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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018 | 75 CENTS

Hovan wants public hearing

Suspended police
officer decides to
appeal his suspension

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

The Middletown police officer who received a 10-day unpaid suspension related to him attending church services while on duty has requested a public hearing before the borough Civil Service Commission.

A date for the hearing sought by Patrolman Mark Hovan has not been set, Commission Chairwoman Amy Schrefler told the Press & Journal after a meeting of the commission.

"I never intended to make my faith a subject of public attention," Hovan said in a text message to the Press & Journal when asked for comment. "It is a gift from God that I am thankful and humbly proud to have been given."

Police Chief George Mouchette, whose recommendation led to borough council approving the suspension by 4-1 vote on Dec. 5, has said that Hovan was not suspended for going to church, but for disobeying a direct order from the chief.

Mouchette declined comment when asked about Hovan requesting a public hearing.

"At this point he is appealing it. I can't comment," Mouchette told the Press & Journal.

Please see **HOVAN**, page A7

Borough police will hire 2 officers

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Middletown Police Department is looking to hire two new full-time officers in 2018.

One of the new full-timers will replace Patrol Officer Jeffrey Weaver, who retired on disability from the MPD effective Dec. 29, 2017.

The other is the new full-time officer that borough council authorized in the 2018 budget, Police Chief George Mouchette told the Press & Journal on Friday, Jan. 19.

Council had added a new full-time position in the 2017 budget, but the position was never filled. That funding instead went to cover the hiring of additional part-time officers, borough Finance Director Kevin Zartman told the Press & Journal.

Including Mouchette, the

Please see **POLICE**, page A7

6 ARRESTED IN BURGLARY



Middletown police say Joseph Lonnie Lee, 19, of Hummelstown; and Dalton Kramer, 20, of the first block of Caravan Court in Middletown, broke into Karns on Dec. 18 and stole cigarettes and cigars totaling \$950.

Police: 2 entered Karns, 1 was lookout and 2 were in getaway vehicle

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Middletown police have filed charges against six men related to the Dec. 18 break-in at the Karns grocery store at 101 S. Union St.

Cigarettes and cigars totaling \$950 were taken from the store during the robbery, according to arrest papers police filed with District Judge David Judy.

Five men conspired to commit the burglary, police said.

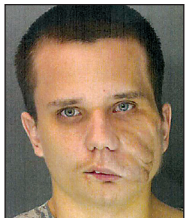
Charged with committing the actual break-in was Dalton Kramer, 20, of the first block of Caravan Court in Middletown; Joseph Lonnie Lee, 19, of Hummelstown; and Tariq Jackson, 18, also of Hummelstown.

Also charged were Ivan Fowler, 25, of the 200 block of Myers Lane in New Cumberland, whom po-

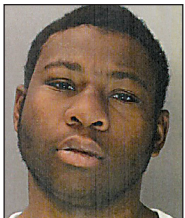
lice say drove the yellow Jeep that served as the get-away vehicle, and Frederick Lynn Maines, 22, of the 600 block of West Main Street in Hummelstown.

Maines was a passenger in the front seat of Fowler's vehicle. He told the three men who allegedly committed the burglary "where to go and what direction to leave," police said. Maines used to live in Middletown and was familiar with the area, police said.

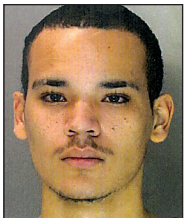
Charged with receiving stolen property was George Anthony Spaseff, 19, who at the time was living in the 1200 block of Sand Beach Road in Hummelstown.



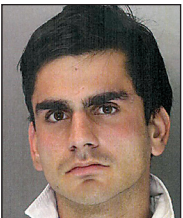
Kramer



Lee



Jackson



Fowler



Maines

Information sought in armed robbery at 7-Eleven

Middletown police are looking for two men who robbed the 7-Eleven at 12 E. Main St. at gunpoint at about 3 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Police say both men brandished guns at a store employee. The suspects demanded money and after obtaining a carton of cigarettes and an undisclosed amount of cash from the register fled the store in a late model white four-door sedan.

Anyone with information re-

garding the suspects or the armed robbery depicted in this video is urged to contact Detective Gary Rux at 717-902-0627 or email at grux@middletownborough.com

Dauphin County Crime Stoppers is offering a reward for information leading to an arrest in this case. You can submit a tip through the Crime Watch website dauphin.crimewatchpa.com/crimestoppers, or you can call Dauphin County Dispatch at 717-558-6900.

Lower Swatara OKs PSU-area housing ordinance

By Phyllis Zimmerman
Special to the Press & Journal

Lower Swatara Township commissioners unanimously approved an ordinance on Jan. 17 that amends the township's zoning map to allow the construction of a third phase of the Campus Heights student housing complex located just off Route 230 near Penn State Harrisburg.

Construction is slated to begin in summer 2019 for 84 new units with 336 beds, bringing the overall complex's total bed capacity to 780, according to Matt Genesio of College Town Communities. The

"Homeowners within the boundaries of this (project) are in favor and ready to sell their properties."

resident Bonnie Kiner

project is expected to take around two years to complete.

The ordinance changes the zoning of approximately 7 acres in the township's Eagle Heights neighborhood from residential urban to commercial neighborhood. The

area lies east of North Lawrence Street, north of West High Street, south of Spring Street Properties, LLC, and east of a boundary with the borough of Middletown. It is surrounded by existing commercial neighborhood zoning that permits student housing as a special exception.

According to planning commission minutes, Campus Heights Associates LLC purchased existing townhomes on Gina Lane in May 2017 and contracted sales with other property owners in the area.

"Homeowners within the boundaries of this (project) are in favor and ready to sell their properties,"

resident Bonnie Kiner, of North Wood Street, told township commissioners on Jan. 17.

The existing Campus Heights complex has been operating to "phenomenal success" for the past six school years as enrollment continues to grow at neighboring Penn State Harrisburg, Genesio told the township's planning commission in October 2017. Planning for the complex's first stage began in 2010. Genesio said on Jan. 17 that his firm has no further plans for the complex when the third phase is completed.

Please see **HOUSING**, page A6

Nothing to show at Elks Theatre

No formal contact
since fall between
Friends group, borough

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

What's going on with the future of Elks Theatre, you might be wondering?

Not much.

There's been no formal contact since October between theater owners Middletown Industrial and Commercial Development Authority, and Friends of The Elks Theatre, the nonprofit group that wants to acquire the 107-year-old theater from the authority for \$1 to turn the historic moviehouse into a performing arts center.

That reflects not so much an impasse as the theater being put on the back burner, while the authority focused on divesting itself of its only other remaining piece of real estate, the McNair House property on the northeast corner of Emaus and Union streets.

Sale of the McNair House to new private owners was completed in December, so the only thing that appears to stand in the way of the authority dissolving itself — a stated goal of several councilors and of Mayor James H. Curry III, who is on the authority — is resolving what to do with the theater, which has been closed since April 2015.

That would seem to provide the authority with an incentive to make something happen, in addition to Curry's repeated warnings that borough taxpayers are on the hook financially for the theater, so long as it is publicly owned.

"That is the last piece of business that we really have to do," said councilor and authority Chairman Ian Reddinger, referring to the theater.

The authority since August

Please see **ELKS**, page A7

Public notices in this week's Press & Journal

- **SUSQUEHANNA TWP:** Estate of Elaine Cleckner. **A4**
- **LONDONDERRY TWP:** Estate of William Reider. **A4**
- **LONDONDERRY TWP:** Estate of Arlene Reider. **A4**
- **ELIZABETHTOWN:** Meeting of Zoning Hearing Board. **A4**
- **MIDDLETOWN:** Meeting of Human Relations Commission. **A4**
- **DAUPHIN COUNTY:** Estate of Doris Hanshaw. **A4**
- **ELIZABETHTOWN:** Notice of vehicle ownership. **A4**



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OURCOMMUNITY

Gasoline prices inch up in region

Average retail gasoline prices in Harrisburg rose 2 cents a gallon last week, averaging \$2.78 a gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 241 gas outlets in Harrisburg. This compares with the U.S. average that has not moved in the last week, at \$2.53 a gallon. Including the change in gas prices in Harrisburg during the past week, prices Sunday were 24.4 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 15.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 8.8cents per gallon during the last month and stands 22.7 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago. According to GasBuddy historical data, gasoline prices Jan. 22 in Harrisburg have ranged widely over the last five years: \$2.53 a gallon in 2017, \$1.99 a gallon in 2016, \$2.19 a gallon in 2015, \$3.45 a gallon in 2014 and \$3.49 a gallon in 2013. Areas near Harrisburg and their current gas price climate: **Lancaster:** \$2.79 a gallon, up 3.1 cents per gallon. **Reading:** \$2.82 a gallon, up 4.7 cents. **York:** \$2.84 a gallon, up 5.7 cents. “After several weeks of rising gasoline prices, it appears that perhaps the tide has turned and the bigger increases have started to fade,” said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.



NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD | LAVONNE ACKERMAN

These tips will get you through January

They say that Jan. 24 is the bluest day for people. If you are feeling down or discouraged, you are not alone. There are so many challenges in January. We are coping with winter and maybe even getting cabin fever. The best way to chase away the blues is to reach out to someone. Maybe you can invite a friend over to chat, share a hot drink, watch a movie, play a game or work on a puzzle. Perhaps you don’t mind facing the cold and you can grab dinner together or go out to a movie. What is your specialty? Is there something you can do to bless a neighbor or a friend you haven’t seen in a long while? Most people are happy to receive a baked good or a small gift that is especially thoughtful toward them. Try being kind. Set a goal of 10 and spend the day coming up with encouragements you can say to people you run into. It would be great if you can come up with more than 10! Have a terrific last week of January. Remember, reaching out to others is good medicine!

Birthdays
Emily Mattes of Lower Swatara is 22 on Thursday, Jan. 25. If you run into her, give her a wonderfully jolly happy birthday greeting! Happy landmark 21st birthday to **Dagen Hughes** of Lower Swatara. Congrats on becoming a real full-fledged adult on Thursday, Jan. 25.

Happy brand-new teenager birthday to **Ethan Friedrichs** of Elizabethtown. He hits 13 on Thursday, Jan. 25. Double best wishes for a wonderful 21st birthday are sent to twins **Megan and Morgan Danilowicz** of Lower Swatara. These two lovely ladies share Thursday, Jan. 25 cake day. Congrats! Happy double-toothpicks birthday to **Delaney Fitzpatrick** of Lower Swatara. I hope cake day No. 11 on Friday, Jan. 26 is super-duper dazzling for you, Delaney! **Jenna Wilkinson** of Middletown celebrates her 24th birthday on Saturday, Jan. 27. Enjoy and have fun! Here is a shout-out to **Joel Bechtel** of Lower Swatara on Jan 27. Have a super Saturday birthday!

Best wishes and much joy to **Keith Daily** of Lower Swatara on his cake day, Saturday, Jan. 27. I hope your weekend is full of fun things, Keith! **Cody Fox** of Lower Swatara turns 22 on Sunday, Jan. 28. Hoping your day is full of smiles and sunshine, Cody! Sending warm wishes for a pleasant birthday to **Jane Balmer** of Londonderry on Sunday, Jan. 28. May your year be full of laughter and joy, Jane! **Minda Rhodes** of Hummelstown celebrates her 12th birthday on Sunday, Jan. 28. I hope this day is everything you want it to be, Minda! Keep smiling.

Minding the Cold
I really seem to mind the cold, “Cover up and wear layers,” I am told. Maybe a warm blanket I could hold,

It can be spread out flat or rolled. Several blankets I could fold, My warmest one is colored gold. I really seem to mind the cold, It’s because I am getting old. That’s the reason, I am told, That being the reason, I am not sold. Now, I am one to rarely scold, Old age? That’s hogwash, If I can be so bold.

— SLAP

Anniversaries
Best wishes for a romantic wedding anniversary to **Bill and Joanne Hoch** of Lower Swatara. They were married on Jan. 30, 1960. Congrats and happy 58th! **Don and Dottie Bauman** of Lower Swatara celebrate their 36th anniversary on Tuesday, Jan. 30. Enjoy your hearts and flowers week!

Cube round steak, ketchup sauce
Recipe from the Wedding Book Collection

Brown in margarine, or butter with onion. Add beef bullion and water (2 bullion, 2 cups of water). Simmer one hour, making sure there is liquid in the pan at all times. Keep adding bullion and water, if necessary. Add one half bottle of ketchup, bring to a boil, then simmer for 15 minutes.

Sweetheart Banquet
Middletown First Church of God, 245 W. High St., will hold its annual Sweetheart Banquet at 6 p.m. Feb. 10. Dinner will include appetizers, salad, New York strip roast, roasted potatoes, a vegetable and dessert. “The Not-So-New-

lywed Game” will follow. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased by contacting the church office at 717-944-9608 or by email at mdtcog@comcast.net. Everyone is welcome.

Quote of the Week
“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.” — John Steinbeck, author.

Question of the Week
How do you keep warm in the deep winter? “I wear layers.” — **Gyles Adlerly**, 14, Middletown. “I dress warmly when I go outdoors. I warm up with a cup of hot tea when I come back indoors.” — **Louisa Morgan**, Londonderry. “I drink hot chocolate, I have six blankets on me and lots of pillows and stuffed animals. That is how I keep warm!” — **Miranda Burdsal**, 8, Lower Paxton.

“Layers. I get hot sometimes, so layers is the way to go.” — **Tim Boltz**, Lower Paxton. “I put on 3 layers of pants, 5 shirts, long johns, 3 pair of socks and outside I have my hat, mittens and headband for my ears.” — **Anna Benkovic**, 8, Lower Paxton. “We use the fireplace!” — **Ryan Benkovic**, 4, Lower Paxton.

Proverb for the Week
Keep your mouth closed and you will stay out of trouble. Mockers are proud, haughty and arrogant. (21:23, 24)

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

‘Poison Study’ author part of library Book Group Feb. 1

Maria V. Snyder, the author of “Poison Study” will participate in the Middletown Public Library’s General Book Group at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1.

“Poison Study” is described as a rollicking, exciting fantasy novel with a strong, intelligent female protagonist, Yelena, according to information provided by the library. Her world is authoritarian and rigid with strict laws. Yelena is offered a choice between death and becoming the leader’s poison taster.

“Sieges weather, fight together, friendsforever” is a quote from the book that encapsulates Yelena’s adventures as she learns to adapt to and change her world. On one level, this is a wonderful fantasy novel, but the deeper themes stay with readers for years, according to the library.

Snyder, an Elizabethtown resident, has published 14 novels and has won numerous awards for writing, including a 2006 Compton Crook Award for Best First Novel for “Poison Study.”

“Poison Study,” was chosen by vote as the 2018 One Book, One Community Read. This program promotes reading by recommending a compelling book that links the community in a common conversation.

This is the 12th year that local libraries have collaborated in this regional community campaign. Participating this year are libraries in Dauphin, Perry and York counties.

The General Book Group meets every month at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. It is free and there is no registration. Middletown Public Library is located at 20 N. Catherine St. For more information, call the library at 944-6412 or visit online at www.middletownpubliclib.org.

LD dinner prepares for spring musical

The Lower Dauphin High School cafeteria will be alive ... with “The Sound of Music.”

On Saturday, Feb. 17, the cast of the high school spring musical will serve a spaghetti dinner in cafeteria.

At several points during the evening, the student-waiters will perform songs from the musical.

The show will feature plenty of familiar songs from the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, including “Edelweiss,” “My Favorite Things,” “Climb Ev’ry Mountain,” “Do-Re-Mi,” and “The Sound of Music.”

The “all-you-can-eat” spaghetti includes a choice of meatless or meat sauce, as well as bread, salad, hot and cold beverages, and a variety of home-baked desserts.

The musical will be held March 8-10.

Tickets for the dinner are available from any cast member or at the door. Call 717-566-5393 for details and to order.

Proceeds help cover the costs of producing the show, such as costumes, programs and set construction.

A sneak preview for senior citizens in the area will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 7, following a complimentary breakfast at 8.

Senior citizens interested in reserving a place for the preview show and breakfast may call 717-566-5330, ext. 1028.

The performance on Friday, March 9, also will feature a dinner before the show to benefit the Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation. The dinner theater will feature a one-plate buffet meal with salad, sides and dessert.

Tickets for the dinner theater must be reserved by March 2 by calling 717-566-5393.

BINGO BLAST

Saturday, January 27th
7 pm ~ Doors open at 5 pm

12 CARDS for \$30

*** \$1,000 & \$500 CASH JACKPOT ***

4 Games @ \$100 & Speedball Game @ \$150

One TV per row will be given away

Special Kitchen Prices for the Night

HUMMELSTOWN FIRE COMPANY
249 E. Main Street, Hummelstown

COUPON

\$1 Off

Bingo

With this coupon
Expires 01/27/18

Support Your Local Businesses

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Sutliff Chevrolet, Don Stago
13th & Paxton Sts., Harrisburg
717-234-4444 or 717-940-4963

AUTO SERVICE

Dailey’s Service Station
200 East Main Street, Middletown
717-944-4407

Elwood’s Service Station
138 West Main Street, Middletown
717-944-9255

Vastine’s Auto Service
231 Oak Hill Drive, Middletown
717-944-7154

CHIROPRACTOR/ PHYSICAL THERAPIST

THE HETRICK CENTER
500 North Union Street, Middletown
717-944-2225

FLOWERS

Michele Hughes Lutz
Creations with You in Mind
131 Dock Street, Royalton
717-944-5425

HALLMARK CARDS & GIFTS

Rhoads Pharmacy & Gift Shop
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717-566-2525

**Middletown Pharmacy
& Gift Shop**
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HOME IMPROVEMENT

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Gipe Flooring
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717-545-6103

HW Wilson Roofing
2161 North Union Street, Middletown
717-566-5100

Musser Tree Service
3444 Roundtop Road, Elizabethtown
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RESTAURANT

Black Horse Tavern
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717-944-0450

SALON

Hairport/Touch of Class
2 S. Union Street, Middletown
717-944-7980

Sharp Cuts
124 West Main Street, Middletown
717-944-1000

To place your business in this directory
contact the Press And Journal at: 20 S.Union Street, Middletown
E-mail: info@pressandjournal.com
Phone: 717-944-4628

HONORING AREA GRADS FROM:

Middletown, Lower Dauphin & Steelton-Highspire

GRADUATION

2018 TRIBUTE

Coming May 2018

Whether you’re family, friends or businesses, show your pride for them with a full-color tribute ad in the Press And Journal’s annual special section.

In your own words, wish them best of luck, include inspirational quotes or feature graduation or baby photos — make it your own!

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS of 2018

An investment in
KNOWLEDGE
always pays the best
INTEREST
— BEN FRANKLIN

LIDLE
FINANCIAL PLANNERS

SAMPLES

Congrats, Maya!

I’m so proud of
you. Good luck
at Statel!

LOVE ALWAYS,
Uncle Dan

RESERVE YOUR TRIBUTE TODAY!

Call Maxine Etter at 944-4628 or
email MaxineEtter@pressandjournal.com

Rep. Marsico not running after 30 years; TMI Alert chairman Epstein seeks to replace him

Rep. Ron Marsico, R-Lower Paxton Township, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, announced last week his retirement from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, at the conclusion of the 2017-18 legislative session.

Marsico was first elected to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives in 1988 and represents the 105th District, which includes Lower Paxton, South Hanover and West Hanover townships.

“It has been an honor to serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and to represent the people in the 105th Legislative District, for almost three decades,” Marsico said. “This has not only been a job for me but a way of life. I thank the voters for giving me their support, the opportunity to serve and their trust.”

Marsico will help his son, Wayde, with a nonprofit foundation to provide funding, promotion and development for youth and high school sports.

According to a press release announcing his retirement, Marsico’s priority was work on laws protecting children, crime victims and the vulnerable. His legislation created the Task Force on Child Protection, which led to changes in the way that Pennsylvania protects children. He spearheaded legislation to improve Pennsylvania’s sexual offender registration statute, commonly known as Megan’s Law. He also worked on legislation regarding cyberbullying of children and

anti-hazing. He authored legislation, known as the Safe Haven Law, to allow parents to relinquish newborns to hospitals without criminal charges. Marsico also created a new type of protective order for victims of sexual offenses, according to the press release.

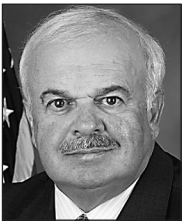
His public safety accomplishments included legislation that helped increase the number of cadets in the Pennsylvania State Police,

toughening the death penalty, strengthening laws punishing heroin dealers, and modernizing Pennsylvania’s Wiretap Act, the release said.

Marsico played a key role in the passage of the Medical Marijuana Act. He authored the first comprehensive bill in the House of Representatives permitting the medicinal use of marijuana, played an integral role in development of legislation which is now law as part of the House’s Task Force on Medical Marijuana, and was the primary voice advocating for the law through the days of debate on the House floor in spring 2016.

TMI Alert activist to run

One candidate for Marsico’s



Marsico



Epstein

seat stepped up a day before the representative officially announced his retirement.

Running for the seat is Eric Epstein of Lower Paxton Township, a name likely familiar to those in this area because he is chairman of Three Mile Island Alert Inc., a nuclear power watchdog group. He also was a visiting assistant professor of Holocaust Studies at Penn State-Harrisburg from 1992 to 1999, and received a master’s degree in Humanities from PSU-Harrisburg in 1992.

He twice has been elected a member of the Central Dauphin School Board and is a co-founding member of the watchdog group Rock the Capital as well as a founding member and chairman of the Sustainable Energy Fund, president of EFMR Monitoring Group Inc., and chairman of Stray Winds Area Neighbors, a smart-growth organization based in Lower Paxton Township.

“We need a new way of doing business. We need solutions. We cannot afford politicians who spend more time on the golf course than in the statehouse,” he said in a press release. “We need to work across party lines to aggressively prevent and prosecute child abuse, create better paying jobs with benefits, improve our schools, and confront the alcohol and opioid epidemics swallowing Pennsylvania.”

He said he will not accept a pension, per diem or pay raise and would reduce his salary to the 1995 level, “which is the amount representatives made before they gave themselves an annual pay increase.”

He will donate his salary overage to charities and organizations focused on preventing child abuse, human trafficking and assisting veterans. All contributions will be publicly posted.

“This has not only been a job for me but a way of life. I thank the voters for giving me their support, the opportunity to serve and their trust.”

Rep. Ron Marsico

Borough looks at fee for returned checks

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

An ordinance giving the Middletown tax collector authority to collect fees for returned checks and tax certifications is being considered by borough council.

County government requires passage of such an ordinance. Otherwise, the tax collector is not legally authorized to collect the fees, borough Tax Collector Pamela Miller told the Press & Journal.

The ordinance as advertised would allow Miller to collect a \$20 fee for each returned check.

Council can increase the fee in the future by passing a resolution.

Miller said she is not seeing an increase in returned checks, but referred to her not being able to impose a fee without council passing an ordinance.

The ordinance also sets a fee of \$15 for each tax certification issued, \$5 for a duplicate bill, and a copying fee of 25 cents per page. Tax certifications are typically



Miller

requested by a real estate agent or a mortgage company, to document whether taxes on a property have been paid for a given year.

Property owners can also request a tax certification, however a tax certification requested by a property owner will be provided free of charge, Miller said.

A fee will only be charged when the tax certification is requested by someone other than the property owner, she noted.

The \$20 fee on a returned check, on the other hand, applies to everyone, Miller said.

Council is expected to consider approval at its Feb. 6 meeting.

LD students part of orchestra



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lower Dauphin High School students who are part of Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 7 Orchestra Festival include, from left, Ella Hickey, violin; Annie Dickinson, violin; Christian Gingrich, string bass; Ryan Pumo, string bass; Ian Bruc, trombone; and Aidan Ferguson, violin. After auditioning for the orchestra festival in December, these students were selected. The festival will be Feb. 9-10 at Cedar Cliff High School. The concert theme is “American Reflections” and will be led by guest conductor Capt. Justin Lewis, officer in charge of the U.S. Air Force’s Central Command Band.

Red Cross seeks blood donations; events slated

Ongoing severe winter weather has more than doubled the number of canceled American Red Cross blood drives, resulting in a blood and platelet donation shortfall since earlier this month.

The Red Cross now considers the situation critical and is reissuing an urgent call for blood and platelet donors, according to a press release.

Upcoming Dauphin County donation opportunities include from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Jan. 30 at the Gratz Borough Community Center, 125 N. Center St.; noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 3 at Bass Pro Shops, 3501 Paxton St.; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 7 at AmeriGas Propane, 6823 Paxton St.

More than 550 blood drives have been canceled due to winter weather in January, causing more than 16,500 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected through last week.

“Blood and platelet donations are currently being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in,” said Clifford Numark, senior vice president, Red Cross Blood Services.

OBITUARIES



Bernice Baumgardner
STEELTON

Bernice L. “Bernie” Baumgardner, 77, of Steelton, passed away Sunday, January 14, 2018. She was the loving wife to the late Barry L. Baumgardner Sr., to whom she had been married for 55 years.

Bernie was born September 23, 1940, to William and Dorothy Harmon, and raised in Kiskimere, Pa., a small village on the outskirts of Pittsburgh. She attended Leechburg Area High School and graduated with the Class of 1958.

After graduation, she relocated to Harrisburg to accept a position with the Dept. of Revenue. It was there that she met her future husband, Barry. After their marriage, she became a stay-at-home mom and raised a family while maintaining the accounting books for their businesses, Barry’s Grocery and Ben’s Exxon. While doing this, Bernie was also very active in her children’s education. Whether it was chauffeuring a load of kids, chaperoning or chairing Parent Teacher Committees, she was

always involved.

After her children were raised, Bernie, or Bernard as she was affectionately known, decided to join the workforce again. She took a position at the Steelton Flower Shop where she helped arrange and deliver flowers and then became a Pharmacy Tech Assistant at Rite Aid. A people person, Bernie loved meeting and interacting with people on a daily basis. Bernie loved her coffee. One only had to look or listen and you could find her at the old Rea & Derrick’s food counter, Dunkin’ Donuts or at Turkey Hill on Front Street! She always had a cup of coffee in her hand.

Bernie was a regular attendee of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Hummelstown. She was a lifelong Steel-High and Pittsburgh Steelers Fan and an avid reader of novels. She loved taking care of her many rose bushes and loved sharing the blooms with friends and neighbors. Bernie was very patriotic... never passing up the opportunity to sing patriotic songs or wave the flag at parades.

Surviving are a daughter, Lorre Cooper and husband Shawn; son, Barry Baumgardner Jr.; grandchildren, Zachary and Nicholas Myers, Madison and Skylar Baumgardner, and Alexis Cooper; brother, Richard Harmon; and sisters, Dorothy Ann Seckman and Judy Nolf.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, January 25, 2018, 12 p.m., with visitation beginning at 11 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 210 W. Main Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036.

Arrangements are by the Cremation Society of Pennsylvania, Inc.

IN MEMORIAM

Marlene M. Beistline
1/1/1932-1/24/2107

Words cannot express the love and hurt in my heart this past year. Every time I think of you, I cry. I am really trying to learn to cherish the memories instead of letting them remind me of what I’ve lost. I not only lost a mother, I lost my best friend. Emily lost the best Gammie ever! I love you Mom! Emily and I miss you every single day.

Adv.

Love, Dutchie

Dear Editor...

Want to respond to the letters or articles? Email the editor @
jasonmaddux@pressandjournal.com

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Barbara Kleinfelter
MIDDLETOWN

Barbara J. Kleinfelter, 52, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Friday, January 19, 2018 at M.S. Hershey Medical Center.

She was born June 28, 1965 in Lebanon and was the loving daughter of the late Richard McLaughlin.

Barbara was a member of the Middletown Presbyterian Church. She was retired from PHEAA and was a member of the Liberty Fire Co. women’s auxiliary and a lifetime member of the Londonderry Fire Company. Barbara loved to crochet, enjoyed arts and crafts, and was an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 24 years, Robert Kleinfelter; son, Christopher M. Kleinfelter; and sister, Ellen (McLaughlin) Boyer.

A tribute to Barbara’s life will be held on Friday, January 26, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Matinchek Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., 260 East Main St., Middletown, Pa., with the Rev. Bruce Humphrey and Rev. Donald Potter officiating. There will be a viewing on Thursday, January 25, 2018 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home and one from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Friday.

Interment will be at Middletown Cemetery, Middletown.

Memorial contributions may be made in Barbara’s name to American Cancer Society, 112 Sipe Ave., Hummelstown, PA 17036.

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



GUIDELINES & FEES

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Notify your funeral director that you would like your love one’s obituary to appear in the Press & Journal.
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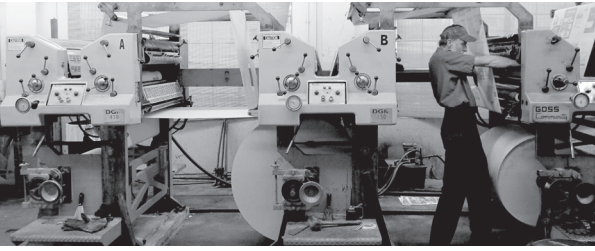
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Human Relations Commission of the Borough of Middletown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, will be meeting Monday, February 26 and Monday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room located at Borough Hall, 60 West Emaus Street, Middletown, PA 17057.

#121 0124-1T
www.publicnoticecpa.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to any person who has interest or ownership of a 1995 Mazda 626DX VIN: 1YVGE22C6S5427119 PA Lic # KLF0682 located at Geysers Garage LLC Elizabethtown, PA. Please contact the garage at (717) 944-3973.

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ESTATE NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Elaine K. Cleckner, a/k/a Elaine Kay Cleckner, a/k/a Elaine Wolfe Cleckner, Deceased, late of Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, have been granted to the undersigned Executrix. All persons therefore indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having just claims will please present the same, duly authenticated, for settlement, without delay to Wendy Crawford – Executrix, c/o Gerald J. Brinser, Attorney, P.O. Box 323, Palmyra, PA 17078.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ESTATE NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters Testamentary were granted to Ross E. Reider, in the Estate of William H. Reider, late of Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania who died on November 20, 2017. All persons indebted to the said Estate are required to make payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the Personal Representative or attorney named below: Ross E. Reider 530 Lopax Road Harrisburg, PA 17112 Or: Jean D. Seibert, Esquire Caldwell & Kearns, PC 3631 North Front Street Harrisburg, PA 17110

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate Notice
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary have been granted in the following estate. All person indebted to the said estate are required to make payments and those having claims or demands are to present the same without delay to the Executors named below. ESTATE OF DORIS J. HANSHAW, late of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, (died December 20, 2017) Kristen L. Hanshaw-Floyd, Executor and Dominic Montagnese, Attorney 624 North Front Street, Wormleysburg, PA 17043

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PRESS AND
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Police say man suffered broken jaw during fight involving dozens at MCSO

By Dan Miller
danmiller@pressandjournal.com

Middletown police are investigating a fight that broke out at the MCSO Building next to the Municipal Building at 60 W. Emaus St. on Jan. 14.

Police shortly after midnight were dispatched to the scene to respond to complaints of excessive noise outside of the MCSO.

The incident started when two girls attending the event got into a fight inside, said Sue Klinger, director of the Olmsted Regional Recreation Center, which is responsible for renting out the MCSO, which is owned by the borough.

Klinger said the two girls were escorted out of the MCSO by the event organizer and by security that the organizer had present. But the girls kept fighting outside and a crowd gathered, Klinger said.

Witnesses told police up to 100 people were involved in the fight. But the crowd scattered when police arrived, and police could not provide their own estimate for

how many people were involved.

The MCSO had been rented out to a Penn State Harrisburg student for a back-to-school event, police said. The event was not an official Penn State Harrisburg event, police said.

Middletown police said they were assisted at the scene by State Police and by police from Derry Township. Closer departments such as Lower Swatara could not respond because they had been dispatched to an unrelated incident in Highspire, police said.

Police said they were later told by Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center that a man had suffered “a severely broken jaw” during the fight.

Hospital officials told police the victim said that he and his brother had been beaten by up to 40 people during the fight, according to police.

Police said they believe people other than Penn State Harrisburg students were involved.

Klinger said that the event organizer met with borough police before the event. The organizer had arranged for security

to prevent anyone from bringing alcohol into the building. Alcohol is prohibited in the MCSO, Klinger said.

The organizer’s own mother attended the party, said Klinger, who stopped by around 9:30 p.m. to make sure everything was running smoothly. At that time there was no evidence of a problem, she said.

Klinger has briefed the Olmsted board on the event. At this time there are no plans to change rental policies or procedures. She said that this is the worst incident she has seen in more than 10 years renting out the MCSO and the Main Street Gym.

She said she feels bad for the student who organized the event, who Klinger said she has worked with in the past.

“This should in no way reflect on the person having the event as it was planned in good faith and other people ruined it,” she told the Press & Journal.

No one has been charged or arrested. However, borough police said that the fight remains under investigation.

LOWER SWATARA POLICE ROUNDUP

Car dealer out \$8,000 in scam; shotgun found in wall of home

The owner of a car dealership in the township told police he was bilked out of \$8,000 in a car purchase scam in December.

The owner of SKS Auto Sales told police Jan. 8 that he had been contacted online by an individual who wanted to buy one of his vehicles priced at \$6,750. Police report a check was received by the auto dealer but was for \$8,000. When told about the incorrect amount of the check, the would-be buyer asked the car dealer to wire transfer \$1,250, the difference between the price of the vehicle and the check. Police said the victim wired the money but was subsequently contacted by the buyer who said he was no longer interested in the vehicle and wanted his \$6,570 returned. As with the first returned amount, the car dealer wired the remaining money from his business bank account to the buyer. Unfortunately for the car dealer, he discovered that the original check for \$8,000 from the intended purchaser was returned due to insufficient funds.

Police reported that the dealer believes the buyer might live in either the Indianapolis or San Diego areas but authorities hold little hope the case will have a happy ending.

Neither the make nor year of the car was noted in the police report. Police added the local business only meets with potential clients on an appointment-only basis.

Gun found in wall

Police report a township resident found a sawed-off shotgun in the wall of her residence and has no idea who would have placed the weapon there.

Investigators explained they were contacted Jan. 13 by a tenant of a mobile home in the 100 block of D Lane who said she was trying to repair a water leak in the residence and had to open a section of a wall. It was at that point she found the shotgun encased in the wall.

Police said the gun is a single shot, 20-gauge Springfield shotgun and had had its stock sawed off. Police did not note whether the gun was loaded.

Police checked a national registry of lost and/or stolen weapons but were unable to find any record of the gun.

Investigators added they plan to contact the owner of the mobile home to see if previous tenants may have any information about the gun.

DUI charge vs. Middletown man

William Bolash II, 51, of the

1000 block of Spring Garden Drive, Middletown, has been charged with DUI, recklessly endangering another person, driving with a suspended license, careless driving, failure to stop and render aid, public drunkenness and two counts of being involved in an accident involving damage to an unattended vehicle or property, court records noted.

According to police, Bolash was driving a 2014 Toyota Tacoma and stopped in the area of Fulling Mill Road and South Eisenhower Boulevard at 9:54 p.m. Dec. 13. The arresting officer said he failed to stop for a steady right light. Police added they smelled an odor of an alcoholic-type of beverage from Bolash’s vehicle and also found an open bottle of vodka in the vehicle.

A background check showed Bolash’s license had been suspended as a result of an unrelated DUI case in Pennsylvania.

Following sobriety tests, Bolash was taken to the Dauphin County Judicial Center. Blood was drawn to test for the possible presence of intoxicants. Results were not reported.

He is scheduled to appear before District Judge Michael Smith on Feb. 2 for a preliminary hearing on the charges.

Master gardeners offer five sessions

Increase your knowledge of lawn and garden-related topics at the 13th annual Dauphin County Master Gardener Spring Workshop Series on five consecutive Saturday mornings from Feb. 24 through March 24.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., with all the programs from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Refreshments are provided and participants will take home door prizes.

The workshops will be held at the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center,

1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin.

The topics are:

• Feb. 24: “Landscape for Life” with Delores McGee, Penn State Extension-Dauphin County.

• March 3: “Stormwater Management and Native Plants” with Jenn Fetters, Penn State Extension educator, and Gayle Cowdright, Penn State Extension-Dauphin County master gardener.

• March 10: “Container Gardens” with Kathy Quarles, garden center assistant manager for

Stauffers of Kissel Hill.

• March 17: “Turf Management” with Tim Abbey, Penn State Extension educator.

• March 24: “Attracting Bluebirds” with Shirley Halk, Penn State Extension-Dauphin County master gardener.

There is a registration fee for each session, and the cost goes up when registering at the door. Call 877-345-0691 to register.

For more information on the event, contact the Penn State Extension Office, Dauphin County, at 717-921-8803.

Battle of the Bulge re-enactment to draw 1,700

The World War II Historical Association will play host to the Battle of the Bulge Living History Week, Feb. 2-3, at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The event honors those who fought and died in the historic campaign and aims to keep their memory alive.

For the past 30 years, Fort Indiantown Gap has worked and partnered with planners in hosting this annual event.

More than 1,700 re-enactors

and living historians from across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom will attend this year, as well as more than 70 World War II vehicles from both sides of the conflict. The latter include Jeeps, weapons carriers, half-tracks, and tanks.

The event area will be open to the public from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 2 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 3.

“Area 13” will feature many educational displays and activities for free.

At 4:30 p.m. Feb. 2, the World War II Historical Association will conduct a small memorial wreath-laying ceremony at the Base Community Center, honoring the soldiers and airmen who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Immediately following the ceremony, WWIIHA will hold a dinner and reception to honor the men and women from the local VA Hospital.

For more information, visit www.wwiha.org.

FROM THE VAULT

News from the Wednesday, Jan. 22, 1969 edition of the Press & Journal

Area man safe after explosion on Enterprise

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rider, of Geyer's Church Road, have received word their son, Aviation Boatswain Mate Ray Thomas Rider, is all right.

He is assigned to the U.S.S. Enterprise and was aboard the giant carrier last week when an explosion caused death and injury to other Navy men aboard.

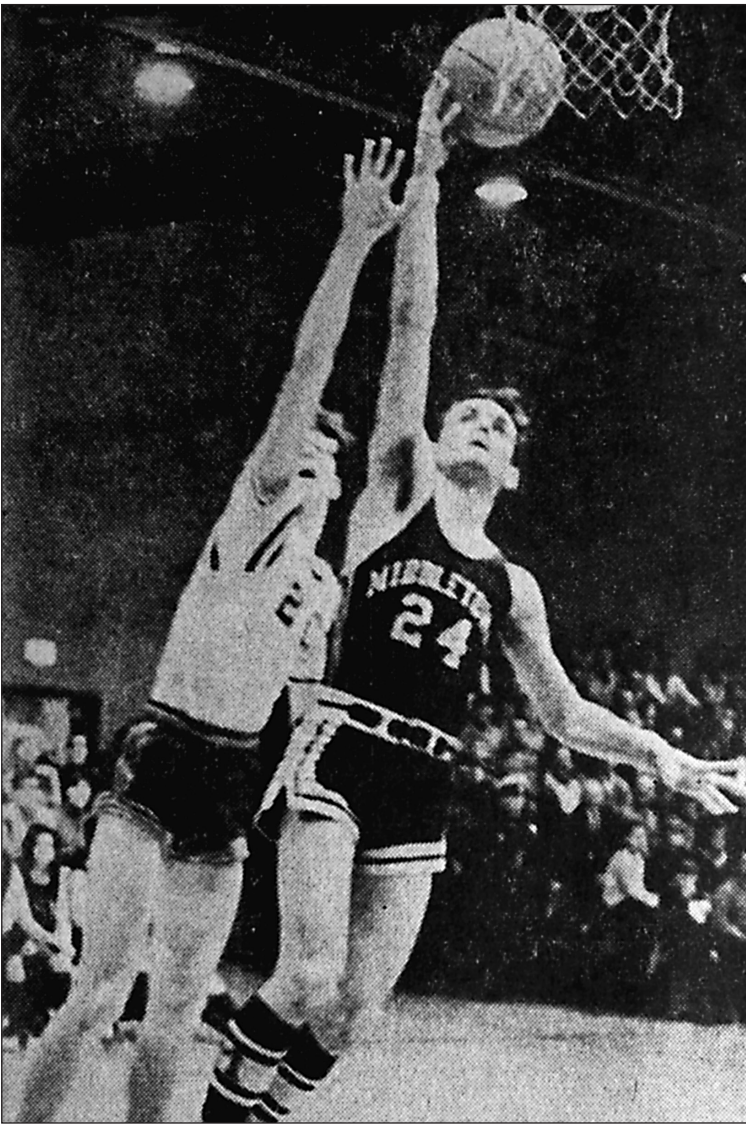
Rider called his parents from Pearl Harbor early last week as soon as the carrier docked. He is a 1966 graduate of Hershey High School and enlisted in the Navy on May 23, 1967, for four years.

Hot buys

- Kraft mayonnaise, 55 cents a quart. Spaghetti, 19 cents. Heinz 14-ounce ketchup, two for 45 cents. Fox's, 101 S. Union St., Middletown.
- Save 50 cents on any \$2.50 load of dry cleaning. Clean 10 sweaters or four medium-weight suits, or eight slacks, or six skirts or dresses. Village Dry Cleaning and Laundry, Olmsted Plaza, Middletown.
- Lined nylon jacket, \$4. Misses suede jacket, \$3, Navy pea jackets, \$8. W.T. Grant Co., Mid Town Plaza, Middletown.

Other headlines

- E. Bryce Wolford named manager of UGI division
- Lower income, no tax base, small population complicates the many problems facing Royalton borough
- Area association asks school district to delay final vote on new 10 percent levy



Dick Barnoski is shown on a layup after a drive which got past Mechanicsburg's Tom Beamer, 20. Barnoski has proven he can work inside and can drive despite his lack of height. He is the best ball handler on the team and one of the finest in the area. He is taking the role of leader, which is helping the Raiders in their second-half drive.

Raiders add 14th win, blast Cats

With play underway in the second half of the Capital Area Conference, the magic number for Casper Voithofer's Blue Raiders is now nine triumphs.

The Raiders, first-half champs, notched their first second-half win last Friday night by blasting Mechanicsburg, 83-42, on the loser's court. It was Middletown's 14th

triumph in 15 starts.

At Mechanicsburg, the Raiders found this one a welcome relief from the pressure-packed games of the playoffs and those against Hershey and Milton Hershey in the closing games of the first-half schedule. Five Raiders scored in double figures with Clifton Brown the high man with 19 points.

South Union extension planned

Although there are no funds budgeted for its construction in 1969, preliminary planning is continuing on the construction of a new South Union Street to link Keystone Avenue with Union just below Ann Street.

Requested by the Rescue Hose Company and supported by all three First Ward councilmen, Elmer Givler, George Mansberger and Robert Reid, the long-sought extension is expected to become a reality in 1970 if funds are available.

Firemen are pushing the new street to eliminate the dangerous and narrow Swatara Street. The latter thoroughfare, narrow and with serpentine curves, is viewed as unfit when emergency calls

are made for fire and ambulance equipment.

Borough Manager George Merkel and Highway Committee Chairman John Lutz, Third Ward councilman, said the new extension will call for a 50-foot right-of-way with the actual street to be 34 feet wide. Although no engineering surveys have been made as yet as well as personal discussions with affected property owners, the cost may run between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

Merkel said a preliminary map has been drawn for the project and a list of affected property owners compiled. These owners will be approached this spring to get their opinions on the new street and to get information on the actual

boundaries of their properties.

After physical descriptions of properties are known, a blueprint of the new street will be prepared. The borough owns some ground at both ends of the proposed extension but lacks a direct right-of-way. Approximately nine property owners are involved and at least two houses, and possibly a third, would have to be acquired to build the street. Four garages also are involved.

The new street would give firemen a direct thoroughfare when answering emergencies in the Second and Third wards of the borough. At present they must use narrow Swatara Street, or South Catherine or Wood streets, several blocks west of the firehouse.

Access road to enter airport at Jednota

State Highway Department officials have revealed the route of the new access road through Lower Swatara Township into Olmsted State Airport.

Once considered for placement near the senior high school and Grandview Elementary School, highway aides told representatives of the local school district, Lower Swatara Township and the Pennsylvania Aeronautics Commission last week the access road will be located to the west of the borough.

It will approach the airport on the south side of the turnpike through property owned principally by the Slovak Union.

The access road will enter the airport by an elevated ramp in order to clear old Route 230 and the Penn Central railroad tracks. It will be located over a vacant lot now separating the Jednota Printery and the residence of William Novak.

Highway officials also said the overhead structure will have service ramps on each side to link

it with old Route 230. They also revealed that a full interchange will be built near Fulling Mill Road. A half-interchange will service North Union Street with new Route 230.

The airport access road initially will be two lanes although it will have the width to eventually accommodate four lanes of traffic.

In pin-pointing the selected location of the airport access road, highway department officials used aerial photographs over which the exact route was superimposed.

Comm system to stay, public meeting canceled

Borough council has canceled a public meeting set for next Wednesday night, Jan. 29, to air discussions on a proposal which would have discontinued the Communication Center's telephone switchboard in the Community Building.

The decision to cancel the open meeting came abruptly last Thursday night at a meeting of the Communications-Fire-Police Committee. A majority of councilmen indicated they now have additional information on the switchboard issue and are will-

ing to go along with the present operation.

Council had planned to modify the present system at last week's regular session but agreed to defer final action after Fire Chief John Blessing submitted petitions asking for a delay.

PUZZLES AND HOROSCOPE

WORD SEARCH | ANSWERS ON B5

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Wedding

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Level: Advanced

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

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

GUESS WHO? (answer below Word Search)

I am a chef born in Ohio on Jan. 22, 1968. I managed chain stores before my spikey, bleached hair, cooking skills and laid-back personality helped me become the face of the Food Network.

CROSSWORD | ANSWERS ON B5

ACROSS

- Measurement (abbr.)
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Sorting
- Attribute
- Poked holes in
- Angers
- Doc
- MLB journeyman pitcher Dillon
- Not don't
- Snubs someone
- Where kids bathe
- One might be in distress
- Chair
- Music industry honors (abbr.)
- Dash
- Owed
- Caucasian language
- One thousand (Span.)
- Musical style

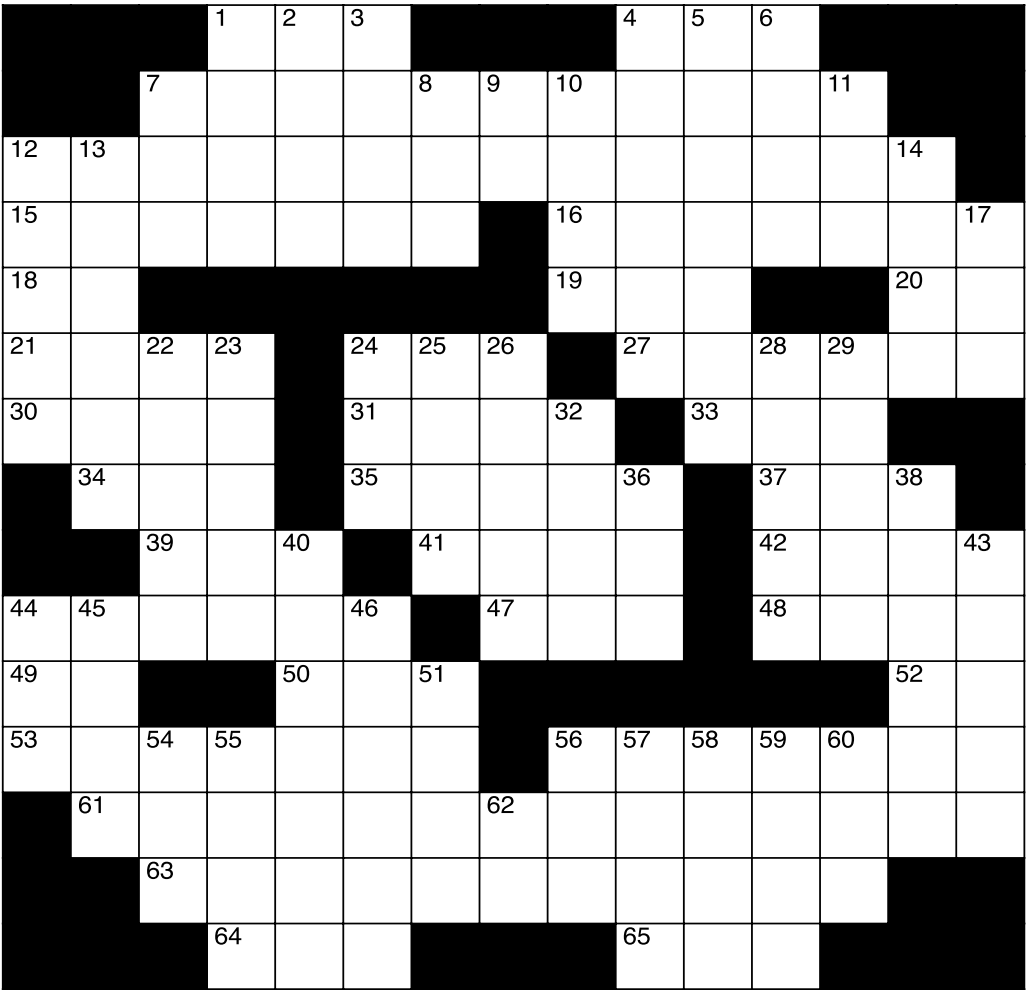
- drum and bass
- Evergreen trees native to warm climates
 - Begin __: start fresh
 - Marshy outlets
 - A chicken lays one
 - Yemen's largest city
 - Conversion rate
 - Single Lens Reflex
 - Atlanta rapper
 - Reduce the importance of
 - Faces of buildings
 - Something achieved
 - Distribute again
 - Tooth caregiver
 - 007's creator

DOWN

- Skater Lipinski
- Data
- Single step
- Destroyed financially

- Fail to interpret correctly
- Fava d'__: tree found in Brazil
- Vehicle
- Limited
- Old English
- Aussie golfer Norman
- Job
- Loose-fitting undergarments
- Protected by balancing
- Give up
- Fifth note of a major scale
- Extravagantly bright
- Takes dictation
- 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- Rounded knob (biology)
- French philosopher Pierre
- Mothers
- Dardic ethnic

- group
- Supports the rudder
 - An ugly evil-looking old woman
 - Of a fasting time
 - Filled with passengers
 - Below the ribs and above the hips
 - Binary-coded decimal
 - 51 is a famous one
 - Goes into a funk
 - Chief O'Hara actor
 - Videocassette recorder
 - Scored perfectly
 - Type of tree
 - ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
 - Popular commercial "pet"
 - Supreme god of Ancient Egyptians
 - Room in a home
 - ___ and behold



HOROSCOPE | WEEK OF JAN. 24

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Plans to get together with friends this week could be delayed by other responsibilities. Do not feel the need to cancel; just reschedule your plans.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21
Taurus, financial issues may force you to work a little harder right now to make some extra money. Make a concerted effort to save more and take care of your financial obligations.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21
Gemini, you may need to wait a little longer to receive some news you have been anticipating. Don't let this get you down. Change is on the way and will come soon enough.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22
Treat yourself to a brief respite from the daily grind. Spend time with the family and enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation in the days ahead.

LEO JULY 23-AUG. 23
Leo, make a concerted effort to open a line of communication with someone who means a lot to you. He or she may need a helping hand, and you are just the person to provide that assistance.

VIRGO AUG. 24-SEPT. 22
Treat yourself to a present. A nice dinner, an unexpected luxury or even a spa treatment is the kind of pampering that goes a long way.

LIBRA SEPT. 23-OCT. 23
Libra, make an effort to lift the spirits of a loved one this week. Responsibilities may be weighing on them, and you can lighten their mood just by being there for them.

SCORPIO OCT. 24-NOV. 22
Scorpio, sometimes you may feel as if you are the only person getting things done. Just keep up your hard work and the rewards will come. Others are taking notice.

SAGITTARIUS NOV. 23-DEC. 21
Sagittarius, if your patience is wearing thin, try to embrace distractions that can help you pass the time. This can make

things less stressful.

CAPRICORN DEC. 22-JAN. 20
Capricorn, you have been doing well financially, but you still hope to do better. Speak with a planner or a knowledgeable relative on how to make your money work harder.

AQUARIUS JAN. 21-FEB. 18
Engage in activities that make you feel good and boost your self-confidence this week. This may be as simple as hitting the gym for a workout.

PISCES FEB. 19-MARCH 20
Phone a friend and set up a time to get together. Reconnecting and sharing a laugh or two will be a boon to both of you and raise your spirits.

Lower Swatara man charged with stealing while serving as group treasurer

A Lower Swatara Township man was arrested Jan. 17 and charged with stealing more than \$26,000 from the Central Dauphin Bus Drivers Association over nearly two years while he was treasurer of the organization.

Robert D. Schaffner II, 78, of the 200 block of Brookside Drive, was arrested by Lower Paxton Township police and arraigned before District Judge Joseph S. Lindsey on charges of one count each of theft by unlaw-

ful taking, and dealing in proceeds of unlawful activities. He was released after posting \$25,000 unsecured bail. A preliminary hearing is set for Feb. 7 before Lindsey. The charges stem from an inves-

tigation the association president launched in August after a “large amount” of funds was determined missing, Lower Paxton police posted on the Crimewatch website. Police allege that between Septem-

ber 2015 and August 2017, Schaffner used his association-issued debit Visa card to make 167 cash withdrawals totaling more than \$26,000 from the association bank account by using automated teller machines.



Schaffner

Library again will offer tax assistance

As in past years, Middletown Public Library is again offering free tax preparation for low- to moderate-income individuals and families. That generally means an annual income of \$54,000 or less.

The program will be offered in the library at 20 N. Catherine St. on Monday nights from 5:30 to 8 p.m. beginning Jan. 29 and

running until April 16. People are helped on a first-come, first-served basis.

The library is offering the program by teaming up with “Money in Your Pocket,” a program which is offered by the United Way. To learn more about the program, call the library at 717-944-6412.

The library has a limited amount of tax forms available

while supplies last, including federal tax forms 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and state forms PA 40 and most common state schedules. Local tax forms will also be available.

The library also recommends people check out My Free Taxes, a website that individuals making \$62,000 or less a year can use to prepare their own state and federal taxes.

HOUSING: Lower Swatara OKs sewer rate hike

From page A1

In other news, Lower Swatara Township commissioners unanimously finalized an ordinance on Jan. 17 that raises monthly sewer rates for township sewer customers on an annual basis through 2022. It is the first rate increase in six years, township solicitor Peter Henninger noted.

Last month, Henninger warned the board that the Municipal Authority of Lower Swatara would run out of money in three years if it didn't increase its billing rate for sewer customers, according to HRG Engineering. The system needs \$2.5 million in overall capital expenditures within the next five years as its “new” portion is now 30 years old.

The new ordinance raises the township's current monthly sewer rate of \$44.75 per EDU to \$50, effective April 1. Additional rate increases of \$2.50 per month will follow on Jan. 1, 2019; Jan. 1, 2020; Jan. 1, 2021; and Jan. 1, 2022. By 2022, sewer customers would pay a total of \$60 each month per EDU. Notification letters are being sent to township sewer customers.

Finally, township commissioners unanimously approved a final land development plan submitted by Morris and Ritchie Associates



The third and final phase of the Campus Heights Village project would comprise 7 acres.

Inc. for a building expansion at 2755 Spring Garden Drive. The plan involves a 7,576-foot building addition that will accommodate the transfer of bakery products from large trucks to smaller de-

livery vans, a Morris and Ritchie representative told the board.

The addition will be built on a paved area and won't cause any new stormwater issues, township engineer Erin Letavic said.

AREA POLICE AND COURTS ROUNDUP

Middletown man charged with terroristic threats, simple assault

Middletown police charged a borough man with terroristic threats and simple assault following an incident at a residence in the 900 block of Briarcliff Road on Jan. 15.

Christopher Goins, 46, of the same address, had threatened a woman with what the woman believed to be a handgun. It was later determined that Goins had pointed a “static gun” at the victim, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

After the victim ran out of the house and called 911, Goins locked the doors and barricaded himself inside, police said.

Police had a Dauphin County Crisis Response Team dispatched to the scene and set up a staging area in the nearby Oak Hill ballfield. However, Goins came outside and the situation was resolved peacefully, police said.

Goins is awaiting a preliminary hearing on the charges.

Vehicle egged

A 2006 gray Nissan Xterra was

hit with eggs as the vehicle was parked in the 100 block of East Emaus Street in Middletown.

The incident was reported to police shortly after 8 a.m. Jan. 15, police said.

Nearly \$700 charged to card

Middletown police are investigating the suspected theft of a woman's credit card or her identity.

Police said that a resident in the 100 block of Spruce Street said that someone had charged purchases totaling \$690.58 to her Boscov's credit card.

The incident was reported to police on Jan. 9.

Unauthorized Best Buy purchases

A Middletown resident told police that someone using his or her debit card had made \$385.33 worth of unauthorized purchases at a Best Buy store in Downingtown.

The incident was reported to police on Jan. 3.

Nothing stolen from vacant house

A vacant residence in the 1100

block of Vine Street in Middletown was broken into, but nothing was reported stolen, police said.

The rear basement door had been pried open, the victim reported to police on Jan. 3. There was no other damage to the residence.

The owner was in the process of renovating the residence to put it up for sale, police said.

Man charged following incident

A Middletown man was charged with simple assault following an incident at a residence in the 200 block of East Main Street on Jan. 16.

The victim had bruising and scratches on her neck after Johnathan Ross Meatley, 33, of the same address, tried to remove her from the residence, police said in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy.

Meatley on Jan. 16 was arraigned before District Judge Lowell A. Witmer, and released after posting \$10,000 bail. His preliminary hearing before Judy is set for Jan. 29.

Swimmer once again plans 24-hour fundraiser at Penn State Harrisburg

Holly Maitland-McKenna, a swim instructor at Penn State Harrisburg, is holding her sixth annual Swim for a Cure 24-hour swim-a-THON starting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the PSH Aquatics Center.

The public is invited to take part, even for a short time.

Maitland-McKenna teaches adult and youth swimming lessons, water fitness, college-level swimming, lifeguard training and water safety. For four years leading into last year, she completed a 15-hour marathon swim from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., at the PSH Aquatics Center to raise funds for PSH THON benefiting The Penn State Dance Marathon.

Last year, her fifth as an official third party fundraiser, she did 24 hours, and she will do that again this year.

All the money she raises goes into Penn State Harrisburg benefiting THON. Each branch campus raises money for the event.

In previous years, her goal was 15 miles and \$1,500 in the 15 hours. Last year, it was 24 miles and \$2,400.

She said training for the event involves some training for up to six hours, but she said she doesn't really get tired. A bigger challenge is not getting too sleepy.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Penn State Nittany Lion hangs out with Holly Maitland-McKenna during a previous swim-a-THON.

The pool will be open for people to join Maitland-McKenna from 8 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, and then from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26.

To donate, go to <https://thon.donordrive.com/event/swim4acure>. The event is on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/SwimforaCure/.

There is no guest fee the days of the swim. Sign in at either Capitol Union Building entrance. Parking on campus is \$1.

Pay at a kiosk and put the pass on your dashboard.

TOWN TOPICS

Dancing scheduled at Event Place on Jan. 26

Dancing at the Event Place, 11 S. Union St., Middletown, will be held from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26.

Hummelstown Fire has Bingo Blast on Jan. 27

Hummelstown Fire Company, 249 E. Main St., Hummelstown, is sponsoring a Bingo Blast at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27. Doors open at 5 p.m.

AARP tax services at Middletown Home

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

Thursday morning beginning Feb. 1 and continue through April 12 by appointment only.

Call 717-944-3351 to schedule the appointment.

Low-cost vaccine clinic is set for cats, dogs

Steelton Community Cats is sponsoring a low-cost vaccine clinic for cats and dogs.

It will be held Saturday, Feb. 3 at Steelton Community Cats Facility, 1 N. Front St., Steelton. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. Clinic hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call 717-877-4146 or visit steeltoncats.org.

Hummelstown baseball/softball sign-up begins

Hummelstown Baseball and Softball Association's 2018 regis-

tration for baseball and modified fast pitch is open.

Registration will be held 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 27; and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 3, at Hummelstown Fire Hall, 249 E. Main St. Late registrations will not be taken after Feb. 9.

Email hbsaboard@gmail.com with any questions.

Hummelstown's 2018 Winter Fling Jan. 26-27

Hummelstown's 2018 Winter Fling will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26 on Main Street and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27 at Nye Elementary School.

There will be activities for all ages, food, wine and music.

The event is sponsored by the Hummelstown Community Foundation.

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ELKS: ‘I really haven’t seen a solid strategy,’ Reddinger says about planning by Friends for theater

From page A1

2015 has had a proposal from the Friends group to transform the theater into a performing arts center. In March 2017, the Friends group submitted a letter of intent to the authority, confirming its acceptance of the authority’s offer to transfer the theater for \$1.

The Friends letter stated a desire to complete the transfer on or before Dec. 31, 2017. Curry at the time said he wanted it done before then.

The deadline has come and gone, but Friends’ spokesman and board of directors member Gordon Einhorn doesn’t attach much significance to that.

“I thought they wanted that commitment to do it by the end of the year,” he said. “We’re still operating under the same proposal that we submitted before.”

Friends grew out of the now-defunct Greater Middletown Economic Development Corp., which formerly owned the Elks Building and which had operated the theater for several years.

The authority acquired the Elks Building from GMEDC in September 2014, but allowed GMEDC to keep running the theater under a lease arrangement until the authority closed the theater for renovations in April 2015.

While the authority still owns the theater, the rest of the Elks Building is now property of Tattered Flag Brewery & Still Works.

As a relative newcomer — appointed to council in 2016 — Reddinger told the Press & Journal that as far as he’s concerned, what’s past is past.

But he says he has a lot of unanswered questions regarding Friends’ plans for the future of the theater.

“What I want to see is what is their plan of attack, what are their goals, and how are they going to be successful,” Reddinger said. “I really haven’t seen a solid strategy.”

Einhorn said he encountered Reddinger on Election Day, and that Reddinger had asked for a chronology or timetable for when specific milestones are to be accomplished by Friends if



PRESS & JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

A Dec. 21, 2017 deadline for action on the Elks Theatre has come and gone.

the theater is transferred to them.

Einhorn recalled that he had not provided Reddinger with that, but otherwise, he said he believes that the Friends group has provided the authority with all the information that the authority had requested.

Still, “I’m going to reach out to him (Reddinger) and see what he would like to see,” Einhorn said. “If he is looking for something else, I am happy to talk with him.”

Reddinger also told the Press & Journal he’d like to know what

“the market” would be willing to pay for the theater.

It’s uncertain how that can be accomplished, as Reddinger and Curry have both said the authority will only put the theater up for sale if the offer to transfer the theater to Friends for \$1 falls through.

But Reddinger said the authority does have a current appraisal for the theater, one that was done by the same real estate appraiser who appraised the McNair House in 2017 in preparation for its sale.

The authority has not made public either the appraisal for the McNair House or for the Elks Theatre, having denied a Right-to-Know request that was filed by the Press & Journal for both appraisals.

Einhorn said he knows of the theater appraisal but that he has never seen it or “been told what was in it.”

Einhorn said he is not overly concerned with the condition of the theater, but that the longer it takes for Friends to become owners of the theater and to begin its transformation, the more expensive that process will be.

In 2016 a construction firm hired by Tattered Flag provided a \$1.1 million estimate for the cost to renovate the theater and reopen it as a performing arts center.

“Prices never go down, they only go up over time,” Einhorn said.

But he sounds more concerned that the longer the theater situation goes without being resolved, the more likely it will fade to black and disappear from the public eye.

“The theater is an important community asset. We don’t want people to forget about it. Things should be done sooner rather than later, while people are still interested in the project.”

Yet no matter where Einhorn goes in town, “people always stop me and ask me what is happening” with the theater. That makes him feel good that, despite closing in on three years since showing its last movie, the Elks Theatre still has a strong fan base.

“Community interest is still extremely high. Community support is still extremely high,” Einhorn said.

POLICE: 2 officers to be added

From page A1

department has a roster of 13 full-time officers, and five part-time officers, according to the roster posted on the Middletown Borough website.

The two new full-time officers must be hired through the borough’s Civil Service Commission, a body of three borough residents who are appointed by council.

The commission hopes to soon conduct oral examinations of candidates for the position of full-time borough police officer, commission Chairwoman Amy Schreffler told the Press & Journal after the commission’s meeting on Jan. 19. The oral exams must be publicly advertised for two weeks before they can take place, she noted.

Results of the oral exam and a written test given to candidates will be used by the commission to develop a list of candidates who are eligible to be hired as full-time police officers by the borough.

The list is then submitted to borough council, which is responsible for hiring one or more of the new full-time officers from those candidates who are included on the eligibility list from the commission.

Anyone applying through the commission to become a full-time borough police officer must have already completed the Act 120 police academy training that qualifies them to be a municipal police officer, according to rules and regulations governing the Civil Service Commission posted on the Middletown borough website.

Once a new full-time officer is hired, the officer must go through Middletown Police Department field training, before the officer is considered ready to patrol the streets.

The 2018 budget approved by council also includes funding for Mouchette to promote a third officer to sergeant. Promotions must also go through the Civil Service Commission.

Council in 2017 approved promoting two patrol officers to sergeant, Scott Yoder and Dennis Morris.

Mouchette said he is also looking to fill one part-time patrol officer vacancy.

Part-time officers do not have to go through the Civil Service Commission to be hired, but their hiring must be approved by council, Mouchette said.

Mayor James H. Curry III in 2017 said that bringing the Middletown Police Department to “full strength” would eventually mean a force consisting of 20 full-time officers — a chief, an executive officer or lieutenant, four sergeants, 12 patrol officers, and two detectives.

KARNS: Six arrested, charged

From page A1

a backpack with the cigarettes and cigars.

Kramer and Lee then left the store going through the same broken door panels they had used to get in, police said. Kramer cut his left leg as he was leaving and left blood on the broken glass, police said.

Jackson, Kramer and Lee all ran west to the parking lot of the Westporte Center shopping center on West Main Street, where Fowler and Maines were waiting in the jeep, police said.

Police said that they were contacted on Jan. 11 by a man who said his brother was a friend of Dalton Kramer. The man said that Kramer had been “bragging” that he had committed the Karns burglary and was trying to sell the cigarettes he had stolen.

The man told police he recognized Kramer from the surveillance photos that had been made public after the burglary. He also showed police photos from Kramer’s Facebook page that matched the surveillance photos.

Kramer was arraigned on Jan. 13 before District Judge Lowell A. Witmer and charged with burglary, theft by unlawful taking, and criminal mischief. He is being held in Dauphin County Prison on \$25,000 unsecured bail.

His preliminary hearing before Judge was scheduled for Jan. 22, but it was not held and has not yet been rescheduled.

Jackson and Lee are both charged with conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary, theft by unlawful taking, criminal mischief, and criminal trespass-breaking into a structure.

Jackson and Lee are being held in New Jersey after being arrested there for armed robbery.



This grainy image from video shows three people outside Karns the night of the burglary.

bery, Middletown police said in arrest papers.

Fowler was arraigned before Witmer on Jan. 15 and charged with burglary, conspiracy to commit burglary, theft by unlawful taking, criminal mischief, and criminal trespass-breaking into a structure.

Fowler waived a Jan. 22 hearing before Judge and is to be arraigned on all charges in Dauphin County Court on April 6. Fowler was released after posting \$20,000 unsecured bail.

Maines was arraigned before Witmer on Jan. 15 and charged with conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary, theft by unlawful taking, criminal mischief, and criminal trespass-breaking into a structure.

He was being held in Dauphin County Prison on \$50,000 bail. His preliminary hearing before Judge was scheduled for Jan. 22, but it was not held and has not yet been rescheduled.

HOVAN: Suspended officer doesn’t deny he attended church on duty

From page A1

According to the ordinance governing the Civil Service Commission on the borough website, the commission’s “standard of review” in holding the hearing “shall be to determine whether sufficient evidence has been presented to support the statutory reason for the disciplinary action.”

The commission after the hearing is to decide whether to uphold the suspension. If the commission upholds the suspension, Hovan can appeal that determination to Dauphin County Court, according to the ordinance.

If the commission does not uphold the suspension, Hovan is to be credited with full pay for the 10-day period he was suspended, and no charges shall be officially recorded against his record.

The three-member commission during its Jan. 19 meeting authorized hiring an attorney, Melissa K. Fiala, to represent the commission at the hearing.

The borough will pay Fiala \$185 an hour, according to borough Manager Ken Klinepeter.

Hovan told the Press & Journal he is to be represented at the hearing by an attorney being paid for by the Fraternal Order of Police.

Fiala is an attorney with Rudolph Clarke LLC, a firm with offices in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties, according to the firm’s website.

Fiala confirmed in an email to the Press & Journal that she has been hired to represent the commission at an upcoming appeal hearing.

Borough council by 4-1 vote during its Dec. 5 meeting approved Hovan’s 10-day suspension, after council had been briefed behind closed doors on results of an investigation that had been ordered by Mouchette.

Councilor Robert Reid dissented, saying while he supported disciplinary action Reid could not “go along with” a 10-day suspension.

Councilor Diana McGlone abstained from the vote, on what she said was the advice of borough Solicitor Adam Santucci.

Mayor James H. Curry III, who as mayor oversees the police department, said on Dec. 5 that he supported Mouchette’s recommendation.

A 20-year veteran of the Middletown force who served as chief from June 2012 to January 2013, Hovan told the Press & Journal his suspension ended Saturday, Jan. 20, and he was to be back on duty on Sunday, Jan. 21.

Hovan, who describes himself as a devout Catholic, contends that he was suspended for going to church at Seven Sorrows in Middletown while on duty on Aug. 15, 2017.

Mouchette has said that Hovan was not suspended for going to church, but because Hovan had disobeyed a direct order from the police chief.

A letter that Hovan received from the chief on Oct. 27 detailed four separate charges of “Neglect of Duty/Inefficiency.”

One charge says that Hovan refused to obey proper orders from a superior. A second charge says that Hovan failed “to properly supervise subordinates, or to prefer



Mouchette

disciplinary charges, or to take other appropriate disciplinary action.”

The third charge says that Hovan failed “to comply with any order directives, regulations, etc., oral or written and also those of a superior.” The fourth charge cites Hovan’s “failure to properly patrol district or sector and make assigned reports to headquarters, unauthorized absence from assignment, failure to respond to radio call.”

Three of the four charges specifically refer to Hovan having attended church services on Aug. 15, “while on duty without authorization despite previous written orders that you not attend such services while on duty.”

The fourth charge refers to Hovan having “an unauthorized absence from your assignment for at least an hour” on Aug. 15.

Hovan during an earlier interview told the Press & Journal that he had often gone to church while on duty throughout his career with the Middletown Police Department.

He contended it was sometimes necessary, in order for Hovan not to miss attending church during any of the required Holy Days of Obligation that are part of being a practicing Catholic.

Hovan said that chiefs before Mouchette were aware of the practice, and that some past Middletown police chiefs had encouraged officers attending church while on duty to improve relations with the community.

Hovan said that he always kept his radio with him while attending church while on duty, and that he had never missed a call while attending services in uniform.

Hovan also said that he was not the only Middletown police officer who had attended church while on duty before Mouchette was appointed effective Jan. 5, 2017, to lead the department as interim police chief by Curry.

Curry tapped Mouchette, a retired New York City police detective, to replace John Bey who had resigned as borough police chief effective Dec. 30, 2016.

Council voted to make Mouchette’s appointment permanent on Aug. 7.

Hovan said that Mouchette called him into the chief’s office on Jan. 8, 2017, shortly after Mouchette had learned that Hovan had attended services at Seven Sorrows while on duty earlier that same day.

He said that Mouchette at the time gave him a letter saying that Hovan could no longer attend church while on duty, and that Hovan was to “never conduct personal business on Middletown Police Department time.”

Mouchette has taken issue with that account, telling the Press & Journal that he did not tell Hovan he could not attend church services.

“He (Hovan) was specifically told that if the needs of the community and the department allowed he could attend church,” Mouchette said. “He was previously advised that if he was required to attend church services during his shift, he needed to request appropriate time off to attend.”

“He never requested the time off,” Mouchette said of Hovan.

Hovan does not deny that he disobeyed a direct order from Mouchette in attending church while on duty at Seven Sorrows

“I would like to ask all fellow Christians and supporters to please come to the hearing to show their support, and if they cannot attend the hearing to at least pray that the Lord’s will be done.”

Officer Mark Hovan


on Aug. 15, 2017.

Hovan was not at the Jan. 19 commission meeting. Asked for comment afterward, Hovan said, “I would like to ask all fellow Christians and supporters to please come to the hearing to show their support, and if they cannot attend the hearing to at least pray that the Lord’s will be done.”

Hovan added he is “very thankful already for all the support

and prayers that I have already received” since word of his suspension became public following council’s action on Dec. 5.

Hovan also asked that people pray for Christopher Hill, the U.S. marshal deputy who was killed while serving a warrant in Harrisburg on Thursday, Jan. 18, Hill’s family, the two other police officers who were injured during the same incident, and their families.



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Blue and Gold Club raises money for school activities

Group holds fourth annual dinner-dance at American Legion, with about 85 in attendance

By Phyllis Zimmerman
Special to the Press & Journal

Spirits were high at the Blue and Gold Club's fourth annual dinner-dance fundraiser on Saturday at American Legion Post 594 in Middletown.

"We hope to raise a lot of money and have a good time tonight," Middletown Area High School Principal Michael Carnes, a club member, said at the top of the evening that began with socializing and music by DJ and fellow club member J.J. Caines.

Soon, it was time for a bountiful buffet dinner prepared by Bob Brant Catering, followed by a fundraiser raffle with prizes donated by more than 20 local businesses and patrons.

Blue and Gold Club President Larry Etter said he expected up

"A lot of them don't even have kids in school anymore and they still come to help."

Principal Michael Carnes

to 85 guests to attend. The club has around 100 members who pay \$10 each for annual membership.

"There's a lot of a good mix of people here. School board members, friends of friends," Etter said. "We put the money raised here into our fund and use it for extracurricular activities. We're here for any group within the school district that puts in requests."

The club was founded in 1990 with an initial purpose of funding athletic activities within the Mid-

dletown Area School District, said Etter, a founding member. Since then, the vision has expanded to help with music, academics, band and other youth activities. About \$3,500 was raised last year.

Carnes said the club has been a "big help" to the school district. "They gave money for this year's prom that will be held at the high school," Carnes said. "When teachers have requests, (the club) helps out. They're very open to working with us and helping."

Athletic Director Cliff Smith said that he's already worked with the Blue and Gold Club to get students what they need since assuming his position in August. "They're a grass-roots group," Carnes noted about the club. "A lot of them don't even have kids in school anymore and they still come to help."



Blue and Gold Club members include, from left, Middletown Area School Board president Linda Mehaffie, State Rep. Tom Mehaffie, Middletown Area School District Superintendent Lori Suski, Ron Suski, and David Franklin, the district's chief financial officer.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY PHYLLIS ZIMMERMAN

Attendees at the annual Blue and Gold Club dinner-dance listen to club treasurer Richard Swartz make opening remarks on Jan. 20.

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WEEKDAY SCHEDULE MONDAY-FRIDAY

DEPART Harrisburg	ARRIVE Penn State	ARRIVE Middletown
5:00 AM	5:35 AM	5:44 AM
5:30 AM	6:05 AM	6:14 AM
6:10 AM	6:45 AM	6:54 AM
6:40 AM	7:15 AM	7:24 AM
7:40 AM	8:15 AM	8:24 AM
8:40 AM	9:15 AM	9:24 AM
9:30 AM	10:05 AM	10:14 AM
10:30 AM	11:05 AM	11:14 AM
11:30 AM	12:05 PM	12:14 PM
12:30 PM	1:05 PM	1:14 PM
1:30 PM	2:05 PM	2:14 PM
2:30 PM	3:05 PM	3:14 PM
3:10 PM	--	3:51 PM
3:40 PM	--	4:21 PM
4:10 PM	--	4:51 PM
4:40 PM	--	5:21 PM
5:10 PM	--	5:51 PM
5:40 PM	--	6:21 PM
6:30 PM	7:05 PM	7:09 PM
7:00 PM	--	7:41 PM

Penn State & Middletown (MAIN & VINE STREETS) TO Harrisburg (TRANSFER CENTER)

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE MONDAY-FRIDAY

DEPART Middletown	ARRIVE Penn State	ARRIVE Harrisburg
5:03 AM	--	5:43 AM
5:33 AM	--	6:13 AM
6:03 AM	--	6:43 AM
6:33 AM	--	7:13 AM
7:03 AM	--	7:43 AM
7:33 AM	--	8:13 AM
8:33 AM	8:45 AM	9:19 AM
9:33 AM	9:45 AM	10:19 AM
10:33 AM	10:45 AM	11:19 AM
11:33 AM	11:45 AM	12:19 PM
12:33 PM	12:45 PM	1:19 PM
1:33 PM	1:45 PM	2:19 PM
2:33 PM	2:45 PM	3:19 PM
3:33 PM	3:45 PM	4:19 PM
4:03 PM	--	4:43 PM
4:33 PM	--	5:13 PM
5:03 PM	5:15 PM	5:49 PM
5:33 PM	5:45 PM	6:19 PM
6:33 PM	6:45 PM	7:19 PM
7:48 PM	8:00 PM	8:34 PM

SATURDAY SCHEDULE NO SERVICE ON SUNDAYS

DEPART Harrisburg	ARRIVE Penn State	ARRIVE Middletown
7:00 AM	7:29 AM	7:35 AM
9:00 AM	9:29 AM	9:35 AM
11:00 AM	11:29 AM	11:35 AM
1:00 PM	1:29 PM	1:35 PM
3:00 PM	3:29 PM	3:35 PM
5:00 PM	5:29 PM	5:35 PM

SATURDAY SCHEDULE NO SERVICE ON SUNDAYS

DEPART Middletown	ARRIVE Penn State	ARRIVE Harrisburg
8:03 AM	8:09 AM	8:38 AM
10:03 AM	10:09 AM	10:38 AM
12:03 AM	12:09 PM	12:38 PM
2:03 AM	2:09 PM	2:38 PM
4:03 PM	4:09 PM	4:38 PM
6:03 PM	6:09 PM	6:38 PM

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Blue and Gold Club secretary Richard Swartz, left, welcomes attendees at the club's annual dinner-dance held Jan. 20 at American Legion Post 594 in Middletown. Club president Larry Etter stands on Swartz's right.



Blue and Gold Club member J.J. Caines served as the evening's DJ.



Above, a raffle conducted at the annual Blue and Gold Club Dinner-Dance on Jan. 20 offered prize baskets featuring gifts from more than 20 local sponsoring businesses. Below, Bob Brant, of Bob Brant Catering, takes a break.



Overseeing the evening's raffle sales were John Scudder, Janine Owen and raffle coordinator Lee Bloes.



The bar was a popular gathering area.

Blue Raiders’ Myers wins coaching award

Middletown head football coach Brett Myers recently was named. 2017 Class 3A Coach of the Year by easternpafootball.com.

In his five years at Middletown, Myers is 45-16 with back-to-back trips to the 3A state title game.

The 2017 team finished 14-1, losing to Quaker Valley in the state title game. They outscored opponents 621-141.

“It would be easy to say the 2016 season was a once-in-a-lifetime season for Middletown football. Instead, our seniors of 2017 would not allow this to



Myers

be a rebuilding year, no matter how much adversity they would have to overcome,” Myers told the website.

The Raiders also have back-to-back Mid-Penn Conference Capital Division titles and made the playoffs three straight years.

“This year’s senior leaders did whatever it took to reach their goal to continue the legacy that was set by last year’s success. This season was a true testament to our program’s mental toughness and our ability to persevere. Whether it was the graduation of 24 seniors, injuries to key players, or showing how disciplined they were, this year’s team and coaches showed true grit by constantly moving forward and being committed to excellence,” he said.

MAHS upsets Spartans; Hughes scores 1,500th

By Larry Etter
Press & Journal Staff

What a turnaround!

After suffering through a loss Friday to Steelton-Highspire, the Middletown boys team had the unenviable task of facing the Milton Hershey Spartans on their home court on Monday to start a five-game week.

Rather than caving into the pressure of facing the Capital Division leaders, the Blue Raiders turned in one of their best games of the season and won 81-55, handing their hosts only their second loss of the season against 12 wins.

The Spartans were heavy favorites to defeat the Middletown squad, at the time 7-5 on the season. But the Raiders put together a fantastic offensive and defensive showing that turned the clash into an arousing victory that put the team back on the winning track.

Tre’ Leach registered a game-high 22 points in the win while teammates Ryan Hughes, Kyle Truesdale and Chris Plummer each collected 13 points.

With the win over Milton Hershey, the Blue Raiders stand at 8-5 overall, 5-3 in the Capital Division, and are ranked No. 5 in the District III-AAAA power rankings.

After playing one of their best games of the season in a 71-61 victory over Northern Lebanon in a non-league matchup last Thursday, the Blue Raider boys failed to repeat that effort in a disappointing 61-45 loss to Steelton-Highspire on Friday evening.

Middletown 81, Milton Hershey 55

The early minutes of the game were unsettling for the Raiders after Milton Hershey’s Donyae Baylor-Carroll scored 10 quick points to give the Spartans an early 10-2 lead. While that effort sent an uneasy feeling through the Middletown crowd, Baylor-Carroll scored just two points the rest of the way as the Raider defense grounded the talented senior following his high-flying start.

A quick timeout called by Middletown coach Chris Sattelle worked wonders as his team settled down and started collecting points of its own. With 5:32 left in the opening quarter Leach kickstarted a 13-2 run by the Raiders that subtly took the early momentum away from the home team.

In the run, goals by Plummer, Truesdale, Tyler Petroski and David Alcock led the charge and gave the Raiders a 15-12 lead. The lead grew to 18-14 on a triple by Petroski before the Spartans closed out the period with three points to pull within one.

But any good feelings the home team had at that point were quickly washed away as the Middletown five started off the second stanza with a 13-0 run that lifted the Raiders to a 31-17 lead at the halfway mark of the frame.

Hughes opened it up with a drive following a Spartan turnover and Truesdale capped it with a trey at 3:59. In between, Leach, Plummer and Brady Fox chipped in points in the string.

While the Raiders missed some shots during the second quarter, the Spartans missed more. In fact, the Spartans missed a lot of shots throughout the game and the Raiders took advantage on nearly every



SPECIAL TO THE PRESS AND JOURNAL BY EARL HAMMAKER

Ryan Hughes fires up a shot Thursday in Middletown’s 71-61 win vs. Northern Lebanon, in a game played at Penn State Harrisburg. Hughes topped the 1,500-point mark in the game. He is the second-highest scorer in Middletown boys basketball history.

opportunity. The first half ended with the Blue Raiders well out in front, 41-24, after outscoring their hosts by a whopping 23-7 margin in the period.

With the split crowd expecting Milton Hershey to gather itself to start the second half, it never happened. Things never really got any better for the Spartans after the break.

One of the big keys to the Middletown win throughout the game was a distinct advantage on rebounding on both ends of the court. With the Spartans limited to single shots most of the way, the Raiders were able to pick up valuable offensive rebounds that led to scores. With five players chipping in points the visitors held a 16-13 scoring edge in the third and led 57-37 heading into the final frame.

In the fourth quarter, the Middletown offense only got better. Leach scored 10 of his points in the period and Hughes dished out several assists as the Blue Raiders poured in 24 points to put the game away.

Sattelle had very efficiently substituted players from early on and, with his team leading 72-47 with 3:20 left, Sattelle went deeper into his bench. In the final 1:16 Jerrod Myers scored 5 points and Zhmier Carter added a bucket to keep the gap far apart.

A late trey by Milton Hershey’s Hassan Kamara gave the Spartans 18 points for the period.

Middletown 71, Northern Lebanon 61

With the non-league contest originally scheduled for their

No. 2 on scoring list

Here is where Ryan Hughes, who topped 1,500 points for his Blue Raider career last week, ranks among the other top scorers in the program’s history.

Dave Grabuloff.....	2,000
Dave Twardzik.....	1,069
Mical Russ.....	1,055
Keith Jefferies.....	1,025
Mike Sniscak.....	998
Aaron Lupia.....	995
Henry Brown.....	989
John Harper.....	989
Rick Budney.....	980
Wilbert King.....	950

home court, the Blue Raiders instead moved to Penn State-Harrisburg’s spacious gym on Thursday and apparently liked the collegiate venue.

The change was made due to a wrestling match at the high school.

The Raiders worked their way to a 20-14 lead at the end of the first quarter, held a slim 38-37 edge at halftime and gained a 5-point lead by the close of the third period. By finishing the game with a 19-14 scoring advantage in the final frame, the Raiders turned away a good Northern Lebanon team that is also in the chase for postseason play.

Senior Ryan Hughes recorded his 1,500th career point, which moved him into second place in all-time scoring for the boys program. Dave Grabuloff is the leader with 2,000 points.

The Vikings came into the game with a 9-3 overall record and a second place standing in the Lancaster-Lebanon League’s Division III. Led by smooth, sharp-shooting guard Caleb Light, the Vikings gave the Blue Raiders a good test, one that the Middletown squad passed with good grades.

The game also marked the return of Raider senior Chris Plummer, who had missed some time following ear surgery. Plummer scored a game-high 22 points in his return, while Hughes added 21 and Tre’ Leach collected 18 points. Light led the Vikings with 20 markers.

With just more than minutes left in the opening quarter, the Raiders had climbed up to a 15-7 lead on scores by Kyle Truesdale, Plummer, Hughes, Leach and David Alcock. The 20-point output by the Middletown offense gave the team a good start. And it was needed as the Vikings, down 20-14 to start the second stanza, pumped in 23 points in the span to close the gap to just one at halftime.

Light put up 11 of his points in the second to lead the rally after the Middletown side had stretched its lead to 31-22 with 5:13 left in the first half. The Raiders registered just 1 point in the last two minutes of the frame while the Vikings scored six.

The Blue Raiders scored the first 4 points of the second half but Northern Lebanon ran off 6 straight to work their way to a 43-42 lead with 5:21 left in the third. Neither team shot well in the quarter (Middletown made just 6 of 19, Northern Lebanon made 5 of 14), and points were at a premium. With the score tied at 47 following

Please see **RAIDERS**, page **B2**

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51 Pa. deer test positive for CWD

The Pennsylvania Game Commission recently announced that 51 deer from the 2017-18 hunting seasons that have been tested for chronic wasting disease have been found positive.

The commission collects samples from deer harvested across the state and tests them for chronic wasting disease, as part of the agency's ongoing CWD surveillance. The majority of samples collected still are being analyzed.

All have been within the state's Disease Management Areas. Forty-eight were within DMA 2, in south-central Pennsylvania; and three were within DMA 3 in north-central Pennsylvania.

In DMAs — where the disease has been detected in captive and free-ranging deer — intensified sampling occurs, according to the commission.

This past hunting season, the commission offered free CWD testing for hunters harvesting deer within DMAs, to have a way to have deer tested prior to consuming it, and it provided the commission with additional samples to better pinpoint areas where the disease exists.

Hunters within DMAs dropped off heads from more than 1,500 deer in the boxes. About 1,000 of these samples already have been tested for CWD.

Additionally, commission staff collected more than 3,000 other samples within DMAs to test for CWD. In total, nearly 8,000 samples were collected statewide.

Slightly more than 5,700 white-tails were tested for CWD in 2016; 25 tested positive, all were in or near DMA 2, the only area of the state where CWD has been detected in the wild.

Wayne Laroche, the commission's special assistant for CWD response, said the agency will continue to assess the incoming test results to evaluate the best response to confront CWD where it exists.

DMA boundaries regularly have been adjusted in relation to newly detected CWD-positive animals. And last year, the commission teamed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a CWD surveillance effort where 30 deer were removed by sharpshooters and one CWD-positive deer was detected.

"By developing a control program where we go into these hotspots and remove the animals with a greater likelihood of carrying the disease, we might stand our best chance of controlling CWD on a larger scale, while minimizing the impact on the larger deer population or diminishing deer hunting opportunities," Laroche said.

CWD is not a new disease, and other states have decades of experience dealing with CWD in the wild. It first was detected in Pennsylvania in 2012 at a captive deer facility, and it was detected in free-ranging deer soon after. To date in Pennsylvania, CWD has been detected in 98 free-ranging deer.

CWD is spread from deer to deer through direct and indirect contact. The disease attacks the brains of infected deer, elk and moose, and will eventually result in the death of the infected animal.

There is no live test for CWD and no known cure. There also is no evidence CWD can be transmitted to humans.

However, it is recommended the meat of infected deer — or deer thought to be sick — not be consumed.

For more information go to www.pgc.state.pa.us.

7 MAHS wrestlers place in New Oxford; postseason a possibility

It was another demanding weekend on the mats for the Blue Raider wrestlers.

After limited practice time last week due to weather, Middletown jumped into action on Thursday against an experienced and talented Camp Hill squad. The Raiders, now 11-4 on the season, are clinging to hopes of a postseason invitation. They will need a win over Milton Hershey in their next home match-up on Jan. 25, as well as help from others, to keep their postseason hopes alive.

Despite leading the match 28-6 through the first seven weight classes, the young Raider heavyweights could not match the experience and strength of Camp Hill.

The Lions, led by five seniors, would go on to win seven straight matches and earn a 42-28 victory.

On Friday, the Raiders traveled to the New Oxford Invitational Tournament. This two-day event featured 32 teams from across the state.

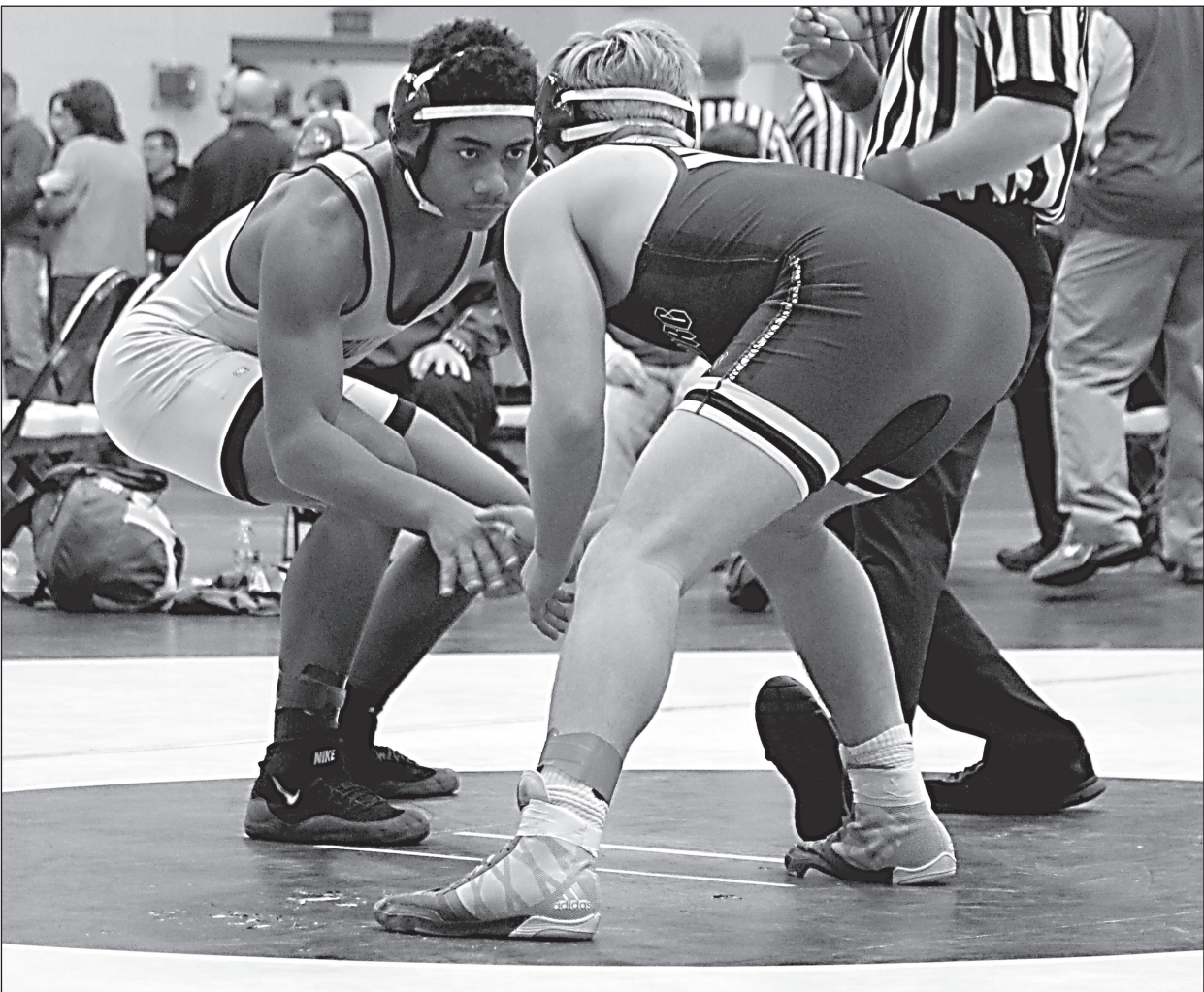
By Saturday evening, the Raiders secured five podium positions in the varsity division and two wrestlers placed in the junior varsity division.

Senior Devin Martin led the way with a fourth-place finish at 138 pounds.

Sophomore Luke Fegley and junior Ryan Berstler each earned sixth-place finishes at 106 and 120 pounds.

Sophomores Joey Spear and Arthur Dash each had some quality wins to earn eighth place finishes at 145 and 170 pounds.

In the junior varsity division, sophomore Chase Woodley had a solid performance and earned a second-place finish. Chris Joseph added two more pins to his resume to secure a seventh-place finish.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY DEBBIE SPEAR

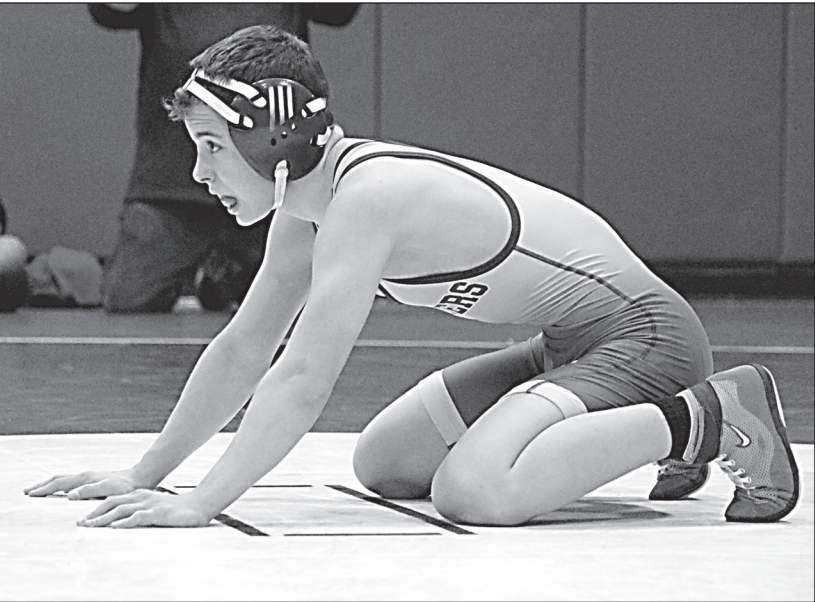
Middletown's Arthur Dash gets ready for his match to determine seventh place in the New Oxford Invitational Tournament on Friday. Dash would finish eighth.

brought the team score to 18-0 with a pin at 120 pounds.

After giving up a forfeit at 126, the Raider middleweights hustled to find bonus points. Middletown's Nate Brady and Joey Spear earned much-needed wins at 132 and 138, and senior Devin Martin scored 4 team points with a major decision over Max Delaye at 145.

With the Raiders out in front 28-6, they looked to sophomore Chris Joseph to pull out a big upset against one of the Lions' senior standouts Gus La Torre. Joseph jumped out to an early lead, but La Torre's experience allowed him to earn the pin and the first match win for Camp Hill.

The Lions rode that momentum through the next six matches to give the Raiders their fourth loss of the season.



Luke Fegley battled Bailey Gimbor of Brandywine Heights into overtime at the New Oxford Invitational Tournament on Friday.

RAIDERS: Steelton-Highspire gets 16-point victory vs. Middletown

From page B1

a goal by Northern Lebanon's Cameron Gensler. Leach put back a rebound with 59 seconds left and Hughes converted a Viking miss into a three-point jumper at :03 that gave the Raiders a 52-47 edge heading into the final period.

The action heated up in the final segment and the Middletown side was able to make their shots in building its lead to 63-51 with 2:55 left. Plummer, Hughes, Leach and Truesdale joined forces as the Raiders outscored the Vikings 11-4 in the five minute span. Hughes made one of two free throws with 58 seconds left to make it a 70-59 game that locked up the victory.

Steelton-Highspire 61, Middletown 45

As well as the Blue Raiders had played in the win over Northern Lebanon, the team never got into any rhythm Friday against the visiting Rollers.

After losing by one point to the Raiders on Dec. 18, the Rollers exacted their revenge in the second meeting, breaking away from a tight contest with a dominating second half and a strong finish in their 61-45 win. While the Middletown team has shown much improvement since the start of the season, the Steelton-Highspire squad has also gotten better. With a 9-5 record, the Rollers are sitting in fourth place in the District III-AAA power rankings.

The game evolved into a typical Middletown vs. Steel-High battle of rivals that was closely contested through the first half and into the early minutes of the second. But the Rollers stepped up their game and used their athleticism from that point on to run away with the



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS AND JOURNAL BY DONALD GRAHAM

Chris Plummer goes up for a shot Friday vs. Steelton-Highspire.

victory. Jarvai Flowers and Tim Kater each recorded 18 points for the winners while Hughes and Plummer teamed for 26 points for the Blue Raiders.

The Raiders got on the scoreboard first on a three-pointer by Plummer at 6:46 of the opening period, but that goal was quickly matched by Amig Jenkins 24 seconds later. Dead even in missed

shots and turnovers in the opening frame, the teams ended up deadlocked at 12 at the end of the quarter. The Rollers opened up the second stanza with a 10-0 run, however, to forge ahead 22-12 and would not trail the rest of the way.

A rash of missed foul shots and turnovers by both teams kept the score close and the Rollers led 23-17 at the halftime break.



Tre' Leach drives up the court vs. Steel-High.

For the Blue Raiders, a much-needed positive start to the second half was secured when Plummer tapped in a rebound at 7:42 of the third quarter that cut the deficit to four points. But the Rollers ran off the game's next 12 points to jump up to a 35-19 lead that subdued the Raiders' efforts.

During the stretch, the Middletown side missed four straight free throws, was whistled for a technical foul and missed a couple shots from the floor that led to the commanding Rollers' lead. And, although they tried to stay in it, the Raiders just could not make any progress. Flowers and Kater collected 16 of the Rollers' 18 points in the third and the visitors led 41-29 heading into the final frame.

The Blue Raiders put up 16 points in the fourth quarter but made just 7 of 19 shots from the floor while the Rollers collected 20 points to hold the Raiders at bay. Hughes scored 7 points for the Raiders while David Alcock put up 5 in the game's final two minutes.

PSU-Harrisburg men's, women's basketball teams lose to Salisbury

The Penn State Harrisburg men's basketball team fell to 6-11 on the season Saturday after falling 80-68 to the Salisbury Seagulls in a home matchup.

Trent Thomas led Penn State with 16 points. Ibn-Haneef Nelson and Austin Chimuma both added 10 off the bench.

The team hits the road today,

Jan. 24, to face the Wesley Wolverines.

The women's team also lost at home to Salisbury, 73-42, and are 6-11 on the season.

Shanique Mattis scored 16 points and Tessa Dolce added 9 in the loss.

They, too, will travel today to take on Wesley.

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CHEVROLET

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2018 REGISTRATION FOR Baseball & Modified Fast Pitch NOW OPEN!
Hummelstown Fire Hall, 249 E. Main St.
Jan. 24th, 5-8pm • Jan. 27th, 8-Noon • Feb. 3rd, 8-Noon
BASEBALL: Age range 5 - 12 yrs.
MODIFIED FAST PITCH: Age range 5 - 14 yrs.
\$50 Registration for 1st child. Plus R&K Sub fundraiser participation
OR \$30 buyout fee for single player (\$50 for family)
Late registrations will be not be taken after February 9
VOLUNTEERS ARE GREATLY NEEDED!
First time players with HBSA must have a copy of their birth certificate.
Any questions please email HBSABoard@gmail.com

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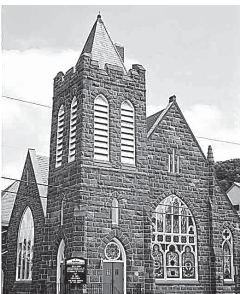
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CHURCHNEWS

Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown



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

Thurs., Jan. 25: 7:15 p.m., choir.
Please join us at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 28 as our Pastor Bruce Humphrey leads us in worship. Our sanctuary is air-conditioned and handicapped accessible, and there are also hearing devices for anyone wanting to use one. Nursery is available during the service, as well as Bible Listening bags for children to utilize during the service. Do join us!

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

Ebenezer United Methodist Church



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

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

Night will be the third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Our homemade chocolate Easter eggs are available. We also have chocolate pretzels. For purchasing information please contact Mel Bollinger at 717-583-0502, eve2mel@verizon.net or Bill Hoch at 717-944-6080. We also offer a variety of other groups including Bible studies.
Any questions please call us at 717-939-0766 or e-mail us at ebenezerumc890@outlook.com.

New Beginnings Church of Middletown



We are an independent body of believers offering God’s invitation for a new beginning to all who seek it. We exist to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of all people through faith in Jesus Christ. We are a Safe Sanctuary congregation.

New Beginnings Church invites you to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children’s church is provided.

Our congregation meets at Riverside Chapel, 630 S. Union St., next to the Rescue Fire Company. Sunday School for all ages is at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

January ushers: the Dana and Jeff Rhine family; Greeter: Nan Fishburn; Children’s church leaders for Jan. 28: Carol Helman and Terri O’Donnell.

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

Sun., Feb. 4: Souper Bowl Sunday. Luncheon of soup and sandwiches after church. Home-made soup for sale can be pre-ordered featuring chicken noodle and chili plus homemade calico beans. Soup is available in quarts

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 – Jaden Miller; Organist – Don Cowsert Sr.; Choir Director – Erich Schlicher; Children’s Time – Lee Ellenberg-

er; Audio Visual – Steve Moyer and Jamal Warren; Head Usher – Scott Green; Greeters – Warren and Jean Coover; Nursery Caregivers – Deb Lidle, Joyce Moyer and our Sr. Choir members.

The altar flowers today are given in memory of parents Walter and Dorothy Hoke by son Walter Jr. and family.

This week’s schedule of activities is as follows:

Wed., Jan. 24: 6 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous Book Study Group; 6:30 p.m., Sr. Choir rehearsal in church sanctuary.

Thurs., Jan. 25: 7 p.m., Worship Committee meeting.

Sun., Jan. 28: 9 a.m., Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., Sunday Worship Service.

Tues., Jan. 30: 2 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6 p.m., God’s Kitchen at Wesley, meal provided by Wesley.

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Spring & Union Streets (121 N. Spring St), Middletown is a Reconciling In Christ Church.

Please join us for worship. Our worship times are: Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m. Sunday Church School for all ages begins at 9 a.m.; Wednesday morning at 10 a.m.; Saturday evening at 5 p.m. Please enter the church through the parking lot door.

Our Sunday worship service is broadcast at 11 a.m. on WMSS 91.1FM.

Church and Community Events:

Sat., Jan. 27: 5 p.m., Holy Communion – Sanctuary.

Sun., Jan. 28: 9 a.m., No Luther Hall Sundays class; Our youth will host a breakfast buffet as a fundraiser for their trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering; 10 a.m., Holy Communion.
Thurs., Feb. 1: 10 a.m., Middletown Interfaith Council meeting at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church.
Sun., Feb. 4: Congregational meeting after the 10 a.m. service.
Mon., Feb. 12: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Community dinner at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church.

Wed., Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday services at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Food Pantry News: Especially needed are personal care/toiletry items: toilet tissue, deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos, conditioners, cotton swabs, tissues, soap, paper towels, etc. Items collected are

taken to the Middletown Area Interfaith Food Pantry located at 201 Wyoming Street, Royalton. Individuals may also take items directly to the food pantry, which is open Tuesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 pm. The Community Action Commission office is open Tuesdays and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the same location. Food Pantry Sunday is Feb. 4 and the first Sunday of each month.

Visit our website at www.stpetersmiddletown.org.

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

Scripture for Jan. 28: Deuteronomy 18:15, 29; Psalm 111, Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1: 21-28.



Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church



Calvary church has been a part of the Middletown Borough community since 1936. It has been our privilege to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ all these years and to do so knowing the good news has never changed in over 2000 years. We firmly hold to the Apostles’ Creed and the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Larger and Shorter Catechisms as clearly

teaching what Scripture teaches. If we believe the Gospel of Christ, then by trusting in his death and resurrection for sinners we can and will be forgiven and saved from God’s wrath. Please join us each Sunday to hear the Gospel.

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

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

Directory of Services



Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church
10 Spruce Street • 717-944-5835
Sunday School - 9 am • Morning Worship 10:15 am
Evening Worship - 6 pm
www.calvaryopc.com



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



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



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



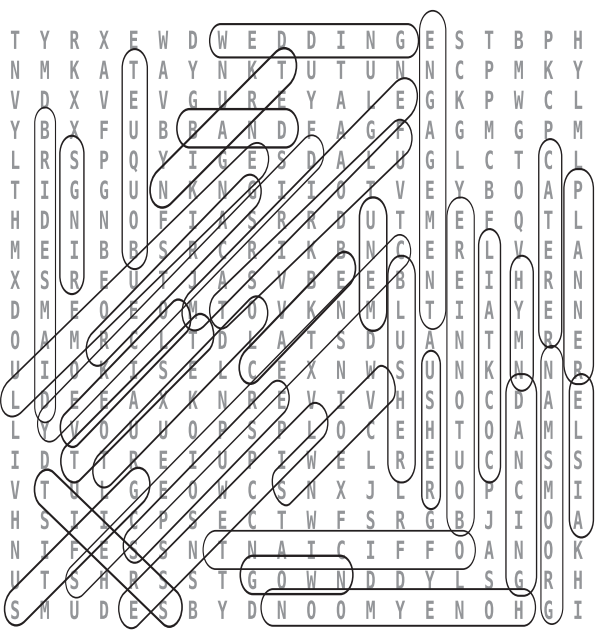
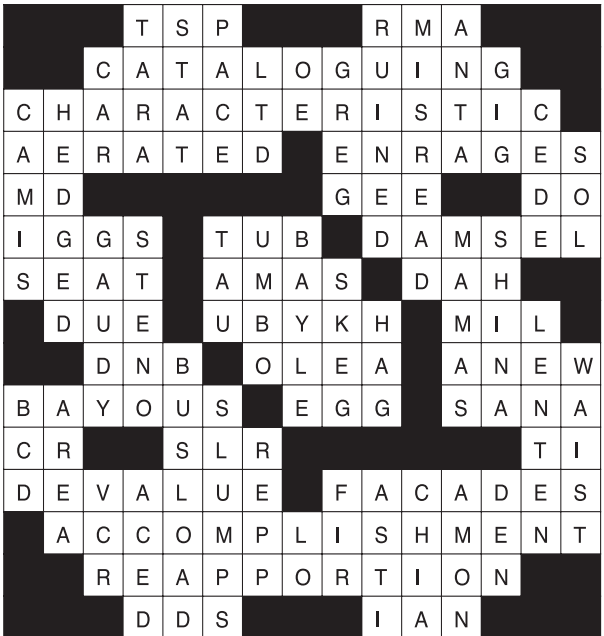
Wesley United Methodist Church
64 Ann Street, Middletown
PASTOR NAYLO HOPKINS
Pastor James Lyles, 10xBetter
Phone 717-944-6242
Sunday Worship - 9:15 am
Small Groups - 10:30 am

To list your church service here, call 717-944-4628

or email info@pressandjournal.com

for more information.

ANSWERS | PUZZLES ON A5



VIEWPOINTS

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Pipelines are critical to having strong infrastructure

The state Department of Environmental Protection recently halted work on Sunoco’s Mariner East 2 pipeline project, which cuts through Dauphin County. Based on timelines included in the DEP order, as well as the protracted negotiations between the company and regulatory agency, it could be weeks if not months before development on the pipeline resumes.

That’s too bad. This project remains critically important infrastructure for our commonwealth, with a new study, coming out just days after the stoppage, underscoring exactly what Mariner East means to Pennsylvania.

According to Econsult Solutions, projects associated with the Mariner East pipelines will generate a one-time economic impact of nearly \$9.1 billion in Pennsylvania and support 57,070 jobs during the entire construction period — the equivalent to 9,520 jobs each year for six years — with earnings of \$2.7 billion.

Those are stable, family-supporting jobs for workers, and they represent a cross-section of disciplines: from the laborers working outside to lay the pipeline, including members of the Laborers International Union of North America (LiUNA!) and the International Union of Operating Engineers, to the vendors who support installation.

The potential economic impact of the pipeline is even greater than first anticipated. The new report, which updates an earlier but similarly impressive economic analysis that was issued in February 2015, further states that the Mariner East projects could generate an estimated \$122 million in total to the commonwealth over the length of the construction period.

None of this should come as a surprise. Pipelines are major infrastructure projects, no different than roads or

Please see **PIPELINE**, page **B5**

READERVIEW

From the Vault article involved grandfather, safe

My wife was reading the Dec. 27 P&J and then she said, “OMG!”

The old news article that you printed on the From the Vault page about a robbery of \$26,000 was my grandfather’s house in Penbrook.

I never knew how many were involved in the robbery and that one was from Middletown. I do know that they found the safe near Indiantown Gap.

The frightening thing is we lived in Colonial Park and these robbers were watching our house because with my grandmother being in the hospital, my grandfather was coming to our house for dinner.

The night of the robbery, my grandfather was going to stop at the house before going into the hospital but he didn’t. Who knows if he would have ran into them!

Greg Croft
Lower Swatara Township

EDITORIALVIEW

We are divided, but we can change it

We are not united as a country right now.

That’s not a shock to anyone who spends any time on social media or watching cable news.

But we also need some perspective.

It’s ludicrous to say that we have never been more divided. Remember the Civil War? We literally were fighting each other to the death.

One hundred years after that, the 1960s also saw major divisions, stemming from the fight over civil rights, Vietnam and the peace movement.

We probably aren’t more divided today than we have been at many other times in U.S. history. It’s just that we know how divided we are. It’s in our face all the time. We tell each other about it. Maybe not you, the person reading this in Middletown or Lower Swatara Township, or Londonderry Township, but the collective “we,” as a society.

Facebook, Twitter and other social media are full of arguments. Cable news pits talking heads with opposing viewpoints against each other. Democrats and Republicans shut down the government, and each side blames the other.

We all have a voice, if we post on Facebook or if we tweet out our ideas or an article with which we



agree. That power simply didn’t exist a little more than a decade ago.

The platform each American has is a great equalizer. After all, it used to be very difficult for an average American to express his or her views. They could buy a copier and hand out pamphlets or fliers. They could run for office, or argue with friends, or go to the local bar and try to win converts.

That all seems quaint now.

“Going viral” is equivalent to deep thought. Gathering Twitter followers is akin to leadership.

While there are no bigger advocates for free speech than us here at the Press & Journal, it doesn’t come without a price.

We still have to put up with hate speech, words with which we disagree with all of our fiber of being, but those who utter it now are not limited to shadowy backrooms and

secret meetings. Social media, the Internet and other platforms allow it to be spread quickly, even if it is vile. Technology allows those people with the same thoughts, even if there are only a few hundred in the country who are in agreement, to find each other, to validate each other and to embolden each other.

The world is a lot smaller than it used to be.

The ability to exercise our right to free speech should be a wonderful thing. But reason, discussion and compromise are too often trampled in its wake.

Too many of us have to win every discussion instead of trying to be enriched by the viewpoints of others. We can find websites to support our every thought.

Those who work hard to verify and publish truth are accused of being “fake news.”

We have a long way to go before we as Americans — as residents of Earth, in fact, because this problem knows no international borders — can figure it out.

We don’t have the answers.

But there is always hope. We are only a few years into the era of social media. As our young people get older, we hope that they figure out a better way to use it than many of their elders are right now.

We can’t uninvent the technology that put us where we are today. And we aren’t blaming social media and technology for all of our ills. It’s a tool, and it can be used for both positive and negative results.

Maybe, just maybe, we can all chill out a bit moving forward.

It can get worse, and that’s a scary thought. Let’s not allow it to happen.

Resolutions: Use less salt, do more dancing



SUSANNAH GAL

I hope you have enjoyed the start of your year. It’s a new year, one filled with promise and opportunities. It’s a new page in each person’s book of our time on Earth.

I remember one of our daughters loving to get new notebooks for the start of school in part so she could smell the new paper. I think it also reflected a sense of possibilities — some might think of as endless — for the beginning of a new chapter or direction one could take.

When we lived in Basel, Switzerland, they had this lovely tradition on New Year’s Eve. People would go to the plaza in front of the cathedral and listen to the largest bell of the cathedral tolling out the old year in low tones. Then at midnight, the smaller, higher toned bells would ring out as a sign of the start of something new.

People around the square would hear these bells and wish everyone a good “rutsch” or “slide” into the year. We also would take pieces of paper with our bad memories of the year and burn them just at midnight in an effort to remove those things we didn’t want to carry into the New Year. That’s a great metaphor for letting things go and moving on with one’s life. It’s not always easy to do with some things.

What kind of New Year’s resolutions have you made for 2018? As many of you know, I do a lot of walking around the neighborhood for my exercise in the morning. While the weather recently often hasn’t cooperated to make it fun to walk outside, I’ve still been able to do it. Sometimes the snow and ice have made that walk a lot more treacherous than I’d like it to be. I do appreciate when people shovel their sidewalks or put out something to melt the ice on the pavement in front of their houses.

I do have one comment. Please don’t overdo the salt. I’ve seen lots of extra salt on streets and walk-



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY SUSANNAH GAL

Don’t use too much salt to melt ice this winter.

ways long after the snow and ice are melted. That extra salt can wash into the waterways and grass beside the sidewalk the next time it rains and that can hurt the plants and water life.

Salt is an attractor of moisture. You know this probably because you’ve become thirsty after eating lots of salty food such as potato chips or French fries.

When the salt is sitting outside of plants, it actually can cause the water inside the plants to be sucked out to try to balance the concentration (or saltiness) inside and out.

And what can that do to the plants on the edge of your sidewalk if the water gets sucked out of them? They die. That’s why you might see a strip of dead plants along highways or sidewalks.

There are other effects of road salt. Joel Snodgrass, head of Virginia Tech’s Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, told radio station WTOP:

“Road salt ... doesn’t disappear. It actually goes into our groundwater.”

Susan Miller, the public affairs manager for Fairfax Water in Virginia, told wateronline.com: “The use of road salt can cause elevated sodium and chloride levels in sources of drinking water. This can lead to taste and odor challenges for water suppliers and can be an issue for individuals restricted to a low-sodium diet.”

So what are some options if you want to reduce the negative effects of road salt? Alternative salts are quite expensive and have other issues. Liquid salt or brine is suggested by some as their application is easier to control. I’ve also seen some communities use sand or ash to provide something to add grit for better gripping of the pavement.

Also the dark color of ash can absorb sunlight and melt ice or snow. In any case, it’s good for us to consider the widespread environmental costs of overuse of road salt by using only what we need and sweeping up any extra after the ice is all gone.

Another alternative for exercise that I’ve used is dancing as some of you know. As I’ve mentioned previously in my column, I do a form of dance that is a cross between squaredancing and English court dancing contra dancing. We do it usually a couple of times a month.

The best thing is, starting this week, we’ll be doing this type of dancing in Middletown. This time it won’t be in our house; it’s at The Events Place at 11 S. Union St., from 8 to 11 p.m. this Friday, Jan. 26.

All the dances will be taught and there will be live music. If you come at 7:30 p.m., you’ll get a chance to learn some of the basic steps like do-si-do and ladies chain before the real dance gets started.

Come check out this wonderful community building activity.

It’s also a great way to get some exercise to satisfy your New Year’s resolutions.

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

We must adhere to the Constitution: Amend it instead of interpreting



MIKE FOLMER

An ongoing debate in our nation is the question of whether our rule of law is a “living Constitution” or one that should be taken literally.

The former says the Constitution was intentionally written in broad and flexible terms so as to change with the times. The latter focuses on the original words, meaning and intent of the Constitution.

This debate has been raging since 39 of the 55 delegates to the Constitu-

tional Convention signed the document. Three delegates refused to sign because they considered it a flawed document: George Mason and Edmund Randolph of Virginia and Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts.

In the state ratification debates that followed, these three were joined by a host of other “Anti-Federalists” who also opposed ratification, including Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, James Monroe, Richard Henry Lee and George Clinton.

The “Federalists” were rallied by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, who authored a series of 85 articles in support of the Constitution: “The Federalist Papers.”

In Federalist No. 50, Hamilton and/

or Madison focused on changes to the Constitution: “Periodical Appeals to the People Considered,” which notes: “IT MAY be contended, perhaps, that instead of occasional appeals to the people, which are liable to the objections urged against them, periodical appeals are the proper and adequate means of preventing and correcting infractions of the constitution.”

Interestingly, Federalist 50 cites Pennsylvania’s now-forgotten Council of Censors, which met in 1783 and 1784 to determine “whether the constitution had been violated, and whether the legislative and executive departments had encroached upon each other.” This important and novel experiment in politics merits, in several points of view,

very particular attention ... ”

Among the benefits cited of such a Council of Censors are reasons why the amendment process is so important, including serving as a check to the “passion” of the moment that results in decisions based upon “not reason” and decisions that “misconstrue the limits prescribed for the legislative and executive departments, instead of reducing and limiting them within their constitutional places.”

In his Farewell Address of 1796, President George Washington said: “If in the opinion of the people the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But

let there be no change by usurpation; for though this in one instance may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.”

I agree: If we fail to follow the Constitution, it becomes mere words on paper. When we adhere to the Constitution and amend rather than interpret it, it remains our rule of law.

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

VIEWPOINTS

Closing TMI would hurt education, communities



MARY CARRICATO

Three Mile Island Generating Station will close in 2019 unless lawmakers in Harrisburg pass legislation that enables this crucial energy source to remain open. If TMI goes away, with it goes its tax revenue — more than \$1 million in state property taxes — that fund our schools and public services.

This matter is of particular concern to me, as our schools subsist wholly on tax dollars. The closure of TMI is going to have a ripple effect throughout the

entire region, creating job losses and reducing tax revenues to school districts and municipalities across south-central Pennsylvania. The Steelton-Highspire School District already has one of the highest millage rates in the entire region, and we simply cannot afford another hit to our revenue.

Additionally, a meaningful amount of a school's budget goes toward overhead costs such as electricity, so we are particularly susceptible to energy price fluctuations. It's critical, therefore, that we maintain a diverse mix of fuel types — rather than putting all our eggs in one basket. If we depend too much on natural gas, for example, and then it skyrockets in price, we'll simply have to foot an increased bill. And let's remem-

ber that every dollar that goes to lighting and heating a school is one that isn't spent directly on a child's education.

Keeping TMI running isn't just helpful for our educational system, it's key for providing work force opportunities. What many don't realize is that the jobs at TMI are highly skilled, high-paying technology jobs. Their influence is helping create a work force for tomorrow within our community — providing resources, support for STEM education and, eventually, career options to our district's students. Bottom line, the people of TMI are invested in providing opportunities to those in our community — now, and well into the future.

To be sure, this is an issue that goes beyond dollars and cents. It weighs

heavily on my mind that the parents of some of my students could lose their jobs and the community they call home could face an uncertain future.

Small towns across America are being crippled by the budget holes, depressed home values and tax increases that move into town when nuclear plants shut down and newly out-of-work residents are forced to leave, downsize or struggle to make ends meet. When Vermont Yankee's single-unit nuclear reactor was shut down in 2014, the town's budget had to be cut by 20 percent.

It's easy to think of this as an energy policy issue in a vacuum — but this is about more than just how we get electricity. TMI's closure would impact our

local economy and our schools. Which is why I feel so strongly that, as a school board member, I must speak up.

TMI and the people who work there are good neighbors. It's time for us to return the favor. That's why I, along with other local leaders, have joined the Clean Jobs for Pennsylvania coalition. It is our hope that by encouraging our neighbors to learn more about this issue and by raising awareness of the detrimental impact that TMI's closure would have on surrounding communities, we can make a difference.

I encourage you to show your support at www.cleanjobsforpennsylvania.com.

Mary Carricato is a board member of the Steelton-Highspire School District.

PIPELINE

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bridges, and they require tremendous investments and manpower when they run the length of the state. The economic dividends are just as great.

Look at the \$3 billion Atlantic Sunrise project, which also passes through central Pennsylvania. That project is expected to support 8,000 jobs with construction activities expected to generate about \$16.9 million in additional state taxes. Total payroll will be about \$501.6 million during the construction phase alone.

That project will supply enough natural gas to meet the daily needs of more than 7 million American homes by connecting producing regions in northeastern Pennsylvania to markets in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern states.

Mariner East is a \$5 billion project that stretches 350 miles across Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, transporting natural gas liquids developed here to the Marcus Hook plant in Delaware County for refining.

And it's already fulfilling its promise to be one of the biggest economic opportunities our state has seen in generations — which makes it all the more important for DEP and Sunoco to work expeditiously to get the project back on track.

Some critics still refuse to accept the realization of local benefits. But the evidence is irrefutable.

Mariner East 2 plans distribution points along the line to supply propane for commercial and residential use. Propane remains a key heating source for many homes in Pennsylvania.

The project also is powering a new state-based power plant, Competitive Power Ventures Inc.'s Fairview Energy Center in Jackson Township, Cambria County, that will meet the energy needs of 1 million Pennsylvania homes.

More recently, Sunoco announced that it is now shipping ethane from Marcus Hook to a specialty gas producer in Texas that used to get its supplies from Europe, meaning we are opening up new domestic markets for the state's huge shale gas reserves.

Let's face it: There's nothing pretty about large construction projects, whether you're building a highway or developing a pipeline like Mariner East 2. But all of these major infrastructure projects are essential to our way of life and continued growth.

It's hard to argue that the revitalization of our region — and indeed, our entire shared commonwealth — as a thriving energy hub is bringing home more jobs and greater economic returns that are being shared by our entire commonwealth.

If this latest study is any indication, the estimates get better with time and development.

Kurt Knaus is spokesman and alliance manager for Pennsylvania Energy Infrastructure Authority, a coalition of labor, agriculture, manufacturing and other business interests that supports private investment in pipeline and other energy infrastructure developments.



How Hamilton foresaw the likes of Donald Trump



DAVID COLE

Legal scholars and progressives have long expressed doubt about the utility of courts in advancing social justice. They argue that judges are inherently conservative, that victories often prompt costly backlashes, and that focusing on courts diverts attention from the more important work that needs to be done in the political arena.

The first year of the Trump administration suggests that this skepticism is overstated. Much to the president's dismay, those he calls "so-called judges" have repeatedly ruled against his administration. Judges appointed by Republicans and Democrats alike have enforced constitutional guarantees against a president who has shown little regard for the Constitution.

In this respect, the courts have performed just as Alexander Hamilton hoped they would. In the *Federalist Papers*, Hamilton argued that a judiciary with life tenure and the power to declare the political branches' actions unconstitutional was essential, so that judges could serve as "the bulwarks of a limited Constitution." Rarely has that role been more essential.

Consider the results. Multiple courts have invalidated all three versions of the president's travel ban, enacted to make good on his campaign promise to prohibit Muslims from entering the country. He abandoned the first two versions of the ban after courts ruled them illegal. The third version, also declared invalid by the courts, is now headed to the Supreme Court.

Two federal courts have preliminarily struck down Mr. Trump's prohibition on transgender people serving in the military, a policy he announced on Twitter.

Federal courts have twice ordered the Trump administration to stop obstructing access to abortion for teenagers in immigration custody. The head of the Office of Refugee Resettlement refused to allow four undocumented minors in federal custody to obtain abortions, even though they have a constitutionally protected right to do so.

In December, a federal court in San Francisco ordered the administration to allow "Dreamers," the undocumented immigrants whose parents brought them here as children, to renew their applications for protection from deportation. On Jan. 13, the administration announced that it would follow the order and allow these individuals to renew their status pending a final resolution of the lawsuit.

Also in December, a federal court ordered the administration to give the ACLU access to an unnamed U.S. citizen the military has been detaining in an undisclosed location in Iraq without charges. The government chose not to seek an immediate appeal, and allowed the ACLU to consult with the detainee, who confirmed that he wanted legal help.

In Pennsylvania, a federal court has preliminarily stopped Mr. Trump's rollback of an Obamacare requirement that employers cover the cost of contraception in the insurance plans they provide to their employees.

In California, a federal court barred the administration from denying federal funds to cities and counties that adopt "sanctuary" policies and decline to enforce federal immigration laws.

Earlier this month, Mr. Trump disbanded his controversial "voter integrity" commission, designed to support Republican voter suppression efforts. He explained that "rather than engage in endless legal battles at taxpayer expense, today I signed an executive order to dissolve the commission." The commission had been sued not only by numerous civil rights groups, but even by one of its own members.

Not every constitutional challenge has been successful. A federal judge in New York recently dismissed a case charging Mr. Trump with violating the Constitution's Emoluments Clause, which forbids the president from accepting any "emolument," or payment, from a foreign or domestic state official. (The court did not rule on the merits, but merely concluded that the plaintiffs did not have sufficiently concrete injuries to raise the claim.) Two other Emoluments Clause lawsuits are pending. Other than this decision, the administration has been singularly unsuccessful defending its actions in court.

This long line of legal victories against the administration is a sign of how careless it has been when it comes to constitutional constraint — and of how critical judicial checks are. Donald Trump's disregard for convention, including in constitutional matters, does not play well with courts, whose job is to maintain those very conventions.

The battle is by no means over. Most of these cases are ongoing. The Supreme Court has yet to rule on the merits of any of them. It remains to be seen whether it will be as forceful a "bulwark of a limited Constitution" as the lower courts have been. But one year into Trump's tenure, the federal courts have been willing to do just what Hamilton hoped they would: Stand up to the president in defense of liberty.

David Cole is legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Counties working to improve quality of life



DOUG HILL

There are countless ways that Pennsylvania residents interact with their county governments every day, probably without even realizing it — everything from services for those with mental illness, intellectual disabilities and substance abuse issues, to child abuse investigations, to local court operations, to marriage certificates, mortgage, deeds and other document recording, to property assessment, to 911 call-taking and dispatch, to local bridges and mass transit and much more.

Together, the leaders of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have chosen seven priorities for 2018 that reflect this wide range of services. But more than that, our priorities are our promise to the residents of this state to work together with the commonwealth on solutions that better meet the needs of Pennsylvanians, reduce costs, assure quality services and make sure every taxpayer dollar is being used effectively.

Counties' top priority for 2018 focuses on the crucial human services and supports we provide that protect the most vulnerable. Our capacity to meet needs, though, has been strained by a steady decrease in state funding for more than a decade while mandates and caseloads continue to increase.

A primary example of caseload growth in recent years is the nearly 30 new child welfare laws enacted in 2015. Washington County has experienced a 35 percent increase in referrals since the laws were implemented; Lebanon County, a 40 percent increase; and some counties, more than 100 percent increases. But these new laws came without any additional state support, leaving our county children and youth agencies struggling to perform this important responsibility.

Counties need the state and federal government to commit full funding that recognizes our mutual commitment to serve our citizens across all human services programs, and to review and identify potential reforms in the scope and administration of human services programs to better reflect our state-county partnership.

Also driving service needs is the toll of the opioid epidemic. For instance, a record 38 people died from overdoses in Lycoming County in 2017, while the Lawrence County coroner had twice the number of autopsies than usual because of the crisis. This trend has become a major cost driver across county budgets for drug and alcohol services and other human services areas.

We have seen progress in recent years, for example by expanding access to the overdose-reversal drug naloxone and by continuing to implement "warm handoff" protocols to help get overdose survivors directly into treatment. However, more can and must be done. For that reason, counties support the governor's recent action to declare the heroin and opioid crisis as a statewide disaster emergency. Counties have a critical role in addressing the epidemic, and increased collaboration between state and local officials to develop and implement a comprehensive approach, coupled with additional resources to expand local capacity, is important to the success of these efforts.

Counties also support, as a priority, increasing access to forensic beds

in state hospitals for county inmates with mental illness and developmental disabilities. While the state and counties are already taking important steps to address this issue, it is a crisis that fails to effectively or compassionately address human need.

Relatedly, we need a greater focus on expanding resources and treatment options for individuals with mental illness or a developmental disability, both within and outside of the prison system. Sadly, county jails have become our nation's largest mental health facilities, and 19 counties have already adopted a resolution to actively support the national Stepping Up movement to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

Clinton County recently noted, as it approved new prison employees to focus on mental health care, that it is more cost-effective to provide mental health services than to house an inmate; if they don't make those investments up front, 60 percent of inmates will likely return within three years.

Two other areas where additional support is needed are in veterans' services and in voting systems. To the first, counties provide important services to our veterans to assist them in their return to civilian life. But we can do better to keep our promise to support veterans and their families after the trauma of active service, and as a priority counties support federal and state resources to assure programs and services are adequate, timely and appropriate for veterans.

Counties also take pride in their responsibility to maintain the integrity of the election system, from voter registration until the last vote is counted. But most voting equipment is at the end of its useful life and will need to be replaced in the next few years. These replacement costs can quickly add up, with nearly 40,000 voting machines operated by our counties and the latest computerized machines costing between \$2,500 and \$3,000 each — not including programming, supplies and maintenance. We will need state and federal assistance to continue to uphold our responsibility for a fair and accessible voting system.

Among all of these issues, counties continue to monitor ongoing state discussions regarding the potential of placing a severance tax on the natural gas industry. Our priority is to maintain the shale gas impact fee that was established in 2012, regardless of these discussions, keeping impact fee distributions as currently structured to benefit impacted local governments as well as counties throughout the commonwealth for at-risk bridges and environmental purposes.

Counties cannot achieve any of these priorities alone. Although they all reflect state-mandated functions of counties, they are better thought of as a partnership between county and state government. Our final priority, itself an underlying theme across all of our priorities, is a pledge by counties to re-engage the General Assembly and the administration in understanding and respecting the state-county partnership from both a financial and regulatory perspective.

Pennsylvania counties are many things, but first and foremost, Pennsylvania counties are here to serve you. We take these priorities seriously, and we are committed to working together to achieve them.

Doug Hill is executive director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

OUT & ABOUT



TAKING THE POLAR PLUNGE

About 300 “polar bears” raised more than \$100,000 for the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania Area M on Saturday during the Polar Plunge at Gifford Pinchot State Park. The event was scheduled to take place at City Island in Harrisburg but was moved for safety concerns with the moving ice on the Susquehanna River. It was the 13th time the event was held.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY BILL DARRAH

