won’t unless voters hold them accountable.

Californian voters failed to do that this November. Other states should learn from their mistake.

Merrill Matthews is a resident scholar with the Institute for Policy Innovation in Dallas. This piece originally ran in The Hill.

READERVIEW

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is today

Every day, thousands of law enforcement officers across the country leave their families and loved ones at home while they faithfully protect the communities they serve.

Every law enforcement officer throughout Pennsylvania says goodbye to their families, not knowing if, when or in what condition they will arrive home. Yet every day, more than 27,000 police officers in Pennsylvania continue to uphold and defend

the oath they took to protect the community.

On National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day today, we invite you to show your support and gratitude for the officers who proudly wear blue and have dedicated their lives to serving you.

There are so many ways you can show your support:

- Send a card of support to your local police department or state agency.

- Participate in Project Blue Light by replacing your porch or landscape light with a blue light.
- If you see a police officer grabbing a coffee, anonymously pay for their order.

- Share positive law enforcement stories and experiences with the hashtag #BackTheBlue.
- Wear blue to show your support for law enforcement.

Finally, just say thank you. Whenever you see law enforcement personnel, simply walk

up and thank them for their service, or wave and smile at passing officers.

Our officers put their lives on the line every day to ensure a safe community for us all, and thanking them is the least we can do to show our gratitude. On behalf of all law enforcement, thank you for your continued support.

Les Neri
president, Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge

Penn State Harrisburg men's, women's hoops teams set alumni games

Penn State Harrisburg's men's and women's basketball programs are set to host their annual alumni games in conjunction with Penn State Harrisburg's Basketball Alumni Reunion scheduled for Feb. 2.

The event will take place at the Capital Union Building and include both the men's and women's basketball alumni games and an alumni luncheon before culminating with a men's and women's basketball doubleheader against Capital Athletic Conference foe Salisbury in the afternoon.

The women's alumni game opens the day at 10 a.m., with the men's alumni contest to follow at 11 a.m. The alumni luncheon will follow at noon before the women's basketball team tips off with Salisbury at 1 p.m. The men's team wraps up the day's action following the conclusion of the women's outing.

Those interested in competing in one of the alumni games or attending the alumni reunion for lunch and the basketball doubleheader can RSVP at athletics.hbg.psu.edu. Questions regarding the event can be directed to the office of development and alumni relations at 717-948-6715 or hbga-lumni@psu.edu.

Raider wrestlers drop close matchup with Lower Dauphin

The Middletown wrestlers dropped a close match Jan. 2 to neighboring Lower Dauphin, 39-37.

Senior Ryan Berstler got the Raiders off to an early 6-0 lead with a pin over Denver Kalenevitch at 126 pounds. Lower Dauphin's TT Elhajj responded by pinning Middletown's Damien Leach.

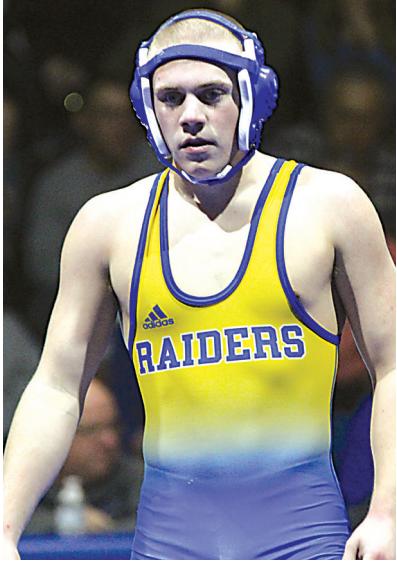
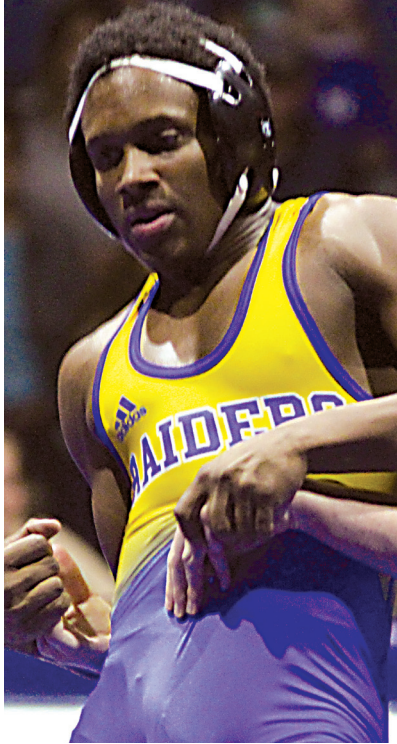
At 145 pounds, Joey Spear earned 4 more team points by scoring a 14-3 major decision over Mason Clingan. LD's Sean Donnelly brought the team score to 10-9 in favor of Middletown by defeating Diante "Sterling" Grey by a match score of 7-1.

Lower Dauphin pulled away in the upper weights. With wins in five of the next six matches by fall, LD extended its lead to 39-16.

With four matches remaining, the Raiders needed 24 points, four straight pins, to take the lead. A forfeit at 106 to Krea Schaeffer earned the Raiders the first 6 team points. Zach Malay earned another 6 team points with a 15-second pin over Carter Powell at 113.

Luke Fegley kept hope alive with a pin at 120, bringing the Raiders within 5 points. Nathan Brady had the unenviable task of having to deliver another pin in the final 126-pound match. Despite a decisive 8-4 victory, it wasn't enough to pull out the come-from-behind upset.

The Raiders were in action at home against Trinity on Tuesday, then will travel to Milton Hershey on Thursday, and will compete in the Dutchman Duals at Annville-Cleona on Saturday.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY DEBBIE SPEAR

Quincy Reinnagel, top; Nate Brady, above left; Diante "Sterling" Grey, top right; Vinny Corradi, middle right; and Luke Fegley, lower right, all wrestled against Lower Dauphin on Jan. 2.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY DONALD GRAHAM

Tymir Jackson drives to the basket Friday against West Perry.

RAIDERS: 3 losses on the week

From page B1

Petroski recorded a game-high 27 points and Jackson finished with 18 in the loss. Dickey and Flowers each had 19 for the Rollers.

West Perry 47, Middletown 33

Frustrations continued to mount for the Middletown team on Friday as a winnable game against visiting West Perry slipped away in the fourth quarter.

Trying to hang onto a 28-27 lead entering the final 8 minutes, the Blue Raiders fell apart and the visiting Mustangs took advantage to cruise to the 47-33 win.

In the first quarter, the cold-shooting Raiders made just 2 of 9 attempts from the floor and turned the ball over four times as the offense faltered from the start. But the score stayed close because the Mustangs did not shoot much better, making just 5 of 13 shots.

As a result, the guests led 11-6 to start the second stanza. A good start, however, in period two saw the Raiders score 6 straight points for a 12-11 lead before West Perry answered with 5 to go back in front.

West Perry's zone defense limited the Raiders to 5 points through the balance of the first half as several easy shots missed the mark. Although the Raiders earned an 11-9 scoring edge, the Mustangs led 20-17 at the break.

Petroski, Broadie and Nester teamed for 11 points in the third quarter and the defense forced 7 Mustang turnovers as the home team fought their way to a 28-27 edge heading into the fourth period. But, just like in the Steel-High game, the Blue Raiders faded on both ends of the court in the last 8 minutes.

West Perry took advantage and reeled off the first 8 points of the frame before Broadie's drive broke the string at 5:02. Petroski made one of two free throws at 4:39 to make it a four-point game, 35-31, but that was all the Middletown offense would produce until Nester scored on an uncontested dunk as time expired. During that stretch, the Mustangs outscored the Raiders 12-0 to win going away.

Broadie's 10 points were a team high for the Raiders while Caden Sutch collected a game-high 16 points for the winners.



Jules Nester defends during a loss to West Perry on Friday.

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71 Years

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Michele Hughes Lutz

Creations With You In Mind

Phone 944-5425, Royaltown

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42 Years

Scotty's TV

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Renee Richard Beauty Salon

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The Power of Prayer

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Smith Orthodontic Center

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McKnight Funeral Home

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64 Years

Worley & Oates

Worley & Oates

Phone 944-4628

124 Years

Garlich Memorials

Garlich Memorials

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64 Years

Worley & Oates

Worley & Oates

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McKnight Funeral Home

McKnight Funeral Home

Phone 944-4628

36 Years

H.W. Wilson Roofing Co., Inc.

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Phone 944-4628

32 Years

Greene Motors

Greene Motors

Phone 944-4628

30 Years

Venture Auto Service, Inc.

Venture Auto Service, Inc.

Phone 944-4628

31 Years

Renee Richard Beauty Salon

Renee Richard Beauty Salon

Phone 944-4628

33 Years

Family Care, Inc.

Family Care, Inc.

Phone 944-4628

35 Years

The Power of Prayer

The Power of Prayer

Phone 944-4628

32 Years

Smith Orthodontic Center

Smith Orthodontic Center

Phone 944-4628

55 Years

McKnight Funeral Home

McKnight Funeral Home

Phone 944-4628

64 Years

Worley & Oates

Worley & Oates

Phone 944-4628

124 Years

Garlich Memorials

Garlich Memorials

Phone 944-4628

64 Years

Worley & Oates

Worley & Oates

Phone 944-4628

136 Years

The Middletown Home

The Middletown Home

Phone 944-4628

64 Years

Colby-Reber

Colby-Reber

Phone 944-4628

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