



Police stopped reporting crime info to state

By Dan Miller
Press And Journal Staff

The Middletown Police Department apparently stopped reporting criminal offenses and arrests to the Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system for 2014, a possible violation of the law that could lead to the state withholding fines and crime-fighting grants from the borough.

According to the UCR system, which can be accessed through the Internet, no criminal offenses of any kind and no arrests have occurred in Middletown in 2014.

For example, just across the border in Lower Swatara Twp., police have made 92 DUI arrests so far in 2014, according to the UCR. Highspire police have arrested 44 people for DUI. But no one was arrested for DUI in Middletown in 2014 – in fact, the borough has not even had any DUI offenses this year, according to the data base.

Anyone can access the information by going to the police department section of the Middletown Borough Web site and clicking on the link “Search Crime Statistics.”

That Middletown police stopped reporting this information doesn’t just mean that Middletown

Borough Council – not to mention borough residents – are in the dark regarding what police have been doing. Not reporting the information to the Pennsylvania UCR is itself against the law.

Trooper Adam Reed, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania State Police, provided the Press And Journal with a copy of the Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting Act, which states, “All state, county and local law enforcement agencies shall report statistical information related to the number and nature of offenses

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MIDDLETOWN

No increases in electric rates, taxes in 2015

By Dan Miller
Press And Journal Staff

There will be no tax or electric rate increase in Middletown in 2015, Middletown Borough Council decided on Monday, Dec. 15.

Council voted 5-1 in favor of a 2015 budget that relies upon a \$1.9 million transfer from the borough’s electric trust fund to close a spending gap.

About \$1.6 million will be transferred from the electric trust to the general fund. The remainder will be used to help plug a deficit in the borough’s electric budget of about \$400,000, said Mark Morgan of Susquehanna Group Advisors, the borough’s financial consultant.

Voting for the budget was council President Chris McNamara and councilors Anne Einhorn, Robert Louer, Suzanne Sullivan and Vicki Malone.

The lone no vote came from Councilor Ben Kapenstein, who chairs council’s finance committee. Three councilors were absent – John

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Middletown man charged with rape of 13-year-old girl

By Dan Miller
Press And Journal Staff

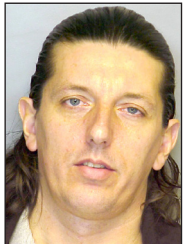
A Middletown man charged by police with allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl on Aug. 1 was arrested in Lancaster on Sunday, Dec. 14 after fleeing his home with his two sons, authorities said.

William Scott Allison, 51, of the 100 block of Spring St., was held in Dauphin County Prison in lieu of \$300,000 bond. He is charged with criminal attempt – rape, criminal attempt – involuntary deviate sexual intercourse with someone under the age of 16, aggravated indecent assault of someone under the age of 16, corruption of minors and unlawful contact with a minor.

A preliminary hearing is set for Tuesday, Dec. 23 before District Judge David Judy.

Middletown police were about to arrest Allison at his home on Saturday, Dec. 13 when he fled the residence with his two sons, ages 8 and 13, police said.

Authorities said Allison had custody of the two boys even though he had pleaded guilty to statu-



Allison

Please See CHARGED, Page A6



Photo by Deb Schell

Snow covers Main Street in Middletown after a 2010 winter storm. Middletown Borough Council has approved an agreement with PennDOT to continue plowing the street and other state roads in town.

Council approves snow plowing pact with PennDOT

By Dan Miller
Press And Journal Staff

Faced with public outcry and vocal opposition from Mayor James H. Curry III, Middletown Borough Council has reversed its previous decision to leave the snow-plowing of state roads up to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Council voted 4-2 on Monday, Dec. 15 to reinstate an agreement with PennDOT by which state routes 230 (Main Street), 441 (Union Street) and Vine Street in Middletown will be plowed by borough crews.

Under the agreement – which the borough had been operating under for several years until this winter – PennDOT pays the borough an amount just over \$7,200 to cover the cost of Middletown having its own employees and trucks plow the state roads. The PennDOT funding is also to cover the cost to the borough of the substances required to treat the roads as part of plowing.

Critics of the borough’s decision to leave the plowing of the state roads to PennDOT this winter focused on concern that the state roads would not be plowed as quickly as before.

Several residents seized upon the potential liability to the borough that could result if emergency vehicles could not get up a hill on North Union Street to reach Frey Village Senior Living Community.

Curry and others said that the borough’s decision to leave the plowing of state roads to PennDOT did not make financial sense.

In a bad winter, such as last year, PennDOT increases the amount of money that it pays to municipalities that participate in the plowing program. Last winter, PennDOT paid Middletown an additional \$1,410, according to PennDOT spokesman Greg Penny.

On the other hand, as Curry pointed out to council, the borough would still keep all of the \$7,200-plus PennDOT allotment for the winter even if a single snowflake doesn’t fall throughout the season.

Councilors Anne Einhorn and Ben Kapenstein said the borough’s decision to not participate in the state program this year should have been brought to council for discussion.

Council President Chris McNamara defended the borough’s decision to forego the state agreement.

“It was an operational decision based on reduction of manpower” that is to occur after Jan. 1, when a number of employees are to be transferred from the borough to United Water as part of a 50-year lease of the town’s water and sewer systems to United.

The borough stands to lose “six to eight bodies” who will no longer be available to plow the roads, McNamara said. He add-

Please See PLOWING, Page A6

STEELTON-HIGHSPIRE SCHOOLS

Private committee meeting bucks school policies, law

By Eric Wise
Press And Journal Staff

When the Steelton-Highspire School Board’s finance committee met privately on Nov. 24, the closed-door meeting contrasted policies and practices found in most school districts in Dauphin County.

Committees formed to shape policy and advise school boards on various functions are required to provide public notice for meetings through ads in newspapers of general circulation and hold meetings that are open to the public under the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, according to Melissa Melewsky, media law counsel of the Pennsylvania News Media Association.

A reporter from the Press And Journal was asked to leave the meeting Nov. 24. Board

President Mary Carricato said it was not a public meeting. Superintendent Ellen Castignato agreed, saying the district’s committee or “subcommittee” meetings are never public meetings.

No one at the meeting said the board was meeting in an “executive session,” a private discussion of personnel matters, legal matters and other subjects allowed under the Sunshine Act. Nor did the board announce it held an executive session at its meetings before or after the private session, as required by the law.

Vincent Champion, the board’s solicitor, did not address the Nov. 24 committee meeting during the board’s public meeting on Thursday, Dec. 4. After the Thursday

Please See STEEL-HIGH, Page A3

SECRET SANTAS

Raiders buy gifts for local family

If Christmas is, in the words of “Peanuts” creator Charles Schulz, “doing a little something extra for someone,” then the Middletown Area High School football team truly has discovered the meaning of Christmas.

Blue Raider players bought gifts for an unidentified needy family in the district and wrapped them to provide a joyous Christmas to someone less fortunate.

It’s a tradition the team started in recent years.



Photo by Jodi Ocker

Members of the Middletown Area High School football team hold the wrapped gifts they bought for a local needy family.



Borough newsletter to publish quarterly, not monthly

Middletown Borough Council voted 6-0 on Monday, Dec. 15 to reduce the publication of Middletown Matters, the borough newsletter, from monthly to once per quarter.

The newsletter’s content will be reviewed by council’s administration/personnel committee before it is published. The committee includes councilors Suzanne Sullivan, Vicki Malone and Ann Einhorn.

Einhorn is among a group of four councilors, joined by Mayor James H. Curry III, who had asked that their names be stricken from Middletown Matters until procedures are adopted that would allow council to review the newsletter before it is published. The three other councilors are Ben Kapenstein, Tom Handley and Scott Sites.

Each edition of Middletown Matters costs an estimated \$4,000, according to borough communications director Chris Couragen, who is the newsletter’s editor.

Christmas story, breakfast at Wesley UMC

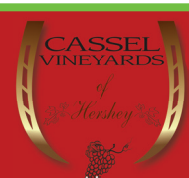
Children can get breakfast, gift bags and a Christmas story at Wesley United Methodist Church, 64 Ann St., Middletown from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Please RSVP by calling the church office at 717-944-6242.

Santa returns to Middletown

Santa Claus will return to the Swatara Ferry House Landing at South Union and Ann streets in Middletown from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20 and 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21.

His visits are sponsored by the Middletown Area Historical Society



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Submitted photo

Members of Cub Scout Pack 97 and Boy Scout Troop 97 who collected food items for the Grace Chapel Food Bank in Londonderry Twp. were, from left: kneeling, Jason O'Donnell and Gabe Silks; front row, Toby Hanft, Colton Mataka, Tom Hanft, Phoenix Sauter, Kyle Hoyt, Alex Grab and Ben Spangenberg; back row, Cole Carlson, Jake O'Donnell, Garrett Little, Brayden Harris, Christopher Kiessling and Mitch Lee.

Londonderry Twp. Scouts collect 400 items for local food bank

Cub Scout Pack 97 and Boy Scout Troop 97 of Londonderry Twp. joined together to help their neighbors in need when they held their annual food drive, collecting about 400 canned and packaged food items for a township food bank.

The "Scouting for Food" drive ben-

efited the Grace Chapel Food Bank. This year's drive was significantly down from past years, but the food bank was grateful for the contribution.

Upcoming events for the Cub Scouts include assembling community food baskets, Christmas caroling at Frey Village and the Pinewood

Derby. Grade school boys who are interested in the Cub Scouts may call Mark Matakato at 717-468-8349.

Upcoming events for the Boy Scouts include Christmas caroling, the Holiday Court of Honor and the Klondike Derby. Boys in grades 5 through 12 who are interested in the Boy Scouts may call Kevin Little at 717-944-1957. Pack 97 and Troop 97 are sponsored by the Londonderry Fire Company.



NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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Greetings to you all during this very festive and jam-packed month of too-much-to-do and so-little-time. Don't burden yourselves – just pick a few things to do and try to enjoy!

One of my best childhood memories of December is the viewing of the Christmas specials on television. This was such a big deal in a time before video tapes, VCRs and DVDs. There was no On Demand, so one could not just order up and movie and watch it at leisure.

We knew exactly when "The Little Drummer Boy" was airing. We had to know ahead of time when we could see, just once a year, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Santa Claus is Coming To Town." I loved "Frosty the Snowman" and "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" – and, of course, the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life."

I wonder what your favorites were and, perhaps, still are?

Enjoy this holiday time and think about this reason for the season: redemption!

Don't forget to let me know your news to share, and keep warm.

Birthdays

Hey, **Quincy Dukes** of Lower Swatara Twp., best wishes to you for an awesome landmark 21st birthday. Hoping all your dreams come true on your special day.

Happy cake and ice cream day to **Angela Knaub** of Lower Swatara as she observes her birthday on Thursday, Dec. 18.

If you see **Rob Alcock** of Lower Swatara out and about on Friday, Dec. 19, be sure to give him a loud and jolly happy birthday greeting.

Happy red and green 20th birthday to **Anna Collins** of Middletown. She celebrates her festive golden birthday on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Caitlin Williams of Lower Swatara will hear the birthday song sung on Monday, Dec. 22. Happy 23rd as you enjoy this holiday week.

Here is a big shout out for a marvelous birthday to **David Stauffer** of Royaltown on Tuesday, Dec. 23. I hope 58 wonderful things happen on your day, David!

Anniversaries

Happy 45th wedding anniversary to **Robert and Peggy Schlehr** of Lower Swatara. Their celebration and congrats day is Saturday, Dec. 20. Enjoy! Jim and Kathy Blockus of Lower Swatara mark their 35th romantic holiday on Monday, Dec. 22. Congrats to you both, and best wishes, too.

"One Nation"

Here is an excerpt from Dr. Ben

Carson's book, "One Nation:"

"Washington, D.C. is dysfunctional today because the primary two political parties have become opponents instead of teammates with different approaches to the same goal. In a speech not long ago, President Obama referred to the Republicans as enemies. While it was wrong of him to refer to them as such, many of the party probably see themselves as his enemies, largely because of the Affordable Care Act, the biggest governmental program in the history of the U.S., which was passed without a single Republican vote in the House or the Senate. Never before has any major society-changing piece of legislation been passed in this country without bipartisan effort.

"During the bill's passage, I had an opportunity to speak with one of the president's senior staffers and said that this unilateral act would create an unprecedented level of dissension and rancor that could preclude cordial working relationships for an extended period of time. The response I got was, 'So what? That's nothing new.'

"This 'my way or the highway' approach has resulted in disaster. Influenced by special interest groups, like some of the insurance companies that stood to benefit from the exchanges if they worked well, the Trial Lawyers Association, which supports anything that doesn't include tort reform, and many liberal universities, which blindly support anything disguised in the mantle of liberalism, Democrats tried to create a bandwagon effect to alleviate any anxiety felt by the public. But by rushing to pass the bill while they still controlled the House and Senate, the Democrats passed a program so massive that many components of it have not even been tested. As Nancy Pelosi once famously said, 'We have to pass it, so we can see what's in it.'"

Christmas Concert

Come enjoy the "Sounds of the Season" at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20 at Highspire United Methodist Church, 170 Second St., Highspire. The concert will feature local Christian band "Heaven Help Us." A donation of nonperishable food items will be collected for a local food bank.

Millersville grads

The following local students graduated from Millersville University during a commencement ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 7:

SHHS announces Honor Roll

Steeltown-Highspire High School has announced its Distinguished Honor Roll and Honor Roll for the first quarter.

Students who earned honors are:

Distinguished Honor Roll

Grade 9 – Dylan Brubacher, Nicholas Neidlinger, Marielena Rodriguez, Kaia Scott and Aigence Watlington.

Grade 10 – Gwendolyn Baumbach, Zuleyka Folk and Trevor Kisler.

Grade 11 – Jarae George-Mauldin.

Grade 12 – April Cutshall, Jazmine Gorham, Antonio Monge, Jocelyn Nava, Brandon Reed-Porter and Jarrell Young.

First Honors

Grade 9 – Shayla Gessler, Tai Roach-McClendon, Selena Santiago and Mikayla Sykes.

Grade 10 – Leana Borrelli, Cameryn Castelli, Ishmael Hodge, Elissa Ingrassia, Donte Jones, Samuel Kidane, Isaiah Lockette, Sukanya Scott and Madison Vaupel.

Grade 11 – Andrea Cervantes, Fabiola Cervantes, Bridget Coates, Ashley DeJesus, Guadalupe Garcia, Natasha Garcia, Moet-LaPriest Hamilton, Noah Hawkins, Kyle Hooks, Damani Odom, Jasmine Pennington, Mercedes Reddick, Symone Terrell, Anesti Vanasco-Cesar, Amber Wolfe and Emani Wright.

• **Rachael Lynne Woltman**, of Hummelstown, with a bachelor's degree in social work.

• **Katarina Dodik**, of Hummelstown, with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

• **Tamara Lynn Wilson**, of Elizabethtown, with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

• **Bradley John Garber**, of Elizabethtown, with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Lock Haven honor society

Rebekah Hammer, of Hummelstown, was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest academic honor society, at Lock Haven University, Clinton County.

Alvernia leadership post

Brianna Kuhn, of Elizabethtown, was named president of the Sport Management Association at Alvernia University, Reading.

Quote of the Week

"As we head into this busy holiday season and dance between the days of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years – as we decorate the doors and the hearths of our homes and communities, let's be intentional to decorate the doors and the hearths of our hearts with ribbons of God's grace."

– Gwen Smith, American speaker, author, songwriter and co-founder of Girlfriends in God.

Question of the Week

What is your favorite Christmas carol, movie or TV special?

" 'Away in the Manger', because it is a special song about Baby Jesus!" – **Alex Kelly**, 5, Swatara Twp.

"The cartoon 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.'" – **Kaylee McCann**, 13, Lower Swatara.

"My favorite movie is 'The Grinch' with Jim Carey." – **Caitlin McLinn**, 13, Lower Swatara.

" 'The Christmas Carol', the new, animated one." – **Sarah Matincheck**, 14, Middletown.

" 'The Christmas Story.' My favorite scene is when the kids were fighting in the snow." – **Anthony Paul**, 13, Lower Swatara.

"I like the 'Jingle Bell Rock' song." – **JR Sherrick**, 14, Royaltown.

Proverb for the Week

A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies (12:17).

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Middletown Area School District

All school buildings will be closed Wednesday, December 24, 2014 through Friday, January 2, 2015 for Winter Recess.

In order to reduce utility costs, all offices in the District will also be closed during this time period.

Happy Holidays from MASD!

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Londonderry man waives charges in fatal accident

A Londonderry Twp. man charged in a one-car accident in Lancaster County that fatally injured his passenger has waived the charges against him to Lancaster County Court.

Mitchell Glen Runk, 27, of the 3000 block of E. Harrisburg Pike, is charged with homicide by vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, homicide by vehicle, DUI-highest rate of alcohol, DUI, reckless driving, driving at an unsafe speed, involvement in an accident involving death while not properly licensed, driving without a license and driving with a blood-alcohol level of .02 or greater while license is suspended. He waived the charges on

Nov. 21, according to court records.

Runk remained in Lancaster County Prison in lieu of \$50,000 bond. A formal arraignment is set for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24 in Lancaster County Court.

Runk was the driver of a car that veered off Route 230 in West Donegal Twp. around 1:30 a.m. on Sept. 21, 2013, struck an embankment and rolled over, throwing him and a passenger, Annastasia Leberfinger, 20, of Altoona, from the vehicle, according to police.

Both were taken to Hershey Medical Center. Leberfinger later died from her injuries, police said.

STEEL-HIGH

Continued From Page One

meeting, he disputed the notion of a “secret” committee meeting, even though he acknowledged that it was closed to the public. Champion said he is investigating the matter.

The Sunshine Act makes agencies that “render advice or take official action,” such as the board’s finance committee, agencies that are required to meet in public, Melewsky said.

“It does not matter what terminology they use to describe a meeting; what matters is whether there is a quorum discussing agency business,” she said, “The plain language of the Sunshine Act makes agencies that ‘render advice or take official action’ agencies themselves under the law.”

None of the materials from Nov. 24 meeting, including the agenda, have been made public on the Steelton-Highspire School District’s Web site. Unlike other area districts, Steelton-Highspire does not make committee meeting agendas and supporting documents available to the public.

Like many school districts, Derry Twp. and Elizabethtown Area publish a schedule of committee meetings online with a notice that the public is welcome to attend. Other districts simply list all meetings with links to agendas with supporting information.

In the Middletown Area School District, all board committee meetings are public meetings, said Dr. Lori Suski,

the district’s superintendent.

Middletown held a public meeting of its district’s finance committee on Nov. 18. The committee agenda and more than 60 pages of supporting documentation, including the financial reports discussed, are available for anyone to review on the district’s Web site.

Melewsky said that documents distributed to a quorum of an agency’s members at a public meeting are considered public documents under Pennsylvania’s Right to Know Act, and therefore should be available to the public.

Several school districts in Dauphin County adopted a similar set of board policies, drawn from a set of model policies, that are included on school district Web sites. The meetings policy states the following: “Unless held as an executive session, committee meetings shall be open to the public, other board members and the superintendent.”

Steelton-Highspire has adopted that policy with that exact wording, and it is published on the district Web site.

Other county districts that have adopted a similar policy with nearly identical wording are Middletown Area, Lower Dauphin, Central Dauphin, Derry Twp., Harrisburg, Halifax, Susquehanna, Upper Dauphin and Williams Valley. Susquehanna Twp. does not have this requirement in its policy, while Millersburg does not post its school board policies online.

Obituaries

Joyce Plott

Joyce L. Plott, 84, of Middletown, entered into eternal rest on Sunday, December 14, at Frey Village Retirement Center, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on February 23, 1930 in Royalton to the late Ralph and Nora Myers Kohr.

Joyce was retired from TRW and had held many clerical positions including the Middletown Press and Journal; was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Royalton; was a graduate of Middletown High School Class of 1948; and she enjoyed shopping, traveling and reading, but most importantly spending time with her loving husband and family.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Charles, Ralph, James, Arthur, and Howard Kohr.

She is survived by her devoted husband Layne H. Plott of Middletown; daughters Sheree Stehr (Dale) of Mechanicsburg, Alayne Leskawa of Hummelstown, and Raelyn Vosburg (William) of Wake Forest, N.C.; six grandchildren; and three great-

grandchildren.

Graveside services: Wednesday, December 17, at 11 a.m. at Middletown Cemetery, 675 N. Spring St., Middletown, with Pastor Willie Caraballo officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Joyce’s memory to Frey Village Retirement Center, 1020 N. Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057.

The family has entrusted the care of the Matincheck and Daughter Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc., to handle the arrangements.

Online condolences can be sent to www.matincheckanddaughterfuneral-home.com.



Gloria Benner

Gloria Jean Benner, 67, of Highspire, entered into eternal rest suddenly on Wednesday, December 10, at Community General Osteopathic Hospital, Harrisburg.

Gloria was born on May 4, 1947 in Pottsville, and was the daughter of the late Charles F. and Violet F. Klein Good.

She was a member of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Highspire; was a former Girl Scout leader for Troop 847 for many years; she also enjoyed various types of crafts; and was a former secretary for Town and Country Day School.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Richard Benner, in October of 2013.

Gloria is survived by her daughter, Cindy J., wife of Tom Dietrich of Upper St. Clair, Pa.; two granddaughters Melody and Aria Dietrich of Upper St. Clair; a sister Anna Dimeler of Middletown; and several nieces and nephews.

A Tribute to her life: Tuesday, December 16, at 10:30 a.m. at St.

Peter’s Lutheran Church, 240 Broad St., Highspire, with the Rev. Chuck Utter, her pastor, officiating.

Viewing: Monday, December 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Matincheck & Daughter Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Middletown.

Memorial contributions in Gloria’s name may be made to American Diabetes Association, 3544 North Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110

The family has entrusted the care of the Matincheck & Daughter Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Middletown, to handle the funeral arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online at www.matincheckanddaughterfuneral-home.com.



Woodland Hills developer proposes substation, luxury apartments

The long-anticipated development of the largest remaining tract of vacant land in Middletown, dubbed “Woodland Hills,” took another twist during a Middletown Borough Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 15.

Developer David L. Stubbs, speaking on behalf of the owners of the property, proposed a “public-private partnership” where the developers would erect a proposed new electric substation as part of a plan to build 200 luxury apartments in Woodland Hills.

The substation would serve all of Middletown.

Council over the past several months has been looking at whether to repair the borough’s Mill and Spruce Street substations and make them resistant to future flooding incidents.

However, consulting engineers to the borough have said that the best option would be to replace the Mill and Spruce Street substations with a new one at Woodland Hills. The engineers are to

report back to council in January with a better idea of what it would cost to build the Woodland Hills substation.

Stubbs proposed that the developers build the substation and then lease it back to the borough. Council advised Stubbs to come back with a written proposal on the plan.

The owners of Woodland Hills “have tried for a decade-plus to get something going,” said council President Chris McNamara.

“If this is what it takes to spur this development, we need to take a hard look at it” because of the potential revenue increase this could mean for the borough’s tax base, McNamara said.

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Penn State Harrisburg sets fall commencement for Giant Center

Penn State Harrisburg will hold its fall commencement at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Giant Center in Hershey.

More than 50 degrees will be conferred.

The keynote speaker will be William M. Stout, chairman of the board and

CEO of Gannett Fleming, an international planning, design and construction management firm.

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Middletown student wins patriotic essay contest

A Middletown student was chosen as a national winner in the American Legion Auxiliary's Essay Contest for his patriotic essay on the topic, "How Can I Show My Pride in Being American?"

Nathaniel Kinsey, son of Brad and Jennifer Kinsey, is a fifth-grader at Kunkel Elementary School.

He recently was selected as a Middletown Area School District Stellar Student for his accomplishment.

His essay was judged on its content, grammar, originality, neatness and spelling. It was entered while he was a fourth-grader, and was required to consist of 150 to 250 words.

Kinsey's essay won first place at each level of competition in the contest: the local American Legion Auxiliary, Council Auxiliary, Central Section, Department of Pennsylvania and the national level at the Eastern Division.



How Can I Show My Pride In Being An American?

There are many reasons to be proud of our country and many ways to show your pride in being an American. One thing that almost every school student does each day is recite the Pledge of Allegiance. When we do this, we should actually take time to think about what these words mean and be thankful that we live in a place where we have the freedom to show our loyalty in this way. At the start of many ceremonies and sporting events, "The Star-Spangled Banner" is played. To show your pride and respect for the United States, it is polite to stand and remove your hat (if you are wearing one) during the playing of our National Anthem. Another thing I enjoy doing to show my pride and love for our country is listening to and singing patriotic songs on holidays such as Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans' Day. My family also proudly displays the American flag in front of our house on these occasions and other times, as well. Lastly, I am very proud to have two grandfathers and two great-grandfathers who were members of the armed forces. Whenever I see service men and women, I am sure to thank them for all that they do for our country. In conclusion, following rules, always striving to do my best and being a good citizen allows me to show pride in myself and in being an American.

Olmsted Rec board faces funding questions

By Eric Wise
Press And Journal Staff

The Olmsted Regional Recreation Board, organized as an intermunicipal body, operated in 2014 without support from local municipalities and the Middletown Area School District—but it will not reach its potential without more money, one board member said. "We need a full-time director, and we don't have the money to pay for one," said Benjamin Kapenstein, a Middletown Borough councilman who also serves on the Olmsted board. He believes Olmsted could provide a lot more than a youth basketball program, a summer playground program and swimming at Middletown's community pool. "We would like to offer more things," he said, suggesting Zumba exercise programs.

Kapenstein bemoaned the board's loss of funding, and said, "Honestly, the rec board has been a mess for a while now." He criticized poor attendance at meetings and battles between municipalities that led to the drop in funding resulting in the revenue-neutral approach to programming. "We have to find a way out of it," he said. "We can't run forever with what we have in the account."

The recreation board oversees the operations of Middletown's pool, Main Street Gym and gym at the MCSO Building. Its summer playground program and recreational basketball leagues are currently its main programs. Over the years, the board has overseen bus trips, aerobics programs and craft classes.

Last year, it did not collect money from local municipalities that make up the board — the school district, the borough, Royalton Borough and Lower Swatara Twp.

"We didn't need the funds; we were break-even [this year]," said Barbara Layne, the board's chairwoman and a member of the Middletown Area School Board. She said she knows of no plans to request money from Middletown, Royalton, Lower Swatara and the school district for 2015.

Kapenstein said he intended to push for local funding for the board. "I think it's our responsibility to fund the rec board," he said.

The borough used to contribute about \$20,000 annually, broken into quarterly payments.

Middletown also plans to cut its support of the operating costs of the pool, which it owns. The borough proposed just \$13,000 in its 2015 budget for the liability insurance for the pool, a drastic change from its previous support of the staffing and maintenance of the pool.

According to numbers provided with the borough's 2015 budget proposal, Middletown's total costs for the swimming pool were \$52,000 in 2013, including about \$39,000 in payroll and \$10,000 in liability insurance. The same source reported total costs of \$42,387 for January through September 2014.

Payroll totaled almost \$21,758 for the first nine months of 2014, while the 2014 insurance costs are nearly \$12,000. Kapenstein said the payroll

costs represent the time borough public works employees spend working at the pool, not the employees operating the pool during the summer.

When it comes to maintenance, Kapenstein reported that the pool was recently winterized at a cost of more than \$2,000, as it must be after it closes each fall. "The borough refused to pay to winterize the pool, and the rec board had to pay for it," he said.

If the borough's policy regarding pool maintenance changed, Kapenstein said the change did not come from borough council. He said he knew nothing about it until the Olmsted Rec Board was forced to pay winterization costs.

The borough's budget documents show Middletown spent \$2,978 for maintenance, repair supplies and services in 2013, with no expenses for these items in 2014. The borough did contribute to some maintenance costs in 2014 prior to refusing to pay for winterization, which raises questions about how those expenses were accounted.

Since details of the borough's operational costs have not been disclosed, the Press And Journal filed a Right-to-Know request to review the documents showing its support. In response, Chris Courogen, Middletown's communications director, requested an additional 30 days to provide the records. The 2015 budget documents did not detail the expenses related to the Main Street Gym and the MCSO gym.

"It's like pulling teeth trying to get information like that," Kapenstein said of finding details about the borough's costs. He said that as the borough's finance committee chairman, he would like to review those detailed operating costs for an entire year but circumstances have not allowed it.

Kapenstein said significant improvements at the pool could draw families and bolster revenue for the rec board. "There is work needed at the pool, but it's owned by the Borough of Middletown," Layne said.

Kapenstein said the rec board, which operates the pool, loses money at the pool. He agrees that more work is needed at the pool, but has loftier goals. "There are state grants that would apply [to the pool], like a revamp of the whole pool in general," he said he has heard complaints regarding the condition of the pool, and that is why investments are needed. "We have to get to the point where more families in Middletown want to go there," he said. Lower Swatara Twp., which had

budgeted \$22,000 for the rec board in 2014 but did not pay it, recently approved a preliminary budget that cuts its support entirely. The \$22,000 contribution would have amounted to about \$2.65 annually per resident.

Kapenstein still favors using local tax money to fund recreation. "They should be funding it," he said. "These two [Middletown and Lower Swatara] should be paying."

Amy Burrell, the secretary/treasurer for Royalton, said Royalton budgeted a contribution for 2014 even though the rec board did not ask for the money. She expects that the borough will budget for it in 2015, and it will pay dues if requested. The Middletown Area School Board has also cut the contribution from its budget, and Layne seems in no hurry to restore that funding source.

"The rec board has been operating with its own funds," Layne said. "If a program will not break even, it will be canceled." She explained that the pool is closed if attendance drops below seven people or so because that would mean it's operating at a loss for the day.

Kapenstein said the rec board plans to hire a director for 2015 because it's unwieldy to operate the basketball program. Without municipal and school district funding, it remains unclear how many hours a week a new employee would be available.

State Rep. John Payne said the board would need matching local money to qualify for state grants. Middletown is currently working to overcome a structural deficit in its budget, so money for improvements to the pool may be hard to find.

Payne said that if the recreation board is a properly registered nonprofit organization, it may be eligible to apply for gaming money through Dauphin County. Under the current situation, with the rec board existing as an inter-governmental agency, it appears a new nonprofit group would have to be founded and incorporated, for instance, "Friends of the Olmsted Recreation Board."

Seven companies create endowments at PSU-Harrisburg

Seven companies have partnered with Penn State Harrisburg to establish endowments in the university's School of Science, Engineering and Technology.

"These endowments have a positive impact on our ability to recruit and retain excellent students, and maintain a high quality education," said Dr. Rafic Bachnak, director of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology. "These gifts also allow students to focus on their education, research and project-based learning and provide hands-on experiences that prepare them to enter the workforce."

Those providing support include:

- **Dawood Engineering**, which created the M.S. Dawood Capital College Academic Scholarship, which benefits outstanding undergraduate students majoring in civil engineering.

- **Gannett Fleming**, which named the Gannett Fleming Concrete Curing Lab and PPL Electric Utilities, which named the PPL Utilities Research Lab.

Both gifts support the Excellence in STEM Education Fund, which enhances educational programming, recognizes excellence in academic pursuits and fosters diversity in science, technology, engineering and math disciplines.

- **H.B. Alexander Foundation**, which created the Penn State Harrisburg Construction Engineering Scholarship to support outstanding engineering undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds.

- **Reynolds Construction**, which created the Reynolds Construction Award, which recognizes junior undergraduate students majoring in structural design and construction engineering technology.

- **UGI Utilities**, which created the UGI Utilities Engineering Scholarship that supports exceptional undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds

in the engineering program.

- **The Wohlsen Construction Co.**, which created the Wohlsen Construction Company Foundation Trustee Scholarship to support undergraduate students.

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REPORTING

Continued From Page One

occurring within their respective jurisdictions, the disposition of such matters and such other related information as the Pennsylvania State Police may require.”

Penalties for noncompliance under the act include the withholding of fines that are collected by the state and distributed to municipalities, and the loss of eligibility for grants from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

The act says that state police are responsible for notifying a municipality of its noncompliance. The municipality becomes subject to the penalties if it does not comply with the act within 30 days of a notice mailed out by the state police, according to the act.

Reed could not say if Middletown ever received such a notification from the state police for not reporting this year. The borough is “trying to determine” if such a notice was ever received from the state police, and when, according to Chris Courougen,

the borough’s spokesman.

The fact that the Middletown police had not reported any information for all of 2014 came up during an exchange between new police Chief John Bey and Councilor John Brubaker at meeting of council’s public safety committee on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Bey, who started his job as Middletown’s chief on Oct. 13, told Brubaker that he has directed Sgt. Richard Hiestert to begin submitting the information to the UCR system, starting with the most recent statistics available for November.

“They have not been submitted, obviously, in a long time,” Bey said.

Brubaker said the lack of UCR reporting by Middletown police was brought to his attention by a friend in Lower Swatara Twp. The friend could not understand why Lower Swatara had so many arrests for different offenses while Middletown had no arrests for anything.

It made no sense to Brubaker either. “It was amazing to me when I got this,” Brubaker told the Press And

Journal afterward. “To me, it looks like we had no arrests. If we had to pay the police officers a handsome salary and there were no arrests, I don’t believe it. That tells me something is not right. Either they didn’t make any arrests, or no one is putting it into the system.”

Mayor James H. Curry III, who oversees the police department under the borough’s system of government, said police stopped reporting the UCR information as a result of technical issues related to the department going from one type of computer reporting system to another.

Two former police chiefs – Steven Wheeler, who resigned in April, and acting chief Sgt. James Bennett, who served between Wheeler and Bey – did not respond when asked why the information was not reported.

No one so far has said if the borough is out any money, or how much, as a result of its noncompliance. However, Mark Morgan of Susquehanna Advisors Group, the borough’s financial consultant and finance director, has pointed out in recent public meetings

on the 2015 budget that the amount of money coming into the borough for police fines is down by about half compared to a year ago.

Middletown’s 2013 budget projected receiving \$100,000 in fines, forfeits and costs for the year, but collected \$66,558. In 2014, \$57,200 was projected; through September, however, \$33,170 was collected, and it is projected that Middletown will collect \$44,227 for the entire year. The 2015 budget is projecting \$46,200.

Courougen said the borough is now working with Bey to see if the drop in fines has anything to do with the noncompliance in reporting, or if it is a consequence of manpower issues that the department has been dealing with throughout 2014. For example, it could be that officers have written fewer tickets in 2014, Courougen said. “We have not established” any link between the reduced fine revenue and the noncompliance, he added.

As of now, Middletown is still eligible for grants from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

because the commission has not been notified by state police that the borough has not complied, said Robert Merwine, director of the Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements, a part of the commission.

The commission has not received a grant application from Middletown since 2005, when the agency awarded Middletown a Communities That Care grant. The grant award period ended on June 30, 2006, Merwine said.

Courougen emphasized that not only will the department report the information from now on, but Bey also is working to provide information regarding 2014 offenses and arrests for the months prior to November.

The information that police departments statewide provide to the Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting system is, in turn, provided to the national UCR system to become part of the data that is used to help determine the amount of criminal offenses and arrests that are occurring throughout all of the U.S.

CHARGED

Continued From Page One

tory rape in 1993 and indecent assault in 2007, according to court records.

While the state Megan’s Law Web site lists 17 sexual offenders with a Middletown address, Allison is not among them. His 1993 statutory rape conviction came before Megan’s Law took effect in Pennsylvania in 1996, while the 2007 conviction was pleaded down to a misdemeanor, according to court records. Megan’s Law has since been amended to include misdemeanor indecent assault, but that change came after Allison’s 2007 conviction for the offense, said Trooper Adam Reed, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania State

Police.

Allison fled after he apparently learned that he was a suspect in the rape case, according to a press release posted on Middletown Borough’s Web site.

Allison apparently fled the house in a hurry, judging by the unprepared food that police found on the kitchen table, according to Chris Courougen, the borough’s spokesman.

The borough put out a Nixle alert shortly after 7 p.m. on Saturday informing residents that police were looking for a man in connection with the rape of a 13-year-old. By this time the borough had also sent a press release and photos of Allison and his

two children to area media, including the Press And Journal.

Sometime after Allison fled, police were alerted to a “ping” on his cell phone that indicated he was in Dover, York County, authorities said. Later Sunday, Allison was arrested by Lancaster police.

Details about how Allison was captured have not been released. However, the alleged victim and her mother reside in Lancaster, according to police sources.

The alleged rape occurred in August but did not come to light until early December when police interviewed a school resource officer, according to Middletown police.

The alleged rape occurred when the victim and her mother were staying with Allison in Middletown, police said. However, police allege that incidents between Allison and the girl occurred both in Middletown and in Lancaster.

Following the initial interview with the school resource officer, a more detailed interview was done of the alleged victim by both Middletown and Lancaster police, and by officials with Dauphin County Children and Youth Services, authorities said. The warrant for Allison’s arrest was issued after this follow-up interview, according to police.

According to Pennsylvania county

court records posted online, a William Scott Allison with the same birth date was arrested in York County and pleaded guilty on July 16, 1993, to statutory rape. He was sentenced to 3-1/2 to 7 years in state prison.

In 2006, Allison was arrested by Lower Swatara Twp. police and charged with rape and related offenses for an offense that allegedly occurred on Aug. 27, 2006. Allison pleaded guilty on Dec. 19, 2007 to a misdemeanor count of indecent assault and was sentenced to one month to a year in Dauphin County Prison, court records show. Records indicate he was released in November 2008 after serving just under 11 months.

BUDGET

Continued From Page One

Brubaker, Tom Handley and Scott Sites.

Kapenstein had been the loudest voice on council against any increase in taxes or electric rates. He said several times that council had “promised” residents there would be no increase in taxes or rates during discussions in September leading up to council’s decision to lease the borough’s water and sewer

systems to United Water.

Kapenstein preferred to use anticipated excess proceeds from United’s \$43 million payout to the borough to cover the spending shortfall in the 2015 budget.

Kapenstein said he opposed using the electric trust fund to close the budget gap because, as he put it, the trust fund is only to be used to “subsidize” electric rates.

The one-time \$43 million payout

that the borough is to receive from United in 2015 for agreeing to the lease is already committed to paying off all borough debt and to fund several ongoing and future infrastructure improvements, including the replacement of water and sewer lines on Main Street in 2015.

Instead of applying whatever excess is left from the \$43 million payout to cover the 2015 spending gap, council voted 6-0 in favor of a motion by

Sullivan to put the excess in a “rainy day fund.”

Sullivan has said the borough needs to build up such a fund in case of unanticipated emergencies, such as one or more electrical transformers going out.

Kapenstein supported Sullivan’s motion, since by that time he had already lost the battle to use the excess to cover the 2015 spending gap.

Morgan said that it will be around

mid-2015 before the borough knows how much excess money will be available from the \$43 million payout.

“Right now my best guess is \$600,000,” Morgan told council.

The no-increase option council favored for the 2015 budget includes no reductions in borough staff. However, there also will be no raise for borough employees in 2015.

Dan Miller: 717-944-4628, or dan-miller@pressandjournal.com

PLOWING

Continued From Page One

ed that the decision to opt out of the state agreement had been proposed in public during earlier meetings of council’s public works committee by Lester Lanman, the borough’s public works superintendent.

Both Lanman and Borough Manager Tim Konek had expressed concerns over the borough’s ability to plow the state roads to PennDOT standards given the reduction in manpower, McNamara said.

The borough would not have allowed the state roads to be “unpassable” from a significant snowfall, McNamara asserted.

“All they are asking for is a chance” to see if leaving the plowing of state roads to PennDOT would work, McNamara said of Lanman and Konek.

However, Curry said the decision to opt out of the agreement was also privately opposed by Police Chief John Bey and by borough police officers, who felt that they would be put at risk if the state roads were left unplowed.

“What good is it if every side street in the borough is clear but if the three main roads in and out of town are impassable?” Curry asked.

It costs the borough \$115 an hour for its own employees to plow the roads, according to Chris Courougen, the borough’s spokesman. The PennDOT money would cover just

63 hours of plowing the state roads over the entire winter, Courougen said.

However, Curry said the borough could easily come up with the money to cover overtime for the snow plowing by ending publication of Middletown Matters, the borough newsletter. Publishing the newsletter each month will cost the borough an estimated \$54,000 a year, Curry said.

The mayor added that the borough could also have funded overtime for the snow plowing from what has been spent on taxes and utilities at the former Grosh dentist office on Main Street. The borough has owned the property since November 2013, but voted in October to transfer the property to the Middletown Area Historical Society. The transfer has not yet been made.

Because the borough canceled the PennDOT agreement in September and just now decided to reinstate it, the town will not receive the entire \$7,214.94 that it otherwise would have gotten for the winter. Penny told the Press And Journal.

Instead, the amount will be prorated to reflect the contract beginning on Oct. 15, when the winter contract period begins, Penny said. The contract runs from Oct. 15 to April 30 annually.

Dan Miller: 717-944-4628, or dan-miller@pressandjournal.com

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Town Topics

News & happenings for Middletown and surrounding areas.

Community Christmas party & holiday dinner

Living Life Community Center, 56 E. Emaus St., Middletown, will host a Community Christmas Party and Holiday Dinner at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. The event is free and open to the public. Gifts will be given to children 10 years and under who are registered. To register, call 717-944-4455 and leave the name and age of the child.

.....

Bingo at St. Ann

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, will host Bingo at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. Kitchen opens at 5 p.m.; takeout is available. No Bingo will be held on Friday, Dec. 26.

.....

Chicken & waffles dinner buffet

Londonderry Fire Co., 2655 Foxianna Road, Middletown, is hosting a chicken and waffles dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. For delivery, call 717-944-2175.

.....

St. Peter's Christmas Eve services

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Spring and Union streets, Middletown, is holding Christmas Eve services on Wednesday, Dec. 24. The Family Candlelight Service with Holy Communion will be held at 7 p.m.; the Candlelight Service Prelude at 10 p.m.; and the Candlelight Service with Holy Communion at 10:30 p.m.

.....

Block Shoot

Middletown Anglers & Hunters, 1350 Schoolhouse Road, Middletown, is hosting a Block Shoot at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21.

.....

Wesley Christmas Eve services

Wesley United Methodist Church, 64 Ann St., Middletown, is holding a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

.....

Middletown Area School District holiday closings

All school buildings in the Middletown Area School District will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Jan. 2 for Winter Recess. In order to reduce utility costs, all offices in the district will also be closed during this period.

.....

Penn Waste holiday trash collection

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, all regular Penn Waste trash and recycling collections will be delayed one day. Thursday customers will be collected on Friday and Friday customers will be collected on Saturday. All collections on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be picked up on the regularly-scheduled day. Please visit www.pennwaste.com for specific municipality information.

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MIDDLETOWN AREA BOYS' BASKETBALL



Dagen Hughes (4) goes for a rebound against Trinity.

Photo by Don Graham

EMPTY-HANDED

Raiders work hard, but drop three games

By Larry Etter
Press And Journal Staff

Three good efforts showed promise but simply were not quite good enough for the Middletown boys' basketball team. Instead, the Blue Raiders suffered through a winless streak in last week's basketball action.

On Monday, Dec. 8, the Raiders (1-4, 0-2 in the Mid-Penn Conference's Capital Division) worked hard from start to finish but fell short in a 51-39 loss to visiting Trinity.

The next day, Middletown had victory in its sight but let it slip away, as Columbia rallied in the fourth quarter to steal a 65-60 win in Middletown.

And on Friday, Dec. 12, the squad saw a good first-half performance fall by the wayside in the second half as Milton Hershey dominated the final two periods to outdistance the Raiders, 76-51.

Despite the losses, Middletown Coach Chris Sattelle could not fault the efforts of his team thus far in the new season. "The kids really work hard and don't quit," he said.

In each of the losses, the difference came down to both lack of varsity experience and lack of size. The experience will come as the season progresses. The height issue will remain, and the players will need to continue to work hard and play smart all year to stay competitive.

Trinity 51, Middletown 39

The Raiders got off to a bit of a slow start against the Shamrocks on Monday, falling behind 18-8 at the end of the opening quarter.

Coming off a two-game tournament at

Annville-Cleona, the previous weekend, the Raiders did not have any practice time to prepare for Trinity, a team that is always in the chase for division titles. The Shamrocks (3-1, 2-0) moved back into the Mid-Penn Capital Division this year after spending time in the Keystone Division.

Dagen Hughes and Luke Mrakovich each hit 3-pointers in the first quarter for Middletown, but Austin Gilbertson made three triples himself to lead the Trinity offense.

Freshman Brady Fox got the Raiders started off by draining a triple early in the second period, and the Middle-

"The kids really work hard and don't quit."

Middletown Coach Chris Sattelle

town squad kept pace with the Shamrocks throughout. Trinity's 12-11 scoring edge in the quarter gave the visitors a 30-19 lead at the halftime break.

Playing solid defense in the third quarter and gaining a 9-8 edge in scoring in the span kept the game within reach for Middletown. But with Fox and classmate Tre Leach getting whistled for their third fouls late in the quarter, the Raiders could not cut deeper into Trinity's lead, which stood at 38-28 entering the final period.

After the Shamrocks expanded their lead to 43-30 on a layup by Timmy Edwards with 4:18 left, Harry Kapenstein drilled a 3-pointer to make it a 10-point game for the Raiders.

With just under 3:00 left in the game, Leach's trey cut the lead to nine, 47-38.

But Trinity scored with 2:17 showing, then followed a Dagen Hughes foul shot with a pair of free throws with 58.8 seconds left to ice the game.

Following a late Middletown miss, Trinity ran off the final 30 seconds of the game.

Columbia 65 Middletown 60

After spotting visiting Columbia a 13-8 lead by the end of the opening quarter on Tuesday, the Raiders came back with a strong second quarter and took the lead.

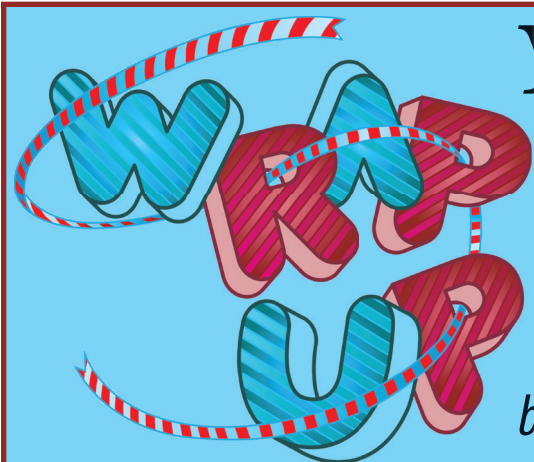
Fox made two foul shots, Leach put back a rebound off a steal by Mrakovich and Chris Plummer scored off an offensive rebound that cut Columbia's lead to 15-14 in the early minutes of the second stanza. After gaining an 18-17 edge on a Ryan Hughes free throw, the Raiders ran off 7 straight points to grab a 25-17 advantage.

Fox started it with a basket off an assist by Caleb Leggore, and the Raiders converted a pair of Columbia misses into a 5-point string by Ryan Hughes. Columbia (3-1) collected the last 5 points of the period to cut the Middletown lead to 25-22 at the halftime break.

By outscoring the Crimson Tide 21-15 in the third quarter, the Raiders stretched their lead to 46-37 heading into the final frame. Seven Middletown players chipped in points in the period.

After the Raiders expanded their lead by 9 points, 51-42, on a basket by Dagen Hughes with 6:30 left, the Middletown team suddenly went cold and Columbia caught up. Three straight turnovers by the Raiders keyed an 8-0 run by the Tide

Please See RAIDERS, Page B2



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MIDDLETOWN AREA GIRLS' BASKETBALL



COUNT IT!

Middletown's Ava Mrakovick, right, hits from the side of the key against Milton Hershey. Please see page B2 for story and more photos.

Photo by Don Graham



After spending approximately five weeks in the state of North Carolina assisting a white-tail deer hunting operation, I can honestly say I have seen the good and the not so good when it comes to hunting.

Hunters who pay to hunt at times can be downright contrary. They have opinions and ideas of how, when and where to hunt deer. They forget that they are strangers to a new hunting area – and what may have worked in their home states just don't apply when venturing outside their comfort zone.

Take the caliber of rifle that is used. A deer is a medium-skinned animal, and a well-placed shot in and around the vital areas most of the time will result in a harvest. Shooting distances may range from 80 yards to 200 yards depending on terrain. A rifle equipped

with a scope that shoots dead-on at 100 yards will work wonders.

Many hunters arrive in camp toting rifles made to shoot African big-game or the largest North American critter, the bear. This is "over-gun," and their accuracy is greatly affected. A bigger gun is not better. More deer are crippled each year by hunters who pull, intimidated by their gun's recoil.

Once we had a gentleman who showed up in camp with a .375 Remington Ultra Magnum that shot a 300 grain bullet. Needless to say, he missed three deer – and the one he shot looked like hamburger meat. He was over-gunned, and his poor marksmanship was a direct result of flinching at the time of truth. I wonder: If he would have scaled down to .30-06 or .308, would his shooting have improved? Accuracy is paramount when taking

An ethical hunter is a good hunter

a deer. Many hunters consistently, if graded, would get an F or D grade for shots taken.

Good shooting is a combination of many factors. Trigger squeeze, proper breathing and, most important of all, practice, practice, practice. Time on the range can make the difference when that trophy of a lifetime appears.

Ethical shots need to be taken for the sake of the deer. One of the best shooting tips ever given is, "Take your time." Believe in your shot and feel confident when you pull the trigger. If the animal doesn't present itself clearly with its vitals, then refrain from a shot. Many animals are wounded from a hurried shot, so take your time.

You be the judge in these stories:

- One hunter sitting along an open field sees a buck running across a road toward the field he is watching. At over 300 yards, he empties his clip of five bullets in the direction of the fleeing buck. He strikes the deer with one shot in the hind quarters, and the deer is recovered after a lengthy process.

When told that his shots were unsafe because of the road, that because firing at a running deer at that distance is unethical, he replied, "Well, I got him."

- Another hunter was told of a huge buck seen at 500 yards. "Should have let some lead fly," he said. "Can't get them if you don't shoot."

Both behaviors verge toward the bad side of hunting ethics.

Sometimes a well-placed shot is made by using shooting aids. Aids help steady a gun when the shot is taken. Shooting sticks, sand bags, shooting boards and resting against a fixed object like a tree or stump can steady your rifle. Most shots taken off-hand result in poor bullet placement and end up with a gut-shot animal. This causes long and tedious trailing and unsuccessful recoveries.

A crippled or wounded white-tail deer should make hunters feel bad for their misdoings. For an ethical hunter, that is the last thing you want to happen. A clear cut miss is one thing, but to

continuously shoot and either miss or wound an animal and think nothing of it is troubling.

I witnessed this so many times this year that it made me sick.

If you miss or wound a deer you should feel bad about it. This separates an ethical hunter from one who is not.

As much as I witnessed poor hunting ethics, there were redemptions.

One such good story was a young boy 14-years of age named Jarred. Not only did he make a clean and ethical kill at 100 yards, he showed what many adults didn't show: He took his time and placed his bullet into the vitals of the deer, which stopped the deer in its tracks and produced an ethical harvest.

Two years ago, this same boy passed on an 8-point buck that continued to walk without providing a broadside stationary shot – and left small button bucks and 40-pound yearlings to live toward maturity. This youth hunter had ethics and was taught well by his father.

Another young hunter passed on a beautiful 9-point buck several years

ago because it was beyond his range. The same buck reappeared that evening at 90 yards, and a well-placed shot downed his trophy. Patience awarded that young hunter big time.

Other hunters in 2014 scored and were successful in harvesting their deer like Jarred. They were the ones who did things right and had a little luck, which always plays a part in deer hunting.

Whether you hunt in North Carolina or Pennsylvania, you owe it to the animal and yourself to be an ethical hunter. Once the trigger is pulled and the bullet leaves the barrel there is no coming back for a replay. The path and direction of the bullet is set and there is no stopping it.

Hunting ethics makes the difference between a good hunter and a bad one. We all must strive to be the very best we can be. We owe it to ourselves and the animals we pursue.

Tom Shank can be reached at tshank38@comcast.net

MIDDLETOWN AREA WRESTLING

Raiders fall to LD, Hershey

By Doug Stoltzfus
For The Press And Journal

The young Middletown Blue Raider wrestling team dropped two divisional dual meets to rival Lower Dauphin and Hershey in its first full week of the season.

Middletown lost to Lower Dauphin, 59-10 on Thursday, Dec. 11 in Hummelstown, as the Falcons started with two pins by Joey Stoak and Lee Cassell at 132 and 138 pounds, respectively.

The Blue Raiders (0-3, 0-2 in the Mid-Penn Conference Keystone Division) got on the board at 145 pounds when Corbin Stetler won by decision over Lower Dauphin's Christian Vaughn, 7-3.

But the Falcons won the next seven matches to push their lead to 53-3. LD's Brendan Shaffer won by technical fall over Middletown's Abel Botterbusch, 15-0 at 152; Bailey Shutt won a 9-3 decision over Bobby Johnson at 160; Hunter Harnish won by major decision over Will Botterbusch, 12-0 at 170; Evan Morrill won by technical fall over Bobby Graham, 17-1 at 182; Will Puderbaugh won by forfeit at 195; CJ Ramage pinned Charles Euker at 220; Nathan Bucks pinned Michael Osayi at 285; and Tyler Walters won by forfeit at 106.

At 113 pounds, Middletown's Logan Stoltzfus picked up a major decision over Lower Dauphin's Chase Mader, 10-1, to end the Falcon run.

At 120, the Raiders' Devin Martin started off the scoring by fighting

for the first takedown on LD's Peter Mummau before giving up the escape to end the first period leading 2-1. The two battled through the second period and were at a 2-2 deadlock going into the third.

Both wrestlers exchanged points, with Martin prevailing, 6-5.

The night ended at 126 pounds with LD's Jordon Foreman pinning Middletown's Ulysses Hernandez.

Hershey 58, Middletown 12

Middletown forfeited three bouts at 106, 113 and 182 in its loss to Hershey on Saturday, Dec. 13 in Middletown.

The match started at 126 pounds with Middletown's Hernandez outscoring Hershey's Ian Banning 10-5 and giving the Raiders an early 3-0 lead.

Middletown's next points wouldn't come until 195 pounds, when Graham won by fall over Aidan Donahue, pinning him to the mat at 0:57.

The Raiders notched their last win against Hershey (1-0, 1-0) at 120 pounds when Martin pinned the Trojans' Patrick Ross at 2:49.

Middletown was deducted 3 team points in the 170-pound bout for unsportsmanlike conduct.

While "everybody likes to win," Middletown Coach Dan Riggs said he's seen the Raiders applying what he's taught them in each of their early losses.

Riggs called Martin "very consistent" and praised Osayi. "He's been really stepping up as a leader," Riggs said of his heavyweight wrestler.

RAIDERS RAISING MONEY FOR FAMILY OF MISSING CEDAR CLIFF WRESTLER

The Blue Raiders and the Middletown Area Middle School wrestling team are collecting donations for the family of missing Cedar Cliff High School wrestler Medard Kowalski, whose father is a 1983 Middletown graduate and former football player and wrestler.

Kowalski, 17, disappeared on Monday, Dec. 1 while canoeing on the Susquehanna River, authorities said.

The Raiders will present the donations to a family member or representative of the family at their match against Cedar Cliff at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18 at Middletown Area High School. The money will help the family pay the bills of the missing teen's parents, who have taken time off from work to help in the search for their son, according to Emily Botterbusch, president of the Middletown Wrestling Association, the Raiders' booster club. Donations can be given to a wrestler or a booster club member.

MIDDLETOWN AREA GIRLS' BASKETBALL



Jalynn Burton-Jones pulls up for a jumper against Milton Hershey.



Middletown's Kassidy Deibler (with ball) splits the Donegal defense as she goes to the basket.

Raiders ride big night by Burton-Jones to beat Spartans

Jaylynn Burton-Jones scored 23 points and Bianca Jasper added 13 as Middletown defeated Milton Hershey, 52-36 on Friday, Dec. 12 at Middletown.

The Blue Raiders (4-1, 1-1 in the Mid-Penn Conference Capital Division) stormed to a 33-16 lead at halftime and never looked back.

Atiya McDonald led the Spartans (2-3, 0-2) with 16 points.

The victory was one of two that Middletown recorded after suffering its first loss to division rival Trinity on Monday, Dec. 8. The Shamrocks (1-3, 1-1) beat the Raiders 57-47 in Camp Hill behind Sydney Kockler's game-high 23 points.

Jasper led Middletown with 15 points, while Burton-Jones added 11 and Ava Mrakovich added 8.

The Raiders downed Donegal in a nondivision game, 53-38 on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Middletown, wiping out a 1-point halftime deficit with a strong third quarter to beat the Indians (2-2).

Jasper led the Raiders with 17 points, while Burton-Jones scored 14 and Halle Marion added 11. Kristen Stark led Donegal with 11 points.

The Indians grabbed a 30-29 lead at halftime, but Middletown seized the game with a 16-5 third quarter to take a 45-35 lead it never relinquished.

RAIDERS

Continued From Page One

that cut the lead to 51-50.

Fox broke the string at 3:39, but Columbia again cut it to one just seconds later.

A couple of missed one-and-ones and three more Middletown turnovers turned the game in Columbia's favor, and the Tide charged to a 58-53 lead with 1:34 left.

Down the stretch, the Tide went 7-for-8 from the foul line, while the Raiders suffered yet another turnover that led to a 65-57 Columbia lead.

Plummer's late three at the buzzer ended the scoring.

Milton Hershey 76 Middletown 51

The Raiders hung tough with the host Spartans on Friday and trailed by just five, 33-28, at halftime, giving the Middletown team a chance to pull off an upset.

But Milton Hershey's athleticism and deeper bench, along with its dominance on the boards on both ends of the court, proved to be too much for the hard-working Middletown squad.

The bigger Spartans (3-3, 1-1) pulled down nearly 30 offensive rebounds in the game, giving them multiple chances to score and making a real difference in the contest.

After Ryan Hughes' steal and layup

gave the Raiders the early lead, Kapenstein picked up a loose ball and scored to offset a Milton Hershey basket that gave the Middletown squad a 4-2 edge.

But the Spartans scored 5 straight points to take the lead and finished the opening period with a 16-11 lead.

The Blue Raiders got off to a great start in the second stanza by outscoring their hosts 10-5 in the first 4:10 of the quarter. Goals by Ryan Hughes, Plummer and Dagen Hughes led the team to tie the score at 21-21 with 3:50 left.

The Spartans, however, took advantage of a couple miscues by the Raiders and scored 8 late points to grab a 33-28 halftime lead.

Using their athleticism and size to their advantage, along with increased

defensive pressure, the Spartans took control of the game from the outset of the second half. The combination led to a crushing 45-30 Spartan lead with 3:45 left in the third quarter, and the Raiders were never able to recover.

Middletown scored 12 points in the third quarter but the Spartans registered 25 on their way to a commanding 58-40 lead.

Milton Hershey capped the night with an 18-11 scoring edge in the fourth quarter to lock up the Capital Division contest.

Ryan Hughes led the Raiders with 17 points and Dagen Hughes added 10 in the loss.

Larry Etter can be reached at larryetter66@gmail.com



Ryan Hughes (0) takes a 3-point shot against Columbia.



Middletown's Cody Fox (24) drives for a layup against Columbia.

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Standings for 12-17-14

BOYS' BASKETBALL MID-PENN CONFERENCE Capital Division		
	W	L
Trinity	2	0
Steelton-Highspire	1	0
East Pennsboro	1	0
Camp Hill	1	1
Milton Hershey	1	1
West Perry	0	2
Middletown	0	2

Last week's games
Trinity 51, Middletown 39
Columbia 65, Middletown 60
Milton Hershey 76, Middletown 51
Steelton-Highspire 53, Emmaus 50
Steelton-Highspire 70, Camp Hill 62

This week's games
Thursday, Dec. 18
Middletown at Dover, 7:30 p.m.
West Perry at Steelton-Highspire, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21
Steelton-Highspire vs. Wilson, 6 p.m. at Kutztown University

Monday, Dec. 22
Tulpehocken at Middletown, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 23
Middletown at East Pennsboro, 7:30 p.m.
Steelton-Highspire at Milton Hershey, 7:30 p.m.

Keystone Division		
	W	L
Cedar Cliff	2	0
Bishop McDevitt	2	0
Hershey	1	1
Susquehanna Twp.	1	1
Red Land	1	1
Mechanicsburg	1	1
Lower Dauphin	0	2
Palmyra	0	2

Last week's games
Susquehanna Twp. 65, Lower Dauphin 44
Lower Dauphin 58, Elizabethtown 53
Bishop McDevitt 73, Lower Dauphin 55

This week's games
Friday, Dec. 19
Hershey at Lower Dauphin, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 23
Mechanicsburg at Lower Dauphin, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL MID-PENN CONFERENCE Capital Division		
	W	L
West Perry	2	0
Camp Hill	2	0
Middletown	1	1
Trinity	1	1
Steelton-Highspire	0	1
East Pennsboro	0	1
Milton Hershey	0	2

Last week's games
Middletown 52, Milton Hershey 36
Middletown 53, Donegal 38
Trinity 57, Middletown 47
Camp Hill 74, Steelton-Highspire 38

This week's games
Thursday, Dec. 18
Middletown at Bishop McDevitt, 7 p.m.
Steelton-Highspire at West Perry, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20
Red Land at Middletown, 2:30 p.m.
York Country Day at Steelton-Highspire, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 23
East Pennsboro at Middletown, 7:30 p.m.
Milton Hershey at Steelton-Highspire, 7:30 p.m.

Keystone Division		
	W	L
Palmyra	2	0
Red Land	1	1
Hershey	1	1
Mechanicsburg	1	1
Lower Dauphin	1	1
Cedar Cliff	1	1
Bishop McDevitt	1	1
Susquehanna Twp.	0	2

Last week's games
Lower Dauphin 38, Susquehanna Twp. 30
Lower Dauphin 36, Elizabethtown 27
Bishop McDevitt 35, Lower Dauphin 28

This week's games
Friday, Dec. 19
Lower Dauphin at Hershey, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 23
Lower Dauphin at Mechanicsburg, 7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING MID-PENN CONFERENCE Keystone Division		
	W	L
Cedar Cliff	1	0
Lower Dauphin	1	0
Hershey	1	0
Mechanicsburg	1	0
Susquehanna Twp.	0	1
Red Land	0	1
Middletown	0	2

Last week's matches
Hershey 58, Middletown 12
Lower Dauphin 59, Middletown 10
Boiling Springs 69, Middletown 3

This week's matches
Thursday, Dec. 18
Cedar Cliff at Middletown, 7 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Frostburg hands Lions another tough loss, 70-66

For The Press And Journal

Penn State Harrisburg has a reputation for being a team that battles hard – and, unfortunately for the Lions, a team that loses late in tight games. The Lions continued those trends, leading until the final two minutes before falling to Frostburg St., 70-66 on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Frostburg, Md. The game went back and forth during the first half as a few free throws were the only slight difference between the teams. The Lions went into the locker room at halftime down by just 3 points. In the second half, the Bobcats (5-3, 2-1 in the Capital Athletic Conference) looked to put away the Blue & White early, jumping out to a 7-point lead just two minutes into the half. The relentless Lions pushed backed and tied the game, 40-40, with 15:22 left. Penn State Harrisburg (1-8, 1-2) kept pushing and built a lead that they held until the final two minutes. Leading the way for the Lions was freshman guard Nick Seefeldt, who

Saturday, Dec. 20 Red Land at Middletown, 7 p.m.		
BOYS' SWIMMING MID-PENN CONFERENCE Keystone Division		
	W	L
Red Land	1	0
Milton Hershey	1	0
Lower Dauphin	1	0
Palmyra	1	0
Susquehanna Twp.	0	1
Bishop McDevitt	0	1
Mechanicsburg	0	1
Cedar Cliff	0	1

Last week's meets
Muhlenberg 93, Lower Dauphin 77
Lower Dauphin 122.5, Bishop McDevitt 47.5

This week's meets
Thursday, Dec. 18
Lower Dauphin at Hershey, 4 p.m.

GIRLS' SWIMMING MID-PENN CONFERENCE Keystone Division		
	W	L
Palmyra	1	0
Cedar Cliff	1	0
Lower Dauphin	1	0
Red Land	1	0
Milton Hershey	0	1
Mechanicsburg	0	1
Bishop McDevitt	0	1
Susquehanna Twp.	0	1

Last week's meets
Muhlenberg 92, Lower Dauphin 78
Lower Dauphin 96, Bishop McDevitt 74

This week's meets
Thursday, Dec. 18
Lower Dauphin at Hershey, 4 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY CPIHL Tier 1			
	W	L	T
Lower Dauphin	7	0	1
Hershey	7	0	0
Palmyra	6	1	2
Dallastown	3	3	2
Cumberland Valley	3	4	1
Warwick	3	5	0
Hempfield	2	4	2
Central York	2	6	1
Wilson	1	4	0

Last week's games
Lower Dauphin 6, Warwick 4
Lower Dauphin 7, Dallastown 3

This week's games
Friday, Dec. 19
Lower Dauphin vs. Hershey, 8:45 p.m., Klick Lewis Arena, Annville

Monday, Dec. 22
Lower Dauphin vs. Cumberland Valley, 8 p.m., Twin Ponds West

Tier 3			
	W	L	T
Carlisle	8	0	1
MSM	8	1	0
Penn Manor	6	3	0
West York	4	5	0
Susquehannock	3	4	1
Middletown	1	8	0
Northern York	0	9	0

Last week's games
Carlisle 11, Middletown 6
Susquehannock 9, Middletown 2

This week's games
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Middletown vs. Penn Manor, 8 p.m., Twin Ponds East

COLLEGE BASKETBALL CAPITAL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE MEN		
	W	L
Marymount	3	0
Christopher Newport	2	0
York	2	0
Frostburg St.	2	1
St. Mary's	2	1
Wesley	1	1
Penn State Harrisburg	1	2
Salisbury	0	2
Southern Virginia	0	3
Mary Washington	0	3

Last week's games
Frostburg St. 70, Penn State Harrisburg 66

This week's games
None

WOMEN		
	W	L
Marymount	3	0
Christopher Newport	3	0
Mary Washington	3	0
Salisbury	2	0
Penn State Harrisburg	2	1
Wesley	2	2
York	0	3
Southern Virginia	0	3
Frostburg St.	0	3
St. Mary's	0	3

Last week's games
Lancaster Bible 65, Penn State Harrisburg 47
Penn State Harrisburg 60, Frostburg St. 58

This week's games
None

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Penn State Harrisburg's Lucky Snypse (20) takes a shot against Lancaster Bible. Snypse scored 10 points in the Lion loss.



Kaitlyn Carmo (13) drives to the basket against Lancaster Bible. Carmo led Penn State Harrisburg with 17 points.

Down by 19, Lions rally to beat Frostburg

By Josh Crippen
For The Press And Journal

Penn State Harrisburg rallied from a 19-point deficit to shock Frostburg St., 60-58 on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Frostburg, Md. Blame it on the long bus ride to Frostburg, the ugly weather or preparation for finals, but Penn State Harrisburg got off to a less than impressive start in the first half. The Lions quickly fell into a deep hole in the game, shooting just 17 percent from the field in the first half. The Bobcats used a 19-3 run over the final 11 minutes of the half to take a comfortable 32-16 lead. The Blue & White (3-6, 2-1 in the Capital Athletic Conference) didn't let the Bobcats (1-6, 0-3) stay comfortable for too long however. Penn State Harrisburg emerged from the locker room an entirely different team. Shaking off the rust, the Lions turned up their defense and only allowed Frostburg to shoot 24 percent in the

second half. The intensity on the defensive end turned into easy buckets on the break for the visiting Lions. Huge baskets by Jasmine Yanich and Janel Brown down the stretch gave the Lions the firepower to pull off the improbable comeback. Brown led the Lions with a game-high 13 points, while Yanich contributed with 11 of her own. Sophomore Kaitlyn Carmo found her form in the second half as well, scoring 9 of her 10 points in the half.

Lancaster Bible 65, Lions 47
The Lions looked to take their momentum built against Frostburg St. into their next game against Lancaster Bible, but the Chargers had a different plan in mind. Lancaster Bible won the game against its geographical rival on Friday, Dec. 12 in Middletown. The Lions started off the game in a similar fashion to their start against

Frostburg St. Penn State Harrisburg fell behind early as the Chargers came out on fire, scoring the first 9 points of the contest. The Blue & White responded with a 6-0 run of their own to get within 3 points midway through the first half. The Lions struggled to find their shot through the first 20 minutes, shooting 25 percent from the field. Lancaster Bible controlled the glass, out-rebounding Penn State Harrisburg 25-17 in the first half. Carmo led the Blue & White with 8 of the team's 18 first-half points. Penn State Harrisburg trailed at the

half, 29-18. Lancaster Bible came out strong in the second half, extending their lead to 14 points with just under 10:00 to play. The Chargers continued to capitalize on their open looks and multiple second-chance opportunities, keeping Penn State Harrisburg from gaining any momentum. Carmo continued to be a bright spot for the Lions, scoring 17 points. Lucky Snypse added 10 points and 4 rebounds in the loss. Penn State Harrisburg will resume play in the New Year at St. Mary's on Jan. 3.



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23 Years Ago

From The Middletown Journal Files

Below is a copy of a photograph from the Press And Journal's archives.
We apologize for the quality of the photograph but hope you will enjoy this glimpse from your recent past.



23 YEARS AGO - Soccer Parents - In recognition of parents who stood beside them through 12 years of formal education, various sports endeavors and countless life experiences, the parents of senior soccer players for the Blue Raiders class of 1991 were recognized at a recent game at War Memorial Field. The seniors pictured with their parents are: Mario Bologna, Jon Cross, Sean Furjanic, Brian McCoy, Matt Messick and Mike Miller.

From The Wednesday, December 18, 1991 Edition Of The Press And Journal

Cecil 'Bends' Nature's Rules To Locate Water

Finding water with a stick or "dowsing" - a sham? Just a coincidence? Nothing but a trick? Could it be magic? Just luck? Pure nonsense? Middletown's Cecil Downing admits there's nothing scientific about the way he uses a "dowsing" rod to find underground water sources. But over the years, he has had remarkable success at selecting sites for prospective wells.

Now 67, Downing has been practicing the art of dowsing for more than 40 years, mostly as a hobby, and dozens of residents in this area are more than willing to swear to his talents at finding hidden water sources.

"I guess I've called on Cecil more than 20 times during the last 10 or 15 years," says Herb Hoover, a Mount Joy Township resident, businessman and former Township supervisor. "Just offhand, I can't remember when he failed to find me a good well site." Over the years, landowners have called on Downing 569 times to find underground streams or water sources for them. Downing confesses he hasn't always been successful, but he notes that he was able to locate water for most of the people who have sought his services.

"I can't say I've always been successful," Downing relates, "but I'd guess that my success rate is running between 90 and 95 percent."

There's nothing spectacular about the way Downing goes about locating underground water. Holding his dowsing rod, a formed and welded

wire yoke, gently in his hands with his palms up, Downing walks slowly over the selected area until the leading end of the dowsing stick dips gently toward the ground and gradually turns point down. Downing marks the spot and then recrosses it from other angles to confirm his first reading. Until he's done, he works the spot down to an area about five or six feet square and confidently predicts that the owner will find water "somewhere below this spot."

Borough Studies Building

Elizabethtown Council proved again last Thursday night the wisdom of the old admonition that "we must learn to wait profitably."

Returning to a subject fires considered nearly 14 months ago, Council again weighed the need for additional space in the Borough's municipal building on S. Hanover St. When it first considered building options in October 1990, Council was stunned to learn that the cost of four proposed plans to enlarge and renovate the municipal building ranged from \$1.6 million to \$2.1 million. Although the most favorable of those building proposals was reportedly trimmed later to a maximum of about \$1.3 million, Council still balked at the price tag.

The wisdom of its earlier decision to delay action on the matter was borne out last Thursday night as Council heard a new construction proposal that would more than double the size of the present Borough building at an estimated cost of about \$650,000.

"If we can manage to get the space we need at that price, I'm in favor of it," Councilman Meade Bierly declared. "It looks like we've picked a good time to consider some sort of a building

plan." Lou Thackston and Ron Shaffer of Synergetics, Reading architects, confirmed Bierly's appraisal, noting that the current recession has hit the building trades especially hard. That, in turn, has made contractors far more competitive than they were a year ago, they added. "I don't think you could have picked a better time to consider this project," Thackston declared. "Builders are really fighting to grab the few jobs that are available. If you can get this project moving without too much delay, there's no doubt in my mind that you'll be able to trim your costs significantly."

Complex Growing EASD Will Consider Middle School Land

Elizabethtown Area School Board members gave tentative approval last week to a comprehensive land-use plan developed for the proposed \$17 million Middle School. District architect Martin Murray presented his preliminary sketches for the plans t the Board's Tuesday, December 10 meeting, noting a number of details that would reorganize parts of EASD's expansive complex along East High Street.

Chief among those changes, said Murray, is the construction of the new middle school on a 26-acre parcel located southeast of East High Elementary. Although drawings of the building have not yet been created, a number of new parking areas and playing fields have already been incorporated in the plan for the purpose of citing.

"The construction of these primary features will, in turn, alter other uses of the property such as the annual Elizabethtown Fair," Murray explained. John Osmolinski, representative of Harrisburg construction firm H.B. Alexander & Son, presented an impact study to the Board which detailed approximately \$13,600 in minor changes to the Fairground's setup. Although the Middle School plan will decrease the size of the Fairgrounds somewhat and limit its future growth potential, Fair representatives assured the Board that they are satisfied with Murray's proposal because they will still be able to function adequately.

Life Lion's 5th Anniversary; New Helicopter Introduced

The Life Lion aeromedical program

is celebrating its fifth year at Penn State's Hershey Medical Center this month. Coinciding with the observance will be the introduction of a new Life Lion helicopter, which replaces the twinjet engine aircraft so many Central Pennsylvanians have come to know. The new Life Lion has more advanced instrumentation than its predecessor, officials stated recently, noting that the craft will also allow greater flexibility in on board patient care.

According to Susan E. Pletcher, R.N., manager of the Medical Center's pre-hospital and flight services, Life Lion covers a population of 2.3 million people in 17 counties. In addition to that territory, she said, Life Lion has flown to 29 other Pa. counties, six other states and Washington, D.C. "In five years, Life Lion has transported around 2,800 patients to 107 different hospitals, completing over 240,000 miles," Pletcher added.

The new Life Lion features the familiar blue and white colors of Penn State, and, of course, the University's mascot, the Nittany Lion. It can transport two patients at one time, in addition to its usual crew consisting of a pilot, paramedic and nurse. Pletcher explained that 50 percent of Life Lion's calls are trauma-related. The helicopter can travel 180 miles-per-hour, or 20 miles in about seven minutes, and is ready to fly round-the-clock, seven days a week.

The incoming Life Lion was manufactured in France and was equipped recently by Keystone Helicopter Corporation, of West Chester. The oldest commercial helicopter company in the eastern United States, Keystone has operated the Life Lion program since its inception. All Life Lion pilots and mechanics are employed by Keystone, which operates a total of seven aeromedical programs. Life Lion is one of 10 aeromedical programs in Pa.

Prices From 23 Years Ago

New Yorker White American Cheese \$2.49/lb.
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Column No. 775/December 17, 2014

Keefer Bible Record

Some years ago Mr. Olsen purchased a Bible in which the following record was inscribed. As one interested in genealogy, he sent the photocopies of the records to the Genealogical Society for possible publication since this was a Pennsylvania family. The Bible is now in the Library of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California in Glendale. Persons desiring further information may contact Mr. Olsen at 6731 Pageantry Street, Long Beach, California 90808. The persons named in these records appear to have lived in Franklin and Cumberland counties. It is possible their forebears moved into the Franklin area toward the end of the 18th century; there is a record in the Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd Series, XXV, 25, of four surveys, all dated 24 March 1794, to men named Keefer. One of these was Peter Keefer, whose survey was for 200 acres. Was he the "Great Grand Father" mentioned in the Bible Record? Two surveys of 400 acres each were made for Dewald and Abraham Keefer, and one of the 300 acres for Christian Keefer. All of these men were residents and heads of families in the western portion of Franklin County by 1790, when the census taker listed them as Kievers. Prior to that time, men bearing these names are listed from 1767 on as retabes in Richmond and Rockland Townships, Berks County tax lists, as published in the Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd Series, XVIII.

Keefer Family Association Newsletter, Volume XVII, Issue 3, September 2004, page 27.

Taken from the Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, Volume XXVII, No. 3, 1974, page 170-172.

Keefer Bible Record - First Page

Marriages: Daniel B. Keefer & Susan Shade were married in Chambersburg, Franklin Co., Pa. by Rev. B.F. Beck on the 17th day of February 1861. Children of William Bay:

Howard M. Bay, born April 30, 1889; Bessie G. Bay, born September 4, 1890. Children of Bessie G. Bay Lyons: Howard Wm. Lyons, born April 29, 1917; Ralph James Lyons, born June 4, 1920. Son of Howard M. Bay: John Wm. Bay, born April 3, 1917. *Bible Records Continued in Next Week's Column.*

Second Page

Births: Daniel B. Keefer, born February 23, 1837 in Franklin Co., Pa. near Shippensburg; Susan Shade, born March 16, 1841 in Clearspring, Md.; Newton Osbourne Keefer, born July 28, 1862 in Shippensburg, Cumberland Co., Pa.; Annie Strickler Keefer, born May 12, 1868 in Greencastle, Franklin Co., Pa.; Nellie Rowe Keefer, born September 13, 1875 Greencastle, Franklin Co., Pa.; Frank Ernest Keefer, born May 28, 1879 Greencastle, Franklin Co., Pa.

Third Page

Births: Jacob Keefer grandfather died in 1823. Peter Keefer great-grandfather: Jonathan Keefer, born March 19, 1795, my note, died February 18, 1882; Anna M. Keefer, born May 25, 1804, died November 1, 1879; Susan Shade, born August 12, 1801, died March 8, 1867; George W. Shade, born October 29, 1801, died April 25, 1874, buried in cemetery at Shippensburg, Pa. Keefer Family Association Newsletter, Vol. XVII, September 3, 2004.

Fourth Page

Deaths: Newton Osbourne Keefer died August 8, 1862 in Shippensburg, Cumberland Co., Pa.; Nellie Rowe Keefer died January 23, 1876 in Greencastle, Franklin Co., Pa.;

Frank Ernest Keefer died June 23, 1879 in Greencastle, Franklin Co., Pa. Parents of D.B. Keefer, Anna Maria Keefer died November 1, 1879 in Shippensburg, Pa. at 5 o'clock on Saturday evening. Jonathan Keefer died February 18, 1882 in Shippensburg, Pa. at 4 o'clock. Both are buried in a cemetery at Shippensburg, Pa.

Susan Keefer, wife of D.B. Keefer died in Greencastle, Pa. on April 9, 1899 at 5 o'clock and is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Greencastle, Pa. D.B. Keefer died May 20, 1919 at 9 p.m. and is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Greencastle, Pa.

Fifth Page

No Heading: Jonathan Keefer, born November 19, 1795, died February 19, 1882, married 1st Catherine Kramer, 2nd Anna Maria Jacoby; Anna M. Keefer, born May 25, 1804, died November 1, 1879; Sarah Keefer, born April 15, 1828, married John Bay March 18, 1858; Jacob C. Keefer, born May 3, 1821; David J. Keefer, born June 4, 1820, married Catherine Rupley; Levi D. Keefer, born February 16, 1832, died June 15, 1893, married Catherine Earnest; Lydia Keefer born March 16, 1834 married Isaiah Mowers; Daniel B. Keefer, born February 23, 1837, married Susan Shade; Anna E. Keffer, born November 29, 1840, married Anthony Dambaugh; Margaret F. Keefer, born March 16, 1842, married David Winters; Emma J. Keefer, born May 31, 1845; Mother Keefer died November 1, 1879 (Anna Maria Jacoby, born May 25, 1804); Father Keefer, died February 1882 (Jonathan was born November 19, 1792); Jacob C. Keefer, died October 8, 1900; Sarah Keefer Bay, died January 15, 1904; Levi D. Keefer, died June 15, 1893;

David J. Keefer, died January 3, 1808; Lydia Keefer Mowers, died December 5, 1911;

Margaret Keefer Winters, died February 3, 1912; Daniel B. Keefer, died May 20, 1919.

Children of Sarah Keefer Bay: J. Allen Bay, born October 31, 1861; Annie E. Bay Snow, born November 22, 1866; William M. Bay, born February 18, 1864.

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Lend A Hand,
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Church

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 - **B-5**

New Beginnings Church 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 a people through faith in Jesus Christ.

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 Rescue Fire Company. Sunday school for all ages is at 9 a.m. We are handicap accessible via ramp at back door; Youth Fellowship is from 5 to 7 p.m. For additional church information call 944-9595.

Wednesdays: Craft Group, 6:00 p.m.; Choir rehearsals, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays: Intercessory Prayer Group at 6:15 p.m., followed by Pastor Britt's Bible Study at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate in these important areas of our church life.

The Sociable Seniors group meets the 1st Monday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m.; Blanket making is the 3rd Thursday of every month at 9 a.m.

Our Angel Tree is in the hallway for hats, gloves and scarves for children in the Middletown Area. We are also collecting donations of sweat pants in sizes 6-8 for Middletown Elementary school students in need.

Children's Music Camp for the Christmas Musicales continues through Dec. 19 with a presentation during worship on Sun., Dec. 21.

We express our sympathy and love to three of our church families who have experienced the loss of a loved

one recently, Katy McGarvey, Renee Kreiser and Jean Greenawalt's family. Six pink roses were on the altar to the Glory of God and in memory of Adigrace Cavey, great-granddaughter of Katy McGarvey.

The Nedra Smith memorial fund will be continued for contributions specifically for purchasing music for the choir and other music needs. Contributions can be made to New Beginnings Church and marked for the Nedra Smith fund.

Mark your calendar to spend Christmas Eve with us at our service at 7 p.m.

We will have a group of people to clean the Middletown Food Bank on Sat., Jan. 10. Sign-up sheets are in the church to volunteer to help with this project.

Children's Church leaders for December: Michelle, Katie and Jenny Strohecker. Acolyte for December: Ean Benner. Ushers for Dec.: Bonny and Joel Guzzo, Gaye and Irv Turpin. Lighting the Advent Candle on Sun., Dec. 21 are Barb Bogardus and family.

Our Sunday worship service is broadcast on the MAHS radio station, WMSS 91.1 FM at 3 p.m. every Sunday afternoon. Listen on the radio or the Internet at www.pennlive.com/wmss/audio. Check us out on our Website at www.newbeginningschurchmiddletown.weebly.com.

Pastor Britt's parting words each Sunday: "Nothing in this world is more important than the love of Jesus Christ!" We invite you to come and experience this love.

Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown 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.

As we celebrate the season of Advent, please plan to join us for worship. Visitors are especially welcome. On Dec. 21, Church school begins at 9:15 a.m. with classes for all ages. Children meet in the Morrow Room; Teens meet in the Teen Room; Adult Forum meets in Fellowship Hall. Adult Forum will begin the Advent series "Not a Silent Night - Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem," based on the book and DVD by Adam Hamilton. In this session, "Mary, Full of Grace," we hear of the story of Mary as a teenager to whom the angel Gabriel appears, telling her she will give birth to the son of God, and what this would mean for Mary and for us. Please plan to join us. Be sure to join us Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m., as the Chancel Choir presents the Christmas Cantata, "Canticles in Candlelight" by Joseph Martin. This is a wonderful musical offering telling the treasured

story of Christ's birth. Bring a friend and plan to join. Nursery is available during the 10:30 a.m. service, and there are also hearing devices for anyone wanting to use one, as well as Bible Listening bags for children to utilize during the service.

Grace Triumphant is a Bible study that meets each Sunday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Those who attend bring food to share from 5:30 to 6 p.m. The study follows at 6 p.m. Please direct your questions to Paula and Larry at 717-944-3131.

Join us on Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. for a shortened service for families with children, including carols, the Christmas story, a visit from the Holy Family and candle lighting. Bring a bell to ring on the carols. At 8 p.m. is the Service of Lessons and Crolls. Organ, brass and choral music will be included and candle lighting. Be sure to invite someone to Christmas Eve worship.

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.

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Middletown

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at Spring and Union streets, Middletown. We are a Reconciling In Christ Church.

You are invited to join us for worship on Wednesday morning, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Sunday worship time is 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday Church School is at 9:45 a.m. Our 11 a.m. worship service is broadcast live on WMSS 91.1.

Wednesday morning service is at 10 a.m.; Saturday at 5 p.m. is a casual traditional service and is 45 minutes in length. Please enter through the parking lot doors.

The first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. Our food pantry is in need of personal care and non-perishable food items. Items collected are taken to the Interfaith Food Pantry located at 201 Wyoming St., Royalton.

Sun., Dec. 21: 8:15 and 11 a.m., Worship service. The Youth Advent Musical Play will be held at this service.

Wed., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Worship, 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Special music is at 10 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 28: One service at 10 a.m. St. Peter's Lutheran Church will not have a Community Dinner in December. Join us on Jan. 12 for Lasagna.

Visit our website at www.stpetersmiddletown.org.

Scripture readings for the week: 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church Middletown

Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 890 Ebenezer Road, Middletown invites everyone to join us for worship on Sunday mornings led by Pastor Suanne Whorl. Our services are relaxed and casual. Pastor Su teaches and inspires us through her message and children's time. She brings a modern touch to the contemporary service by using video, pictures and props. December's sermon series is "Changed by a Child." 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 are a variety of Christian education classes for all ages. Nursery is available throughout the morning.

Our family Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. on December 24. We will put all the people together around the manger and celebrate the birth of the Messiah.

We have several things happening

Wesley United Methodist Church Middletown

A variety of special worship services are being held at Wesley to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas is a time to ponder the meaning of life and be inspired by the greatest gift of all. Come experience a place where you can find hope, love, joy and peace.

We worship on Sunday morning at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Our early service is informal and features a Praise Band. Our later service follows a traditional pattern and includes all types of music. We encourage people to "come as you are."

On December 21, we light the Fourth Candle of Advent as a symbol of Christ our Peace. We believe the calming presence of Jesus can open our hearts to ways that make for peace.

Pastor Dawes' sermon this Sunday is "Heavenly Peace" based on Mathew 1:18-25.

A Christmas party for children and their families is planned for Sat., Dec. 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be

at Ebenezer and all are welcome. Our youth group (kids in grades 6-12) meet Sundays at 6 p.m. To accent the joy of giving at Christmas, they are having a Christmas Party on Sun., Dec. 21, where they will share items to be donated to a shelter in the area.

A young adult group meets twice monthly, the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7 p.m. in the church office. We also offer a variety of adult groups. Please call for details. We are always open to new group ideas. There is a prayer time, Partners in Prayer that meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. We gather together to pray for each other and the world around us. 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.

Any questions please call us at 939-0766.

a breakfast with family and friends, Christmas stories, and a special gift bag for each child.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is at 7 p.m. There will be carols, a reading of the Christmas story, and special music, also included will be lighting of the Christ Candle and individual candle lighting as we sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

On Sun., Dec. 28, our Praise Band will be featured at both worship services as we continue celebrating Christmas.

The Christmas tree in our Gathering Place is being decorated with mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, socks and underwear. These special gifts will be given to Threads of Hope to help children and adults keep warm in the winter.

Contact us by e-mail at wesleyumc@comcast.net. Call us at 944-6242. Wesley is located at the corner of Ann and Catherine streets in Middletown "Follow Jesus, Change the World. Seek. Serve. Send."

Open Door Bible Church Middletown

5 and up).

Sat., Dec. 20: 8:30 a.m., Men's Bible Study.

Come and hear the Word, the truth that will set you free.

For more information call the church office at 939-5180 or visit us online at www.odbcpa.org. Better yet, come worship with us in person.

Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church Middletown

Calvary Church welcomes one and all to visit us as we celebrate Christmas on Sunday, December 21, at our 10:15 a.m. service.

Do you have hopes or concerns about the future? We are about to enter a new year! Some are perplexed or perhaps distressed by the rapid change in moral standards of the present day. God does not change and he speaks the truth in his Word, the Bible. We at Calvary Church are committed to upholding the unchanging standards of the Word of God, which is revealed in the Bible. We are also committed to proclaiming the hope of salvation from the sin that results from the world's

changing moral standards, the hope found in faith in Jesus Christ alone.

We invite you to join us each Sunday to hear more about this message of free grace. Our services are at 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. We are located at the corner of Spruce and Emaus streets here in Middletown.

We have a fellowship meal following the 10:15 a.m. morning service on the First Sunday of every month, free to all who come. We also have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9 a.m., and a Bible Study each Wednesday at 7 p.m. We are just now studying the Gospel of Luke.

Feel free to contact us with questions at 944-5835.

First Church of God Middletown

First Church of God, 245 W. High Street, Middletown, invites you to join us for worship at either 8 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. this Sunday. Childcare is provided.

Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. classes are available for Youth (grades 6-12), FROG Pond (1st through 5th grade), Kindergarten (4-5 year olds), Nursery (infants through age 3), and Adult classes that offer a variety of Bible studies and electives. Classes for special education are also available.

Wed., Dec. 17: Wednesday Night Live begins with supper at 5:30 p.m., and then at 6:30 p.m. will be Christmas Caroling. Everyone is welcome to join us. There will be no Wednesday Night Live on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31, but will resume on Jan. 7.

Thursdays: 6 p.m., Pasta and Prayer Young Adult Bible Study; 6 to 8 p.m., The Sunshiners meet for a time of Christian fellowship, teaching and worship. They are a group which exists to meet the spiritual needs of persons who are developmentally challenged.

Sun., Dec. 21: 8 and 10:30 a.m., the adult choir will present their Christmas Cantata; "Canticles in Candlelight," by Joseph M. Martin.

Latino Congregation: Betesda Casa de Misericordia, CGGC, 245 W. High St., Middletown. Estudios Biblicos Domingos, noon; Servicio Evangelistico: Domingos 1:30 p.m.; Contactos: Ricardo and Jeanette Perez (717) 333-2184.

For additional information call the church office at 944-9608 or e-mail us at mdtco@gmail.com.

Evangelical United Methodist Church Middletown

Visitors to our worship service are always welcome. May this time of praising God and learning of his plan for our lives be helpful to one and all.

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.


The ministries scheduled at Evangelical United Methodist Church from December 17-23 are always open to everyone.

Wed., Dec. 17: 6 p.m., AA Book Study; 6:30 p.m., Senior Choir rehearsal.

Thurs., Dec. 18: 6 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #10067.

Sun., Dec. 21: 9 a.m., Sunday Church school, with classes for all ages. Adult Sunday school devotional leader for December: June Martin; 10:15 a.m., Worship service. The worship center is handicap and wheelchair accessible. Greeters: Gwen Fetter, Ed and Mary Anne Naugle. Lay Liturgist: Lori Miller. Nursery helpers: Deb Lidle, Joyce Moyer. The poinsettias gracing our chancel area are given in memory of and honor of our Loved Ones presented by their family and friends. This week's bulletins are sponsored in memory of Our Loved Ones by Ken and Kathy Frisbie; 4 to 6 p.m., Youth Fellowship Christmas party.

Tues., Dec. 17: 2 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry.




CHURCH DIRECTORY

Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church 10 Spruce Street • 944-5835 Sunday School - 9 am • Morning Worship 10:15 am Evening Worship - 6 pm www.calvaryopc.com	New Beginnings Church at the Riverside Chapel 630 South Union St., Middletown • 388-1641 Sunday School - 9 am • Worship Service - 10:30 am Pastor BRITT STROHECKER <i>Everyone Is Welcome!</i>
Ebenezer United Methodist Church <i>"Love God, Love People, Make Disciples"</i> 890 Ebenezer Road, Middletown (Corner of 441 & Ebenezer Road) Phone 939-0766 Sunday Worship: Traditional - 8:45 am • Contemporary - 10:45 am Christian Education (All Ages) - 10 am Christian Child Care - 985-1650 SUANNE WHORL, Pastor www.ebenezerumc.net	Open Door Bible Church 200 Nissley Drive, Middletown, PA (Located In Lower Swatara Township) Pastor JONATHAN E. TILLMAN Phone 939-5180 Sunday School - 9:30 am • Morning Worship - 10:40 am Evening Worship - 6:30 pm Wednesday Prayer Service - 7 pm
Evangelical United Methodist Church Spruce & Water Sts., Middletown REV. ROBERT GRAYBILL, Pastor Sunday School (all ages) - 9 am Sunday Worship - 10:15 am	Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown Union & Water Sts., Middletown • 944-4322 Church School - 9:15 am • Worship - 10:30 am
First Church of God 235 W. High St., Middletown REV. KIMBERLY SHIFLER, Pastor 944-9608 Sunday School - 9:15 am • Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 am Classes for Special Education (Sunday Morning & Thursday Evening)	St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Spring & Union Sts., Middletown Church Office 944-4651 REV. DR. J. RICHARD ECKERT, Pastor Saturday Worship With Spoken Liturgy - 5 pm Sunday Worship - 8:15 am & 11 am Sunday Church School - 9:45 am Worship Broadcast on 91.1 fm - 11 am
Geyers United Methodist Church 1605 South Geyers Church Road, Middletown 944-6426 PASTOR DON WALTERS Worship - 9 am - Followed by Coffee Fellowship Sunday School - 10:30 am	Seven Sorrows BVM Parish 280 North Race St., Middletown Parish Office 944-3133 REV. TED KEATING, JR., Pastor Deacon Thomas A. Lang Saturday Evening Vigil - 5:30 pm Sunday Masses - 8:00 am, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
Invite Your Neighbors List Your Church Service Here Contact the Press and Journal 20 S. Union Street, Middletown E-mail: info@pressandjournal.com Web site: www.pressandjournal.com Call 944-4628 for more information.	Wesley United Methodist Church 64 Ann Street, Middletown REV. JIM DAWES, Pastor Phone 944-6242 Sunday Worship - 8:30 & 10:30 am • Come as you are! Follow Jesus, Change the World.



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Worship With Your Family This Week

EDITOR'S VOICE

Council wisely renewed state plowing agreement

Sure, the major streets that run through Middletown are state roads, and yes, it is Pennsylvania’s responsibility to remove snow from them during winter storms. Still, many residents saw Middletown’s refusal to renew an annual agreement with PennDOT to plow Main, Union and Vine streets as an abdication of the borough’s responsibility to provide a basic, and critical, service.

Middletown declined to renew the agreement in September, saying that the cost to plow the state roads was more than the \$7,300 stipend the state pays the borough for the effort. It must be noted that PennDOT does increase the stipend during snowier winters, and allows municipalities to keep the entire stipend even in mild winters.

Left to PennDOT to plow, Middletown’s state-owned streets would not be cleared as quickly as in past winters, PennDOT said. Priority would be given to major state arteries in southern Dauphin County like Route 283. Middletown’s roads would have to wait.

In an effort to make local government smaller – and cheaper – the borough ended the agreement, to the dismay of social media posters and audience members at Middletown Borough Council’s meeting on Monday, Dec. 15. Smaller government is fine, unless you cut crucial services that taxpayers expect their taxes to fund – and many see snow plowing as a crucial service.

Council voted 4-2 to renew the plowing agreement on Monday, and in a move that perhaps is related, voted to reduce the \$4,000-a-month borough newsletter to a quarterly publication. Middletown has its own community newspaper and social media avenues, after all – it can get vital information to the public in a timely manner without the expense of glossy paper. If the borough needs more money to pay for plowing state roads, it now has a source.

Council wisely marshaled its resources and restored a much-needed service without sacrificing any other services. It was a smart move.

Go ahead, winter – bring it on!

BRIANHUJDICH

Congress must ensure HIV drugs are affordable



Progress in the fight against HIV disease has been remarkable. Thanks to the advent and continued development of innovative therapies, people living with HIV in the U.S. can expect to live well into their 70s – and even beyond. That, of course, depends on whether they can afford the treatments.

Today 1.1 million Americans live with HIV. Many people seeking HIV treatment are discovering that some policies offered through the Affordable Care Act’s insurance exchanges come with high out-of-pocket costs and few affordable treatment options.

A recent Avalere Health study found that between 25 and 35 of the most popular plans classify HIV/AIDS medications as top-tier drugs – resulting in top-tier costs.

Rather than a co-pay – or a set fee charged per prescription – HIV drugs are subject to co-insurance fees, which makes patients responsible for a percentage of a medication’s cost. As a result, many HIV patients need to directly pay for 40 percent or more of their treatment costs.

Congress must intervene, cracking down on those insurers whose coverage discriminates against vulnerable Americans in need of specialty medication.

Co-insurance would financially devastate most people who rely on specialty medicines. But it’s especially challenging for those with HIV.

A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 1 in 42 urban dwellers living below the federal poverty line had HIV, compared to the national infection rate of 1 in 222.

With the average annual cost of antiretroviral HIV care around \$20,000, a growing number of patients are being forced to choose between food and medicine.

Indeed, a recent study by HealthHIV found that 48 percent of people living with HIV say cost is their biggest barrier to health care. HealthHIV has heard from constituents who have rationed or discontinued their treatment altogether in an effort to support their families. Some have stopped treatment entirely because of co-insurance fees.

Congress must address this problem head-on. The public health consequences of high co-insurance costs will only worsen.

Without treatment, people living with HIV are more likely to visit the emergency room, spend more time in the hospital (resulting in higher health care costs for everyone) and are more likely to transmit the virus to others.

Already 125,000 people die each year because of non-adherence to prescription regimens for HIV/AIDS and other chronic conditions. Together these patients account for 1 in 10 of all hospitalizations that occur every year, which add more than \$100 billion in costs to the health care system.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was established to make sure all Americans – especially vulnerable populations – could readily access the medical care and treatment they need. Yet many of the health plans in the exchanges have priced life-saving HIV drugs out of reach.

Congress must put a stop to this short-sighted and morally bankrupt practice and keep “patient protection” in health reform.

Brian Hujdich is the executive director of HealthHIV, a national HIV nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C.

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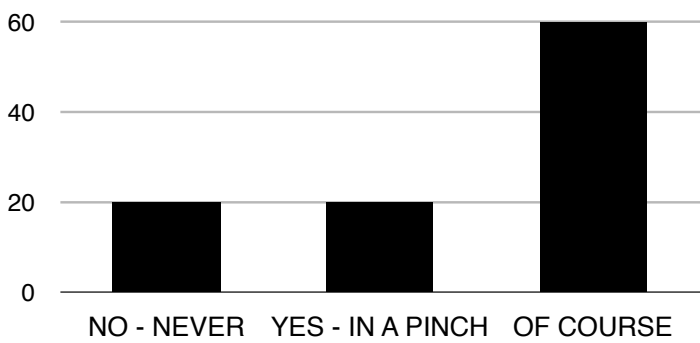
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LOUBARLETTA

Obama's amnesty order hurts American workers



The most frustrating part of the debate over President Barack Obama’s executive amnesty program is that the conversation is almost entirely centered on what is good for illegal immigrants, rather than what is beneficial to legal American workers.

There are substantive constitutional separation of powers concerns and national security implications in the president’s decree, but it seems that no one wants to talk about the nearly 20 million Americans who woke up this morning either unemployed or underemployed. At long last, isn’t it time someone stood up for American workers?

What is lost on people scrambling to defend the president’s actions is the basic economic law of supply and demand when it comes to available jobs. If there are almost 20 million unemployed or underemployed Americans, how exactly will it help them to introduce 5 million more job seekers to the equation?

To flood the market with new applicants will make jobs harder to obtain and force wages lower.

It is glaringly obvious the president’s amnesty plan puts people who are already finding it difficult to find employment in immediate and direct competition with illegal immigrants.

Neither should we be assuaged by the promise that the Obama executive amnesty program stops at 5 million illegal immigrants. If the history of illegal immigration policies has taught us anything, it is that waiving penalties for illegal immigration draws even more applicants for the protection.

Under the amnesty program created by President Ronald Reagan in 1986, Americans were promised there would be only 1.5 million people covered. In truth, when the final tally was realized, the number had more than doubled.

It is ingrained in human nature that when something attractive is offered, more people will flock to claim it. There is no reason whatsoever to believe Obama’s program will stop at a mere 5 million people, meaning ever-increasing interference for Americans looking for work.

At the center of the president’s executive action is a toxic intersection of his amnesty program and the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare.

Under the health care law, businesses with 50 or more full-time employees must provide sufficient health insurance or pay a fine of up to \$3,000 for each worker enrolled in Obamacare each year.

However, illegal immigrants who have been granted amnesty by the president are ineligible for coverage under Obamacare. The result is an illegal immigrant armed with a new Obama-issued work permit has suddenly become \$3,000 cheaper to hire than a legal American worker.

Worse yet, it might dawn on certain employers that it would save money to rid themselves of American employees and trade them in for cheaper, illegal immigrant replacements. Some have even been tempted to fall

back on the tired deflection that “illegal immigrants will do the jobs that Americans don’t want to do.” To that, it is easy to reply, “Not anymore they won’t.”

Illegal immigrants with newly-printed work permits now will be able to compete with Americans for any job, and will not have to settle for under-the-table employment to “mow our lawns, make our beds, clean out bedpans,” as Obama condescendingly said in defending his actions.

At a recent hearing of the House Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I had the opportunity to put some of these questions directly to the president’s point-man on executive amnesty, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson.

When asked about the increased competition for jobs as a result of the amnesty plan, Johnson spoke at length about the plight of illegal immigrants working “off the books” without a single thought about unemployed Americans. When asked about the \$3,000 incentive for employers to hire illegal immigrants rather than American workers, he replied, without elaboration, “I don’t think I see it that way.”

The implication is clear and tremendously disheartening: The Obama administration has not considered the impact executive amnesty will have on hard-working Americans – or if it has, it is not concerned about it.

In an effort to prevent the looming damage to struggling Americans, I have introduced the Defense of Legal Workers Act, which states simply that illegal immigrants granted amnesty by executive action shall not be authorized to work in the U.S. I co-sponsored and voted for passage of legislation that prohibits executive amnesty to broad categories of illegal immigrants.

I also am supportive of efforts to block the funding of the president’s amnesty program and encourage my colleagues to exercise our legislative “power of the purse.”

Failing all of that, I also favor taking the president to court to establish that he has overstepped his executive authority as outlined in the Constitution.

It is tempting to attribute political motivation to the president’s unprecedented executive edicts, but that is a discussion better left to historians and pundits.

What should be transparent to any observer in the present day, however, is that the Obama policies are bad for this nation’s legal working population.

Two signature programs – Obamacare and executive amnesty – have combined to make life more difficult for law-abiding Americans. The only question left is whether it is an unintended design flaw or a planned feature.

Lou Barletta is a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He represents the 11th Congressional District, which includes Lower Swatara Twp., Highspire and Steelton.

MICHAELBARTON

How to stop Putin? Lift oil exports



Though a ceasefire appears to be holding in Ukraine, it’s clear much more needs to be done if the interna-

tional community hopes to permanently stop Russian aggression. So far the campaign of denouncements and sanctions has not given Russia pause.

There is something the U.S. can do that will be both effective and not risk a wider war: Lift the economic blockade imposed against American exports of crude oil and liquid natural gas to Europe.

European countries, including Russia’s closest neighbors, depend heavily on Russia for their energy needs, and Russia uses this dependency as strategic leverage.

Ramping up American energy exports to Europe stands a real chance of helping resolve the battles in the Ukraine, in contrast to our current strategy, which appears to consist of being mean to Russia on social media.

Since 1975, there has been a near-total ban on American crude oil exports.

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act was passed as a means of preventing the energy price shocks U.S. consumers experienced in the 1970s.

And while there’s no official ban on liquid natural gas exports, the Obama administration’s approval process is so slow it amounts to a de facto ban.

But new technological breakthroughs have enabled the U.S. to become the world’s largest oil and natural gas producer. So American policymakers are not terrified of an oil embargo. America can now easily afford to export domestically produced crude oil and liquid natural gas.

Russia, meanwhile, can ill afford to see its share of the global energy export market shrink.

In 2012, oil and gas revenues accounted for more than half of Russia’s federal budget revenues and 70 percent of the country’s exports.

This is the real leverage the international community has over Russia.

Without his energy monopoly to bully Europe, it will be much harder for Putin to continue his hobbies, which, judging by his behavior, seems to be invading neighbors and supplying missiles to shoot down civilian airliners.

If Russia suddenly had to compete in energy markets previously closed to the U.S., the fiscal impact would be felt immediately in Moscow.

David Montgomery, senior vice president of the consulting firm National Economic Research Associates, estimates that American competition could drive down Russian revenues from oil and gas exports by 30 percent in the next five years and over 60 percent in the longer term.

“Since energy exports are the mainstay of the still inefficient and lagging Russian economy, this is a penalty with teeth,” Montgomery told a Senate committee in March. If oil and gas revenues begin to slow, the Russian government will find it very difficult to pay the bills for continued military adventurism.

In June, the House passed a bill requiring the Energy Department to dramatically speed up the approval process for liquid natural gas exports. But until this bill becomes law, approvals for liquid natural gas exports remain sluggish to non-existent.

And crude oil exports are still effectively banned.

The best way to rein in Russian imperialism is not temporary sanctions, but forcing the Kremlin to confront the reality of the end of its energy leverage over its neighbors.

We can prevent further war in Ukraine by deigning to compete more directly with Russia in the global energy market.

Michael James Barton is the director for energy at ARTIS Research, an Arizona-based research group. He previously served as the deputy director of Middle East policy at the Pentagon.

LISA FIELD

Politics? Religion? Stick to food as the holiday dinner table topic



At your next holiday supper, passing around hot cornbread, squash, greens or apple pie, scoot back from the table a moment and digest one nutritious truth: Food connects. Person to person, people to planet. Everyone eats, no matter of what political persuasion, religion, race or old codified dispute. Food offers one thing even squabbling humans can exchange agreeably. That’s borderline miraculous in these contentious times. “No politics or religion,” my sister-in-law instructed her liberal kids one past Thanksgiving before their conservative cousins arrived. “No immigration or fracking. No solar tech or Tar Sands. And please, no weather!” Weather? Hearing this humorous etiquette remix amazed me. Hadn’t weather always provided people our most innocent, connective topic? Rain, snow, creeks and tides were at one time our common, obvious reality, not a fractious debate. But today we don’t share much reality from the world outside the door. We’re indoors, downloading mass-produced info from afar – little of it intended to convey reality. So today even weather talk can induce indigestion for families that, like mine, include climate “believers” and “deniers.” It’s one of countless volatile topics dividing our nation, our leaders, workplaces, even religious denominations. Thus it’s often thought wise just to keep such topics off the table. And that’s a waste. We humans have a feast of problems to chew on, these days – troubles too big to be solved by one “side” or the other, much less by avoidance. If no group, from family to Congress, can gather round for a goodwill, agape-meal discussion of matters as obvious and vital as

land, sea and sky, is anything left on the table to connect us? Yes, blessedly enough. Food itself is still on the table. And it’s inspiring an expansive conversation, judging from the booming grassroots food movement. This local-growers phenomenon is currently reconnecting water quality, soil rehab and small farmers to the supper table. It’s also restoring human dialogue – even between left and right. “Republican, Democrat, Tea Party and Green Party members are all engaged,” said farming activist Gary Paul Nabhan. “They converge around the notion that we all have a right to access and eat food that truly nourishes our bodies and communities.” That “community” includes the whole web of life in Beaufort, NC. There, a traditional small-scale fishing economy was nearly wiped out by the industrial seafood/distribution system and overfished waters. Local catches that did get harvested were trucked off to northern markets and lost in a mass-distribution shuffle. Everything local was losing – fishermen, economy, even coastal waters unhinged from any sense of local stake or stewardship. Rural and city politics lost touch, breeding distrust and resentment. Today the Walking Fish community-supported fishery (CSF) is restoring those links – reviving a statewide fish market, small-scale fishing businesses and a unity-restoring economic flow between urban and rural populations. The revived circuitry, meanwhile, has revived local and state interest in coastal ecology. This initial CSF was inspired by community-supported agriculture (CSA), the kind currently springing up around the mid-Atlantic. In eastern Philadelphia, a busy urban farm has reclaimed an abandoned Superfund site in a low-income neighborhood. The soil now restored, Greensgrow

Farm serves local residents through a CSA, an on-site nursery and booming market, nutrition/cooking workshops and other outreach. As co-founder Mary Seton Corboy puts it, the farm is growing not just food but “people and neighborhoods.” Another community farm, Lynchburg Grows in Virginia, likewise reclaimed a toxic waste site, now thriving with gardens, greenhouses and volunteers of diverse ages, races and economic backgrounds, working side-by-side. In the nation’s capital, D.C. Central Kitchen is meanwhile recirculating life between wealthy and low-income neighborhoods, the unemployed and food service jobs, the homeless and housing, school kids and elder neighbors. This expansive network also reconnects tons of surplus food to people who need it, reducing hunger, health costs, landfill waste and greenhouse gases. And how about that other D.C. network – Congress? Well, Rep. Tim Ryan of Ohio, a Democrat, is talking up policy change to shift federal subsidies of health-tanking, environment-taxing industrial agriculture to local, sustainable farms and food programs. Healthier foods reduce diabetes, heart disease and health care costs, Ryan says. And they restore connections between humans, ecology, economy, education and even climate. Already they’ve improved the climate in my own family. The conservative cousins rescued and revived an old farm. They raise goats, hens and produce, and are glad to discuss animal rights and soil conservation. A liberal cousin has pitched in with the work. Now the holiday table is abuzz with gritty, hilarious and connective talk – about compost, hen-scratch, greens, ornery goats and (naturally) the weather. Liza Field writes from Virginia, where she teaches.



The Capitol REPORT

JOHN PAYNE

State gives \$100,000 to improve Cocoa Castle

I am pleased to report that Derry Twp. was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the rehabilitation of Cocoa Castle, a popular playground located in the 106th District. The grant was awarded under the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, which aims to provide financial and technical assistance to local governments, river and trail organizations, land trusts and other nonprofits for planning, acquisition and development of park, recreation, conservation and greenway projects.

Derry Twp. announced its plans to replace and upgrade the playground, which was built in 1993 as a community project, earlier this year if funding assistance was approved through the grant program. The project is expected to include the installation of new play equipment with required safety surfacing and fencing, Americans with Disabilities Act access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements. Groundbreaking could take place as early as spring of 2015. For additional details about the project, visit www.derrytownship.org.

law to operate a vehicle if a motorist does not have a clear view of the highway and full visual range of intersections. Be thorough in cleaning off vehicles entirely; safety on the road depends on it. Under current law, drivers are subject to a fine in certain cases if snow or ice becomes dislodged from a moving vehicle and strikes another automobile or pedestrian. If death or serious bodily injury results, the operator could face a fine of up to \$1,000 for each offense. State law also requires drivers to turn on their headlights anytime their vehicle’s windshield wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to weather or poor visibility conditions, such as fog or mist. According to the Pennsylvania State Police, daytime running lights

qualify. Motorists who do not comply with the law could face a fine of up to \$100. Motorists can check road conditions on more than 2,900 miles of state roads by calling 511 or visiting www.511PA.com. That Web site is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, average traffic speeds on urban interstates and access to more than 500 traffic cameras. Regional Twitter alerts are also available on the 511PA site. John D. Payne is a Republican member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He represents the 106th District, which includes Middletown, Royalton, Lower Swatara Twp., Hummelstown, Derry Twp., Conewago Twp. and part of Swatara Twp.

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Driving in winter weather

As winter weather begins to grip the central Pennsylvania region, I would like to remind motorists that several state laws govern driving during inclement weather. Following a snowstorm, motorists are required to clear snow and ice from their car’s windshield, side and rear windows. It is against the

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- “As I drive into town on North Union Street, my heart just soars when I see the Christmas decorations and lights hanging across the road. Thank you to everyone who makes this tradition happen for our community. The square looks wonderful.”
- “Last Wednesday night I was driving downtown and I thought I saw someone who looked like a borough official going through a garbage can near the place that is abandoned. Times must really be tough for the borough employees. Should we start a Borough Aid event to help?”
- “There should be no debate or question for council as to which option to choose. Eliminate the high-paying position of communications director. That position can be eliminated without losing any services to the community. They eliminated close to three-quarters of the working work force, so this should be a no-brainer!”
- “HACC student: Paying sales taxes makes consumers pay money that they could otherwise save or spend on other things. Consumers are a big part of the economy; they represent nearly three-quarters of the GDP. They pay taxes from their limited income already, so if they save tax money they may spend it to help business to grow. Consumers can use that money on other necessary things for their family, or save it for their children’s college. They can make their life better and more satisfying by having more disposable income. Consumers could also invest some of that money they were spending on taxes. Paying taxes on any single purchase, or on a daily basis, like food and drink, hurts the poor or middle class. According to a 2010 IRS survey, 50 percent of Americans make less than \$33,000 per year. If we cut sales taxes, we can have more money to help small businesses and their employees; small business creates over 60 percent of new jobs in America. We can replace the tax receipt with a higher investment tax. Raise taxes on the wealthy who are not working for their salaries. Taking more taxes from the wealthy is a good solution because they have a lot of money, so the tax cut can be bigger for a middle-income employee. This way, government can collect much more from rich people and can make the middle-class people save their little extra money to help them live a little better or have a business that also can help the economy grow. Everyone can be happy.”
- “I own a house on Ann Street in Middletown, Pa. One of the neighboring houses is owned by a slumlord who rents to anyone who moves in to the building. The tenants often have no pride and throw garbage out the back door leaving

- it to blow into the yards. Sofas and other furniture is dumped outside in the alleyway, and it sits for weeks at a time. A green couch is there now. These same people often will stand outside in big groups, smoke cigarettes, drink beer, and sometimes drug use. It’s been reported to the landlord, to the police and to the Middletown powers-that-be and yet this landlord goes on. Add to it: There are two houses within a half-mile that were burnt from fire and yet not destroyed or repaired. What is Middletown’s problem? Why can’t it be more prideful?”
- “They’re always saying the economy is improving and more people are finding jobs, and that the job market is improving. But they never say how many of those jobs are part-time. They’re deceiving the people again.”
- “Does anyone remember that sub shop in the Village of Pineford called Zeek’s Hoagie Hut? I haven’t found any sub place that can compete to theirs. I had a sub the other day and I was thinking of Zeek’s hoagies. Does anyone know if they have a sub shop around the area?”
- “I am so sick of hearing that Middletown is broke. We need to fire Morgan and vote council out. We have 20-plus fewer employees. The fire department gets much less money. We have the electric trust and now the money for the sewer lease deal. They are still saying the borough is broke. Why is that? We have many fewer services, no Christmas in the park, the Christmas lights are not even on yet over the streets. No more Woody Waste pickup. What are we getting for our money? McNamara is building a fire museum? You people are pathetic. If we rolled back the calendar to 1776, McNamara would be tarred and feathered. Where is the money, you idiots?”
- “We can all thank McNamara when our main roads don’t get plowed. If he didn’t eliminate all those worker positions there would be enough employees to take care of our town. Now he is trying to blame the leasing of the water treatment plant when we were short of employees before that. What doesn’t make sense is that our plows will have to drive on routes 230 and 441 to plow borough streets anyway! I thought leasing the water treatment plant was the answer to all our troubles. Guess not. Just another way to get rid of more employees.”
- “Instead of spending \$54,000 a year on a controversial ‘newsletter,’ hire one or two public works employees. That would be a bigger benefit to this town!”
- “I find it appalling that Chris McNamara and Borough Council do not consider the lives of Middletown residents worth \$7,300 to keep the streets safe during a

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OUT & ABOUT



Santa Claus Arrives in Middletown

He left the sleigh and eight tiny reindeer at home, but Santa Claus still arrived in style in his first appearance in Middletown, riding in the borough's sky-blue Bluebird fire truck on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Swatara Ferry House Landing.



He greeted a group of boys and girls for about two hours, listening to wish lists and handing out candy and small toys. His visit was sponsored by the Middletown Area Historical Society. See who was there!



Press And
Journal Photos
by
Jim Lewis