

Lock doors,
protect car A3

SOUP-ER TIME B6



Raider wrestlers
fall twice in
team districts B1

PRESS & JOURNAL

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MASD warns of potential tax increase

Fight to get Highspire students into Middletown district likely to continue

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Highspire Education Coalition likely will continue its legal fight to transfer Highspire students into Middletown Area School District, despite the Jan. 16 order from state Education Secretary Pedro Rivera denying the trans-

fer because it lacks “educational merit.” Rivera went beyond his legal authority in incorporating the financial impact of the transfer into his decision, which under law is to be based solely upon educational merit, coalition spokesman Ken Becker told the Press & Journal when asked about why

the coalition is considering an appeal. “Secretary Rivera chose to hide behind an illusion of possible future financial stability to justify his decision to continue to deny the children of Highspire an opportunity to receive the

Please see **HIGHSPIRE**, page A4

District has notified state of possibility for hikes for years, but hasn’t raised bills since 2014-2015

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Middletown Area School Board is putting residents on notice that the school district property tax could go up by 4.37 percent for the 2019-20 school year. The school board has until June 30 to adopt a final budget for 2019-20. However, the board under Act

1 state law must tell taxpayers in January if the board intends to raise taxes by more than 3 percent. Just because the board is obligated to tell residents by now that it might raise taxes by 4.37 percent does not mean that taxes will go up by that amount when the board adopts the final budget, school district Chief Financial Officer David Franklin said during the

board’s Jan. 22 meeting. Every year since 2007-08, the board has proposed a tax increase exceeding the 3 percent cap. However, in none of those years has the school board approved a final property tax increase that actually exceeded the projected amount. For example, the board in 2008-

Please see **TAX**, page A4



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA HAYES

For several weeks, Dave Lidle has been hanging hats, gloves, socks and scarves outside the entrance to the subway near Karns for people to take for free.

‘I WORRY ABOUT HOMELESS ALL THE TIME’

Lidle leaves hats, gloves, scarves and socks at subway for anyone in need to take

By Laura Hayes
laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

It was 13 degrees outside Thursday when Dave Lidle got out of his car at the back of the Karns parking lot near the entrance to the subway that goes under the railroad tracks. Lidle carried several plastic shopping bags filled with smaller bags containing hats, gloves, scarves and socks. He used twist ties to fasten the baggies to the chainlink fence.

Phrases such as “Be kind” and words such as “Love” are written on the back of the bags. The front of the bag reads, “I am not lost... please take me!! God bless you!” Lidle has been hanging the bags at the entrance to the subway for several weeks. He has refilled the fence six times and estimates that he has left about 150 pieces of clothing. “It’s my way of helping out in the way that I can,” he said. Lidle was inspired after he saw a news report of someone doing

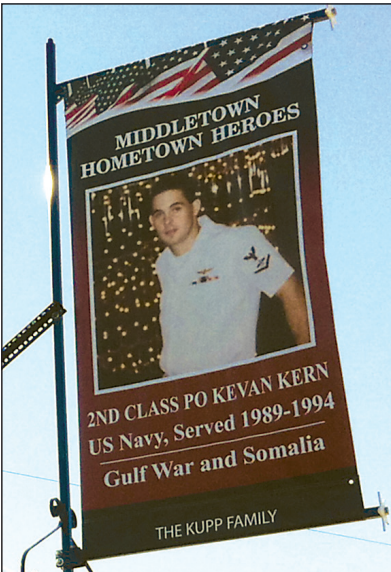
something similar in York. The subway was a good place to put the hats and gloves because, as Lidle said, it is a visible from Karns. With temperatures below freezing, Thursday was the perfect day to have warm clothes available for anyone who needed it. “People need it. I worry about the homeless all the time,” he said. Retired, Lidle loves to stay busy. In 2017, he made headlines after he cleaned up the trash in the subway, something he continues to do twice a week. Lately, he’s

been helping fix the cemetery on West Harrisburg Pike on the border of Lower Swatara Township and Highspire. He buys the hats, gloves, socks and scarves at stores like the Dollar Tree. Sitting at his kitchen table, he places the clothing in bags. One weekend, he put 32 articles of clothing on the fence, and by Sunday, everything was gone. “Hopefully someone is enjoying them,” Lidle said. He said he plans to continue to do it until the weather warms up.

U.S. Navy veteran loses home in fire, donations sought

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Donations are being accepted at Kuppy’s Diner to help a Middletown man who lost most of his possessions in a house fire in the 600 block of South Union Street early Wednesday. Kevan Kern was sleeping on the couch downstairs when he was awoken to the fire by his barking Rottweiler, according to information posted on the Kuppy’s Diner Facebook page. Middletown Volunteer Fire Company was dispatched to the scene at 1:45 a.m. Borough police and firefighters arrived to find flames coming out of the second-story windows of the house facing south, Fire Chief Kenny Whitebread told the Press & Journal. Kern and his dog both got out of the house with no reported injuries, Whitebread said. A post on the Kuppy’s Facebook page said that Kern had spent the last few years working on fixing the house up, “being one of the oldest houses in our town. It looked beautiful and he was almost finished.”



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN MILLER

The fire spread from the second floor to the attic. Flames coming from the residence caused “cosmetic” damage to the house next door on the south side, but firefighters were able to keep the fire from getting into the neighboring house, Whitebread said. Where and how the fire started is being investigated by the borough fire marshal, the chief said. The second floor and attic have significant damage, but the foundation of the house is sound. Kern is a Navy veteran of the Gulf War and Somalia and a long-time friend of the Kuppy family that owns Kuppy’s Diner. “If you enjoy helping good people, Kev is good people. He would give the shirt off his back to help someone in need,” the Kuppy’s Facebook post states.

Three years ago, the owners of Kuppy’s Diner had this banner put up to pay tribute to the military service of Navy veteran Second Class Petty Officer Kevan Kern. Now, Kuppy’s is coming to Kern’s aid raising donations to help him following a Jan. 30 fire in which he lost most of his possessions. The Kupp family honored Kern by having a banner with his picture made as part of the “Hometown Heroes” military banners that were put up throughout Middletown. The banner has been atop the diner for three years, said Kuppy’s co-owner Carol Kuppy. The banner refers to Kern’s service in the Navy from 1989 to 1994. The Kupp family is continuing to assist Kern in the wake of the fire that evicted him and his dog. A donation jar has been placed in front of the cash register at Kuppy’s Diner, to collect funds to help Kern recover from his losses. More than \$2,000 had been received in the donation jar as of Feb. 2, according to a Kuppy’s Diner Facebook post. The donations include three bags of dog food. In addition, two GoFundMe campaigns have been started to raise money for Kern.

Please see **FIRE**, page A6

Rep. Mehaffie is seeking co-sponsors for legislation to preserve TMI

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Rep. Tom Mehaffie, R-Lower Swatara Township, is seeking co-sponsors in the state House for legislation aimed at preserving Three Mile Island and the four other nuclear power plants in Pennsylvania. Mehaffie in a Feb. 4 memo to House members said that his legislation would update the Pennsylvania Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act “to recognize nuclear energy for its significant contribution to the state’s zero-carbon energy production.” Mehaffie’s final bill language has not yet been introduced and there is no definite timeline set for when it will be, House Republican spokeswoman Abbey Haslam said in a Feb. 4 email to

the Press & Journal. A co-sponsorship memo similar to Mehaffie’s was also being released in the state Senate, Haslam said. The legislation is in for a fight. After word of Mehaffie’s co-sponsorship memo got out, the group Citizens Against Nuclear Bailouts responded with a statement opposing the proposed legislation. The proposal would “burden Pennsylvania consumers with higher electricity bills to fund a nuclear bailout tax, which would



Mehaffie

benefit already profitable nuclear power corporations,” the group said in its statement. The Alternative Energy Portfolio includes 16 “clean” power sources such as solar, wind, and hydro-energy that are supported by state energy policy. Nuclear energy is not currently part of the portfolio. The portfolio requires that 18 percent of the electricity from Pennsylvania’s distribution companies and electric generation suppliers come from alternative

energy resources by 2021. TMI owners Exelon Corp. announced in May 2017 that TMI would be prematurely retired starting in September 2019, unless state or federal government acts to make TMI and nuclear power more economically competitive with natural gas and with the other energy sources that are now part of the portfolio. Besides TMI, Mehaffie notes in his memo that the Beaver Valley

Please see **TMI**, page A5

Public notices in this week’s Press & Journal

- **STEELTON:** Estate of Jacqueline Norbrey. **A4**
- **DERRY TWP:** Estate of Michael Marrone. **A4**
- **MIDDLETOWN:** Notice of Suez Renewal Application. **A4**
- **HIGHSPIRE:** Notice of Borough Meeting Schedule. **A4**
- **HUMMELSTOWN:** Estate of Robert Bale. **A4**



OURCOMMUNITY

WWII veteran of Pacific to speak at roundtable

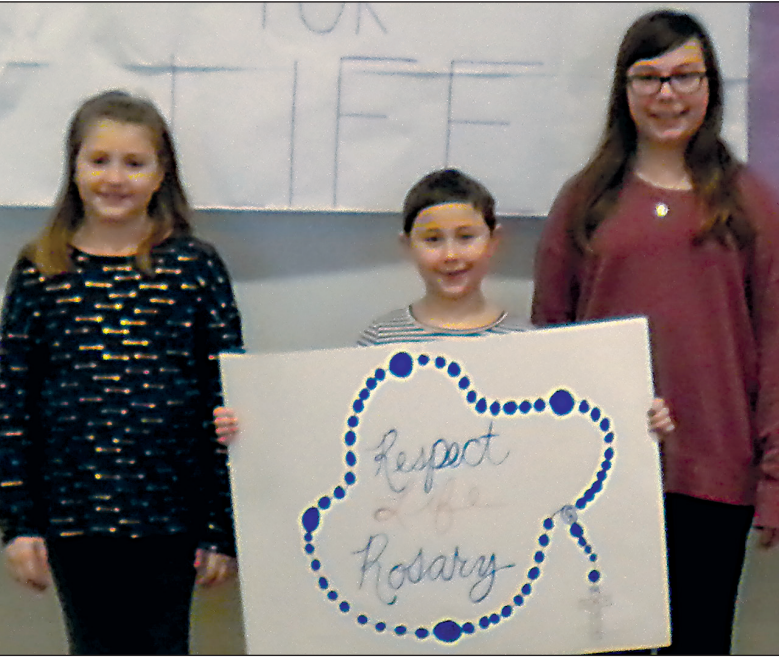
Two men who served on ships named USS Bataan, several wars and decades apart, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Central Pennsylvania WWII Roundtable.

Bob Hench was a petty officer third class on the light aircraft carrier USS Bataan (CVL-29), which saw action in the Pacific during World War II. Retired Navy Cmdr. Bruce Apgar was a navigator aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD-5), deployed with the Atlantic Fleet, when terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

Apgar will serve as facilitator for an interview with Hench, who saw extensive action in the Pacific in 1944 and 1945, participating in the assaults of Japanese targets, including New Guinea, Truk, Saipan, Guam, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

The roundtable is a nonprofit that provides a forum for veterans, authors, historians and others to share their knowledge and experiences related to the war. Meetings, held the first Thursday of every month, begin at 7 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 433 E. Main St., Hummelstown. Anyone with an interest in the war is invited. There are no membership or admission fees.

Contact Charlie Lloyd at charlie.centralpaww2rt@gmail.com or 717-503-2862, or visit www.centralpaww2roundtable.org.



Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary School students Destiny Vazquez (third grade), Miriam (first grade) and Felicity Astfalk (fifth grade) took part in the Jan. 19 mini-pro-life march.

Seven Sorrows in pro-life march

Students from Seven Sorrows School took part in a mini-pro-life march Saturday, Jan. 19, a day after the 46th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

The event took place at St. Peter Parish in Elizabethtown, led by Molly Lahr, youth director of St. Peter's Parish (Elizabethtown) and Seven Sorrows Parish. It was Lahr's first youth event, and she said she relied on help from councils, ministries and children from both parishes.

Students from Seven Sorrows School led a Respect for Life Rosary of the Joyful Mysteries along with a prayer to close an abortion mill. Following the prayer service, there were light refreshments and exhibits of a few Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg and church ministries. Some of those exhibits included Lourdes House Maternity Home, the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and St. Peter's Respect Life Ministry. Despite the inclement weather, 30 people took part.

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NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD | LAVONNE ACKERMAN

Pick a favorite animal

Let's give February a huge, happy welcome!

We only have six weeks until the first day of spring. Oh, what a happy day that will be. I don't care whether that groundhog saw his shadow or not, because it is six more weeks of winter, or spring is just around the corner. It is the same difference.

Speaking of groundhogs ... what is your favorite animal? How does it impact your life? Maybe you collect elephants, zebras or monkeys! Sometimes we see fads for various animals, such as owls. Thinking about some garage sale paintings, I think the art world loved owls in the 1970s. Also, geckos and lizards seem to be popular. Some people even pick their football teams by the mascot. I know of a person who likes tigers. Yes, her favorite team: the Cincinnati Bengals! They do have cool helmets.

Email me with your news to share, and have a wonderful week!

Birthdays

Best wishes for a wonderful 15th cake day to **Emily Russell** of Lower Swatara Township on Wednesday, Feb. 6. I do hope the sun is out for you on your day!

Adrian Landis of Lower Swatara marks his big-deal 20th birthday on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Enjoy it all week!

Happy birthday to **Vicki Hartman** of Middletown, who observes her cake-and-ice cream day Feb. 6. Many good wishes for a great Wednesday to you!

Happy birthday greetings are sent to **Doris Stauffer** of Londonderry Township on Friday, Feb. 8. Congrats on turning 87!

Reggie Williams of Lower Swatara has 53 reasons to smile on Friday, Feb. 8. Have a fantastic birthday, celebrating all weekend with your loved ones!

Joe Spear of Lower Swatara celebrates his frosty-filled day on Feb. 8. Happy 17 balloons-flying day to you on Friday and the entire weekend.

Melissa Williams marks her special me-holiday on Saturday, Feb. 9. Enjoy your bling-and-sparkles birthday with all the ones you love today, Melissa! Best wishes for a terrific

birthday on Monday, Feb. 11, to **Aijah Gladden**. She will blow 12 candles atop her birthday cake. God bless this sweet young lady!

Andrew Hardison of Lower Swatara hits cake day No. 24 on Monday, Feb. 11. I hope your birthday is extra-special this year, Andrew!

Many good birthday wishes are sent to **Margaret Reisinger** of Lower Swatara on Tuesday, Feb. 12. I hope the breezes are warm today with some sunshine and laughter, just for you!

Happy landmark 18th razzle-dazzle birthday to **Kaylee McCann** of Lower Swatara on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Best wishes to you on this day you share with Abe Lincoln! I hope your week is super-sweet!

A cost is involved. For more information, call 944-6181. It is handicapped accessible. Everyone is invited!

Beth's Meatloaf

2 lbs. ground beef
5-6 strips of bacon
3/4 c. seasoned bread crumbs
1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
2 eggs
1 Tbsp. milk
1 1/2 Tbsp. ketchup
Mix beef, bread crumbs, cheese, eggs and milk together. Add more milk if it appears dry. Form into a loaf and put in loaf pan. Stretch bacon length-wise on top. Cover with ketchup. Bake at 375 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.

Quote of the Week

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other." — Abraham Lincoln, president.

Question of the Week

What is your favorite animal?

"A little one, a rabbit. A bigger one, you can't really pet it, a lion." — **Jameson Hoffman**, 7, Lower Paxton.

"Elephant. They're beautiful and gentle for as big as they are!" — **Jenny Brown**, Hershey.

"A cow. It moos. It has my favorite drink in it, milk!" — **Jonah Cooper**, 4, Swatara.

"Cheetahs. They are fast!" — **Aijah Gladden**, 11, Middletown.

"In the wild, an elephant. They don't care that they're bigger than other animals. They're cute, too. As a pet, a dog. They are smart, wild, fun and make me happy when I am sad. A marine animal: a dolphin, they are smart, and sweet to some humans." — **Ari Laverty**, 11, Middletown.

"Okapi." — **William Benkovic**, 15, Lower Paxton.

Proverb of the Week

A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers (24:5,6).

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

MAMS announces 2nd-quarter honor roll

Middletown Area Middle School recently announced its distinguished honor roll and honor roll for the second period. Distinguished Honor Roll requires all "A's" or perfect marks. For the Honor Roll, a student must earn all "A's" and "B's."

Distinguished Honor Roll

Eighth grade: M. Amaan Azeem, Amari Betha, Emily Boyer, Daynara Colon, Triniti Davis, Aurora Demko, Lena Emigh, Tristan Handley, Kaley Hileman, David Hinojosa, Jaron Imler, Jade Lesisko, Layna Lighty, Natalie Maneval, Bridget Muller, Miranda Nolen, Morgan Pacheco, Ashley Rusnov, Nathan Russo, Alexa Saul, Mia Thomas, Aidan Torres, Ethan Witmyer, and Katherine Yoder

Seventh grade: Emma Adams, Tyra Bateman, Amelia Birtch, Giana Cheng, Allie Cleland, Bipasha Devkota, Max Dupes, Lorelei Elliott, Ryan Foreacre, Gabriella Garisto, Brandon Gipe, Robert Gomboc, Payton Hershey, Alexis Hoffman, Chloe Kahler, Micah Krajsa, Melanie Langford, Luke LeKites, Maliya Maldonado, Ava Miller, Claire Munnelly, Alexis Myers, Ryleigh Myers, Mae Newman, Riya Patel, Mychaela Peters, Liliana Plaut, Samantha Rine, Nevaeh Shafer, Dominic Singh, Rylie Teets, Layla Wall, Taylor Witmyer, and Sara Yeich

Sixth grade: Leticia Alvarez, Paige Bollinger, Tyson Bombberger, Hope Burger, Lillian Carper, Grace Cenko, Landon Cochran, Ava Conrad, Adrian Corradi, Mason Dudash, Sofia Eshelman, Landen Freeman, Ethan Gladwin, Derrick Green, Hayden Herneisey, Kylie Hickoff, Adolfo Hinojosa, Hailey Hoerner, Johnathan Horetsky, Hannah Hotenstein, Addison Huber, Bawi lang, Ellie LeKites, Ava Linton, Mason Lupp, Alexis Marietta, Madyson Miller, Timothy Moore, Gabreyella O'Donnell, Thooria Olaoye, Cassidy Pomraning, Emily Rafter, Lily Runion, Devin Ruzanski, Julianne Schanke, Nina Schreffler, Cameron Scully, Krish Shah, Noah Sheaffer, Matthew Sieber, Emily Wagner, Tabitha Weese, and Brenden Wegert

Honor Roll

Eighth grade: Ryleigh Atticks, Marquis Beasley, John Bell, Daniel Brenan, Julian Brenner, Ashley Brittelli, Isabella Buehrle, Isaiah Burns, Cailey Campbell, Parker Cihak, Charity Cochran, Danalyce Cortes, Melanny DeLaCruz, Aleeha Donicker, Brayden Dunn, Jaelynn Ebersole, Alan Erlar, Carizma Fernandez, Alyssa Foreacre, Jackson Grimland, Alauna Hosterman, Braelan Huber, Julia Hughes, Amiyah Humes, Peyton Hunt, Gabriella Jackson, Ava Kochvar, Fairnoh Koleh, Joseph Korsak, Travis Kramer, Cadence Lines, Kassaine Mason, Jessica Matincheck, Jordan Miller, Samuel Miller, Leo Nissley, Marco Ortiz-Sanchez, Victoria Peters, Isaiah Plaut, Sabhyata Pokhrel, Leah Popernack, Dasani Ritter, Ava Russ, Noella Schanke, Jacob Senior, Nolan Sessa, Aidan Shaffer, Chad Sipe, Bailey Snyder, Kiley Stoltzfus, Molly Strite, and Marli Welsh

Seventh grade: Alton Akakpo-Martin, Tillman Artell, Dylan Barbush, Talan Baxter, Neyshalie Bonilla Ruiz, Ella Brandt, Jessica Brenner, Zoe Bretz, Derek Brooks, Jordyn Clark, Alexis Cooper, Nyah Courts, Isabella Devaney, Shanaya Dorecly, Kiley Etter, Kylanee Fernandez, Madeline Fox, Caiden Halbleib, Hailey Hemperly, Ian Hoffman, Rashid Ibrahim, Morgan Judy, Averie Kalonick, Michael Keating, David Kemmerling, Trey Kephart, Charles Lawrence, Tyson Leach, Gabrielle Messner, Allison Michael, Lilliana Mildner, Mazy Miller, Mikael Monge Sanchez, Adam Moore, Dylan Moyer, Donald Neidig, Yariana Reyes-Sanchez, Jayden Rider, Ariana Serrano, Dakota Shertzler, Nathaniel Skrinak, Chance Sweeney, Julia Templeton, Rachel Trefz, Addisyn Yospa, and Ella Young

Sixth grade: Vanessa Adams, Trevor Anderson, Aman Azim, Raven Baker, Aleel Batts, Kylee Baumbach, Logan Benner, Hannah Bollinger, Aren Brice, Carter Bryan, Kilee Bucher, Emma Buffington, Grant Carpenter, Peyton Chisholm, Enzo Corradi, Geno Corradi, Ricardo Cortes-Martinez, Hannah Coy, MacKenna Cuddy, Breanna Dalton, MyLeigh Deitrich, Matthew Dodds, Jayliana Dohner, Emma Dupes, Madison Eshenour, Owen Fales, Delaney Fitzpatrick, Joseph Gassert, Elizabeth Gingrich, Riley Glennon, Adrianna Gonzalez, Brianna Gonzalez, Austin Grimm, Claudia Hess, Allura Hillenbrand, Murphy Hughes, Noah Jackson, Marquis Kane, Ryan Keiffer, Nicholas Kleinfelter, Maverick Kramer, Jonathan Kreiser, Adiel Lake, Arianna Laverty, Rylee Leeper, Kaitlyn Lewis, Tanner Mace, Yar Manyuon, Keira Maple, Xadrian McClinton, Shawn Muller, Alayna Oliver, Gina Prisbe, Bradyn Pristello, Yovanni Quinones, Elise Rankin, Parker Rios, Emilee, Roberts, Martin Romain, Talaysia Roy, Adrianna Santana Santiago, Anthony Santos, Madison Schmitt, Edward Serrano, Riley Skidmore, Marco Smallwood, Elizabeth Stephenson, Addison Stiffler, Eisleys Thomas, Delaney Thompson, Joshua Tlumach, Jayla Tucker, Jazmin Vazquez, Vladyslav Vikovan, Chloe White, Connor White, Marshall Womer, Colton Worley, and Tyrel Yealy

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

LD's Barr, Tonkin honored

Two Lower Dauphin High School seniors recently received monthly honors.

Ian Tonkin was named Young Student of the Month for December by the Rotary Club of Hummelstown.

Ian is the son of Dustin and Anne Tonkin. He is a four-year member of the band, two-year member of the drumline, and a two-year section leader in both. Ian has performed in the orchestra for three years. He is a two-year member of the drama department and received an Apollo nomination for his performance in the fall play, "She Kills Monsters."

He is also a two-year member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

In the community, he volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House. He plans to attend West Chester University and major in nursing.

Kelly Barr was named Young Woman of the Month for December by the Hummelstown Women's Club.

Kelly, the daughter of Tim and Laurie Barr, was selected for her academic and musical contributions to the high school. She is a four-year member of the band and choral ensembles, a three-year member of the pit orchestra, a two-year member of the orchestra, and she serves as historian for the Tri-M Music Honor Society, where she is a three-year member. She is also president and a four-year member of the Math Honor Society; a team leader and three-year member of the Science National Honor Society; a three-year member of the National Honor Society; and a two-year member of the Spanish Honor Society. She is team captain and a three-year member of the oceanography bowl team and is a three-year member of the STEM Club which placed third in the state last year. Kelly is a four-year member of the Believers in the Gospel club, and a four-year member of the Class Council, where she is historian.



Tonkin



Barr

She is active in her church and has gone on mission trips. She is also a youth leader in her church's youth group and a member of the creative ministry team.

She plans to attend Messiah College, Westminster College or the University of Scranton and major in biology.

TOWN TOPICS

Middletown Area School District slates events

Middletown Area School District February events include:

- 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 6: Parents of eighth-graders, orientation for Middletown Area High School, at MAHS.
- Feb. 18: No school, Presidents Day (makeup day if needed).

Frey Village Friends of Arts concert is Feb. 15

Frey Village Friends of the Arts is sponsoring a concert featuring "Seasons" at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 in the chapel.

The group, comprised of the Lee siblings, write and perform both original and traditional Celtic and American Folk music.

Londonderry Fire to hold Bingo Mania on Feb. 10

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, will hold its Bingo Mania on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Doors and bingo starts at noon, and bingo starts at 2 p.m.

For more information, call 717-944-2175.

Police: If you don’t want car stolen, lock it and don’t leave keys inside

By **Dan Miller**
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Don’t leave your car unlocked, and be more careful about leaving a spare key inside, Middletown police are telling residents following a rash of stolen vehicles in the borough.

Each theft appears to involve vehicles that were left unlocked — with a spare key left inside that was found by the thief, according to police.

Three vehicle thefts have been reported to police in the past month—including two in just one week from Jan. 19 to Jan. 26, according to police dispatch records.

In the case of the two most recent thefts, both vehicles were later recovered in Harrisburg by police.

In the earliest reported theft, a 2010 maroon Hyundai Sonata stolen from a Pineford resident



on Jan. 3 was recovered later the same day in west Philadelphia by city police.

City police charged the driver, Marquis Honay of Upper Darby, with receiving stolen property and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He is awaiting a Feb. 12 preliminary hearing, according to online Philadelphia court records.

No one has been charged in the two more recent thefts in which the stolen vehicles were recovered in Harrisburg, according to Middletown police.

On Saturday, Jan. 26, a white 2008 Hyundai Veracruz was re-

ported stolen from a residence in the 600 block of Cedar Avenue, according to police dispatch records.

The owner told police he believes the vehicle was stolen between 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, and 4:30 a.m. Jan. 26, when it was discovered missing. The owner recalled hearing his dogs barking at about 1 a.m.

The vehicle was recovered by Harrisburg police on Tuesday, Jan. 29, at Linn and Briggs streets. No one was in the vehicle, and the case was turned over to Middletown detectives to investigate.

On Jan. 19 shortly after 6:30 a.m., a 2007 white GMC Sierra was reported stolen from the 300 block of Aspen Street. The vehicle had been parked on the street in front of the residence, police said.

At 7:07 p.m. the same night, Middletown police were informed by Harrisburg police that the vehicle had been recovered at Primrose

and 19th streets.

City police had pulled the vehicle over for a traffic stop. There was a “brief foot chase” but Harrisburg police did not catch anyone.

In each of the thefts, it appears the stolen vehicles were “unsecured,” and that the thief was aided by the victim having left a spare key in their vehicle, according to information police posted on the Crimewatch site Feb. 1.

Police are asking that citizens “be more diligent in securing the vehicles” and “avoid leaving keys inside the vehicle.”

The post says nearly 50 percent of stolen cars in Pennsylvania were left unlocked by their owners, according to the Pennsylvania Auto Theft Authority.

Nearly 14,000 people had their vehicles stolen in Pennsylvania in 2018, according to the Crime-watch post.

POLICE AND COURTS ROUNDUP

9 vehicles towed in snow emergency; assault reported near Union, Emaus

Middletown police reported having nine vehicles towed from snow emergency routes during a snow emergency that had been declared on Saturday, Jan. 19.

The nine vehicles were among 23 that police ticketed during the snow emergency, which was effective at 5 p.m. Jan. 19 and continued until 12:04 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20.

Police in the cases of all the vehicles first tried to alert the owners by knocking on doors. The second time police drove around and saw the vehicles still illegally parked, tickets were issued.

If the vehicles were still there the third time police drove around, police had them towed, police spokesman Patrol Officer Mark Laudenslager told the Press & Journal.

Assault reported at Union, Emaus

Middletown police are investigating an assault that was reported in the first block of North Union Street just before 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28.

Police said the victim, a 36-year-old man, was walking from Karns on South Union Street to his residence on Spring Street when he was hit twice from behind at the base of his neck.

The victim identified as suspects three teenage black males, who he said fled south behind a building on the southeast corner of East Emaus and South Union streets.

The man could not say which of the three had hit him.

The victim told police that nothing was stolen from him, and that the assault was unprovoked. He said he did not recognize any of the three.

Police said the victim did not have any obvious injuries and did not require medical treatment at the scene.

Police described the three suspects as one being shorter than the others and wearing all black. Of the two taller suspects, one was wearing sweat pants and the other a blue running suit.

A witness also reported seeing the three suspects running south in the same area as the victim described, police said.

Lost debit card, lost funds

A Middletown resident told police that \$530 had been transferred out of her bank account after she had lost a debit card on New Year’s Eve.

The victim told police she had canceled the card to the bank on

Jan. 2. The theft was reported to borough police on Jan. 25.

Graffiti on Spruce Street

Offensive graffiti was reported spray-painted on the downstairs basement door of a rental property in the 700 block of Spruce Street in Middletown.

The incident was reported to borough police at 3:50 p.m. on Jan. 25.

Craigslist meeting leads to theft

Items were reported stolen from inside a Middletown apartment Jan. 25 by a victim who said he had invited in a person he had met through Craigslist.

The victim told police he had invited the man to his residence in the 100 block of Brown Street in order to sell him an Xbox video game system.

The victim told police he went into the bathroom and came out to find the suspect gone as well as a 3-by-3-foot red lock box. The box contained \$80 in cash and an identification card and a bank card. The cards were no longer valid, the victim told police.

The theft was reported to police at 12:37 p.m.

Drone reported stolen

Middletown police Jan. 24 received a report of a Mavic 2 Zoom drone being stolen from the owner’s truck.

The man told police the drone was stolen just before Christmas. He was not sure if the drone was stolen from the 200 block of North Union Street or from where he was in Lancaster, as he had been working in both locations at the time, police said.

No estimate of value was provided; however, amazon.com lists a Mavic 2 Zoom drone with related equipment at \$1,175.

Money taken from account

A Middletown woman told borough police Jan. 23 that money had been withdrawn from her bank account after she had reported her wallet being stolen in December.

The victim reported three separate withdrawals from her account totaling \$95.88.

Four doses of Narcan

Middletown police were dispatched for a heroin overdose in the 700 block of North Spring Street at 3:07 p.m. Jan. 22.

Police said residents called 911 after giving the person four doses of Narcan.

The man came around but refused treatment from emergency

medical services and did not go to the hospital, police said.

Items stolen from apartment

An estimated \$750 in items were reported stolen from an apartment in the 100 block of East Emaus Street in Middletown between 8 and 10 p.m. Jan. 19.

The items included a 40-inch television, end table, entertainment stand, food and clothing, police said.

Police believe the items were taken by someone whom the victim had allowed to move in with him.

Unlocked vehicle entered

An unlocked vehicle was entered in the 100 block of Aspen Street and items inside reported “scattered throughout,” but nothing was taken.

The incident was reported to Middletown police at 11:42 a.m. Jan. 20.

Unauthorized purchase

A Middletown resident told police that someone had used her debit/check card without her permission to make a \$13.77 purchase from amazon.com Jan. 15.

The incident was reported to borough police shortly after 3 p.m. on Jan. 18.

Hershey woman charged with DUI

Middletown police charged a Hershey woman with DUI after police said she was seen crossing over and driving on the double yellow lines in the middle of the road while eastbound in the 300 block of East Main Street at 12:48 a.m. Jan. 15.

Hannah Beth Valent, 34, of the 100 block of Crescent Drive, showed signs of being impaired from alcohol and could not successfully complete field sobriety tests, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

Blood was drawn from Valent at the Dauphin County Central Booking Center, but results of the draw were not reported by police.

A preliminary hearing for Valent is scheduled for Feb. 25.

Assault charge withdrawn

A charge of indecent assault was withdrawn during a Feb. 4 preliminary hearing for a Middletown man regarding a domestic incident that borough police say occurred in the 100 block of East Emaus Street on Jan. 4.

While that charge was withdrawn during the hearing before District Judge David Judy, the defendant, Theodore Albe Verbinski, 30, still faces a misdemeanor charge of simple assault, according to online court records.

Verbinski waived the simple assault charge during the hearing, and is to be arraigned on the charge in Dauphin County Court on April 19.

Broomstick, table leg beating

Police charged a Middletown man with aggravated assault for beating a man during an incident in the 400 block of Spruce Street at about 2:15 p.m. Jan. 31.

Geary B. Laughman, 62, of the same address, beat the victim with a broomstick and then with a table leg, according to arrest papers police filed with District Judge David Judy.

Laughman at one point picked up a broken broomstick and told the victim he would drive it through his heart, police said.

Laughman was arraigned before Night Court District Judge Steven M. Semic and charged with aggravated assault, unlawful restraint, and terroristic threats.

He is listed as being in Dauphin County Prison on \$50,000 bail. A preliminary hearing is set for Feb. 19.

Laughman already faces multiple charges after leading State Police on a high-speed chase from Swatara Township through Highspire and into Middletown on Dec. 11.

Laughman at one point was going more than 100 mph after running a stop sign on 2nd Street in Highspire, police said. He nearly crashed into parked vehicles before coming to a stop in a yard on Mattis Avenue.

Laughman waived a Dec. 31 preliminary hearing before Judge Judy and is to be arraigned in Dauphin County Court on Feb. 8 on all charges related to the Dec. 11 incident, including fleeing or attempting to elude police, possession of marijuana and use/possession of drug paraphernalia, DUI of a controlled substance, resisting arrest, driving an unregistered vehicle, displaying a plate card in an improper vehicle, DUI while under suspension, failing to maintain required financial responsibility, failure to keep right, disregarding a single lane of traffic, running a stop sign, failing to use turn signals, speeding, careless driving, and reckless driving.

Hallman was arraigned before Judy and charged with terroristic threats, harassment, simple assault and recklessly endangering another person.

She was released after posting \$100,000 bail in surety bonds through a bondsman. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Feb. 4 but results were not available.

PSU Harrisburg lab can help entrepreneurs ID customer problems

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Penn State Harrisburg will hold an Idea TestLab, a five-week startup course for university and community entrepreneurs at Startup Harrisburg, from Feb. 21 through March 21.

The course is sponsored by Invent Penn State and the Penn State Harrisburg School of Business Administration.

“The Idea TestLab is the first of many future community-facing Penn State Harrisburg offerings for local entrepreneurs,” said Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor John M. Mason Jr. “It is an opportunity for us to extend our Invent Penn State mission to the surrounding community.”

The non-credit program focuses on the customer discovery process, in which participants will validate the customer problems they hope to solve with their proposed business ideas. Class participants will interview 40 potential customers face-to-face to understand their customer needs and how they will create value.

Idea TestLab is open to any individuals or small teams with an early-stage business idea. The program is designed for new or complex business models that are scalable. No affiliation with Penn State is required. The class is free but participation is by application. Classes will be held from 6

to 8 p.m. at Startup Harrisburg, 922 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, a co-working space in Midtown.

Apply at harrisburg.psu.edu/invent/events/idea-testlab/application by 11:59 p.m. Feb. 15. For more information, visit harrisburg.psu.edu/invent/events/idea-testlab.

The course concludes with a pitch competition March 21, in which participants compete for up to \$2,500 in seed funding. The pitch competition will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at Startup Harrisburg and is open to the public.

Invent Penn State is a commonwealth-wide initiative to spur economic development, job creation and student career success, using academic programs, business startup training and incubation, funding for commercialization, and university-community collaborations, according to Penn State.

VOLUME 129 – NO. 6

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL, INC.

Established 1854

(USPS 443-100)

Published Every Wednesday

PRESS & JOURNAL BUILDING

20 S. Union Street, Middletown

PHONE: (717)944-4628

FAX: (717)944-2083

E-MAIL: info@pressandjournal.com

WEB SITE: www.pressandjournal.com

HOURS: Monday - Friday 9-4

JOSEPH G. SUKLE, JR., Publisher

JASON MADDOX, Editor

MAXINE ETTER, General Manager

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NANCY J. BROWN, Circulation Manager

The Press and Journal will be mailed to Dauphin and Lancaster counties in Pennsylvania at \$35 a year or \$25 for six months. In-State at \$45 per year or \$30 for six months. Out-of-State \$55 a year, payable in advance. Online e-Edition \$35 per year. Single copy 75¢.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Harrisburg, PA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

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Woman fired 8 shots in parking dispute at Love’s

A North Carolina woman faces charges after State Police say she fired multiple gunshots at a man during an incident in the parking lot of the Love’s truck stop at 3555 Vine St. in Londonderry Township at about 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30.

Ashley Denise Hallman, 30, of Concord, fired the shots at the victim after the man told Hallman she was blocking traffic by being

illegally parked in the lot in her commercial vehicle, according to arrest papers police filed with District Judge David Judy.

Hallman fired an estimated eight gunshots in the man’s direction, police said. Police added that the incident occurred as Love’s customers were walking in and out of the store from the fuel pumps.

A search of Hallman after she

was arrested uncovered a Taurus 9 mm pistol in her waistband with a magazine loaded with seven rounds and one round in the chamber.

Hallman had an additional magazine loaded with 12 rounds, police said. Police also found two spent 9 mm shell casings in the area where the victim and a witness had seen Hallman shooting.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on January 10, 2019, Suez Middletown Water Joint Venture, 453 South Lawrence Street, Middletown, PA 17057 (email: john.ludington@suez.com; telephone (717) 948-3055) filed a renewal application (SRBC Pending No. 2019-004) with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) for a water withdrawal. Suez Middletown has proposed to withdraw up to 219,000 gallons a day (gpd) for Middletown Well 5 in Middletown Borough, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Suez Middletown was contracted by the Borough of Middletown to operate the public water supply system owned by the Borough. The water will continue to be used for to supply potable water to the Middletown Borough public water service area. Comments related to the application should be submitted to the attention of: Manager, Project Review; Susquehanna River Basin Commission; 4423 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-1788; telephone (717) 238-0423; fax: (717) 238-2436; email: projectcomments@srbc.net. Comments also may be submitted on SRBC's Water Application and Approval Viewer at <https://www.srbc.net/waav>. Please include the above SRBC pending application number on any correspondence. John C. Ludington II
Project Manager

#115 0206-1T
www.publicnoticepa.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE OF: JACQUELINE NORBREY a/k/a JACQUELINE L. NORBREY
Steelton Borough, Dauphin County
March 11, 2018

LATE OF: Michelle C. Woods (Lacy)
14382 Shetland Ct.
Woodbridge, VA 22193

EXECUTOR/ ADMINISTRATOR: Representative's Address: Laura C. Reyes Maloney, Esquire
Laguna Reyes Maloney, LLP
1119 N. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Attorney's Address: #109 0123-3T
www.publicnoticepa.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of: MARRONE, MICHAEL SYLVESTER, A/K/A MICHAEL SYLVESTER MARRONE, MD, A/K/A MICHAEL S. MARRONE
Late of the Township of Derry, County of Dauphin and Commonwealth of PA

Executor: Jeffrey M. Wonderling
c/o Nikolaus & Hohenadel, LLP
222 S. Market Street
Suite 201
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Attorney: John M. Smith, Esq.

#113 0130-3T
www.publicnoticepa.com

LOST

LOST DOG – White male Bishon Frise, answers to Billy, on January 30 in the area of 240 Clearfield Ave., Middletown. See photo on www.findtoby.com and Facebook. If found call Cindy at 717-512-6789. (1/6)

PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHEDULE OF 2019 REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE HIGHSPIRE BOROUGH AUTHORITY

Regular meetings of the Highspire Borough Authority for the year 2019 will be held on the third Thursday of each month.

The following are the meeting dates:
January 17, 2019
February 21, 2019
March 21, 2019
April 18, 2019
May 16, 2019
June 20, 2019
July 18, 2019
August 15, 2019
September 19, 2019
October 17, 2019
November 21, 2019
December 19, 2019

Authority meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at the Borough Hall, 640 Eshelman Street, Highspire, PA 17034, commencing promptly at 7:00 P.M.
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Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Robert A. Bale, Deceased, late of Hummelstown Borough, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, have been granted to the undersigned Co-Executrixes. 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. Karen J. Myers and Debra K. Mosko (Shaffer)–Co-Executrixes, c/o Keith D. Wagner, PO Box 323, Palmyra, PA 17078–Attorney.

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Safe2Say allows students to anonymously report risky behavior, including threats

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Safe2Say — a new state-mandated program allowing students to anonymously submit a tip to report “at-risk” behavior that could lead to an act of school violence — has been launched in Middletown Area School District as of Jan. 14.

“This system across the country has saved hundreds of lives. It has prevented school shootings,” district Superintendent Lori Suski said in unveiling Safe2Say to the school board on Jan. 22.

Students and others can report a tip anonymously using a mobile app, website or hotline.

Each tip goes to specially trained agents in the Pennsylvania attorney general’s office who analyze the tip and refer the information to school officials and law enforcement in the respective community, if deemed necessary.

The program is being implemented in grades 6 through 12, Suski told the school board.

The district will continue encouraging students to report at-risk behavior to an adult in the schools like a teacher or administrator, she added.

But she acknowledged some students might not be comfortable doing so or may wish to be anonymous. Safe2Say provides a mechanism for doing so.

The state is providing funding to implement Safe2Say, including associated training to educate staff and students on the “warning signs” of at-risk behavior, Suski said.

Safe2Say is modeled on a program devised by Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit organization created after the shooting

massacre of 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, on Dec. 14, 2012.

Last October, officials announced Pennsylvania would be first in the nation to implement Safe2Say statewide, intending the program be in place in all schools by early January.

Suski’s presentation included a long list of examples of tips that could be made by students using Safe2Say, from those warning of imminent danger such as an active shooter, to a large number of “nonlife safety” tips related to at-risk behavior like possessing alcohol, sexting and bullying.

Officials with the AG’s office have emphasized in published accounts that if a student sees something indicating that a person has imminent plans to hurt themselves or others, the situation should be immediately reported using 911. Safe2Say is not meant as a substitute for 911.

Tips that turn out to be hoaxes or false claims are estimated to be less than one-half of 1 percent of the total, according to Suski’s presentation.

“It better not be a hoax, because you are reporting it to the office of the attorney general and there could be ramifications,” she said.

For example, in case of a hoax or of an individual found to be abusing Safe2Say, the district can request a court order to try and uncover the person’s anonymity.

However, Suski emphasized the district will not “break” a tipster’s anonymity without a court order, and that there are no exceptions to this rule.

Safe2Say also went live in Lower Dauphin School District on Jan. 14, to meet the state-imposed

deadline for when the program must be in place in all districts, said Lower Dauphin spokesman Jim Hazen.

Safe2Say was to be presented to all Lower Dauphin students and staff in grades 6 through 12 on Friday. However, Hazen said the AG had already referred two tips to Lower Dauphin that the office had received through Safe2Say since the program went live on Jan. 14.

One tip concerned a different school district, and the other tip had to do with an incident that had occurred in November.

Nevertheless, “it was good practice” for the five LD administrators who are “on call 24/7” to respond to all Safe2Say tips that come through the AG’s office, Hazen said.

On a related note, Middletown Area School Board on Jan. 22 also approved nearly \$114,000 in contracts with Choice Security Services for security upgrades in all five district schools.

The district has received a \$108,000 check toward the upgrades from Phoenix Contact, a German-owned company whose U.S. headquarters is on Fulling Mill Road in Lower Swatara Township.

Phoenix Contact pledged to donate at least \$100,000 following the Feb. 14 mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, in which 17 people were killed at a school.

The company’s first down payment on that pledge came in June, when Phoenix Contact covered the entire \$11,900 price tag for a districtwide “risk and vulnerability assessment” done by Vulnerability Solutions Group LLC, a Mechanicsburg-based consulting firm.

HIGHSPIRE: Students ‘held captive,’ group says

From page A1

free and appropriate public education to which they are constitutionally entitled,” Becker said in a prepared statement from the coalition that was emailed to the Press & Journal on Jan. 30.

Rivera’s decision amounts to Highspire students being “held captive” because the state has failed to come up with an equitable funding formula for school districts throughout Pennsylvania, Becker told the Press & Journal in a phone interview.

The coalition is leaning toward appealing Rivera’s order in Commonwealth Court. However, the decision whether to do so will be made by a committee of coalition members, Becker said.

Rivera’s order affirmed a February 2018 finding from PDE Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Matthew Stem that also rejected the transfer.

Stem and Rivera both acknowledged that Middletown Area School District outperforms the Steelton-Highspire School District academically — in agreement with the coalition’s basic argument in seeking the transfer.

However, Stem and Rivera both gave significant weight to how the proposed transfer would affect the districts financially — in particular Steelton-Highspire, which according to Rivera’s order would

lose an estimated \$3.6 million a year from Highspire property tax dollars and state subsidy going to Middletown.

But according to Becker and the coalition, under law the financial impacts of the transfer only can come into play when the petition is being considered by the state Board of Education.

“That’s where it is more subjective,” Becker said. “They can bring in any opinion to approve or deny at that final stage.”

However, the coalition cannot get the petition to the state Board of Education without first getting through PDE, hence the coalition’s consideration of filing an appeal.

The coalition in its prepared statement called Rivera’s order “thoroughly disappointing” and at odds with “overwhelming evidence of substandard academic achievement” in the Steelton-Highspire district. The statement also noted that Rivera had said in his order that Steelton-Highspire will “continue to experience a persistent structural deficit with or without the transfer of the Highspire students.”

The coalition launched the effort in 2014 when it submitted a petition to Dauphin County Court bearing signatures representing 55.44 percent of Highspire taxpayers who favored transferring the Highspire students from the Steelton-Highspire district to

Middletown.

Both Middletown and Steelton-Highspire districts have consistently opposed the transfer.

Middletown in a statement issued following Rivera’s denial called the secretary’s order “thoughtful, comprehensive and well-reasoned — and the correct one based upon the facts and the law.”

Middletown said it hoped that the Highspire coalition would accept Rivera’s order, but that if the coalition did not and chose to continue the legal battle, Middletown would continue to oppose the petition.

Becker confirmed that the borough of Highspire has continued to pay the coalition’s legal costs associated with the petition, as has been the case since 2014.

He could not provide a figure, but estimated the total amount of legal costs that the borough has spent to cover the petition since 2014 as no greater than the annual total cost of one full-time police officer.

The legal fees being charged to the borough for the petition are also at “a greatly reduced rate,” because the coalition is a nonprofit organization, Becker said.

Highspire Borough Manager Mark Stonbraker did not return phone calls and an email seeking comment regarding the borough continuing to cover the legal costs.

TAX: District has not raised taxes since 2014-15

From page A1

09 projected a tax increase of 10.43 percent, but the amount approved was an increase of 5.27 percent — which is also the biggest property tax increase that the board has approved since 2007-08.

The board has not raised taxes since 2014-15, when property taxes went up 1.56 percent.

A 4.37 percent tax increase for 2019-20 would raise the annual tax bill by \$96.75 for someone owning property in the district assessed at \$100,000, Franklin said.

The projected increase includes .42 mills to start setting money aside for adding more space so the district can handle projected future growth in elementary enrollment, Franklin said.

The budget does not include funds for the proposed 759-seat “mini-stadium” the district is

planning to build in front of the high school. Currently estimated at \$3.2 million, it will be funded using money from the capital reserve, Franklin said.

The board has given consultants authority to move forward with plans for the mini-stadium. However, the project is months away from going out for bid, and the board has not approved any construction contracts. The mini-stadium could be in place by August 2020.

Franklin emphasized that the budget presented on Jan. 22 is very preliminary, with a long list of unknowns starting with how much the district will receive in funding from the state for 2019-20.

But at this juncture, spending is estimated to go up by \$3.5 million over current year budgeted levels, a 7.3 percent increase. Revenues are not keeping

pace, with local tax dollars — the district’s largest revenue source at about 63 percent of the total — projected to increase by only \$1.1 million in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19.

The district will lose \$110,000 in yearly tax revenue from Penn State Harrisburg buying the Nittany Village student housing complex in Lower Swatara Township in September and taking the property off the tax rolls, according to Franklin’s presentation.

The preliminary budget shows a \$3 million deficit, even with the 4.37 percent tax increase.

The district is looking to qualify for an exception allowed under Act 1 to exceed the 3 percent tax increase cap, by citing special education expenditures for 2016-17 and 2017-18 that have exceeded the amount of offsetting state revenue received in those two years.

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Giant welcomes Marty



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA HAYES

Middletown Giant employee Allen Thomas poses with Giant's new staff member, Marty. The robot can move around the store unassisted and is used to identify spills in the store. Giant is introducing the new robotic assistant in all of its 172 stores.

If snowplow hits your mailbox, township will pay — some

By Laura Hayes
laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Lower Swatara Township residents might be reimbursed up to \$35 if a township plow hits a mailbox.

Township manager Betsy McBride raised the issue at the board of commissioners meeting Jan. 16 after she said a resident complained that the amount that the township was offering to reimburse was too low. McBride said the resident also wanted the township to provide the labor.

McBride said if the driver does know that a mailbox is hit, then the driver reports it.

“We can’t prove that we hit it or not, but we are willing to say, ‘Perhaps we did and we will fix it.’ But we’re not willing to replace a super-duper mailbox with another super-duper mailbox. We will pay up to \$35,” McBride said.

She said township residents needed to provide a receipt to be reimbursed.

Township solicitor Peter Hen-

ninger said a majority of mailboxes are in the township right-of-way.

“Really, you need to plow the roads, and we can’t slow down, go around driveways. We can’t slow down, go around mailboxes. It just doesn’t work that way, and it can’t work that way,” Henninger said.

Commissioner Michael Davies proposed seeing what neighboring municipalities reimbursed for damaged mailboxes.

After the meeting, McBride told the Press & Journal that local municipalities have a variety of policies. Some such as Susquehanna Township will replace the mailbox.

Others such as East Hanover Township will not.

Others such as Londonderry Township will provide a certain amount of money for a replacement if the plow hit the mailbox.



McBride

TMI: Group opposes ‘handout’

From page A1

nuclear plant near Pittsburgh is currently slated to shut down in 2021 “and the commonwealth’s three other nuclear plants are likely not far behind.”

Mehaffie in January was named as a co-chairman of Pennsylvania’s Nuclear Energy Caucus, a bipartisan, bicameral group of 80 state House and Senate members that was formed in March 2017.

Mehaffie’s district borders Three Mile Island in Londonderry Township. Mehaffie has also been an outspoken advocate of state action to preserve TMI and the other nuclear plants during rallies that have been held by Clean Jobs for Pennsylvania, a coalition of elected officials, organized labor and leaders of community and business organizations that was formed shortly after Exelon’s announcement intending to close TMI in May 2017.

Mehaffie in his memo noted that the five nuclear power plants generate 42 percent of all electricity generated in the state, and 93 percent of all zero-carbon electricity generated in Pennsylvania.

According to his memo, allowing these plants “to succumb to failed energy market policies” will cost Pennsylvanians \$4.6 billion a year, including \$788 million in electricity cost increases, \$2 billion in lost state gross domestic product, \$1.6 billion in costs associated with carbon emissions, and \$260 in costs associated with increases in “harmful criteria air pollutants.”

He said that TMI and the four other nuclear plants combined keep electricity prices low, account for nearly 16,000 full-time jobs statewide, provide \$69 million in net state tax revenues annually, avoid over 37 million tons of carbon emissions each year, and

“Pennsylvania cannot stand by and watch all of these benefits disappear as nuclear power plant after nuclear power plant prematurely retires.”

Rep. Tom Mehaffie

bring “resilience” to the electricity grid serving Pennsylvania by being operable non-stop around the clock 365 days a year.

“Pennsylvania cannot stand by and watch all of these benefits disappear as nuclear power plant after nuclear power plant prematurely retires,” Mehaffie said in his memo. “We cannot wait for Washington policy makers and the operator of the regional interstate electric market to solve this problem. Both have acknowledged the market is flawed and disadvantages nuclear plants but have yet to act to fix the problem.”

Citizens Against Nuclear Bailouts noted in its statement that four of the state’s five nuclear plants are profitable, except for TMI which — due to the 1979 accident — has a single reactor that is “inefficient and uncompetitive.”

“TMI should either be closed or Exelon should use a fraction of its own hundreds of millions of dollars in profits to subsidize the plant instead of turning yet again to consumers for a handout,” CANB said.

Including TMI and the other nuclear plants in the state’s energy portfolio will “essentially re-regulate Pennsylvania’s competitive electricity markets by taking away consumer choice and forcing consumers to buy nuclear energy — no matter the cost,” the group contended.

Steelton Senior Center gets \$10,000

The Steelton Senior Center received a \$10,000 check Jan. 28 to help fund activities and programs at the facility, which serves roughly a dozen area residents every day.

The facility is one of 14 senior centers overseen by Dauphin County’s Area Agency on Aging that serve 2,500 older adults annually, a 5 percent increase over the past five years. Open weekdays to anyone 60 or older, the centers offer a place to eat lunch, play cards, take exercise classes, and talk with other seniors.

“Many of our seniors live alone, and the centers provide an important social lifeline,” said Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III, who oversees the county’s Human Services. “We’re here today supporting the Steelton center because we know the vital role it serves in this community.”

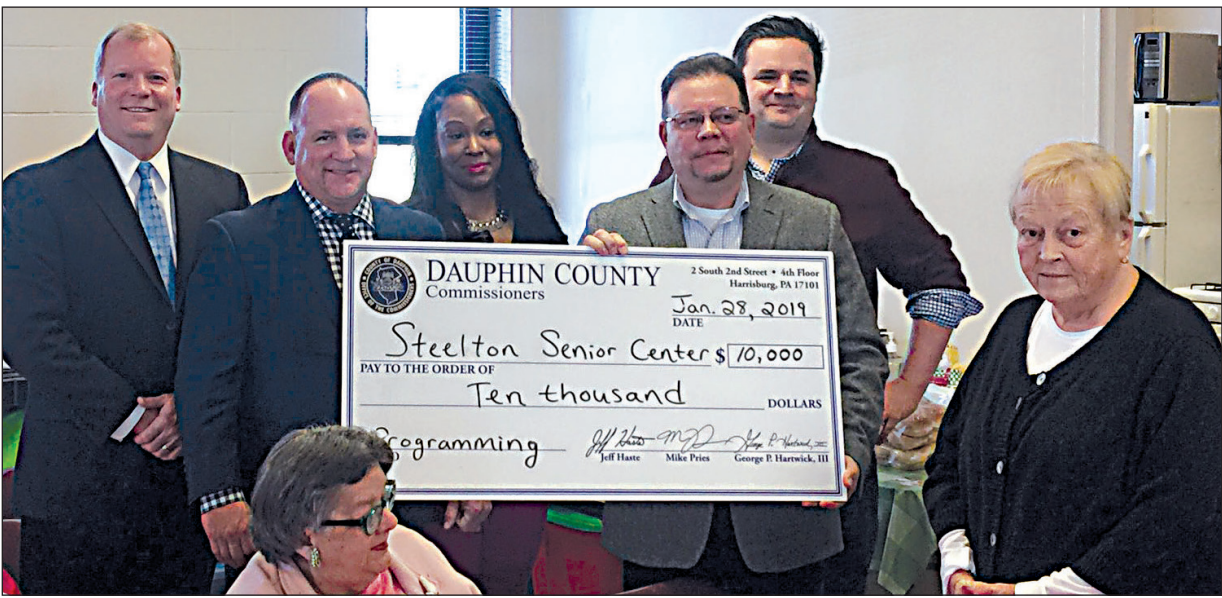
The funding came from Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging’s budget.

Barb Coates, the center’s 70-year-old volunteer director, said the \$10,000 would go toward paying the exercise trainer who comes for an hour every Friday, and trips to Lancaster and the Gettysburg battlefield. The 900 Cumbler St. center is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. The space is provided rent-free by the Housing Authority for Dauphin County.

“It helps fight the sense of loneliness to be around other people in their age group—it’s as important to me as it is to them,” Coates said. “They like to play their cards and talk about what their children are up to.”

In 2018, the county provided services and assistance to more than 10,000 seniors. In addition to the centers, the county provides services ranging from transportation and health insurance counseling to personal care that includes assistance with bathing, meals and light housekeeping.

“We understand how impor-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

County Commissioners Mike Pries and George Hartwick, III, Steelton Borough Councilwoman Keontay Hodge, Commissioner Jeff Haste, Steelton Borough Manager Doug Brown, and Steelton Senior Center Director Barb Coates attend a presentation at the center Jan. 28.

tant it is to many seniors that they live independently,” said board Chairman Jeff Haste. “Supporting centers like the one in Steelton is one way to help them achieve that goal.”

Providing meals is another way the county helps seniors remain independent. Last year, the Meals on Wheels program served about 169,000 home-delivered meals. A decision four years ago to bring in a private company to prepare the food allowed the program to serve 10,000 more meals a year and yielded \$300,000 in annual savings used to expand services.

“Our older residents have given so much to our community,” Commissioner Mike Pries said. “We owe it to them to ensure they have the quality of life they deserve.”

To learn more about the Steelton Senior Center and other services for senior citizens, visit www.DauphinCounty.org.

Highspire man killed in I-81 crash

A Highspire man was killed in an accident on Interstate 81 in East Hanover Township at 9 a.m. Jan. 24.

State Police identified the man as Nathaniel S. Zapcic, 36.

Police said that Zapcic was southbound driving a 1998 Isuzu truck approaching mile marker 79.6 when he ran into the back of a 2017 Volvo truck being driven by

Brandon L. Ellison, 33, of Twin City, Georgia.

Ellison had slowed down for traffic and Zapcic was driving too fast for conditions, police said.

Zapcic was pronounced dead at the scene by South Central Emergency Medical Service, police said.

Ellison was not injured, according to police.

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Job, internship and resource fair is March 30

Students and adults of all ages who are seeking jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities are invited to attend Dauphin County's annual employment, internship and resource fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 30, at Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton St., Harrisburg.

More than 60 employers, colleges, training programs, government agencies and community and faith-based organizations will participate in this free, one-day event.

Residents age 16 and older who are looking for employment or training can get assistance with the following: transportation, health screenings and forms for work, child care/day care assistance and more.

A family fun zone will feature fitness programs, such as Zumba; free health screenings; and nutrition information. The event also will feature prizes and giveaways throughout the day.

For more information about this career fair, call Dauphin County Human Services at 717-780-6288 or visit www.DauphinCounty.org.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY DAN MILLER

Kern and his dog were evacuated from this house in the 600 block of South Union Street in Middletown due to a fire that started at about 1:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

FIRE: Home in blaze might not have been insured

From page A1

Kern's house on South Union Street was not insured, according to information posted in one of the GoFundMe campaigns.

Fighting the fire was made more challenging by the extreme cold conditions. The roads were "very icy and slick," Whitebread said, so it took firefighters a bit longer to get from the Adelia Street fire station to Kern's house just south of New Beginnings Church.

Below-zero temperatures with the wind chill meant that as soon as water hit the road, it became ice.

Middletown Public Works employees responded to the scene with a truck to spread cinder on the roads. The employees carried buckets of salt to spread salt where the firefighters were working.

It took 50 minutes from dispatch until the fire was brought under control, Whitebread said. It took until about 6:30 a.m. before firefighters could finish cleaning up at the fire station and return home.

The Facebook post says Kern lost just about everything, except for some clothes and his wallet.

Middletown had about 20 firefighters at the scene. They were joined by about another 35 firefighters, including those with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard based at Harrisburg International Airport, and from fire companies in Elizabethtown, Hummelstown, Lower Swatara, Highspire, Steelton and Swatara Township.

This donation jar has been set up at Kuppy's Diner to raise money to help Kern, a veteran who lost most of his possessions in the fire.

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A WIN AT WEST PERRY

Blue Raider boys break losing streak as season winds down

By Larry Etter
Press & Journal Staff

It was a long time coming, but the Middletown boys basketball team finally got to celebrate. The Blue Raiders registered a well-earned 55-51 victory at West Perry on Saturday, breaking a winless streak that started all the way back on Dec. 18 and moving them to 2-15 on the season. And, judging by the reaction from the team and coaches as the final seconds ticked away, the win was huge for the young Blue Raiders.

Showing bits and pieces of improvement during the trying season, the Raiders were long overdue for a win. Taking on West Perry, owners of a 10-8 record that included a 47-33 win over the Raiders in the season's first half, was expected to be a tough assignment. But the Middletown team played a fairly solid game despite some glitches during the course of the Mid-Penn Conference Capital Division contest.

The week was trying, too, because of weather-related school

closings that forced Tuesday's game to be postponed until Saturday. The Raiders' non-league game with Pequea Valley was rescheduled for Monday, Feb. 11 to wrap up the season.

The Blue Raiders were scheduled to face Milton Hershey, Annville-Cleona and Lower Dauphin this week.

Historically, Middletown basketball teams do not do well at West Perry. That was a concern for those in the know on the trip to Elliptsburg. Those concerns were solidified somewhat when the junior varsity team struggled in a 31-26 loss in the first game. Also added to the mix was the fact that the Mustangs chose this game to recognize their senior players.

However, the varsity team got off to a good start and built seemingly comfortable leads. The Mustangs rallied late in the game and nearly pulled off a comeback, taking the game down to the final minutes.

Two foul shots by Tyler Petroski and a driving layup by Jules Nester gave the Blue Raiders a 4-0 lead in the first minute of play. After

breaking a 4-4 tie on a putback by Tajae Broadie off a Petroski assist at the 5:01 mark, the Raiders never trailed in the game. A late goal by Jarrod Pugh — filling in for Broadie, who drew his second foul — gave the Raiders a 15-9 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Back-to-back treys by Tony Powell and Petroski pushed the lead to 21-11 a minute and a half into the second stanza before Jordan Erbacher and Caden Sutch ran off 5 points to cut the lead to 21-16. But the Raiders closed out the first half with an 8-2 run and owned a 29-18 upper hand at the break.

The Mustangs cut the deficit to 29-23 in the first minute of the third period as the Raiders went scoreless until Nester's triple broke the ice at 6:01. Nester also scored on a drive off a T.J. Daniels' steal to push the Raiders ahead 34-23.

A 6-point string from Pugh, Nester and Petroski increased the Middletown advantage to 42-26 with 2:47 left in the third. But the West Perry defense pitched a near shutout the rest of the way, limiting the Raiders to a pair of free

throws by Daniels with 6 seconds left, and the Mustangs closed to within six points, 44-38, to start the fourth.

With the tension mounting and the Mustangs doing their best to rally, the mettle of the Middletown team was severely tested throughout the final frame. The Blue Raiders could have locked the game up at the foul line, but made just 7 of 16 free throws in the quarter, and that allowed the Mustangs to stay in it.

However, the host team made just 5 of 17 shots from the floor, the last one coming on a three-ball by Ben Smith with 20 seconds left. Early in the segment, Daniels drove the lane and added a foul shot for a three-point play that gave the Raiders an important 48-40 cushion. Nester pushed in a layup for a 53-45 lead with 59 seconds left, enough to offset a pair of treys by Smith in the final minute.

Nester finished the game with 21 points, matching West Perry's Sutch for high scoring honors. Petroski registered 13 points while Smith had 16.



Middletown senior Nate Brady (120 pounds) defeated Upper Dauphin's Ethan Paul by a 7-4 decision on Jan. 30.

Middletown wrestlers bounced from district team tournament

After a big win in the preliminary District 3 AA team tournament against ELCO on Jan. 28, the Blue Raider wrestlers dropped two tough matches on Wednesday, Jan. 30, and fell from the tournament.

Middletown started the evening with a match-up against the No. 1 seed in AA, Northern Lebanon. Middletown fell behind early and, despite several positive swings in momentum, the Raiders lost 44-26.

The Blue Raiders then were eliminated by No. 5 seed Upper Dauphin Area, 47-25.

"One of our team goals was to make it to the postseason as a team, and we were able to accomplish that," coach Dan Riggs

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"One of our team goals was to make it to the postseason as a team, and we were able to accomplish that," said coach Dan Riggs. "I knew it was going to be tough after the preliminary round, but was hoping to win a few toss-up matches to make the final score closer. I told the guys that they had nothing to be ashamed of and that their season isn't over yet, that we still have a shot at winning the conference next week when we face Susquehanna Township."

The Raiders will make up that regular season match at Susquehanna Township at 7 p.m. Thursday. Then the Raiders will turn their attention to the individual postseason,



Chris Joseph of Middletown took on Ethan Walmer of Northern Lebanon on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

Please see WRESTLERS, page B2

Blue Raider girls basketball team falls to visiting West Perry, 59-45



The Middletown girls basketball team fell to 6-12 on the season after losing at home to West Perry, 59-45, on Monday night.

They played host to Milton Hershey on Tuesday, and Lower Dauphin will visit on Friday. A game scheduled for Jan. 30 with Pequea Valley was canceled because of the weather and likely will not be made up.

Junior Kate Fitzpatrick scored more than half the Raiders' points against West Perry, registering 25 with 3 assists, 3 steals and 3 rebounds.

Middletown couldn't hold on to a 1-point halftime lead.

Joci Koser added 10 points and 3 rebounds, and Hayli Akakpo-Mar-



tin had 4 points and 4 rebounds. Caroline Gill scored 4 points with 5 rebounds, and Jae Keller had 9 blocks and 7 rebounds.



Kate Fitzpatrick tries to maintain control of the ball Monday during the Blue Raiders' 59-45 home loss against West Perry.

WRESTLERS: Blue Raiders team season wraps up with losses to Northern Lebanon, Upper Dauphin

beginning with the District 3 AA Section 1 tournament Feb. 15-16 at CD East High School. The Section 1 tournament features 17 teams in District 3. The top 6 wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the District 3 Championship at Hershey Arena on Feb 22-23.

Riggs said he's "excited to see the guys compete at their normal weights. All season long I bumped them up to a different weight class to help with the team's success. Us coaches appreciate their willingness to move around to different weight classes knowing that it would benefit the team. After the final dual, next Thursday, they can focus on their own individual goals."

Northern Lebanon 44, Middletown 25

Middletown's Joey Spear (138) got the Raiders off to a positive start, pinning Cooper Gill in 3 minutes, 10 seconds to take an early

6-0 lead. The Vikings responded by rattling off 6 straight wins at 145- through the 195-pound weight classes, however.

Quincy Reinnagel tried to bring some momentum back to the Raider bench with a first-period pin over Benjamin Bomberger at 220 pounds. Northern Lebanon stalled the Raider momentum with two more pins at 285 and 106 pounds, which brought the score to 38-12.

Although it would not be enough, Middletown rallied to win three of the last four matches. Luke Fegley locked up a double arm and a pin over Kayden Clark at 113 pounds.

Nate Brady (120) had his first of two great performances of the evening, knocking off Brandon Breidegan by a score of 5-2. Middletown's Zach Malay took one for the team, jumping up two weight classes to try to hold off Northern Lebanon standout Colin Leonard at 126.

Ryan Berstler (132) was able to give the Raiders something



The Middletown wrestlers gather on the mat at Northern Lebanon on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

to celebrate in the final match, racking up a 16-1 technical fall over Seth Fischer, bringing the final team score to 44-25 in favor of the Vikings.

Upper Dauphin Area 47, Middletown 25

Early action at 145 and 152 pounds gave the Raiders reason to have hope, as Middletown seniors Kenny Britcher and Sterling Gray held Tyler Wright and Darien Wiest to major decisions.

With an 8-0 lead, the Trojans opted to surrender the forfeit to Middletown's Chris Joseph at 160 pounds.

The Trojan upperweights were just too much for Middletown, however, locking up pins at 170,

182, 195 and 220, giving the Trojans a 32-6 lead.

Quincy Reinnagel showed his stamina, bumping up to 285, and wearing down Chase Witmer to score a pin in just more than 5 minutes of action.

The Trojans got 6 points back with a pin at 106 pounds. Luke Fegley (113) faced off against former Middletown teammate Maxx Trexler and secured an 11-1 major decision. Middletown senior Nate Brady (120) had another quality win, defeating Ethan Paul by a 7-4 decision.

At 126 pounds, Middletown's Ryan Berstler squared off against Upper Dauphin standout Bronson Garber. Berstler could not find a way to penetrate Garber's defense and fell by a score of 5-1.

The Trojans picked up a forfeit at 132, before Joey Spear closed out the action at 138. Spear picked up his 15th pin of the season at the expense of Upper Dauphin's Kade Matter in just more than 1 minute.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY DEBBIE SPEAR

Quincy Reinnagel of Middletown beat Chase Witmer of Upper Dauphin on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

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C	A	T	T	A	L	O	C	A	L	I	B
R	N	A	L	L	T	H	E	W	A	Y	M
A	C	U	T	E	I	A	N	S	A	P	I
T	E	N	S	A	N	G	E	R	L	A	T
E	L	I	J	I	G	S	I	R	G	O	B
V	I	O	L	G	E	M	I	N	I		
A	L	E	P	H		N	O	N	E	T	
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E	B	S	S	A	P	R	A	N	T	A	B
P	R	A	T	T	A	C	E	T	S	E	R
T	A	L	A	S	D	O	T	B	A	S	A
I	D	W	H	I	R	L	I	G	I	G	B
C	O	R	N	I	C	E	R	E	S	E	A
R	H	Y	M	E	S	E	M	E	R	G	E

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PRESS & JOURNAL

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CHURCH NEWS

Evangelical United Methodist Church



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

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

This week's worship assistants are as follows: Pastor – Lee Ellenberger; Liturgist – Youth of Evan; Organist – Don Cowsert; Choir Director – Erich Schlicher; Audio

Visual – Steve Moyer, Jamal Warren and Justin Hahn; Head Usher – Shirley Kupp; Greeters – Angela Butler and Maryann Horner; Nursery Caregivers – Gloria Clouser and Vickie Hubbard.

This week's schedule of activities is as follows:

Wed., Feb. 6: 6 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous Group Book Study; 6:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal.

Thurs., Feb. 7: 10 a.m., Interfaith Council at Seven Sorrows R.C. Church.

Sun., Feb. 10: 9 a.m., Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., Worship Service by the youth; 11:30 a.m., Cookies and fellowship; 5 p.m., Youth Fellowship with Hershey Bears.

Tues., Feb. 12: 2 p.m., Prayer Shawl; 6 p.m., God's Kitchen at Welsey, meal provided by Highspire UMC; 6 p.m., Finance Committee; 7 p.m., Church Council.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

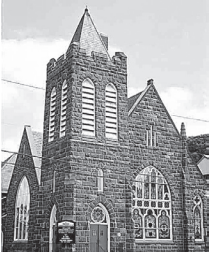


We have several things happening at Ebenezer and all are welcome. There is a prayer time, "Partners in Prayer" that meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Through scripture, song, and meditation we experience the joy of God's presence.

Have a favorite board game? "Game Night" is every third Monday at 6:30 p.m. We also offer a variety of other groups including Bible studies.

Any questions please call us at 717-939-0766 or e-mail us at ebenezerumc890@outlook.com.

Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown



The Presbyterian Congregation is located at 290 N. Union St. in downtown Middletown. We are a body of Christian people who reach out to others by sharing God's Word, love, and fellowship. Warm greetings to one and all as we seek to grow closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. Please join us on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. as Pastor Christian Neubaum leads us in worship. Our sanctuary is air-conditioned and handicapped accessible, and there are also hearing devices for anyone wanting to use one. Nursery is available during the service, as well as Bible Listening bags for children to utilize during the service. Do join us!

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. The theme for February is "May the Peace of Christ Be With You – Faith Communities in Action!" This week we are joined by Ellen Willenbecher, who is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Middletown and coordinator

of Middletown Area Communities That Care. During Advent we "spurred one another on toward love and good deeds" by providing items for 30 Kids Kits. All generations are invited to assemble those kits today and to hear Ellen tell us about those who will receive them.

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.

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.

Greeter for February: Dick Wagner. Children's Church leaders for Sun., Feb. 10: Jodi and Danielle Brinser. February ushers: Lorraine and Bob Houser and Jackie and Sam Rainal.

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

LOWER SWATARA POLICE ROUNDUP

Resident tries to help driver along road, tells police he was assaulted

A Lower Swatara Township resident told police he was assaulted after he stopped to see if someone needed help with their vehicle on Turnpike Industrial Drive near Fulling Mill Road at 11:24 p.m. Jan. 26.

According to police, the resident saw a man on the side of the road out of his vehicle. The resident pulled alongside and asked if the man needed help, police said.

The man then allegedly began assaulting the resident, who tried to fight back, police said.

Officers said the resident sustained minor injuries. Police said the incident is under investigation.

Man charged after incident

A Lower Swatara man faces charges after he allegedly punched and restricted the breathing of a woman at a residence in the first block of Nelson Manor Lane.

Gualberto Rivas-Reyes, 29, of the Nelson Manor Lane address, has been charged with strangulation, simple assault and harassment.

Officers responded just before 2 a.m. Jan. 26, according to the affidavit filed with District Judge Michael J. Smith. The woman told police that Rivas-Reyes began fighting with her after drinking. According to the affidavit, Rivas-Reyes kicked in the door to the room where the woman was, pushed her against a wall, punched her in the arms and restricted her breathing.

Rivas-Reyes was taken into custody after police reportedly kicked open the door to the residence. Rivas-Reyes is listed as being in custody in Dauphin County Prison.

His preliminary arraignment was held Jan. 26 before Smith. Bail was set at \$75,000. His preliminary hearing is Feb. 6.

Resident scammed out of \$3,000

A township resident is out \$3,000 after a worker didn't replace windows as they were hired to do.

The incident was reported at 11:45 a.m. Feb. 1. According to police, the resident hired someone to replace the windows of a residence in the 1200 block of Freys Grove Lane.

Police said the work was not completed.

Stolen suitcase

A township resident reported the theft of a suitcase from inside a residence in the 1200 block of Jefferson Drive at 11:45 a.m. Jan. 28.

Police said there were no signs of forced entry. Officers said the theft is under investigation.

Woman charged with DUI

A Sharpsville woman faces DUI-related charges after she allegedly sped and hit a concrete shoulder wall.

Tara Marie Weyant, 34, has been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance, careless driving, exceeding maximum speed limits and restriction on alcoholic beverages.

According to the affidavit filed with District Judge Michael J. Smith, at 1:10 a.m. Jan. 24, a Highspire officer was on patrol when he saw a vehicle stopped in the middle of the intersection of Route 283 and Eisenhower Boulevard in Lower Swatara Township. The affidavit said the vehicle turned north onto Eisenhower Boulevard, driving at first in the wrong lane of traffic before correcting itself.

The vehicle allegedly drove about 65 mph in a 45 mph zone. The driver also pulled off to the side of the road, rode the white line and hit the passenger's side tire against a concrete wall, according to the affidavit.

Weyant was pulled over in the 800 block of Eisenhower Boulevard in Swatara Township, and officers reported they could smell the odor of alcohol coming from her and the vehicle. They found an open bottle of alcohol and a cup in her vehicle.

Officers performed field sobriety tests, and a sample of her blood was taken. Police are awaiting the results of the test, according to the affidavit. Her preliminary hearing is set for March 3.

Student threatens assault

A student was cited after he allegedly threatened to assault another student at Middletown Area Middle School at 2:54 p.m. Jan. 23.

According to police, the student, who is 13 and from Middletown, was cited with disorderly conduct.

Wallet returned minus the cash

A wallet was reunited with its owner after it was lost at Souders Mini Mart at 1100 Fulling Mill Road.

However, the owner reported to police at 12:34 p.m. Jan. 21 that the wallet was missing \$100 from inside.

Police said the theft is under investigation.

Man charged with DUI

A 43-year-old man is in custody and faces DUI-related charges.

Nicholas Eugene Troutman, who has no established address, according to police, has been charged with driving under the influence. Police said he also was charged with violating a protection from abuse order.

According to the affidavit filed with District Judge Michael J. Smith, officers responded to a report of a protection from abuse violation at the first block of Mic Nan Drive at 5:45 p.m. Jan. 28.

Officers pulled over his vehicle. Officers said Troutman smelled of alcohol and had slurred speech and glassy, spaced-out eyes. Officers allegedly found alcohol in his vehicle.

A sample of his blood was taken, but results were not reported.

His preliminary arraignment was held Jan. 28, and his bail was set at \$25,000.

His preliminary hearing is Feb. 20.

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., Feb. 9: 5 p.m., Holy Communion – Good Shepherd Chapel – Everyone is welcome.

Sun., Feb. 10: 10 a.m., Holy Communion – everyone is welcome.

Wed., Feb. 13: 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!

Food Pantry News: Especially needed are personal care/toiletry items: toilet tissue, deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sham-

poos, 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 March 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.

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.



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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 Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008, edition of the Press & Journal

Huh? Jeep discovered in creek

Pennsylvania State Police are investigating why a Jeep Grand Cherokee was partially submerged in the Swatara Creek early on Feb. 1.

The Jeep was reported stolen from Wyoming Street, Royaltown, in the early hours of Feb. 1, according to Troop H spokesman Trooper Karl Schmidhauer.

The Middletown Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call for a submerged vehicle shortly after 7:30 a.m.

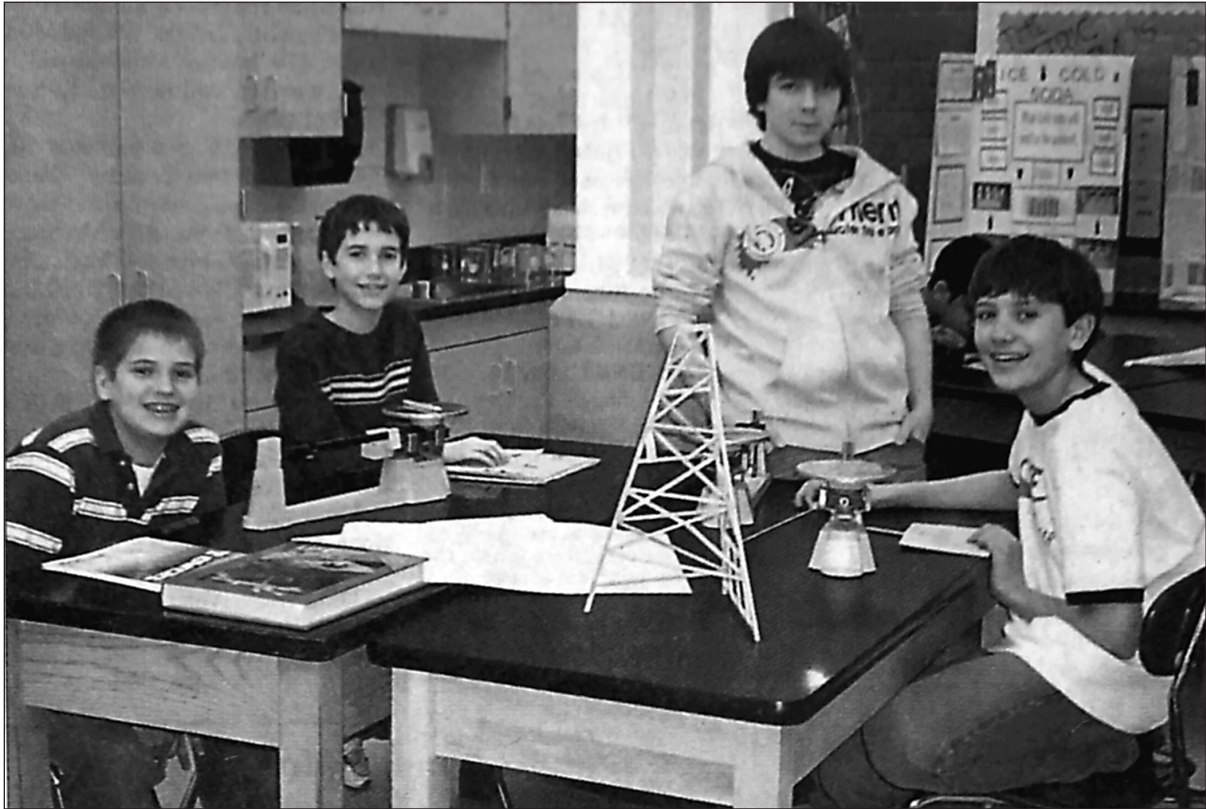
“I found what I was looking for,” said one State Police officer pointing to shattered glass lying on the boat launch. “Somebody [has] some explaining to do.”

Middletown Volunteer Fire Department rescue divers Capt. Harry Cleland Jr. and Capt. Ken Whitebread, paddled 30 yards into the frigid water to check the vehicle for victims, but found none, according to the MVFD’s website.

The divers assisted Dailey’s Gulf by hooking chains to the Jeep so the tow truck could pull the vehicle out. Crews were on the scene for about an hour and a half.

Other headlines

- Township to park owner: Tidy up
- Loss marks end of season for Raiders’ boys basketball
- Lower Swatara Fire Department moves into new home
- LD students take 3rd in state, 26th in nation
- Police seek driver who busted up Vine Street fence



Four middle school students designed a city of the future using recycled materials. The project took third place in a contest hosted by the Whitaker Center on Jan. 12. Their teacher, Jody Weinrich, said the project required a wide range of skills. From left are Tim Krepps, Daniel Reese, Damien McClure and Aaron Gambini.

Youth create Future City, take prize for work

The city of the future is at MAMS.

Four Middletown Area Middle School students combined their skills and talents to win third place in the National Engineers Week Future City Contest hosted by the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg. Under guidance from their teacher, Jody Weinrich, four students; Aaron Gambini, Tim Krepps, Damien McClure, and Daniel Reese, successfully completed the project and presented it to judges on Saturday, Jan. 12.

“Our presentation kicked butt,” said Gambini, when asked how the group’s project stacked up to the competition.

The students were graded on four criteria: an essay on nanotechnology, a digital design of their city, a 3-D city model, and an oral presentation.

As a group, the four students spent almost five months on the project, working after school and sometimes during class. The boys wanted to emphasize that the model and their display board

were decorated and constructed with recycled materials.

Their city’s main theme was recycling. The boys agreed the best part of the project was that they “got to be really creative.”

One of their more innovative approaches was the use of pinecones to make houses.

“No one could tell what they were, but they were creative,” Gambini said.

Another big plus was the \$1,000 prize the project garnered, to be used for classroom equipment.

Hot buys

- Roses, boutique special, starting at \$12.50 and up, cash and carry. Blooming plants, \$10 and up, cash and carry. The Flower Pot Boutique, 1191

Eisenhower Blvd.

- Sale, one month only, February, 100 percent digital hearing aids, \$749. “Call us ear responsible.” Jere K. Dunkleberger Hearing Aids, 112 E. Main St.,

Hummelstown.

- Sliced bacon, \$3.09 a pound. Whole delmonico steaks, \$5.98 a pound. Pork roasts, \$1.99 a pound. Groff’s Meats, 33 N. Market St., Elizabethtown.

MAHS grad becomes university president

A 1985 graduate of Middletown Area High School will be inaugurated as the fifth president of Philadelphia Biblical University on Feb. 7.

Todd Williams previously served as the university’s senior vice president and provost and served on the university faculty after completing his graduate work and earning a doctorate from Temple University.

Williams grew up in Shope Gardens, then moved into the borough of Middletown. He attended Kunkel Elementary School, then Feaser Middle School, then the high school.

“I had a great experience at Middletown High School. I was very well prepared for college,” he told the Press & Journal on Monday as he anticipated the

inauguration ceremony later in the week.

He said, “People are astonished at the things I learned in high school. I took Latin. Not very many schools, even back then, offered that.”

Williams said he never set out to become a university president but that it seemed a natural development as he followed the examples he was given.

“My parents set an example of community service,” he explained. “They were always involved.”

His father, Thomas Williams, died in 2006 and for years was part of Olmsted Recreation soccer. His mother, JoAnn Williams, lives in Elizabethtown.

Williams recalled that many of his teachers showed him the importance of citizenship.

School police officer post considered for MASD

Middletown Area School District students may see a new face in their school next year.

The school district and Lower Swatara Township are looking at a way to station a police officer in the school district without burdening the Lower Swatara Township Police Department.

The Lower Swatara Township commissioners agreed at their Jan. 16 meeting to start the process of applying for a grant that would place a specialized police officer — commonly referred to as a school resource officer — in buildings. The three-year grant, administered through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime

and Delinquency, would supply funds to the township to cover the costs of hiring a new officer.

Police Chief Richard Wiley said there is “absolutely” a need for a school resource officer.

“It’s a good idea to have an officer in the school interacting with kids and building relationships,” he said.

District Superintendent Richard Weinstein agreed with Wiley.

“Any time we can protect our children, it is a smart move. That is No. 1,” Weinstein said.

The biggest advantage, according to Weinstein, is having someone in the building to respond to a crisis.

PUZZLES AND HOROSCOPE

WORD SEARCH | ANSWERS ON B2

Gameplay word search

Abandonware
Action
Aggro
Alpha
Analog
Balance
Bit

Board
Buff
Campaign
Checkpoint
Clone
Console
Content
Controller
Damage
Development

Display
Effects
Electronic
Farming
Free
Gameplay
Ghost
Graphics
Health
Inventory

Life
Map
Mod
Mode
Playing
Port
Release
Role
Show

O	R	G	G	A	C	N	L	O	S	V	B	M	O	D	E	G	B	I	Y
A	H	P	L	A	O	O	D	E	F	F	E	C	T	S	W	P	C	B	A
N	R	T	K	I	T	U	N	E	F	I	N	V	E	N	T	O	R	Y	L
S	Y	I	T	L	N	H	M	T	A	C	U	C	D	G	B	I	T	B	P
A	Y	C	U	H	I	T	P	B	E	B	O	Y	O	I	K	A	L	T	E
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M	O	C	H	M	P	M	E	E	S	E	T	N	M	A	M	P	A	I	A
N	K	R	E	O	K	H	D	O	M	L	L	A	D	F	E	R	L	F	G
B	A	L	A	N	C	E	L	K	N	P	E	K	O	M	D	D	A	G	
W	D	C	L	T	E	E	Y	M	I	E	O	E	C	I	N	S	O	N	Y
E	L	W	T	D	H	D	A	N	R	M	C	L	N	T	D	W	I	A	M
R	L	O	H	A	C	U	D	E	G	A	C	G	E	S	R	Y	A	N	D
U	U	N	M	P	E	O	L	C	M	G	T	D	H	V	A	O	S	R	W
U	S	Y	I	T	M	L	A	P	C	R	L	O	D	L	E	U	N	Y	E
T	A	P	M	O	O	U	A	D	O	H	W	R	P	G	P	D	P	I	P
S	U	Y	K	R	P	I	W	P	G	R	A	P	H	I	C	S	S	B	C
O	B	V	T	E	G	N	D	A	M	A	G	E	W	B	D	R	A	O	B
H	P	N	L	N	I	T	Y	C	U	C	E	N	O	L	C	Y	V	O	L
G	O	O	R	D	V	P	R	E	L	E	A	S	E	F	R	E	E	L	N
C	R	B	U	F	F	A	L	L	G	O	L	A	N	A	F	O	U	N	M

Guess Who? answer: Axl Rose

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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

GUESS WHO? (answer below Word Search)

I am a rock singer born in Indiana on Feb. 6, 1962. My first name is William, but I took on a name that sounds like part of a machine or truck. My appetite for success and talents as a lead singer and frontman helped propel my band to enormous

CROSSWORD | ANSWERS ON B2

ACROSS
1. Got paid
7. Sets free
13. Domestic hybrid cattle
14. Quality of one's character
16. Doctor's helper
17. Not holding back
19. Type of degree
20. Short but severe
22. 007's creator
23. Linguistics icon
25. Large integers
26. Upset
28. Former
29. Peyton's younger brother
30. An Irish dance
31. Title of respect
33. Small lump
34. Baroque musical instrument
36. The third sign of the zodiac
38. The 1st letter of the Hebrew alphabet
40. A group of nine

41. Garment
43. Capital of Yemen
44. One point south of due east
45. Drain
47. Moved quickly
48. Bar bill
51. An idiot
53. Indicates silence
55. Protein-rich liquids
56. Samoan monetary units
58. "___ your i's, cross your t's"
59. Forms the bottom
60. Potato state
61. Toy that spins around
64. Barium
65. Type of molding
67. Closes again
69. Sounds the same
70. Come into view

DOWN
1. Nix
2. Indicates position
3. Quantitative facts
4. Strong and healthy
5. Former measure of length
6. Dads tend to be this
7. Parts of a movie
8. An animal's foot
9. Expression of sorrow or pity
10. Saudi Arabian money
11. One billion gigabytes
12. Smallest musical interval
13. A rugged box (usually made of wood)
15. Cheese dish
18. An ugly, evil-looking old woman
21. Widely used
24. Makes into pages
26. Afflict in mind or body
27. Set up
30. Toilets
32. "Life of Jesus"

theologian
35. A big deal on Wall St.
37. Western Thai people
38. Free from contamination
39. Type of dog
42. Revolver
43. High schoolers' exam
46. San Diego ballplayers
47. Hit the sack
49. Suitable for crops
50. Red mineral
52. Yellowish-brown
54. Lowest point between two peaks
55. Late TNT broadcaster
57. Thin strip to align parts
59. Swiss wind
62. A way to chill
63. Jewel
66. Rhodium
68. The top lawyer in the land

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HOROSCOPE | WEEK OF FEB. 6

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Change is on the horizon, but you don't yet know where you fit into the equation. Enjoy the unexpected and don't worry so much about the future.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21
Taurus, though you may think you can only choose one direction in life, you really can reverse course and go in another direction if you so desire.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21
Normally you are conservative and weigh things carefully. However, this week your other side takes over and you are apt to be a little spontaneous.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

There is only so much time to learn something new at work and you may be worried a bit. Someone will talk you through, and you'll find your way.

LEO JULY 23-AUG. 23
Leo, if life seems a little more hectic these days, you may be taking on too many responsibilities. Lighten the load and focus on what matters most.

VIRGO AUG. 24-SEPT. 22
It can be challenging to wrap your head around certain goals, Virgo. However, you will manage to pick and choose those tasks that are most important and get things done.

LIBRA SEPT. 23-OCT. 23

You may be compelled to be introspective this week. Use this time to reflect and explore all the reasons why you typically enjoy being an extrovert.

SCORPIO OCT. 24-NOV. 22
If there is something on your mind, now is not the time to share it with everyone. Let this settle for a bit, then choose the right time to share your discovery.

SAGITTARIUS NOV. 23-DEC. 21
People around you who are irritable might try to pull you into their situations, Sagittarius. Resist the urge to become influenced by their bad moods

and perceptions.

CAPRICORN DEC. 22-JAN. 20
A little extra concentration will have you flying through your to-do list in no time. Devote the time now and enjoy the reward and time off later.

AQUARIUS JAN. 21-FEB. 18
It is never too late to get some exercise, even if you think that a dedicated workout regimen can't fit in your schedule. Try socializing while working out.

PISCES FEB. 19-MARCH 20
This could be a week passion comes to the forefront, Pisces. If you keep your options open, you may be surprised at what comes your way.

VIEWPOINTS

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EDITORIALVIEW

Folmer is right: Make it easier for us to vote

When Sen. Mike Folmer is enthusiastic about an issue, it’s easy to tell.

Remember, this is “Marijuana Mike” the prime sponsor of Act 16 of 2016, which allows the use of medical cannabis in Pennsylvania for certain medical conditions. He was the driving force behind pushing it through.

While that topic is still high on his priority list as he starts his fourth term, he also is now chairman of the Senate State Government Committee, which oversees elections.

Now he has a few things he would like to get done to making voting easier.

The Lebanon Republican, whose 48th Senate District includes Middletown, Royalton, and Lower Swatara and Londonderry townships, recently told the Press & Journal that state elections code

has not been fully addressed in at least 70 years.

“There have been some tweaks here and there but nothing major,” he said. “Our goal here was to modernize some of our antiquated, outdated philosophies and update it, bring it up to snuff a little bit.”

So last week he and a bipartisan group of legislators rolled out some suggestions. Most of these ideas have merit, and we support them.

Pennsylvania’s Constitution restricts voters wanting to vote by absentee ballot to situations where “their duties, occupation or business require them to be elsewhere or who, on the occurrence of any election, are unable to attend at their proper polling places because of illness or physical disability or who will not attend a polling place because of the observance of a religious holiday or who cannot vote because of election day duties, in

the case of a county employee, may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election district in which they respectively reside.”

Folmer wants to get rid of those limitations, opening absentee ballots to anyone who wants to vote early and by mail. He said 27 other states and the District of Columbia offer “no-excuse” absentee voting.

That sounds good to us, as does his plan for a permanent absentee voting list. Once a voter opts in, they automatically receive an absentee ballot — with procedures for removing inactive voters. Again, Folmer is on the right track.

We aren’t fully supportive of everything he put forth. We want to hear more about his idea for “curbside voting,” aimed at better assisting voters with disabilities. If a voter is physically unable to enter a polling place, he or she may ask to have a ballot brought to the

entrance of the poll or to a car at the curb. Voters then must be read the entire ballot — unless the voter asks otherwise. The poll workers can’t try to influence their votes.

While we are all for making it easier, we believe that voters should enter the polling place to vote.

We also aren’t sure about his plan to address what he calls “largely an American phenomenon” — write-in candidates. As it stands, a single write-in vote can elect someone to a position.

He wants to require successful write-in candidates to receive the same number of write-in votes as would be required if they had filed signed nomination petitions. If 10 petition signatures are required for a given office, a write-in candidate would need to receive a minimum of 10 write-in votes to be elected to that office.

We don’t see that as a necessary

change. If a write-in vote or two is all that is cast, then it should be enough.

We appreciate that Folmer went out and talked with county elections officials about these plans, and that the Senate State Government Committee will hold additional public hearings, various work groups, and meetings.

Folmer is also realistic about the fact that there is only so much the government can do to make it easy to vote. The bottom line is, it’s still up to residents to do it.

He also wants to ensure that “our elections are secure and that there isn’t any tomfoolery.”

A wise goal indeed. We wish our senator good luck in shepherding these proposals to the finish line. For the most part, changes that make it easier to vote without jeopardizing the security of the ballot box have our support.

CONTACT OFFICIALS

President
Donald Trump: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20500. 202-456-1111 or 202-456-1414. www.whitehouse.gov.

U.S. Senate
Sen. Pat Toomey: 248 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, 202-224-4254. www.toomey.senate.gov.

Sen. Bob Casey: 393 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, 202- 224-6324 or 866-802-2833. www.casey.senate.gov.

U.S. House
Rep. Scott Perry, 10th District: 1207 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202-225-5836. perry.house.gov.

Governor
Gov. Tom Wolf: 508 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. 717-787-2500. website:www.governor.pa.gov.

State Legislature
Rep. Tom Meahaffie, 106th District: district office, 250 W. Chocolate Ave., Suite 2, Hershey, PA 17033. 717-534-1323. tmehaffie@pahousegop.com. www.repmehaffie.com.

Rep. David S. Hickernell, 98th District: 43A East Wing, P.O. Box 202098, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2098. 717-783-2076. www.rephickernell.com. dhickern@pahousegop.com.

Rep. Patty Kim, 103rd District: G11 Irvis Office Building, P.O. Box 202103, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2103. 717-783-9342. www.pahouse.com/kim.

Sen. Mike Folmer, 48th District: Senate Box 203048, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3048. Room: 337 Main Capitol. 717-787-5708 or 877-222-1897.

Sen. John DiSanto, 15th District: Senate Box 203015, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3015. Room: 168 Main Capitol. 717-787-6801.

Middletown Borough
Mayor James H. Curry III: 463 N. Union St. Middletown, PA 17057. 610-533-4751. jamesh-curryiii@gmail.com.

Council President Angela Lloyd: 717-712-6781, alloyd@middletownborough.com.

Council Vice President Mike Woodworth: 717-919-4805, mwoodworth@middletownborough.com.

Dawn Knull: 717-497-1302, dmknnull@gmail.com.

Jenny Miller: 717-574-6716, jmiller@middletownborough.com.

Robert Reid: 717-944-4764, raid-erblue17@aol.com.

Ian Reddinger: 717-350-5555.
Ellen Willenbecher: 717-580-6907, ewillenbecher@middletownborough.com.

Dauphin County commissioners
Jeff Haste, chairman, Mike Pries, vice chairman, George P. Hartwick, III, secretary: Dauphin County Administration Building, 2 S. Second St., 4th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101. 717-780-6300.

We should be thankful to have a local paper



SUSANNAH GAL

This is the month for recognizing those you love or appreciate. This month, I am appreciating our local newspaper, the Press & Journal, in my column. This month I wanted to recognize how much I’ve learned during my time at the paper.

I started writing this column in October 2016 and have done it monthly for just about every month since. I’ve written about all kinds of things — experiences, people, activities and observations. I’ve really enjoyed doing this, sharing some of my thoughts with people in the community.

Several people I’ve met or heard from since indicate how much they have enjoyed my columns. I’m very grateful for this opportunity to write regularly.

In 2017, I was asked to serve as a public member on the editorial board of the newspaper and I agreed, starting in August of that year. For this, we meet nearly every week to discuss the recent issue of the paper and talk about ideas for upcoming editorials.

At those meetings, I’ve learned a ton about Middletown history, some of the characters in town and what used to be in such-and-such building. I’ve been very impressed with how much thought goes into our discussions about possible editorials.

This group certainly takes its work and the product (the paper) very seriously. As I’ve only lived in our fair town 3 ½ years, almost all of this is new to me.

I’ve also grown fond of the staff and editors that work at the paper. Joe and

Louise Sukle have a lot of history in the community and are super committed to this business and to our town. Nancy and the other ladies in the front office, and Laura Hayes and Dan Miller, the reporters, are all friendly.

Jason Maddux, the editor, has been patient with my sometimes late additions to his page and always creates the catchy headlines on my columns. And my fellow community member of the editorial board, Jay Howes, has a lot of knowledge about local farming and was kind enough to show us around his section of the Pennsylvania Farm Show. It’s a great group, and I’m glad to be associated with them.

One thing I asked to see was how they print the paper. I was able to do that for part of a Tuesday afternoon last month. It was a fascinating thing — involving chemistry, physics and quite a bit of artistic manipulation of the machinery.

Doug Senior and Gary Summers showed us how the electronic pages are burned on aluminum plates using a laser, then placed in vats of chemicals to remove all the areas without any “writing” or image. Then those sheets are placed on rollers in the printer, they are lightly coated with ink and rolls of paper are run by them to print the image. After printing, the rolls of paper are folded by another part of the machine, cut and assembled with the other pages of the paper into the sections we know. Watching the machine run was really fascinating to me; it wasn’t as loud as I thought it might be.

We also saw the printing of a color page. The colors that we see printed are actually made of dots of just three colors (magenta, yellow and cyan) plus black. For each color, you need a separate plate and a separate section of the machine



with the appropriate ink. What was fascinating was to watch Doug manipulate the cylinders with the different sheets for each of the colors so the four plates containing magenta, yellow, cyan and black all lined up and were the right “strength” to provide the picture the editor wanted to produce.

Each time, they had to run several issues of the newspaper through the system to check whether the alignment was correct. Then Doug would tweak some knobs to adjust one of the plates and run a few more issues and check again. Finally after maybe 10 to 20 minutes of this tweaking, they were satisfied and printed the full batch of newspapers to be put in the mail or provided to stores in the area. I found it fascinating.

I heard a story on National Public Radio in December about the value of a local newspaper to a town. Three finance professors — Pengjie Gao from the University of Notre Dame, and Dermot Murphy and Chang Lee from the University of Illinois at Chicago — were interested in the comparison of the finances

between towns with hometown papers and those without them.

They found that, “When a newspaper closed, the cost [for the town] to borrow money for projects like schools and roads and hospitals, went up.” Why might that be? Their hunch was that if a newspaper closes, their local investigative reporters are not evaluating the local government for mismanagement or waste, allowing governments to be inefficient and engage in “bad behavior” such as fraud or misuse of funds.

An increase in the interest rates makes it more expensive for those communities to borrow money for projects, funding which can be in the millions of dollars. From the abstract of their research published in October: “Overall, our results indicate that local newspapers hold their governments accountable, keeping municipal borrowing costs low and ultimately saving local taxpayers money.” Thus, we’re super lucky in Middletown to have a local paper so that we can support the best activities of our local government and maintain the opportunity for the borough to borrow money at reasonable interest rates if they need. This can save money for us, the taxpayers of our community. I find that fascinating.

I, for one, am very glad we have a local paper. Where else could I publish my quirky style of writing and share some of my thoughts with you all. Thanks for reading!

Susannah Gal is associate dean of research and outreach and a professor of biology at Penn State Harrisburg, and is a member of the Press & Journal Editorial Board. She has lived around the world and made Middletown her home in 2015. She can be reached at susannahgal1000@gmail.com.

Working together can help our state troopers



DAVID KENNEDY

Pennsylvania state troopers are working harder than ever before as our department continues to be stretched incredibly thin.

Gov. Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania General Assembly have — and continue to provide — our department with new cadet classes each year, but we simply cannot keep up with retirements within our ranks. Currently, our ranks are 500 troopers below our targeted staffing levels, yet we remain responsible for patrolling 85 percent of the commonwealth.

We look forward to working with the Wolf administration and lawmakers on new cadet classes in the 2019-20 general fund budget, but the time is long overdue to study the staffing needs of the Pennsylvania State

Police. The last such review took place in 2001 after 9/11. The world — and the duties of state troopers — have changed tremendously in the last 18 years.

Today, the Pennsylvania State Police provide police services to more municipalities than they did a year ago. Currently, more than 1,290 municipalities rely solely on the State Police to provide law enforcement coverage, while an additional 413 have the State Police augment their local efforts. Recently, we have been tasked with patrolling the city of Chester to help stem an increase in unsolved murders. It’s also important to note the need for patrolling in Marcellus Shale communities, which predates the 2001 staffing study.

The State Police has been challenged with greater intelligence gathering to help prevent acts of terrorism, keeping pace with new technologies, and meeting ever-increasing duties such as background, DNA and gun

checks. The list goes on.

In light of the additional duties that have been imposed upon the State Police, the PSTA believes it is long overdue for the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee be tasked to update its 2001 study to determine what is the appropriate staffing level needed to properly fulfill the ever-expanding mission of the State Police in 2019.

Research will provide Pennsylvania policy leaders critically important data to fully understand, measure and comfortably outline the long-term needs of the Pennsylvania State Police. With more municipalities certainly turning over patrol and investigative duties in the coming years, we simply cannot continue to approach the next 20 years as if it is still 2001.

A great deal of discussion is also taking place on the topic of legalizing marijuana for recreational use.

While the PSTA hasn’t taken a stance on this issue, any discussions must provide a seat at the

table for law enforcement. After reviewing a recent report by the Colorado Department of Public Safety, which did a five-year review of recreational marijuana impact, Pennsylvania will have to look at the potential impact this would have on the State Police and other affected agencies.

Among the report’s findings: the prevalence of marijuana or marijuana-in-combination as the impairing substance in DUIs increased to 15 percent in 2017. Meanwhile, 8 percent of traffic fatalities in the same year occurred when a driver tested positive for Delta-9 THC, the molecule in marijuana or cannabis recognized as the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. It’s important to note that number has declined, but it still underscores that people will die driving under the influence of marijuana.

Interestingly, the black market in Colorado has increased (80,926 plants were seized in 2017, up 73 percent in five years),

requiring law enforcement to continue to devote considerable resources in this area.

The Pennsylvania State Police and its troopers face remarkable challenges every day. Troopers remain committed to our Call of Honor (<https://www.psp.pa.gov/About%20Us/Pages/Call-of-Honor.aspx>). As it states: “I must serve honestly, faithfully, and if need be, lay down my life as others have done before me, rather than swerve from the path of duty.”

Let’s work together to make sure state troopers have the tools they need to protect Pennsylvania.

David Kennedy is the president of the Pennsylvania State Troopers Association. A trooper since 1995 and now a sergeant, he served in several patrol units and later as a criminal investigator, supervisor of the Lancaster Criminal Investigation Unit, and firearms unit supervisor at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy.

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY MITCH CARSON

Attendees at Souper Saturday at Middletown Area High School enjoy food.

A 'souper' time helps benefit the MAHS band

By Mitch Carson
Special to the Press & Journal

The Middletown Area High School Jazz Band hosted its 7th annual Souper Saturday on Feb. 2 at the school.

Souper Saturday is a fundraising event put on by the Middletown Area High School Band Boosters. Every year on the Saturday before the Super Bowl, the Middletown High School Jazz Band comes together to perform for the public. Soup and salad are served along with the musical stylings of both the Jazz Band and select singers.

Until this year, it only featured the jazz ensemble. However, the event grew this year to include selections from Disney's "Planes," Bruno Mars and Michael Jackson, performed by the concert band. From the auditorium, guests moved to the cafe for dinner music.

Middletown Area High School band director Samuel Fisher said he is deeply blessed and honored to be part of the students' lives and fostering music in them.

"Our concerts and everything the band participates in are community events. For an event like Souper Saturday, it is nice to see the kids dress down for the theme by wearing their football jerseys to support their favorite teams," he said.

Fisher said that "jazz is the only truly American art form. Every-



The co-chairwomen of Souper Saturday were Denise McGovern, Deb Fischer and Diana Keyser.

thing we know now came from the music of jazz. What a lot of people don't know is that jazz is the only form of music that came from America."

When asked about setting the mood for an audience, Fisher said, "We set the mood through the repertoire, and playing music that people like to hear, and our band boosters do the same by putting in all the hours and their time to make an event like this

successful ”

He added: "Music is essential and speaks to human existence. Students learn to express themselves through the form of music. Music teaches the soul; it can't be measured by a test score, and is essential to existence."

Fisher thanked the co-chairwomen for Souper Saturday, Denise McGovern, Deb Fischer and Diana Keyser, and the entire band booster association.



William Stone played the saxophone on Saturday.



The Jazz Band performed at the Souper Saturday event.



Megan Burghdorf and Nicole Atland perform as a duet, singing “For Good” from the hit musical “Wicked.”



The biggest prize of the raffle was an illustration of the 2018-2019 Middletown Area High School Blue Wave Marching Band.

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