

Ex-Sen. Folmer  
pleads guilty PAGE 3

MAYORAL HOOPS PAGE 6



'Legally Blonde'  
is LDHS musical  
this spring PAGE 12

# PRESS & JOURNAL

PRESSANDJOURNAL.COM | LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1854 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 | PENNSYLVANIA'S NO. 1 WEEKLY NEWSPAPER | 75 CENTS

## Ruling backs Highspire in MASD push

There are many steps in process before Middletown would take on 276 students, however

By Dan Miller  
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

A six-year battle to transfer 276 students from the Steelton-Highspire School District to Middletown has new life from a Commonwealth Court ruling Monday.

The court ruled that the state secretary of education erred in January 2019 when he dismissed on financial grounds a petition from the Highspire Education Coalition seeking to transfer

students to the Middletown Area School District.

The coalition says the students will get a better education in the Middletown district than in Steelton-Highspire.

The transfer petition has been consistently opposed by both the Middletown and Steelton-Highspire school districts.

The ruling was included in a 19-page opinion written by President Judge Mary Hannah Leavitt. The crux of the ruling is that despite acknowledging data that Highspire

students would perform better academically in Middletown than in Steelton-Highspire, Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera in his rejection of the petition argued this "educational merit" was outweighed by the financial impact the transfer would have on Steelton-Highspire. "I cannot ignore that if granted,



Leavitt

this petition would punch a material hole in Steelton-Highspire's budget on account of a loss of revenue," Rivera said in his ruling. "There was no evidence of easy ways in which Steelton-Highspire would be able to save money as the result of the transfer of these students without cutting education programs to the students that remain."

But Rivera's mandate under the law is to be limited to determining whether the petition has educational merit, according to Leavitt's

ruling, so Rivera exceeded his authority in considering financial effects.

Adam C. Zei, a lawyer representing the coalition, said in a statement that the coalition appealed Rivera's initial denial of the petition "in an effort to have the review correctly focused on educational concerns and not financial matters."

"We're pleased with the opinion," coalition spokesman Ken Becker told the Press & Journal in a brief telephone interview

immediately following release of the Commonwealth Court ruling. "It definitely was what we were expecting and (it) overturned the ruling that we felt was inappropriate."

"Ensuring the children of Highspire are receiving a high-quality education has always been our top priority," Becker said later in the prepared statement issued by Zei. "Today's decision recognizes that objective and brings us even closer

Please see **RULING**, page 9

## Three Blue Raider wrestlers advance to state tournament



Quincy Reinagal of Middletown, left, pinned Bishop McDevitt's Devyn Clair in just 57 seconds to secure third place at 220 pounds in the southeast regional wrestling tournament at Bethlehem Freedom High School over the weekend. Reinagal and fellow seniors Joey Spear (145 pounds) and Luke Fegley (132 pounds) advance to the state tournament this week at the Giant Center. See more on page 6.

## Improvements planned at borough's Oak Hill, Elnor Overdeer parks

\$100,000 in Middletown budget, with matching funds possible from state grants

By Dan Miller  
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Middletown is planning improvements to Oak Hill and Elnor Overdeer parks as phase one of an effort to upgrade all public parks in the town.

Borough council Feb. 18 approved applying to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for state grants to help pay for the improvements at the two parks.

The borough will have to cover 50 percent of the cost of the improvements, with the grant funds picking up the other half, Public Works Director Greg Wilsbach told the Press & Journal.

Council set aside \$100,000 in the 2020 budget to cover matching funds — the borough's share — for improvements to the two parks.

An estimate for what the improvements at each park will cost was not made avail-



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN MILLER

This playground at Oak Hill Park would be replaced with a "new and larger multi-use play structure" as part of planned improvements that also include a walking trail that would go throughout the park.

able by the borough.

Wilsbach said an emphasis of the planned improvements is making both

Please see **PARKS**, page 9

## \$5,250 in fines remain in place for 230 Diner owner

Press & Journal Staff

The owner of the former 230 Diner in Londonderry Township has been found guilty of property code violations, after appealing his case to the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas.

The appeal hearing Monday was before Senior Judge Lawrence F. Clark Jr., who did not levy additional fines against the owner Essam Haggag, of Cleona.

That means fines levied in a summary trial before District Judge David H. Judy last August, when Haggag was found guilty of five citations and fined \$5,252.25,

will stand.

"I just want to fix it up and sell," Haggag said during his closing remarks. Haggag had no legal representation and told the judge he can't afford a lawyer because he has no income. He said he has declared bankruptcy.

As part of its evidence, Londonderry Township solicitor Mark Stewart submitted more than 50 pages of photographs of Haggag's property at 1125 East Harrisburg Pike.

Clark said the property was in a "de-

Please see **DINER**, page 9

## Roads closures coming during Ann Street bridge work

Press & Journal Staff

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation recently announced that crews will close a section of Ann Street between Harrisburg Pike and Airport Drive to begin a project to rehabilitate the bridge over the Amtrak, Norfolk Southern, and Middletown & Hummelstown railroad lines.

Closures start Monday, March 16, and last for about 30 days.

The existing two-span prestressed concrete spread box beam bridge was built in 1996.

This portion of Ann Street serves as the truck route for Route 441 through Middletown and averages more than 6,500 vehicles traveled daily. To avoid delays, travelers should allow for additional time in their plans or seek an alternate route, according to PennDOT.

Pedestrians will be directed around the closure by way of Wood Street, Nissley Street and Route 230 (West Main Street).

The \$531,403 contract was awarded in September to Clearwater Construction Inc. of Mercer,

and includes installing approach slabs for the structure over the railroad lines; replacing the damaged parapet; cleaning bridge joints; repairing the concrete deck; removing debris from the bridge deck and placing a 3/8-inch epoxy overlay; updating the traffic signal; replacing the existing structure-mounted fencing with standard anti-climb fencing; drainage improvements; curb cut work required by the Americans with Disabilities Act; sidewalk repairs; and new guiderail, signs and pavement markings.

Once the bulk of the bridge work is done and the detour is lifted after about 30 days, work will continue at the intersection of Ann Street and Route 230. Travel lanes will be open on Route 230 and Ann Street between 6 and 8:30 a.m. and between 3:30 and 6 p.m. During working hours, motorists might encounter periodic short-term single-lane restrictions with flaggers directing traffic through the work zone between Harrisburg Pike and Union Street.

Work is expected to be completed by the end of May.

## Public notices in this week's Press & Journal

- HARRISBURG: Estate of Oliver Wagner. 4
- STEELTON: Estate of Sarah Spizzirri. 4
- LOWER PAXTON TWP: Estate of Sherry Ayler. 4
- HUMMELSTOWN: Estate of Katherine Daniels. 4
- DAUPHIN COUNTY: Estate of Betty Snyder. 4
- SUSQUEHANNA TWP: Estate of Phyllice Taylor. 4
- CONEWAGO: Estate of John Smith. 4
- WEST HANOVER TWP: Estate of Debra Swain. 4

- LOWER SWATARA TWP: Estate of Mildred Blouch. 4
- LOWER SWATARA TWP: Proposed Code Ordinance. 4
- MIDDLETOWN: Estate of Margaret Stanisc. 4
- LOWER PAXTON TWP: Estate of Daniel Moppin. 4
- MIDDLETOWN: Estate of Daine Baten. 4
- DAUPHIN COUNTY: Notice of Foreclosure. 4











## Mayoral Madness will return on March 27

By Dan Miller  
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

The NCAA has its March Madness, Middletown has its Mayoral Madness, thanks to Mayor James H. Curry III.

The sixth annual Mayoral Madness charity basketball game, with proceeds going to pay for the borough's annual Labor Day fireworks show, will be held at 8 p.m. Friday, March 27, in the

Middletown Area High School Gymnasium.

Curry unveiled his annual proclamation announcing the game toward the end of the Feb. 18 Middletown borough council meeting.

The mayor launched what has become an annual basketball tradition in Middletown in 2015 during his second full year in office.

The game each year pits a team of Blue Raider alumni led by

Curry against a team of current Middletown Area High School students.

Curry's team, the Vetoos, has won three of the five games. Last year the Vetoos defeated the Overrides — the team of current Blue Raiders — by a score of 52-45.

"The Mayoral Vetoos are currently leading the series 3-2 and are on the verge of leaving the Overrides in the dust," the mayor said in his proclamation.

The teams play to win a traveling trophy.

If the student team wins, the traveling trophy is housed in the high school until the next year. If the Vetoos win, the trophy is housed in Middletown Borough Hall.

STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA HAYES

Players shake hands after Mayoral Madness in March 2019.



# STATE BOUND



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY DEBBIE SPEAR

Joey Spear, Luke Fegley and Quincy Reinngel are headed to Hershey after qualifying for states in wrestling last weekend.

## Spear, Fegley, Reinngel move on after regional success

Middletown seniors Luke Fegley, Joey Spear and Quincy Reinngel began a journey together 12 years ago that has taken them thousands of miles and brought them right back to Hershey.

These three wrestlers have trained together since elementary wrestling, and their Middletown Area High School careers will come to a close at the PIAA state championships at the Giant Center starting Thursday.

Over the last four years, this trio has amassed an astounding

316 varsity wins with 190 of those coming by pin. Coached by Daniel Riggs, this has been the core of a solid group of wrestlers that have enjoyed four straight winning seasons. Riggs said he looks forward to taking Middletown wrestlers to the state tournament for the third straight season.

"This group is going to be missed, big time!" he said.

Fegley (132 pounds) is peaking at the right time as he makes his

Please see **WRESTLE**, page 7



Joey Spear beat Northern Lehigh's Trevor Amorim with only 7 seconds left.



Quincy Reinngel pinned Dawit Kahesay of Church Farm School.



Luke Fegley got a late win vs. Notre Dame Green Pond's Joshua Bauman.

## PSU Harrisburg men's hoops make NAAs for first time

For the first time in program history, Penn State Harrisburg will compete in the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship Tournament, as revealed by the tournament selection committee on Monday afternoon.

The Lions (20-7) won their first North Eastern Athletic Conference championship on Saturday

to clinch the league's automatic qualifier.

The Lions will travel to Johns Hopkins (24-3) to take on the No. 6 Blue Jays at Goldfarb Gymnasium at the Newton White Athletic Center in the team's first-round contest at 3:30 p.m. Friday. Other teams in the region at Johns Hopkins are Yeshiva (27-1) and WPI (20-7).

The winners of Friday's matchups will meet in second-round action on Saturday afternoon.

All tournament games leading up to the national semifinals will be played on the campuses of the competing institutions. Sixteen sites will host four teams for first- and second round competition, with second-round winners

advancing to the Sweet 16 in two weeks. Winners of the four quarterfinal contests will advance to the Elite Eight, with those winners moving on to the Final Four. Both the Elite Eight and Final Four rounds will be contested in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The national championship game will be played on April 5 in Atlanta.

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# Dauphin County planning job resource fair March 28

Students and adults of all ages who are seeking jobs, internships and resources are invited to attend Dauphin County's annual employment, internship and resource fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 28 at Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton St.

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

"If you're looking for permanent or summer employment, a career, college or trade education, there is no better place to find it than Dauphin County's one-stop shop resource fair," Dauphin County Commissioner George P. Hartwick III said. "Come dressed for success and meet face to face with employers and recruiters."

Residents age 16 and older who are looking for employment or training can get assistance with the following: transportation, child care/day care assistance, legal issues due to prior criminal records and more.

"Our goal is to connect youth and adults to the tools they need to be successful and build a bright future," Dauphin County Commissioner Jeff Haste said. "Whether you're interested in a career in nursing, business or law enforcement, you'll find it here."

This year, the event will also focus on job readiness training, resume writing, appropriate attire and etiquette and will include a "dress for success" fashion show, "tie a tie" contest and stress-relief exercise demonstration. A family fun zone will feature educational activities and giveaways throughout the day. For more information about this year's career fair, call Dauphin County Human Services at 717-780-6288 or visit [www.DauphinCounty.org](http://www.DauphinCounty.org).

## Middletown, Lower Dauphin middle schools crown geography bee champs

Middletown and Lower Dauphin middle schools each held their geography bees in January.

At LDMS, after 13 rounds designed to test students' geographical knowledge, it came down to two eighth-graders.

Adrian Olweiler and Peter Otto sat face-to-face on the Lower Dauphin Middle School stage Jan. 28. Four feet apart, they were given three questions whose answers were to be written on a white board and shown to the judges simultaneously.

After three championship questions, Peter was declared the school winner.

The son of Nicholas and Laura Otto, Peter smiled, stood and shook Adrian's hand.

For his efforts, he received a medal and the right to add his name to the school's list of previous champions.

A few weeks after the bee, he took the online qualifying exam and will hear this month if his score was high enough to make it

to the state bee March 27.

To make it to the championship rounds, the boys navigated seven preliminary rounds with topics such as states, states' nicknames, wild places, world civilizations and cities of the world. After the prelims the field was narrowed from 20 to eight.

These eight finalists competed for an additional six rounds on topics such as oceans, continents, map skills, and countries of the world.

In the last finals round, eighth-grader Sammy Garcia and seventh-grader William Harhaj were knocked out together and were declared co-finners for third place.



Otto



Yosedik

Then Adrian and Peter went to the finals after a short intermission.

"This is a very challenging contest," said Johnathan Breining, middle school assistant principal and bee moderator. "It takes a lot to make it through to the final round — confidence, patience, concentration, and, of course, a whole lot of geographical knowledge."

The MAMS geography bee was held Jan. 7. The champion was sixth-grader Eyassu Yosedik.

The top 10 finalists in the school (determined by a written test) had to answer a question for each round. After two incorrect answers, participants were eliminated.

Questions and answers are not disclosed because all questions are identical for all school competitions around the country.

Yosedik's written test also will determine if he will place in the top 100 middle schoolers in Pennsylvania who will compete in the state championships.



Eventual school champion Peter Otto, left, faces off against runner-up Adrian Olweiler in the Lower Dauphin Middle School geography bee championship rounds.



2020 Middletown Area Middle School geography bee Top 10 finalists were, back row, left to right: Marco Smallwood (seventh grade), Lilliana Mildner (eighth), Dominic Singh (eighth), Dustin Whitaker (eighth) and Austin Grimm (seventh). Front row, left to right: Rosie Vargas (sixth), Aaron Deardorff (sixth), Eyassu Yosedik (sixth), Max Dupes (eighth) and Christopher Cooper (sixth). Yosedik was the champion.

## Area athletes named Mid-Penn all-stars

The Mid-Penn Conference released its 2019-20 all-star teams for several sports last week, and several area athletes made the list.

In girls basketball, Middletown senior standout Kate Fitzpatrick was named to the first team in the Capital Division. She is the all-time leading scorer in Blue Raider girls basketball history. She plans to play basketball and softball at

Millersville University.

Lower Dauphin's Katie Weigle and Lauren Kirsch were named to the first team in the Keystone Division.

Five Middletown wrestlers, all seniors, were selected. Zach Malay is a first-team Capital Division pick at 113 pounds, and Quincy Reinagel is first-team at 220 pounds.

Named to the second team were

Luke Fegley at 132 pounds, Joey Spear at 145 and Arthur Dash at 195.

Four LD senior wrestlers were selected in the Keystone Division: seniors TT Elhajj at 138 pounds, Clayton Ulrey at 160 pounds and Ben Snyder at 182 pounds made the first team.

Sean Donnelly at 152 pounds made the second team.

## WRESTLE: 3 Blue Raiders head to Giant Center

From page 6

third and final appearance at the state tournament aiming for a spot on the podium for the first time.

Fegley kicked off the southeast regional tournament at Bethlehem Freedom High School by pinning Conwell-Egan's Dylan Culver in 2 minutes, 39 seconds. In the quarterfinals, Fegley trailed Notre Dame Green Pond's Joshua Bauman 1-0 entering the third period, but rolled his way into a reversal and a 2-1 victory.

In the semifinals, Fegley dropped a 4-3 decision to East Pennboro's Adam Jacob, but bounced back quickly with a 3-0 decision over Littlestown's Ayden Dillon. Fegley secured a third-place finish and a state tournament qualification with a 2-0 decision over Northern Lebanon's Brandon Breidegan.

Fegley is 39-8 on the season with 134 career wins, which ties him for second all-time for wins in Middletown history with Chris Kochinsky, who graduated in 2008. The leader is Tyler Nauman, with 156 wins. He graduated in 2007.

At 220 pounds, Reinagel simply continues to win in what can

be described as nothing short of a brilliant season. Focused and determined, Reinagel launched into the southeast regionals with a second-period pin over Dawit Kahehay of Church Farm School.

After suffering a tough loss in the quarterfinals, Reinagel ripped his way through the consolation bracket. Neither Kyler-Raye William of Steelton-Highspire nor Pat Whittle of Lower Moreland were able to survive the first period with Reinagel.

Although Reinagel trailed Joe Tinari of North Schuylkill 3-2 with seconds ticking down on the clock, a quick shot and a takedown locked up the 4-3 Reinagel victory.

Reinagel capped the tournament, and got some redemption for a sectional tournament loss, by pinning Bishop McDevitt's Devyn Clair in just 57 seconds to secure third place. Reinagel is 35-8 on the season and looking to make a statement in Hershey.

Spear (145 pounds) showed no signs of slowing down after reaching 100 career wins last week. He rolled his way to the semifinals with a 13-1 major decision over Andy Muzika of Faith Christian,

and followed that up by pinning Northern Lehigh's Trevor Amorim with only 7 seconds left on the clock.

Two-time PIAA state qualifier Dorian Gonzalez got the best of Spear this week after Spear shocked him, and the crowd, with a cradle and an upset at the district tournament. Spear responded with a little redemption of his own, throwing Octorara's Michael Trainor to his back to earn the 9-5 victory and avenging an overtime loss in the sectional tournament.

Although Spear had to settle for fourth place after dropping an 11-7 decision to Boiling Springs' Michael Duggan, he is looking relaxed and confident entering the state tournament. Spear is 36-9 on the season with 105 career wins. Spear rounds out the trio of Middletown wrestlers ready to enjoy some sweet victory in Chocolate Town this weekend.

Senior Arthur Dash saw his terrific season come to a close last weekend as he was unable to find a win in a strong 195-pound bracket. Dash ended his senior season with the Blue Raiders with a 30-11 record.

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### RULING: Final resolution for Highspire students may be years away

From page 1

to the delivery of our goal to our students." Jeffrey Litts, solicitor to Middletown Area School District, said he will review the ruling with the school district. District Superintendent Lori Suski deferred to Litts for comment. Steelton-Highspire Superintendent Travis Waters did not immediately respond to a request for comment. While the ruling technically orders that a new school district be created for Highspire, it is only a procedural requirement to have those students join MASD. What's next? A final resolution to the matter could be several years away.

“Ensuring the children of Highspire are receiving a high-quality education has always been our top priority. Today’s decision recognizes that objective and brings us even closer to the delivery of our goal to our students.”

Highspire Education Coalition spokesman Ken Becker

Leavitt’s ruling sends the petition back to Dauphin County Court, where the court is to “enter a decree establishing an independent school district”—essentially

granting the coalition petition. The transfer request started in Dauphin County Court in 2014. The court dismissed the petition after Rivera’s rejection in 2019. That allowed the coalition to appeal the county court dismissal, and therefore Rivera’s ruling, to Commonwealth Court. Either school district could appeal Leavitt’s ruling to the state Supreme Court. Absent such an appeal, county court after granting the petition would hold a hearing to assess financial considerations of the transfer, such as how much debt would be transferred from Steelton-Highspire to Middletown, and how much state subsidy would be transferred from Steelton-Highspire to Middletown. The county court’s determina-

### DINER: Fines stand vs. owner

From page 1

plorable state.” “The citations constitute violation of the code. Just look at the pictures. You know there’s a saying a picture speaks 1,000 words. This is a dictionary,” Clark said prior to issuing his verdict. Clark asked Stewart if there was anything in the township’s ordinances that called for imprisonment, and Stewart said no — unless someone fails to pay the fines. The judge suggested that the parties meet, come up with a plan and bring back a plan to him. Londonderry Township issued five property maintenance citations against Haggag in May 2019: • Having unsanitary conditions — exterior property and premises not maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. • A vacant structure and land not maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition. • Overhangs not properly anchored and incapable of supporting loads. • Roof and roofing components having defects that admit rain, and roof surfaces that have inadequate drainage. • Unsafe conditions with siding and masonry joints between the building envelope and windows and doors not maintained weather resistant or watertight. Haggag appealed to Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas, and his original hearing before Clark was scheduled for Nov. 26. However, Haggag missed the hearing and in court documents claimed that he wasn’t aware of the hearing. The appeal was rescheduled to Monday. Londonderry Township codes officer Ed Kazlauskas testified that the property was in a “dangerous condition” and had numerous violations of the township’s property maintenance code, including an overhang canopy tearing away from the structure. He also said there were mattresses and debris on

the property. “Your honor, we just want to have the citations enforced,” Stewart said during his brief closing statement. Londonderry Township codes and zoning officer Jeff Burkhardt testified that Haggag had applied for permits for rezoning and building and design, but in some instances the permits were submitted to the wrong person or were incomplete. Haggag argued the matter wasn’t about the disrepair of the property, but Londonderry’s attempts to take his property for free. Stewart and Burkhardt updated the Londonderry Board of Supervisors on the case Monday evening. Despite Haggag’s statement in court about selling, Stewart said Haggag mentioned that he was interested in filing an appeal. Supervisor Mel Hershey asked Stewart how many more appeals are possible. Stewart said he believed Haggag had one more appeal to Commonwealth Court. “As Jeff testified during the case, the township’s main concern is just to have the property brought into compliance. So we will stay on that and pursue the township’s legal remedies to the maximum on all fronts,” Stewart said. Haggag also was cited in 2014, but the charges were withdrawn. He did plead guilty to unlawful activity after the Dauphin County Department of Solid Waste Management and Recycling cited him as part of the county’s crackdown on illegal dumping. A fire gutted the diner in 2003. There have been several attempts at renovating and reopening it in the years since. Records filed with Dauphin County indicate that the deed was transferred to Haggag for \$70,000 in 2004 from Snodo Inc., which acquired the deed in 1999 from PNC Bank. Haggag has blamed township officials for denying him the proper permits to reopen.

### PARKS: Elnor Overdeer, Oak Hill are most in need of improvement

From page 1

parks “more inviting” to parents and senior citizens.

#### Overdeer work

At Overdeer, the half-acre park across from the Municipal Building at West Emaus and Catherine streets, planned improvements include:

- Removing the existing slide, swings and climbing structures and replacing them with a new multi-use play structure, including options for small children.
• Installing new swings for adults. Wilsbach told council swings for children will be part of the multi-use structure.
• New trees.
• An interior walking path made of pavers.
• Installing new benches, grills and litter receptacles.
• Sidewalk and curbing near the park is to be upgraded and made handicapped-accessible as part of a separate project to improve West Emaus Street.

#### Oak Hill work

At Oak Hill, a six-acre park along Spruce Street, planned improvements include:

- Removing the existing slide, swings and play structures.
• Installing new swings to include options for small children.
• Installing a new and larger multi-use play structure including options for small children.
• Installing picnic tables and benches, grills and litter receptacles.
• Installing a gravel walking path that will connect all park amenities to one another.
Wilsbach told council Feb. 18 that the Oak Hill walking trail is to go the whole way around the park and around the baseball field. The grant applications to DCNR are to be submitted in May, with award notifications not expected before the fall, Wilsbach said. The improvements would take place in 2021. Council in mid-2019 gave Wilsbach the green light to have the borough’s consulting engineers, HRG, do an evaluation and take inventory of six of the seven public parks in Middletown.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN MILLER

Middletown borough has improvements planned for the Elnor Overdeer Park at West Emaus and Catherine streets.

“We also stopped out multiple times and spoke with people and met with people. You get a feel for what people are looking for and what they like.”



Public Works Director Greg Wilsbach

decision. The new Kids Kastle — to be known as Little Middletown — has a current estimated cost of \$924,205, based on plans drawn up by HRG.

The plans drawn up by Wilsbach and HRG to address needs at the borough’s six other parks calls for the project to be divided into three phases, with 2020 focusing on the first phase dealing with Oak Hill and Overdeer. The plan is to apply for grants to help fund improvements at two more parks as part of phase two in 2021. In 2022, the borough would apply for more grants to help fund improvements at the last two parks.

Whether the borough can stick to that timetable depends on the availability of funding, and how much the improvement projects will ultimately cost, Wilsbach said.

#### Parks are ‘most deficient’

Oak Hill and Overdeer were chosen first because the two parks are “the most deficient” in terms of meeting the needs of residents, according to the master plan that has been drawn up by HRG, Wilsbach said.

At Oak Hill, for example, the borough faces challenges of keeping up an aging playground similar to those at Kids Kastle, although the challenges at Oak Hill haven’t gotten to where the borough needs to shut down the playground, Wilsbach said.

As for Overdeer, the small park

“is used quite hard (but) there is really not a lot there,” he said.

In deciding on what improvements to make at each of the two parks, Wilsbach said the borough is incorporating results of an ongoing online study that the borough first posted in the fall seeking input from residents on all the parks in Middletown. The survey will remain available for residents to complete until spring, the borough has said.

“We also stopped out multiple times and spoke with people and met with people” regarding what improvements they wanted to see in the two parks, Wilsbach said. “You get a feel for what people are looking for and what they like.”

The borough has also been looking at parks outside of Middletown that borough residents go to, to see what these parks offer, Wilsbach noted.

Besides Hoffer, Oak Hill and Overdeer, the four other public parks in Middletown are Frey Manor behind Hoffer Street and Frey Avenue; Colston Park on Russell Avenue between South Wood and Lawrence streets; Etnoyer’s Park at South Wood and Susquehanna streets; and Susquehanna Street Park next to the boat launch at the end of South Union Street.

Wilsbach said he does not know at this point which of the four other parks are to be addressed in phase two in 2021, and in phase three in 2022.

In addition to the seven parks

that already exist, the borough also needs to figure out what to do about “the opportunities for our residents” that are presented by other acreage in Middletown that is potentially available for recreational purposes, Wilsbach said.

This includes five acres of open space off the 700 block of Main Street near the borough’s eastern border. The borough acquired the land after it was flooded during Tropical Storm Lee in 2011.

The borough also has a large amount of vacant land near the Susquehanna River. Part of this land used to be occupied by houses that were torn down after they too were flooded by Lee in 2011.

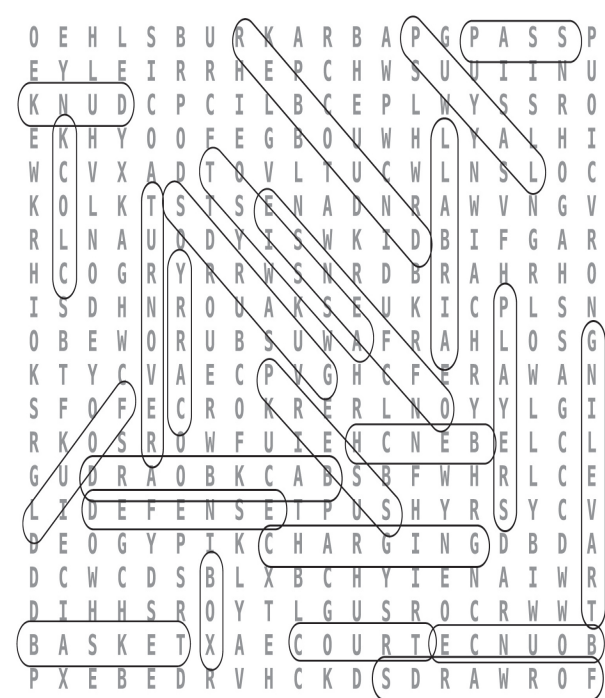
Another 25 houses were torn down over a period of years due to them being impacted by noise from airplanes flying in and out of nearby Harrisburg International Airport.

The authority that owns the airport owns these properties but has no use for them.

The authority has reached out to the borough over the years in talks aimed at getting the borough to buy the properties.

This unused land could ultimately help meet a number of needs that borough residents have identified, such as walking trails and having a dog park in Middletown, Wilsbach said.

### ANSWERS | PUZZLES ON PAGE 10



IS YOUR STATE INSPECTION DUE? Pennsylvania requires vehicle safety inspections for all passenger cars and light-duty trucks that need registration in the state. CALL ANY ONE OF THESE LOCAL OFFICIAL PENNDOT INSPECTION STATIONS. Dailey's Service Station, Elwood's, The Hondru Service Experience, Vastine's Auto Service, Quick Lane Tire & Auto Center.

# FROM THE VAULT

News from the Thursday, March 2, 1950, edition of the Press & Journal

## Borough employees allegedly drink, swear on the job

A special meeting of the Middletown Borough Council was held Monday evening in the council chamber of the Community Building.

President John R. Prowell Jr. announced that the purpose of the meeting was to adjust the salaries of the borough policemen, in accordance with the Police Civil Service Commission. The police department was represented by Chief Harold K. Houser and Patrolman B.H. Dolson Sr.

The chief salary was fixed at \$2,600 per annum, and the present patrolmen's salary was fixed at \$2,200, retroactive to Feb. 1, 1950. All new patrolmen salaries are to be fixed at \$2,000 per annum when employed.

Council heard that numerous complaints were received about employees of the Light and Highway departments going into public places and drinking while on duty for the borough. Also, reports were received about alleged profane language being used by borough employees while on duty. Prowell referred these matters to the heads of each department to have the actions abated at once.

## Other headlines

- High school students form debating teams for 1950
- What your Red Cross is doing for local area
- Knights of Malta No. 132 elects officers for the year

## An ad from yesteryear

*Every Day is a Saving Day* AT

**Melman's**

See The New AIR CRUISER HAT by Adam At \$7.50

New Corduroy SPORT COATS Grey - Green Maroon \$16.95

TOPCOATS Tweeds \$45.00 Gabardines \$37.50-\$42.50

New Spring SLACKS Plain and Fancy Patterns \$7.95 - \$15.95

**MELMAN'S MEN'S STORE**  
1 South Union Street Middletown, Pa.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There were few photos in newspapers during this era, so we present an ad from a local store showing what the well-dressed man was wearing in 1950 ... and the prices.

## Hot buys

- Our store is as modern as neon ... but we're still old-fashioned enough to believe that the customer is entitled to the finest quality merchandise at the lowest possible prices. Bromo-Seltzer, 57 cents. Kleenex, 27 cents. Wildroot cream oil, 89 cents. Schick razor, 66 cents. Central Cut Rate, 23 S. Union St., Middletown.
- For the most pleasurable Easter Sunday and after-wearing ever! Gabardine dressmaker suit, collarless, dress-up neckline, slim skirt, from \$16.98. Checked and solid all-wool three-piece cape suit, from \$29.98. The Classic Shop, Middletown.

# Air Force C-46 crashes at Olmsted Air Force Base

## Six occupants leap to safety when engines are ablaze

Four crew members and two Air Force passengers escaped to safety as the engines broke into flames when an Air Force C-46 plane crashed and burned at Olmsted Air Force Base, Middletown, about 2 p.m. Wednesday.

The 26-passenger plane arrived here from Atterbury Air Force Base, Indiana. As it approached from the east in a stiff wind, the

undercarriage of the plane struck a dike partially encircling Olmsted Field from the east and was sheared off.

The plane bounced and made a belly-landing on the field. As it landed, the engines broke loose and flames enveloped the plane. Simultaneously, the crew and passengers jumped to the ground. The pilot suffered a head contusion. One passenger suffered a sprained back, and the assistant engineer a fractured hand.

Olmsted firemen kept the flames from setting fire to the wing tanks, but the plane was badly damaged

as the blaze swept over the cabin area.

Olmsted Field officials identified the persons on the plane as follows: the pilot, Capt. Tony P. Gill, Sherburn, Indiana; co-pilot, Capt. Thomas E. Lapworth, 30, Clinton, Indiana; engineer, Staff Sgt. Donald DeYoung, 25, Holland, Michigan; assistant engineer, Sgt. Floyd D. Frank, 208 Frederick St., Steelton; passengers, 1st Lt. Robert Wilson, 28, Columbus, Indiana, and Sgt. James Cotner, 21, Siler City, North Carolina.

The two passengers were to fly back to Atterbury today.

# World War veteran from Swatara Station confesses to seven larceny charges

Frank Lee Shull, Swatara Station, pleaded guilty to seven charges and a charge of burglary in the Dauphin County Court at Harrisburg Monday. He was sent to jail for 11 to 23 months, and fined \$40.

It was said Shull had a penchant for stealing power saws, two of which were taken from the same contractors.

According to Assistant District Attorney H.F. Dowling, the persons who purchased the power saws from him either returned them to their rightful owners or paid for them. Persons who purchased them from Shull were the losers, he added.

The stolen articles represented a value of more than \$600.

Shull told the court that he came from Kansas, but settled

in Dauphin County, after he was honorably discharged from the military service. He said he married a Hershey girl and has one child.

John H. Bream, counsel for Shull, told the court that Shull's financial difficulty started when he needed money to pay a skilled labor bill on his house, which he had virtually built himself. In addressing the court, the assistant district attorney said that Shull had co-operated with the authorities, but he pointed out that the thefts were scattered over considerable time and that they did not constitute just one infraction of the law.

Dowling also told the court that a detainee was lodged against Shull by Lebanon County authorities.

The alleged thefts were remov-

ing cash from a candy machine of the Royal Theater, Hummelstown, Charles Roth, proprietor, last Feb. 28; taking \$15 from lockers in the ticket office of the theater, which he cleaned at night; 16 long planks valued at \$46.08 from Haldeman & Savastio, building contractors in Derry Township last Dec. 16; 150 gallons of gasoline valued at \$32.25 from the same contractors; two truck tires in Derry Township valued at \$20 from the same contractors last June; a power saw valued at \$239 from the same firm in Hummelstown last July; and a second power saw last Jan. 20 from the same firm.

The burglary charge was brought for entering the sedan of John Goodman in Derry Township last Jan. 23 and removing a state automobile inspection sticker.

# PUZZLES AND HOROSCOPE

## WORD SEARCH | ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

<b>On the court word search</b>	Box	Guards
Airball	Carry	Layup
Assist	Charging	Offense
Backboard	Clock	Pass
Basket	Court	Players
Bench	Defense	Press
Bounce	Dunk	Rebound
	Forwards	Traveling
	Foul	Turnover

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

Guess Who? answer: Justin Bieber

## SUDOKU

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

## GUESS WHO? (answer below Word Search)

I am a singer born in Canada on March 1, 1994. I kept my singing ability and aspirations largely to myself as a child. However, after performing a cover song on YouTube in 2007, I gained traction and became a pop sensation and international star.

## CROSSWORD | ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

- ACROSS**
1. Yields Manila hemp
  6. A type of gin
  10. Japanese ankle sock
  14. Swiss city
  15. Applied to
  17. Achievements
  19. Japanese title
  20. Possesses
  21. Belgian city
  22. Child
  23. Great delight
  24. Petty quarrel
  26. Gathered
  29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
  31. Path
  32. Legendary hoops coach Riley
  34. A citizen of Denmark
  35. Flat
  37. Upper-class young women
  38. Payment (abbr.)
  39. Distort
  40. Affirmative! (slang)
- DOWN**
1. Ancient Greek sophist
  2. Famed composer
  3. Spore-bearing fungi cells
  4. Chief executive officer
  5. Defunct Syrian political party
  6. Thin wood
  7. Polynesian garlands
  8. Fluid replacement (abbr.)
  9. Flammable hydrocarbon gas
  10. Multi-leveled
  11. Influential diarist
  12. Gambles
  13. Many subconsciousnesses
  16. Current unit
  18. Illumination unit
  22. Tantalum
  23. Steps leading down to a river
  24. Kids love him
  25. Before
  27. Fencing swords
  28. Mountain range in China
  29. Payroll company
  30. A way to pack together
  31. Biz designation
  33. Thyroid-stimu-
  - lating hormone (abbr.)
  35. Forage fish
  36. Greek temple pillars
  37. Internet mgmt. company
  39. Rouse oneself
  42. In a way, covered
  43. Elaborate silk garment
  44. Cooling unit
  46. Riley and O'Brien are two
  47. \_\_\_ fide: genuine
  48. Ancient Incan sun god
  49. Poker stake
  50. Trigonometric function
  51. Interesting tidbit
  52. Adieu
  53. U.S. Treasury position
  54. Midway between east and southeast
  55. Doctors' group
  56. Women's \_\_\_ movement

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17					18									
19					20				21					
				22				23						
		24	25					26				27	28	
29	30							31				32		33
34						35	36					37		
38					39							40		
	41		42						43	44				
				45					46					
	47	48						49				50	51	52
53						54					55	56		
57											58			
59						60					61			

## HOROSCOPE | WEEK OF MARCH 4

- ARIES** MARCH 21-APRIL 20  
Hobbies can be a great distraction from your responsibilities. But this week you need to get back to business, or you may fall behind.
- TAURUS** APRIL 21-MAY 21  
Change is in the air, and you are excited about all the new prospects ahead. The most difficult decisions will be about what you're going to do.
- GEMINI** MAY 22-JUNE 21  
Nurturing is a part of your nature. This week you may discover you are spending a lot of time lavishing attention on others at your expense. Find a healthy balance.
- CANCER** JUNE 22-JULY 22  
Your social and business calendar is full for the next several weeks. Even though you enjoy being busy, you may need a break to avoid burnout.
- LEO** JULY 23-AUG. 23  
It will be another fortuitous week for your finances. All of your financial ducks are in a row, and you can take some time off from micromanaging your accounts.
- VIRGO** AUG. 24-SEPT. 22  
You may want to show others a new side of you over the course of the next few days. You're often conservative, but you might want to let loose a

- little bit and be adventurous.
- LIBRA** SEPT. 23-OCT. 23  
You may receive a few offers this week that seem too good to be true. Trust your instincts as you navigate through all of these opportunities to find the best options.
- SCORPIO** OCT. 24-NOV. 22  
Over the course of the next few days you'll get an idea of how many people rely on you. When you are out of commission, things may come to a halt.
- SAGITTARIUS** NOV. 23-DEC. 21  
People are drawn to your warmth and good nature. That is why you are never short on friends or left with nothing to
- do. This week is no different.
- CAPRICORN** DEC. 22-JAN. 20  
Changes that you have been hoping will occur will finally see the light of day. The effects will be subtle at first and then build as they go.
- AQUARIUS** JAN. 21-FEB. 18  
Now is your opportunity to take care of yourself. You have been freed of some responsibilities and are able to focus on small changes that can add up to something big.
- PISCES** FEB. 19-MARCH 20  
When things get a tad stressful, remember that physical activity can calm you down. Take a walk or hit the gym.

# VIEWPOINTS

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## Concessions on Conowingo Dam will be bad for Susquehanna River



**NICK  
DIPASQUALE**

Ever since the federal license allowing it to operate the Conowingo Dam expired in 2014, Exelon Corp. has fought updated permit requirements that would better protect affected waterways and aquatic life for the next 50 years.

Initially, Maryland fought back against the utility that owns the hydroelectric dam. As the Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan entered its final phase, the state asked Exelon to contribute its share to reduce the 6 million additional pounds of nitrogen and 260,000 pounds of additional phosphorus and associated sediment estimated to come through the dam annually since its reservoir became filled and lost its trapping capacity.

But Maryland has now, in a proposed settlement with Exelon, inexplicably conceded on critical clean water requirements, funding and legal assurances. The state's local, state and federal representatives; conservation organizations; and affected communities upstream and downstream strenuously objected and voiced their concerns during the public comment period that ended Jan. 19.

This seriously flawed deal falls far short of protecting Maryland's waterways or providing Pennsylvania with the pollution-reduction help it needs. Probably of greatest concern for clean water legal experts is that, as part of this settlement, Maryland would waive its right under the federal Clean Water Act to require an enforceable water quality certification for the dam, forfeiting its power to ensure compliance with water quality standards. Such a certification is normally issued before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission would approve a new multi-decade license to operate the dam.

The settlement also provides grossly insufficient funds to deal with the risks that the dam's operations pose to the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay — primarily from moderate and large storms that will cause the 94-foot-high structure to allow nutrients, debris and millions of tons of sediment trapped behind it to flow into the Chesapeake.

The total settlement would require about \$4 million per year from Exelon for environmental remediation, when vetted studies show that that amount should be closer to \$35 million a year. This includes a mere \$500,000 for addressing the trapped sediment.

Only \$19 million of the \$200 million settlement, or a paltry \$380,000 annually, would go to forest buffers, agricultural cover crops, stormwater controls and other practices proven to reduce pollution. The water



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE HARP

**A side view of the 94-foot hydroelectric Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River, for which Exelon is seeking a 50-year renewal of its operating license.**

quality certification originally proposed by Maryland, and challenged by Exelon, would have required the company to provide \$127 million a year for pollution controls.

In a "trust me" kind of handshake deal, the settlement includes non-binding statements of intent that the initiatives and actions under the agreement will actually be accomplished; there are no stipulated timelines for completion of the work. It also denies the public any ability to ensure the settlement terms are fulfilled in a sufficient manner, leaving enforcement entirely up to Maryland. No other parties would have standing to hold the state or Exelon accountable.

Numerous organizations provided comments on the proposed settlement agreement. Bills have been introduced in both the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates that would prevent the state from waiving its authority to issue a water quality certification for this project.

With a 50-year license, the next chance we'll get to do right by the Susquehanna will be in 2070. How many of us will still be around? What shape will the Susquehanna's mussels or eels be in then? How healthy will the Susquehanna flats under water grasses be? What about Maryland's oysters, crabs and the Chesapeake Bay's economy? How resilient will we be to the increasing climate change impacts we will be experiencing?

Exelon must do much more to reduce pollution from the Conowingo Dam. In addition to the other provisions in the proposed settlement, Exelon should provide at least \$35 million per year for nutrient

and sediment pollution control measures.

This funding should be administered and managed by the independent third party recently selected by the state-federal Chesapeake Bay Program to write and implement a pollution control plan for the dam as part of the overall Bay cleanup effort. That third-party should be solely responsible for selecting the type and location of the pollution control practices implemented.

The settlement also should include a detailed schedule for accomplishing the activities and providing associated funding, as well as stipulated penalties for failure to perform.

Finally, the agreement should include conservation and advocacy organizations as parties with full standing to enforce terms of the agreement.

The Susquehanna River is a public resource, and Exelon profits substantially from its use. This public resource should not be sold off to a private company for exclusive use without ensuring that the public, our environment and our economy are adequately protected.

The new 50-year license is our only insurance policy that the Conowingo Dam and Susquehanna will be healthy and productive for a long time to come. For the benefit of Maryland and Pennsylvania, for our children and future generations, we've got to get it right.

*Nick DiPasquale is the former director of the Chesapeake Bay Program. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Bay Journal. This commentary was distributed by the Bay Journal News Service.*

## EDITORIAL VIEWS

# Organizations made great decision to ban smoking

We applaud the recent steps taken by the Moose Lodge and the American Legion in Middletown to end indoor smoking.

Smoking is a harmful, costly, stinky habit that affects not only those who are smoking but those around them. While the chances of it ever completely going away in our society are slim, we appreciate any step that can be taken to limit it locally.

Many people don't remember that as recently as the 1980s, you could smoke just about anywhere — at work, in schools and restaurants, on planes and buses, and even in hospitals.

In the early 20th century, smoking was the cool thing to do.

It wasn't even thought to be harmful to your health. In fact, many cigarette brands included explicit health claims, according to the National Library of Medicine (part of the federal National Institutes of Health). For example: "They don't get your wind" (Camel, 1935), "Gentle on my throat" (Lucky Strike, 1937), and "Fresh as mountain air" (Old Gold, 1946).

The 1964 report of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee started a significant change, as the devastating health consequences of smoking and later second-hand smoke became common knowledge.

Warning labels started appearing on packs of cigarettes. Public service announcements spread the word about the ills of cigarettes. Cigarette advertising on radio and television in the United States was banned.

Now, despite the best efforts of the tobacco lobby to convince people otherwise, "all of the major tobacco companies have websites acknowledging that smoking is a cause of disease and that smoking is addictive. Yet none of these companies has ever admitted that millions of people have died as a result of smoking their products or that addiction to nicotine can cause death. No company has admitted ever marketing to children, or lying to the public, or forming a conspiracy to deny the hazards of smoking," according to the National Library of Medicine.

Smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the total economic cost of smoking is more than \$300 billion a year: nearly \$170 billion in direct medical care for adults and more than

\$156 billion in lost productivity due to premature death and exposure to secondhand smoke.

There is good news. An estimated 14 percent of adults, or 34.3 million people, smoked cigarettes in 2017, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1965, that figure was 42.4 percent.

But still, according to the CDC, each day, about 2,000 people younger than 18 years old smoke their first ciga-



rette. That's despite all we know about their devastating effects. Many young people think they will live forever.

We appreciate that these local organizations made the change not because they had to (they would be exempt as private clubs from laws that restrict smoking in public establishments). They did it because they thought it was the right thing to do.

"Food sales have increased," Roger Beery, administrator of the Middletown Moose Lodge 410, told the Press & Journal. "We have taken a hit at the bar. There ain't no doubt about it, we will lose members. But I think in the long run, it's going to be a plus. It just might take a little bit of time."

Since the fraternity went smoke-free Jan. 1, 16 people have joined men's Lodge 410, and Beery said people have also joined the Women of the Moose, Chapter 553. Some of the men said they joined because the lodge went smoke-free, Beery said. Parents are bringing in younger children.

When American Legion Post 594 polled its members, 53 percent favored going smoke-free. That's not exactly an overwhelming majority.

But, as William Douglass, commander of American Legion Post 594 and a 54-year member, said: "I think it's the right thing to do for the members that don't come in because of the non-smoking."

Middletown VFW Post 1620 has discussed going smoke-free, but for now it has not implemented a smoking ban. It will be interesting to see if it eventually follows suit.

The Moose and the Legion might take some membership hits, and they might be criticized by some for their actions. But not by us. We wholeheartedly support it, and wish both organizations a healthy membership moving forward.

## Legislation could devastate EMS services



**DEAN  
BOLLENDORF**



**DON  
DEREAMUS**

Pennsylvania lawmakers are attempting to address the practice of out-of-network balance billing commonly referred to as a "surprise medical bill."

This results when a provider treats you in an emergency situation but that provider is out of the insured's network. Most emergency medical services agencies meet these criteria due to the uniqueness of our industry or location of the insured when the emergency occurred.

House Bill 1862 would allow insurance companies to lock in out-of-network provider reimbursements at the insurer's median in-network rate for emergency care for that region. Locking costs at median in-network rates will dramatically cut the already below-cost reimbursement that emergency medical services agencies see today.

EMS must be exempt from this bill!

The insurance lobby has an unsubstantiated belief that ambulance services are "doing quite well" with the non-negotiable "take it or leave it" in-network payment rates they determine. Concurrently, your state lawmakers are attempting

to protect consumers from the "surprise medical bill" issue. Or is it more correctly a "surprise insurance gap" issue caused by unacceptable below-cost in-network rates with high co-pays and deductibles?

Regardless of either assertion, below-cost payments and lawmaker efforts to force those same median in-network payment rates on out-of-network emergency ambulance services will be the final nail in the coffin of our failing EMS system.

Your local ambulance is at the crossroads of a fiscal calamity that is rapidly spiraling into a public safety crisis. This calamity is a result of decades of below-cost payments for service from government programs (Medicare and Medicaid) and insurance companies, which since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, now base their non-negotiable in-network payment rates on those programs.

Since 2002, we are reimbursed using a formula to annually determine payment rates that has absolutely no relationship to the costs of delivering this essential lifesaving, mandated service. Government health

insurance program rates were never designed to represent reasonable costs or even cover the provider's costs

but nonetheless our entire reimbursement structure is now based on these payment levels. The result is your local ambulance service has seen the cost of readiness and response to your emergency rise 55 to 65 percent while payment for services rendered on that call during this same time has only risen 24 percent. No business can sustain such losses and remain viable. Additionally, Medicaid emergency 911 EMS services cost reimbursement should not be based on a "line-item competition" in government budgets!

This is exacerbated by insurance companies that have cost-shifted their responsibility to their own beneficiaries through massive co-pays and deductibles. When patients are receiving out-of-network bills to collect their \$100 to \$250 co-pay or a bill for the entire amount of the ambulance bill because they have a \$6,000 to \$10,000 deductible, is it truly a "surprise medical bill" issue, or is it a "surprise insurance gap" issue because insurers lack transparency with their beneficiaries and do not cover a provider's

statutorily mandated reasonably necessary costs?

EMS, like emergency physicians and the emergency department, is the safety net of the American health care system.

We are unique in the health care arena and mandated by law to respond and treat patients in an emergency. We are designated as an essential public service by the state government, yet payment for those services is grossly below the cost to provide the heavily regulated and technically advanced modern prehospital emergency medical treatment and transportation.

Today, the EMS system has fewer EMS services and available ambulances with fewer EMS providers leading to longer response times and a true access to care issue that may culminate in poor patient outcomes and total system failure.

We ask everyone to contact the governor and their state senator and representative to have emergency medical services exempted from any "surprise medical bill" legislation. Please contact them with urgency like your life may depend on it, because it just may.

*Dean Bollendorf is president and Don DeReamus is legislative committee chairman of the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania.*



Above, Emma McQuinn, left, as Elle Woods sings "Omigod You Guys" with her Delta Nu sisters during a preview of the Lower Dauphin High School musical "Legally Blonde" at a meeting of the Hummelstown Rotary Club on Feb. 26. Left, Matt Little as Professor Callahan sings "Blood in the Water." Below right, Madi Miduri as Paulette Buonofonte sings about Ireland.

# 'Legally Blonde' to take LD High School stage

Lower Dauphin High School will present the musical "Legally Blonde" in the school auditorium at 7 p.m. March 5-7.

The show is based on the novel "Legally Blonde" by Amanda Brown and the 2001 film of the same name.

It tells the story of Elle Woods, a sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend. She discovers how

her knowledge of the law can help others, and successfully defends exercise queen Brooke Wyndham in a murder trial. Throughout the show, no one has faith in Elle, but she manages to surprise them when she defies expectations while staying true to herself.

Parental guidance is advised as some material may be inappropriate for children 13 and younger.

The cast has more than 65 stu-

dents. Senior Emma McQuinn has the lead role of Elle. Caiden Covell is Emmett Forrest; Cameron Snelbaker is Warner Huntington III; Matthew Little is Professor Callahan; Madi Miduri is Paulette Buonofonte; Sophia Ditty is Vivienne Kensington; and Olivia Meyers is Brooke Wyndham. The dance co-captains are Dale Sanders and Olivia Meyers. Jacob Pegher is the student director. Other seniors in

the show include Richie Johnson, Amy Miller, Mauricette Musser, Devin Roth and Ben Sierer.

Call 717-566-5393 for ticket prices and to order.

A sneak preview for senior citizens was planned for Wednesday, March 4, following a complimentary breakfast. The performance on Friday, March 6, will feature a dinner before the show to benefit the Lower Dauphin Falcon Foun-

ation. The deadline has passed to reserve tickets for the dinner.

Kevin Strawser is the director; Elizabeth Colpo is vocal director; Rushard Dennis is choreographer; Marie Weber is orchestra director; Michael James is technical director; Bryan Strawser is stage manager; Lisa Ditty is costume coordinator; Beth Wappman is makeup artist; and Val Stricker is producer.



## Gasoline prices in area drop, down 3.8 cents

Harrisburg gas prices fell 3.8 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$2.60 Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 241 stations.

Gas prices in Harrisburg are 1.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and 1.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

The cheapest station in Harrisburg was \$2.47 while the most

expensive was \$3.09. The lowest price in the state was \$2.25 while the highest was \$3.12. The cheapest price in the country was \$1.69; the most expensive was \$4.89.

The national average price of gasoline fell 6.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.41. The national average is down 4.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and is 1.8 cents per gallon lower

than a year ago.

The most expensive gas price in Harrisburg on March 1 in the last 10 years was \$3.77 in 2012. The cheapest was \$1.88 in 2016.

Neighboring areas and their prices include: Lancaster: \$2.57, down 7.8 cents per gallon from last week.

Reading: \$2.60, down 6 cents. York: \$2.49, down 11.2 cents.

## Lower Dauphin Middle School releases 2nd-quarter honor rolls

Lower Dauphin 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

**Grade 6:** Audrey Adams, MaKen-na Anderson, Riley Beers, Katherine Bird, Graydon Blesh, Jake Bloomer, Luke Brown, Anthony Bruno, Matteo Cangialosi, Eliana Carter, Zaccary Cooke, Campbell Craig, Teagan Crozier, Cole Duffy, Jordan Dupler, Kyleigh Eisenhour, Elise Farling, Kristen Flanagan, Makayla Fullerton, Olivia Fureman, Sadie Giampetro, Nolan Gordon, Carter Gundy, Makenna Haldeman, Sebastian Heagy, Hannah Helmer, Corbin Hoffmaster, Ada Howard, Sophia Howes, Sarah Jones, Emma Kessler, Kylie Kuo, Tracy Lin, Grace Lindsay, Olivia Mahler, Lila Markowitz, Parker Marshall, Emily Miller, Avery Moran, Matidza Muthambi, Herth Patel, Ananya Patil, Mia Pegher, John Prigodich, Rishi Reddy, Hannah Richmond, Evan Rietheimer, Torree Robertson, Lucas Rodemaker, Dawson Rodney, Deyanara Rodriguez, Nathan Rose, Casey Sanders, Hannah Sanson, Ashley Sather, Eva Sherman, Isabelle Simpson, Isabella Smith, Norah Taylor, Jeremiah Tylwalk, Alex Wagner, Bryson Weisman, Carissa Wenner, Lily Youngling, and Avery Yuncker.

**Grade 7:** Tamilore Bello, Tavian Boone, Jordan Braman, Collin Brinser, Adriana Brooks, Matilda Carver, Chloe Chang, Tyler Davis, Giana DeCampos, Mason Dissinger, Ashley Economopoulos, Kylie Eismann, Faith Fausnight, Kenneth Frost, Samantha Gallick, Owen Giampetro, Evy Gray, Christian Grow, Lauren Gula, Alexis Hengst, Cheyenne Henry, Addison Hess, Adalaid Hickey, Katelyn Horwitz, Virginia Huntzinger, Victoria Irwin, Ashley Jilek, Laney Johns, Ryan Korn, Suhas Kothuru, Alexia Kouletsis, Dylan Kreiss, Grayson Kunkel, Daphne Linn, Hunter Meyers, Elias Miller, Addison Misiolek, Owen O'Hara, Brayden Raynes, Brady Rohrbaugh, Maddox Rooney, Bethany Snavely, Elyyana Snyder, Lauren Stine, Maura Tressler, Elizabeth Tylwalk, Kate Wallace, Jacob Walsh, Holly Wealand, Addison Whitmyer, Madison Whritenour, and Lillian Zabolotny.

**Grade 8:** Liliana Albarano, Alyssa Ampacher, Greta Bretz, Ella Clark, Carolyn Clouser, Brady Coonelly, Jordan Dormer, Benjamin Dotts, Enzo Dreon, Ethan Duff, Caleb Eisenhour, Michael Estes, Nicole Estes, Grace Flickinger, Abigail Foran, Madeline Foreman, Nicolas Fry, Michael Fure, Emilia Garibay-Rome-ro, Arun Gopinath, Sarah Gourley,

McKenzie Grady, Kylie Houser, Silas Howard, Jaxon Jones, Ethan Kurtz, Victoria Kutz, Lillian Linnell, Ava Masorti, Kathleen Mauer, Alek McGlaughlin, Munachiso Mmuo, Anne Nelson, Peter Otto, Jaineen Patel, Grace Peterson, Cassidy Piegzik, Annabell Riordan, Mya Rost, Rees Schrode, Sarah Sells, Havannah Singletary, Alexis Snelbaker, Gavin Taylor, Emma Thomas, Erica Walk, Marina Weidman, Ernest Woolever, and Abigail Zavoda.

### Honor Roll

**Grade 6:** Beckett Alther, Grace Anspach, Allison Assalita, Federico Bastos, Charlotte Bean, Hailey Becker, Layla Bohner, Elise Brelsford, Peter Brubaker, Damien Care, Ford Carnes, Nina Cerminaro, Nathan Crowl, Braedyn Danner, Tytan Deal, Theodore Devine, Amber Eshenour, Caleb Espenshade, Madison Farling, Zachary Fink, Gideon Fisher, Ryan Foley, Micah Fox, Reygan Gantz, Adilynn Ginder, Srishti Gleeson, Caleb Gliot, Elan Goeke, Julia Gordon, William Gray, Kyleigh Gruber, Jaidalyn Gutshall, Chase Haraske, Brady Heffler, Taylor Hoffman, Max Hoopes, Evelyn Houser, Emma Hudson, Madison Jones, Dallas Kessinger, Kaiden Ketty, Ava Kingsbury, Noah Klopp, Ian Lane, Astin Lehman, Maryn Lerch, Rachel Linnell, Sylvia Linnell, Lavadera, Lubrano Carlie Martin, Liam McCurdy, Daniel McGurrin, Gwendolyn Meloy, Milana Miller, Paige Miller, Benjamin Nec, Elijah Neighbors, Lorelei O'Sick, David Otto, Kevan Parker, Nathan Pedersen, Paige Piermattei, Matthew Polinski, Warren Rank, Ritvik Reddy, Ashley Rehm, Evan Rietheimer, Desire Rivera, Kayden Robitaille, Isabella Roeting, Nathan Sanchez-Ortiz, Lyllee Schmidt, Michael Scow, Jacob Sholder, Eric Smeriglio, Evan Smeriglio, Hunter Strohm, Izabella Sweigart, Ethan Tanner, Lacey Tobias, Nathan Vickroy, Ananda Viknesh, Chloe Waardenburg, Keaton Wagner, Ava Warble, Madelyn Weeter, Ava Weigher, Gavin Westberg, Jayden White, Haylee Westing, Kylie Wilt, Nikolas Wohlfarth, Josie Yeakle, Aubree Zahar, Emily Zserai, and Anece Zubler.

**Grade 7:** Aryam Agili-Shaban, Chayse Angelo, Aiden Armstrong, Isiah Arvelo-Vencak, Cameron Bashore, Kyra Bibb, Carter Burton, Lucius Cabeza, Braden Cave, Maxwell Cherry, Lillian Chort, Leland Coy, Brayden Crispino, Elizabeth Day, Ellie DeHart, Emily Dormer, Emerson Ertter, Aaron Espenshade,

Matthew Foerster, Vera Fombu, Samantha Fullerton, Jaime Gallick, Ella Giannascoli, Julia Goss, Carter Gourley, Nathaniel Hartz, Wesley Heagy, Noah Heath, Alena Henning, Brady Hofsass, Autumn Howarth, Olivia Jayne, Alexandra Jones, Brenna Killian, Ashlyn LaGray, Alyssa Langan, Conner Lanman, Madison Lehr, Adam Little, Dylan Luttrell, Aubrey McClure-Sherrick, Emma McConnell, Carter McQuiddy, Chloe Miller, Landon Miller, Stella Mistelske, Jaxon Monroig, Danielle Murphy, Ewen Murphy, Meghan O'Brien, Cassidy O'Donnell, Elle Osevala, Lauryn Parcon, Reini Patel, Skylynn Phillippy, Anneliese Pich, Ursula Raab, Jacob Ray, Nelida Rodriguez, James Rogers, Zoey Rohrbach, Lucia Schertzer, Olivia Schwenk, Kate Smith, Brendan Snyder, Aubrey Subbio, Kellen Taggart, Lucas Tang Sing, Edward Tran, Brenna Tressler, Owen Tucker, Brayden Waiter, Layla Wallace, Kate Weaver, Beatrice Yingst, and Juliet Youngbluth.

**Grade 8:** Amber Abela, Taylor Atkinson, Adriana Balisnomo, Kyle Barber, Mason Barrick, Skylar Baumgardner, Austin Bechtel, Shania Bennetch, Ainsley Black, Angela Bouch, Braden Boyer, Ryan Brinkley, Isaiah Bruce, Elijah Bulgrien, Logan Chiara, Dylan Davidick, Brett DeBell, Abigail DeSantis, Evan Dupler, Cadyn Eismann, Jana Elsaid, Griffin Erney, Ryan Felliin, Jordan Fink, Collin Fischer, Samuel Frank, Aaron Gingrich, Hunter Gundy, Megan Haines, Kaley Haldeman, Thomas Hanft, Connor Hanula, Trey Harper, Connor Hassinger, Abigail Helmer, Abdi Henry, Alexis Hill, Kaitlyn Hoffman, Zachary Johnson, Alexander Jones, Vincent Jones, Ty Kephart, Braylee Klinger, Taylor Korczynski, Clayton Koser, Isaac Landis, Sydney Laubach, Lorenzo Lentini, Camryn Long, Lusvin Lopez Murcia, Quinn Madden, Jacob Mader, Megan Mayberry, Madison McGuigan, Cali Mease, Lucas Millar, Ty Millhimes, Maria Neves, Emily O'Donnell, Adrian Olweiler, Haley Osborne, Kaden Panaro, Grace Pankake, Erich Parker, Logan Pedersen, Tyler Perales, Tyler Persing, Madison Pho, Andre Piermattei, Giulia Piermattei, Avery Pollock, Ria Reddy, Alivia Reed, Armanda Rhodes, Drake Risser, Trinity Rist, Sammy Rizk, Natalie Rose, Connor Roth, Joshua Sanchez-Ortiz, Natalie Sauder, Aidan Scherer, Liam Seitz, Zachary Simpson, Tanmay Singh, Gabrielle Snedeker, Audrey Soriano, Ryder Stahl, Meredith Stoe, Ellyse Stumpf, Spencer Sweigart, Grace Turjan, Logan Vedder, Sienna Veith, Nikolai Wagner, Grace Walsh, Nathaniel Wappman, Ella Weaver, Emily Weaver, Bailey White, Nathaniel Wolfe, Selin Yalcinanahtar, Megan Zerbe, and Laurel Zubler.

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**Congrats, Class of 2020!**

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