

**NEW FIRETRUCK** A5



Blue Raider boys basketball hopes to bounce back B1

PRESS & JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019 | PENNSYLVANIA'S NO. 1 WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

No tax increase in Lower Swatara budget

Plans call for adding police officer, other department changes

#### By Laura Hayes laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Lower Swatara Township residents would not see a tax increase if the proposed budget for 2020 is approved.

The budget calls for a fulltime police officer to be added and the filling of two vacancies in the public works department.

The commissioners voted to approve the budget for public inspection during their Nov. 20 meeting. It calls for \$7,729,631 in both expenses and revenue.

"I feel that the current board of commissioners in this budget has been very prudent in its handling of public funds, and we try to be very respectful of the responsibility that we have to our taxpayers. I think this 2020 budget is particularly reflective of that," Commissioner Mike Davies said Nov. 6.

Township Manager Betsy McBride said commissioners might vote on the budget Dec. 18. Davies noted that one of the biggest expenses is public safety, which is estimated to



## Lytle Farms subdivision plans get OK

Movement on development might finally start after years of discussion about future of site in Londonderry

#### By Laura Hayes

laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Londonderry Township supervisors unanimously voted to subdivide land known as Lytle Farms on Monday.

"Once they get this subdivided away, then they can actually sell it to the people who want to develop it. That's when you'll see the full plan, the full development, and all that kind of stuff," Londonderry Codes and Zoning Officer Jeff Burkhart said.

Lytle Farms is on Route 230, just across the Swatara Creek from Middletown's eastern edge. A housing development has been discussed for the land for many years, including a previous proposal for 1,600 homes.

The subdivision plans essentially separate land to the north of Route 230 from land to the south. The plans do not propose any development on the land. However, township officials have previously said that the northern land would be developed into a logistic facility and a traditional neighborhood development would be constructed on the southern tract by another developer. That housing development hinged on other land in Londonderry being developed, officials have said. The subdivision plans, which were submitted by Core5 Industrial Partners, were recommended by the township planning commission Nov. 18. Project engineer John Murphy said Monday land development plans would be forthcoming. After

"Once they get this subdivided away, then they can actually sell it to the people who want to develop it. That's when you'll see the full plan, the full development, and all that kind of stuff."

75 CENTS

Londonderry Codes and Zoning Officer Jeff Burkhart

the November planning commission meeting, Core5 Director of Development Brian Reisinger told the Press & Journal that he estimated that land development plans would be submitted in three to four months.

The supervisors also approved waivers for a preliminary plan and for the plans to show existing fea tures because, as Murphy noted, no development is proposed with the subdivision plans. During the planning commission meeting, Murphy said the whole tract is 272 acres on either side of Route 230 with about 55 acres to the north and 217 acres to the south. The deed was transferred to Tuck-A-Way LLC in 2009 for \$4.6 million. The deed notes that entire tract is 333.29 acres. During the planning commission meeting, Murphy said a tract bordered by Route 230 to the south and Swatara Creek Road was subdivided prior. Reisinger told the Press & Journal that Core5 planned to also buy that tract.

Please see **BUDGET,** page **A5** 

## Court ruling nixes eatery and hotel plans again on N. Union

#### By Laura Hayes laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

A 17-acre tract on North Union Street won't have a hotel, restaurant, office building and retail space on it anytime soon.

In April 2016, Fritz Lee Dickerson IV, Ashton Chase Dickerson, Fritz Lee Dickerson III, Thomas Steele, and Ann Korb applied for a land use variance with Lower Swatara Township that would allow them to develop a 17.08-acre tract in a residential suburban zoning district. The land is bordered by North Union Street to the west and Route 283 to the north.

Plans called for a restaurant, an office building, two retail buildings and a 79-room hotel on the properties with access onto North Union Street.

The township zoning hearing board denied their request. They appealed it to the Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas, and Judge Lawrence F.

Please see RULING, page A5

#### PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HUGHES

A crowd gathers to watch the Middletown Christmas tree be illuminated on Saturday night at St. Peter's Kierch.

## SANTA, CHRISTMAS TREE SPARK HOLIDAY SPIRIT

#### **By Phyllis Zimmerman** Special to the Press & Journal

A Christmas miracle happened last week in Middletown.

Thanks to an "astounding" list of volunteers and donations, a sparkling new Santa house was unveiled at the borough's annual treelighting ceremony Saturday. It was a moment that some

feared might not happen this year considering the circumstances behind it.

On Nov. 19, Middletown Borough Council voted to stop using the previous Santa house after borough officials were made aware of its ties to alleged sexual abuse in Londonderry Township. The tree-lighting ceremony was less than two weeks away.

As it turned out, Middletown didn't let that happen. A virtual army of local volunteers, businesses and organizations sprung into action for the cause, completing a whimsical new Santa house out of donated materials for the borough's children in roughly a week's time. Mayor James H. Curry III referred to the many who contributed time and materials to the project as "the team of angels."

"Without the team of angels helping us, we would not have had this (Santa house) happen this year. Within 24 hours of the announcement (about the previous Santa house closure), people were calling us up with donations of \$1,000," Curry told the crowd



SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY PHYLLIS ZIMMERMAN

Middletown's new Santa house was officially unveiled at the borough's tree-lighting ceremony on Saturday night. See more photos on page A6.

"Without the team of angels helping us, we would not have had this (Santa house) happen this year."

Mayor James H. Curry III

of hundreds who gathered for the unveiling and tree lighting at South Union and High streets at St. Peter's Kierch on Saturday night. Curry then introduced a video that highlighted the expedient efforts of the many who contributed to Santa's new house just before the house was unveiled. At first sight of brightly lit red and white Santahouse, the crowd broke into collective rounds of "oohs" and "aaahs." "It's a Christmas miracle," an

emotional Curry said. This year's borough Christmas tree was donated by Dianne Billy

of Lower Swatara Township. The 37-foot tree was procured from her front yard.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA HAYES

The Lytle Farms development could be a massive housing and logistic facility project in Londonderry Township.

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

- LOWER SWATARA: Public Meeting Notice. A4
- **MIDDLETOWN:** Estate of Marguerite Dowling. **A4**
- LOWER SWATARA TWP: Meeting of Recreation Board. A4
- LOWER SWTARA TWP: Zoning
- Hearing SE/V2019-2. A4
- LOWER SWTARA TWP: Zoning

Hearing SEN2019-04. **A4** • LOWER SWATARA TWP: Public Meeting. **A4** 

• LONDONDERRY TWP: Sewage Facilities Update. A4





## OURCOMMUNITY









## News IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD | LAVONNE ACKERMAN Palm trees go well with Christmas lights

Here we are! How did December come so quickly? I feel like 2019 took a shortcut. Somehow, it must have cheated us out of some weeks, or maybe just days!

At any rate, let us throw the red and green welcome mat at the front door. I see many signs of Christmas of the Florida variety. It is a treat to see palm trees wrapped in green, red and white twinkling lights.

There is, indeed, a different feel down here. I'm not talking about the lowest low of 52 last week or the 72 degrees forecasted today. It's the beachy atmosphere with the temps usually in the high 70s, going into the 80s. It's the beauty of the ocean colors drawing you in.

Think about this ... the average daily ocean temperature here is 77 degrees in December, while in Atlantic City, it is 59 degrees in June! Yes, I miss decorating my house, the chill in the air and scattered snow flurries, but I certainly can embrace this new kind of Christmas time, too.

Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, I hope you can enjoy this kind season of love and goodwill toward others. Bring on the merry and bright. Have a wonderful week, and don't forget to share your news, right here!

#### **Birthdays**

Happy birthday to **Brian Etter** of Elizabethtown on Wednesday, Dec. 4. May 35 wonderful things happen on your day!

A special 22nd birthday greeting is sent to **Lyndsay Truax** of Lower Swatara Township on Dec. 4. Hope your Wednesday is awesome!

**Geovanny Cedano** of Middletown marks his 15th cake-andice cream day on Wednesday, Dec. 4. Enjoy!

Much love and hugs to my first born, **Scotty Ackerman** on Wednesday, Dec. 4. Only 32 short years ago, you made me a mom! God bless you!

Happy 20th birthday to **Jacob Spears** of Lower Swatara. I hope your Thursday, Dec. 5 celebra-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAVONNE ACKERMAN

**Darryl and Renie Bower** of

years together on Friday, Dec.

6. Hope your weekend is full of

romance, flowers and chocolate!

Tuesday, Dec. 10. Happy 31st an-

Best wishes to Gary and Lynne

Lower Swatara celebrate 33

Klock of Lower Swatara on

niversary. Enjoy!

1 c. flour

**Cozy Pineapple Chicken** 

6 chicken breasts

salt and pepper

1 can consommé

Pinch of ginger

1 Tbsp. soy sauce

pan or casserole dish.

1 can pineapple chunks

Dredge chicken in flour, salt

and pepper. Brown chicken in

frying pan and place in greased

Beach restaurant Johnny Longboat's on Singer Island welcomes December with a friendly "snowman."

day birthday to **Cathy Zupanovic** of Lower Swatara on Dec. 8. I hope all your dreams come true, Cathy!

Happy beep-honk-beep day to **Cynthia Ortiz-Sanchez** of Lower Swatara on Sunday, Dec. 8. I hope your 16th cake day is super sweet!

Here's a happy 92nd birthday shout out to **CD Farr** of Middletown Home on Sunday, Dec. 8. Hoping your day is full of joy! Honk bonk been to **Cavin** 

Honk, honk, beep to **Gavin Swartheur** of Middletown on his Monday, Dec. 9 Sweet 16 birthday. Be safe!

**Michaila Brady** of Lower Swatara celebrates 23 reasons to be happy on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Enjoy your birthday week! pineapple.

Cover and bake at 325 degrees for 2 hours. Serves 6, goes well with rice and peas.

#### **Quote of the Week**

"When faithfulness is most difficult, it is most necessary." — Unknown.

#### **Question of the Week**

Who do you know who shows faithfulness?

"My in-laws. They had a house fire 6 months ago and were stripped of all their worldly possessions. They live by God's chosen path, one day at a time, to create a new normal. Also, my mother, Kathy. She chose to allow God to plan and choose what she would do each day. Each morning she prayed, 'Whatever You want me to do today, send me the person and the purpose and I will follow your plan.' She gained 18 years on this Earth with that plan after a heart transplant in 1996." — Amy Benner, Royalton.

"Baseball players who show faithfulness to their team by putting their all into the game and working hard at practices." — Jayden Benner, 16, Royalton.

"My mom, because of her faith in me and how she has believed in me all throughout my life." — **Logan Benner,** 13, Royalton.

"I think Miss Rachael, children's ministry director, is very faithful, because she likes all the kids, even when they are being rude!" — **Ayla Windows**, 8, Susquehanna.

"Faithful? I'm not sure what that means! I guess my mommy is faithful, right mom?" **Ayden Windows,** 5, Susquehanna Township.

"Donald Trump. He is being faithful to his campaign promises (as much as possible), in spite of significant political opposition from both parties." — **Bill Seaton,** Hummelstown.

#### **Proverb for the Week**

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who

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#### **AUTO DEALER**

Hondru Auto 2005 South Market Street, Elizabethtown 717-367-6644

#### **AUTO SERVICE**

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

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

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

#### **FLOWERS**

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

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Middletown Pharmacy & Gift Shop 436 E. Main Street, Middletown 717-944-1640 HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Dale Sinniger & Son Electric** 717-944-3419 or 717-944-6766

**Gipe Flooring** 5435 Jonestown Road, Harrisburg 717-545-6103

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

Musser Tree Service 3444 Roundtop Road, Elizabethtown 717-367-3724

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Count on us to cover your local municipal meetings and help you make sense of it all.



tion is over the top! **Devin Ruzansky** of Middletown celebrates his brand new teener cake day on Friday, Dec.

6. Have a happy 13th, Devin!

Best wishes for a super Sun-

#### Anniversaries

Happy 41st wedding anniversary to **Don and Vicki Hartman** of Middletown on Thursday, Dec. 5. Have a warm and cozy day together! Drain pineapples (save juice). Place chunks on top of chicken. Pour consommé, pineapple juice, soy sauce and ginger into frying pan and simmer until blended. Pour mix over chicken and

brings shame is like rottenness in his bones (12:4).

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

## Gas prices steady this week, up over last year

Harrisburg gas prices rose 1 cent per gallon last week, averaging \$2.75 a gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 241 stations.

Gas prices in Harrisburg are 1.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and 9.7 cents per gallon

#### **TOWN TOPICS**

### Holiday craft and gift show set for Saturday

Middletown First Church of God, 245 W. High St., Middletown, is sponsoring a Holiday Craft and Gift Show from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

There will be crafts, gifts, baked goods, caramels, and soups. Breakfast and lunch items will be sold.

For more information, email fflury37@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/ events/2304240322999712.

## Middletown Home has breakfast with Santa

Join Santa Claus for breakfast at the Middletown Home, 999 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

RSVP by Dec. 6 to Paige Forney at pforney@middletownhome.org.

#### Eighth annual Holiday Vendor Show is Dec. 7

Hummelstown Fire Department, 249 E. Main St., is sponsoring its eighth annual Holiday Vendor Show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. There will be numerous higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Harrisburg was priced at \$2.56 while the most expensive was \$2.92. The lowest price in the state was \$2.58 while the highest was \$3.05.

The cheapest price in the entire

country was \$1.71 while the most expensive was \$4.99.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.58.

The national average is down 1.6 cents per gallon from a month ago

and is 14.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices: Lancaster: \$2.73, up 1.3 cents per gallon from last week. Reading: \$2.69, down 1.5 cents. York: \$2.86, up 2.5 cents.

vendors to help get Christmas shopping done at one place. er

#### Lower Swatara Fire has Santa breakfast

Lower Swatara Volunteer Fire Dept., 1350 Fulling Mill Road, is sponsoring a Breakfast with Santa from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

For more information, visit lowerswatarafire.com or call 717-566-3108.

#### Youth Club Bingo scheduled for Thursdays

Youth Club Bingo will be held Thursday nights at the Middletown Volunteer Fire Department, 10 Adelia St. Doors open at 5 p.m., and

bingo starts at 6:45 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Middletown Youth Club.

## Leaf collection schedule set for Lower Swatara

Lower Swatara Township leaf collection will run through mid-December or until the first snowfall.

Collection on Mondays and Tuesdays covers the Shope Gardens area, Greenwood Hills, and Woodridge. Collection on Wednesdays covers Bryn Gweld, Green Plains, Jednota Flats, Rosedale Areas, and Twelve Oaks.

Collection on Thursdays and Fridays covers Longview Acres and Old Reliance.

## Olde Factory holiday open house coming up

The Olde Factory Antiques and Crafts, 139 S. Hanover St., Hummelstown, will hold its Holiday Open House from Wednesday, Dec. 4 to Sunday, Dec. 8.

Refreshments will be served Saturday, Dec. 7. For more information, call 717-566-5685.

## Londonderry Fire to hold Bingo mania

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, will hold its Bingo Mania on Sunday, Dec. 8. Doors and kitchen open at noon. Bingo starts at 2 p.m. For more information, call 717-944-2175.

## Christmas bake sale at St. Ann Byzantine

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, is sponsoring a Christmas Bake Sale from 9 a.m.

### to noon Saturday, Dec. 14 in the parish hall.

Homemade walnut, poppy seed, and apricot rolls will be available as well as smoked kielbasa and perohis. No advance orders will be taken.

The gift shop will be open during sale times.

For more, call 717-652-0545 or visit www.stannbyz.org.

## New Year's Eve bingo at Londonderry Fire

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, will hold its New Year's Eve Bingo on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Doors open at 5 p.m., and bingo starts at 7 p.m. There will be an all-you-can-eat buffet starting at 5:30 p.m.

Call 717-576-8649 to RSVP. Tickets can be pre-purchased or purchased at the door. Seating is limited this year.

## Chicken and waffle buffet dinner slated

Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, will hold its Chicken and Waffle Buffet Dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

Delivery is available. Call 717-944-2175.

## **Lower Swatara stormwater** fee established at \$7 a month

#### **By Laura Hayes**

laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

A consensus was reached for a \$7 monthly Lower Swatara Township stormwater fee during a joint meeting of its board of commissioners and members of the township municipal authority Nov. 25.

For months, the township has discussed implementing a stormwater fee that would fund its stormwater program. Municipalities such as Lower Swatara are required to manage their storm sewer systems, runoff water and pollutants entering watersheds like the Chesapeake Bay through anMS4-which stands for municipal separate storm sewer system - permit.

"This is a long time coming since I've been on the board. It started even before me," Commissioner Chris DeHartsaid. "I'm not happy we're putting more costs on the residents. It's one of those things that's forced on us that we have to do."

The fee will be set by the township municipal authority and might be voted upon during the municipal authority meeting Dec. 16.

because tax-exempt properties such as churches and the fire hall would have to pay.

During a joint meeting in September, a draft stormwater budget called for a monthly fee of \$9.80. However, alternative budgets were proposed that shifted expenses from the stormwater budget that lowered the fee to \$8 or \$6 a month.

The \$7 fee would be the monthly rate for residential and commercial properties. For commercial properties, the monthly fee is based on how many equivalent residential units it has. One ERU is 3,750 square feet of impervious area, and one ERU would carry a fee of \$7.

On Nov. 25, the commissioners and municipal authority members weighed an \$8 fee versus a \$6 fee.

Municipal authority chairman Richard Wilkinson said he liked the idea of a \$6 fee, but added that "it leaves us no room for any type of movement and we'll be looking for a rate increase."

Wilkinson advocated for keeping the fee the same until the township's MS4 permit expired in 2023.

"I know there is a hesitancy on the part of many people to revisit the question of what is and isn't an The proposed fee is not a tax adequate fee, but I would rather, ment for the township to manage

personally, dial it in slowly and get it right than just pick a high number and go with it and hope that we're right," Commissioner Mike Davies said.

A \$7 fee was proposed by Vice President Todd Truntz.

"Seven is between six and eight. You're splitting the difference. Does that give us an adequate operational buffer, that extra dollar a month. Just throwing it out there. And I think it's probably stillareasonablefee,"Truntzsaid. Others echoed their support of a \$7 fee.

"It's prudent, certainly, to have a little breathing room when we don't know what our delinquencies are going to be, when we don't know what the participation we're going to get from certain major property owners," Davies said.

In terms of the process, solicitor Peter Henninger said the municipal authority needs to own the system before a fee is set. This can be done through a quitclaim deed, he said.

First-class townships, such as Lower Swatara, are not able to set a fee. However, the township and municipal authority would enter into a management agree-

the system.

Henninger estimated it would take two months to update the billing software. The fee may be on sewer bills as soon as the May 1 bill.

Township manager Betsy Mc-Bride estimated that the township would deed its storm sewer system over to the municipal authority during the Dec. 4 commissioners meeting. The fee may be voted upon during the Dec. 16 municipal authority meeting.

The township is not proposing to offer residents credits for structures such as rain gardens.

Residential properties could qualify for credits if they were lowimpact parcels, or if the amount of impervious area on the property was 10 percent or less, such as farms.

Wilkinson said it was easier to check into commercial properties' best management practices to manage their stormwater.

"We would need a ton of administrative people if we got into homeowners and who had rain gardens and people checking into things," Wilkinson said.

He added that if there was an interest in residential credits, it could be amended when the permit ends in 2023.

## **OBITUARIES**



Margaret M. Bush MIDDLETOWN

Margaret M. Bush, 68, of Middletown, peacefully fell asleep in death on Sunday, November 24, 2019 at Holy Spirit Hospital, Camp Hill, Pa. surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on October 26, 1951 in Darby, Pa. and was the loving daughter of the late Thomas A. Jr. and Mary E. (Whitworth) Delaney.

Maggie was a 1969 graduate of Archbishop Prendergast High School.

She was an active member of the Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in Middletown.

Maggie was a volunteer with the LDC Design Dept. She loved serving as a Pioneer, participating in Metro Witnessing in Philadelphia, gardening, baking and watching the Phillies. Her greatest joy was serving her loving God Jehovah by help-

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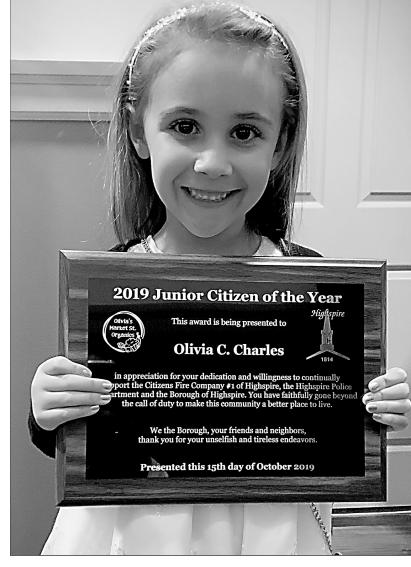
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### Highspire honors girl as Junior Citizen of the Year for fundraising





ing others learn what the Bible teaches, and being a wife, mother, grandmother, and spiritual sister. In addition to her parents, Maggie was preceded in death by her

sister, Kathleen Solon, In-laws,

Florence and Thomas Bush, and

Maggie is survived by her lov-

ing husband of 47 years, Thomas

D. Bush Jr.; sons, David T. Bush

of Dallas, Texas, and Michael

A. Bush (Mechelle) of Reading,

Pa.; daughters, Aimee M. Blum

(Gregory) of Phoenixville, Pa., and

Elizabeth L. Bush of Middletown,

Pa.; brothers, Thomas A. Delaney

III (Mimi), and William W. Del-

aney (Mary); sisters, Marianne

R. Henrich, Karen A. Rollo (Jo-

seph), and Patricia A. Ziegelbaum

(Fred); grandchildren, Daniella

Amaguayo and Luke Amaguayo;

numerous nieces and nephews;

A memorial service will be held

on Saturday, December 7 at 3:00

p.m. at Kingdom Hall of Jeho-

vah's Witnesses, 3235 Foxianna

Rd., Middletown, PA 17057, with a

discourse by Eric Smith, Minister

& Elder. There will be a visitation

from 2:00 p.m. until the time of the

The family has entrusted the

Matinchek Funeral Home, 260 E.

Main St., Middletown, with the

service on Saturday.

funeral arrangements.

and many long time friends.

sister-in-law, Donna Palumbo.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANN TRIPF

Olivia Charles and her mom, Jenna, were named the Citizen and Junior Citizen of the Year in Highspire during the Oct. 15 borough council meeting. They opened a stand called "Olivia's Market St. Organics" where they sold produce, lemonade and ice tea. They raised \$402.24, which was donated to the Citizens Fire Company No. 1 of Highspire. Olivia also made thankyou bags for Highspire police officers and picked up sticks after a storm. Highspire Mayor Brenda Hoerner gives plaques to Olivia Charles and her mom. Jenna, during the Oct. 15 borough council meeting, declaring them Citizen and Junior Citizen of the Year.

## Lower Swatara, Highspire continue to fight in court over issues related to sewage treatment

#### **By Laura Hayes**

laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Lower Swatara Township and the borough of Highspire are continuing their battle over sewage treatment issues.

A majority of Lower Swatara's waste is treated at the Highspire Wastewater Treatment Plant under an agreement from 1986.

The lawsuit between Lower Swatara Township and its municipal authority and Highspire and its borough authority recently turned to Lower Swatara flow meters and \$53,790 that Highspire contends the township didn't pay for a clarifier and screw pump at the Highspire Waste Water Treatment Plant.

In June 2018, Lower Swatara filed a lawsuit against Highspire that argued the borough "unreasonably" retained excessive fees paid by Lower Swatara.

The township sought more than \$500,000 and for the court to find that the transportation and treatment agreement entered into with Highspire in 1986 wasn't perpetual and the township could give notice to terminate it.

Now, in court documents filed Oct. 14, the borough contended that Lower Swatara's flow meters, which determine how much capacity is reserved in the plant, are malfunctioning. Specifically, that the rates are "being artifior improperly functioning flow meters," court documents read.

Additionally, Highspire argued that "other lines from which sewage from Lower Swatara is being discharged into the WWTP are not currently being metered at all and/or no flow rates are being provided.'

Highspire said the Lower Swatara's daily flow sewage rate into the treatment plant is "substantially" higher than that which was reported.

The borough also contended that Lower Swatara didn't submit "timely" payment for its share of projects for a clarifier and screw pump at the plant, or \$53,790.

cially capped by malfunctioning Highspire asked for a ruling of over \$100,000 for the \$53,790 and interest and other costs.

Lower Swatar are sponded Nov.4 and contended that its flow meters "provide measurements of sewage flow that are consistent with industry standards and sound engineering principles."

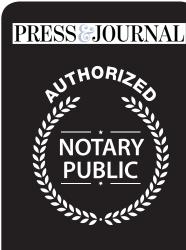
The township said it did submit timely payments for its share of the clarifier and screw pump projects, particularly quarterly payments totaling \$437,310.16 for the screw pump project and \$276,785.30 for the clarifier project. The borough responded Nov.

26 and argued that there was an outstanding balance for the screw pump project.

pamsmith@pressandjournal com Fee: \$10 for 45 words or less,

paid in advance, cash, check or charge.

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Gov. Wolf, first lady urge charitable giving during holidays

Ahead of the holiday season, Gov. Tom Wolf and first lady Frances Wolf are reminding Pennsylvanians of the importance of helping each other.

The governor and first lady recently visited the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg to participate in a volunteer project, packing boxes of food for veterans and their families.

"It is a sad reality that too many Pennsylvanians struggle with hunger every day — and it is es-

pecially difficult for families and individuals who face this threat during the holiday season," the first lady said.

"That's why Tom and I are proud to serve with our partners at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, who work tirelessly year-round to help meet the basic needs of the communities they serve. I am grateful for their ongoing support and partnership in the fight to end hunger in the commonwealth," she added.

The governor and first lady's efforts benefitted the Food Bank's MilitaryShare Program.

The program was created in response to a statistic that shows one quarter of central Pennsylvania households receiving food assistance have at least one member who is serving or has served in the military.

'Statistics like these remind us that there's still work to be done and no amount of help is too small when it comes to assisting one

another," Gov. Wolf said. "The Food Bank has been diligent in their efforts to combat hunger in communities, but we as individuals also have an obligation to help our neighbors.'

The governor and his administration are encouraging residents to participate in charitable happenings throughout the holiday season, including serving meals at local soup kitchens and homeless shelters, donating to food banks, and hosting coat drives.

The Clubhouse at Sunset Golf Course is a beautiful location to host a party, reception, class reunion or business event.

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Randall Breon

Chairman

at 7:00PM at the Lower Swatara Township Municipal Building, 1499 Spring Garden Drive, Middletown,

> All interested parties are invited to attend.

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## Lower Swatara boy faces child pornography charges

**By Laura Hayes** laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

A 13-year-old Lower Swatara Township boy has been charged with possession of child pornography and distribution of child pornography, according to Lower Swatara Police Detective Robert Appleby.

According to Appleby, the department was contacted Oct. 11 by the Dauphin County Criminal Investigation Division, which had been contacted by the office of the Pennsylvania attorney general.

Appleby said the Dauphin **County Criminal Investigation** Division told the department that child pornography was uploaded using Wi-Fi in the township.

Police recovered a cellphone on which Appleby said were 297 videos and photos of what he said was confirmed child pornography.

Police say the teenager downloaded the child pornography

off the Internet, but he did not create it.

Appleby said it was "easily identified" as child pornography by looking at the children in the videos and photos.

The boy also is charged with intimidation of a witness after Appleby said he threatened another juvenile.

He was also charged with criminal use of a communication facility. In this case, it means usingacellphonetocommitacrime.

## LOWER SWATARA POLICE ROUNDUP Student allegedly threatened to shoot up middle school

A 13-year-old Middletown boy has been charged with making terroristic threats after he allegedly threatened to shoot up the Middletown Area Middle School.

It was reported to police at 12:05 p.m. Nov. 21.

According to police, the boy was in gym class when he told another student that he was going to kill the other student first.

The student then reported it to staff, officers said.

Police said no weapons were recovered. The boy was released to family.

#### Man injured in crash

An Allentown man was injured during a crash near the intersection of Spring Garden Drive and Oberlin Road at 11:10

According to police, the 23-year-old driver hit a retain-

Middletown police charged

two people with drug offenses

after finding suspected crack

cocaine residue in their resi-

dence in the 200 block of Ann

## POLICE AND COURTS ROUNDUP

plained of foot pain and was transported to a hospital. There were no citations.

#### Woman charged with DUI

A Middletown woman has been charged with DUI following a traffic stop near the intersection of North Union Street and Route 283 at 12:46 a.m. Nov. 7.

Alexus Marie Reynolds, 22, told officers that she had two drinks an hour before, according to the affidavit filed with District Judge Michael J. Smith.

A sample of her blood was taken at the Dauphin County Booking Center. According to the affidavit, her blood-alcohol content was 0.176 percent. The legal limit to drive is 0.08.

Reynolds also was charged with no headlights and rear lights. Her preliminary hearing is Dec. 30.

#### Man cited with criminal mischief

A New Holland man has been cited with criminal mischief af-

#### ter he allegedly damaged a wall in the office of Flagger Force on

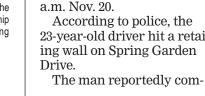
Stone Ridge Drive. It was reported to police at 9 a.m. Nov. 8. According to the citation filed with District Judge Michael J. Smith, Tymir Mitchell, 21, slammed a door, damaging a wall. Repairs are estimated at \$464.

#### **Fake inspection stickers**

A Harrisburg man has been charged with possession, sale or use of display documents knowing it had been altered, forged or counterfeited.

Officers pulled over a car driven by James Lamont Hymon, 70, in the 800 block of Eisenhower Boulevard for having a faulty brake light at 11:55 p.m. Nov. 9.

According to the affidavit filed with District Judge Michael J. Smith, his inspection and emission inspection stickers appeared to be fraudulent. His preliminary hearing is Dec. 18.



Police charge two after finding suspected crack cocaine residue

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Street. Dominique Chantal Reid, 34, and Melinda A. Thornton, 61, both of the same address, were charged Nov. 22 through District Judge David Judy with possession of a controlled substance by a person not registered, and use/possession of

> drug paraphernalia. The suspected crack cocaine residue and paraphernalia were found in the residence Oct. 18 after police obtained a search

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### LONDONDERRY TOWNSHIP ACT 537 PLAN UPDATE ADOPTION

Notice is hereby given that the Londonderry Township Board of Supervisors, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania proposes to adopt a Special Study pursuant to Act 537 following a thirty (30) day public comment period beginning December 4, 2019 and ending January 3, 2020.

The purpose of the Special Study is to revise the most ACT 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update based on recent revisions to the Township zoning along SR 230 and a change in sewage treatment alternative. The newly selected alternative for the Special Study includes:

(1) Construction of public sewers to serve existing properties and proposed development along Pennsylvania State Route 230 from Lytle Farms to Hertzler Road with conveyance of all wastewater to the Derry Township Municipal Authority (DTMA) Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for treatment and disposal. Funding for the first two phases of construction has already been secured with private funds. Monthly user fees are estimated at \$43 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) as a stand-alone project

(2) Construction of public sanitary sewer facilities to serve other areas of need in Sewer District No. 2 and Sewer District No. 3 with conveyance of all wastewater to the DTMA Southwest WWTP for treatment over a period of 9 years. This alternative is contingent upon additional developer contributions and overall funding. Monthly user fees are estimated at \$43 to \$95 depending on overall financing

Individuals interested in reviewing a copy of the Special Study may do so at the Londonderry Township Municipal Building located at 783 S. Geyers Church Road, Middletown, PA. Given the minor nature of the updates outlined in the Special Study, no public hearing will be held. The public may submit written comments on the Special Study to the Township Board of Supervisors, c/o Township Manager, Steve Letavic, 783 S. Geyers Church Road, Middletown, PA 17057 or e-mail at sletavic@londonderrypa.org. The Plan Update is anticipated to be adopted by the Township during their regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting at the Township Municipal Building on Monday, January 6, 2020 pending receipt of comments

Steve Letavic, Township Manager Londonderry Township

#258 1204-1T

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warrant, police said in arrest papers filed with Judy.

A preliminary hearing for both Reid and Thornton is set for Dec. 23 before Judy.

#### **DUI charge in Londonderry**

State Police charged a Bainbridge man with DUI after being stopped in the 2300 block of Hillsdale Road in Londonderry Township at about 8:30 p.m. Oct. 24.

Police in arrest papers filed with District Judge David Judy said that Gerald Nathaniel Kreiser III, 46, of the 100 block of Governor Stable Road, was pulled over after police saw his

green 1997 GMC Yukon cross the double yellow center line four times as Kreiser was eastbound on Hillsdale Road.

Kreiser showed signs of being impaired from alcohol during field sobriety tests, police said. He consented to a blood test. Results provided to police Nov. 10 showed that he had a bloodalcohol percentage of 0.092 percent at the time of the incident, according to arrest papers. The legal limit to drive is 0.08.

Kreiser was also charged with disregarding a single lane of traffic. His preliminary hearing before Judy is scheduled for Dec. 30.

### Hummelstown plans events for Christmas

Hummelstown Holiday Happenings will be held Sunday, Dec. 8, sponsored by the Hummelstown Business & Professional Association.

Santa Claus arrives in style to the Hummelstown square courtesy of the Hummelstown Fire Department at 1 p.m. Visit with Santa from 1 to 5 p.m.

Holiday Open Houses sponsored by local businesses will offer light refreshments and activities available for all. Make craft ornaments, decorate cookies, create cards for the troops, and shop.

Park in one of the parking lots in town and take a ride on the Hershey Trolley Works to the events in Hummelstown from 2 to 4 p.m.; or on the Elder Express van to Echo Dell-Indian Echo Caverns and the Stoverdale Plaza.

Holiday Happenings will partner with Lower Dauphin Falcon Packs by encouraging attendees to donate one of the following items: hot cocoa mix, non-refrigerated pudding cups, fruit cups, fruit snacks (gummies), or travel-size tissue packs.

Donations can be dropped off at Thrivent Financial (20 W. Main St.), Trefz & Bowser Funeral Home (114 W. Main St.), The Sun office (on the Square), or in the blue Falcon Pack donation houses at the LD Field House, Alexander Library, or in front of Thrivent.

The annual Christmas Tree lighting sponsored by the Hummelstown Community Foundation ends the day. Santa and Miss Hummelstown 2020 Abigail Lennox will light the tree in the square at 5:30 p.m. with the Hummelstown Community Singers leading the caroling.



## Middletown to buy new fire department pumper

#### By Dan Miller

danmiller@pressandjournal.com

A brand new Seagrave pumper truck could be sitting inside Middletown Volunteer Fire Department fire house on Adelia Street by October, after borough council voted Nov.25 to move forward with purchase of the apparatus.

Council by 6-0 vote authorized borough Manager Ken Klinepeter to enter into a 10-year lease purchase agreement with a leasing company to finance purchase of the pumper, which will be borough-owned.

The 2020 Seagrave Marauder II Custom Engine has a total price tag of \$689,868.

Council in a separate 5-0 vote Nov. 19 authorized the borough to make a \$294,000 downpayment toward the pumper from the borough's fire sinking fund. The same company members will travel

enter into a contract with Seagrave for purchase of the pumper.

Nearly half — \$125,000 — of the \$294.000 downpayment comes from a gaming grant for the pumper awarded to the fire company in February by Dauphin County commissioners using gaming revenue proceeds from Hollywood Casino at Penn National.

The remaining \$395,868 is to be financed in annual payments of \$47,488.91 over the course of the 10-year lease purchase agreement, with the first payment due March 15, 2021.

Entering into the agreement now enables the borough to lock in an interest rate of 3.29 percent for the financing, Klinepeter told council Nov. 19.

The fire department in a Nov. 22 post on its Facebook page said

vote authorized the borough to to Wisconsin in December for a pre-construction meeting with Seagrave, in anticipation of the new pumper being delivered to Middletown in October 2020. Seagrave is based in Clintonville, Wisconsin.

The new Seagrave pumper will replace Middletown's existing pumper that dates to 2000 and has a life expectancy of 20 years.

The pumper is what "puts the wet stuff on the red stuff," as borough Fire Chief Kenton Whitebread Jr. told the Press & Journal in May 2018.

The new pumper is one of three large pieces of firefighting apparatus that fire company officials have told council must be replaced between now and 2028.

Including the pumper, the three rigs have a combined estimated replacement cost of \$4.3 million, fire officials told council in late 2017.



This photo of a Seagrave Marauder II Cab is taken from the company's website.

### **BUDGET:** Police department uniforms, patrol cars will get new look under Lower Swatara budget plan

#### From page A1

cost \$3,050,293 or 39 percent of expenditures. The police department accounts for \$2,535,739 of the expenditures and salaries alone make up \$1.075.849. The 2020 budget includes funds for another police officer.

Davies said there are 15 police officers, an administrative assistant and a chief.

The police department budget also includes \$30,000 to purchase new gray and black uniforms for the officers. In an interview, Chief Jeff Vargo said all of the officers had a voice in the decision, and a majority chose this style of uniform.

Vargo said the new style is more comfortable, can take more wear and tear and doesn't require dry cleaning as frequently. The new

uniforms will also allow the officers to wear external vests more comfortably, he said. Other police departments in

Vargo Dauphin County have opted for similar uniforms, he said.

Vargo said the department plans to restripe its police cars to gray and black as it replaces its cars. In September, the commissioners approved buying two new vehicles, which Vargo said are currently getting re-striped.

Vargo said it's part of rebranding the department, maintaining the department's professionalism and giving the community a sense of pride.

Public works is the second-

largest source of expenditures at \$1,460,806. Township accountant Rebecca McClain said there are two vacant public works positions which will be filled in 2020.

According to Davies, in the public works department, there is a director, an MS4 supervisor and nine employees who work in both the public works and municipal authority.

The budget also calls for \$350,000 to be transferred to the township's recreation development fund. According to Davies, with the transfer, there will be \$761,114 in that fund.

#### Real estate transfer tax

Overall, revenue is estimated to increase by about 4 percent to \$7,409,304, but that doesn't include about \$330,000 in revenue that the township is expected to carry over

#### from 2019.

McClain said this was generated from real estate transfer tax, which is based on the transfer price of property sold in the township. Commissioner Chris DeHart noted that the warehouses behind Penn State Harrisburg were sold for more than \$100 million.

McClain said that the tax is levied at 2 percent. The state receives 1 percent, and the other 1 percent is split between the township and Middletown Area School District.

The 2019 budget estimated that Lower Swatara would receive \$175,000 in real estate transfer tax money. With the commercial properties sold in 2019, McClain said the tax collected as of Oct. 31 was \$863,549.

McClain said the township is expected to receive more revenue from interest, rents and intergovernmental grants.

That includes grants for the director of the Middletown Area Recreation Alliance, and a grant through fines against the Mariner East II Pipeline for stream and bank restoration projects near Greenfield Park.

However, Lower Swatara is projecting that it will receive about 33 percent less in its charges for services, like zoning permits, subdivision and land development plans and fees for staff to review plans.

Director of Codes and Planning Don Fure said there are two large permits expected to come in for 2020 — the new UPS warehouse

on North Union Street and the D&H warehouses on the former Jednota property.

"What I did, just in case should one of them back out, is I figured them at about 60 percent of the anticipated revenue. That way, should one not come in this year, that the hit won't be as large on the revenue side," Fure said.

The township had budgeted \$703,100 in these revenues for 2019, but it is budgeting \$471,743 for next year.

McClain said one of the capital expenses is HVAC upgrades in the municipal building. She said the quote was for \$250,000.



### **RULING:** Zoning hearing board decision affirmed on development

#### From page A1

Clark affirmed the zoning hearing board's decision.

In November 2018, the Dickersons, Korb and Steele appealed that decision to Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania.

On Nov. 13. Commonwealth Court affirmed the Court of Common Pleas.



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"Our review confirms that the [zoning hearing board's] findings are supported by the substantial evidence and support the conclusion that Applicants did not meet the variance criteria," Judge Michael Wojcik wrote in the opinion. "Thus, we conclude that the ZHB did not err or abuse its discretion in denying Applicants' request for a use variance.'

During the Nov. 20 Lower Swatara Board of Commissioners meeting, township solicitor Peter Henninger noted that there was an appeal period, but added that he hadn't heard from Dickerson attorneys if they intend to appeal.

"Just shows the great job your zoning hearing board did that both the county court and the appellate court have upheld their determination 100 percent," Henninger said.

Attorneys for the township and the Dickersons, Korb and Steele did not respond to request for comment.

Dickerson III previously had argued that the property he wanted to develop, which includes remnants of a multi-generation family farm largely taken for the construction of Route 283 in as residences. Court documents

the early 1970s, wasn't suitable for residentialsuburban use  $due to {\it noise} from$ the highway and the industrial use of land on the other side of Route 283 at the FedEx facility.

During the zoning hearing board hearings, Korb, Steele and

the Dickersons testified that their properties were "adversely affected by the noise, light, and other factors caused by the close proximity to PA 283 and the industrially developed properties located on the north side of PA 283," according to the zoning hearing board decision.

The initial zoning variance request asked for relief from permitted uses within the residential suburban district and a 30 percent

In this July 2016 file photo, a homeowner on North Union Street in Lower Swatara Township erected a sign in opposition to rezoning the Dickerson property at Route 283 and North Union Street. Dickerson and other property owners had applied for a variance that would allow commercial use of the property, now zoned for residential

impervious coverage limit for lots in the district.

As a condition of approving the variances, public sewer and water would be extended to the development and other residenceson North Union Street, according to court documents.

The applicants who reside on the land reportedly testified that they wanted to move, but believed they would be unable to market it

note that they "A variance will not be hadn't tried to put their homes granted simply because on the market recently, and two a zoning ordinance of the Dickerdeprives the property sons hadn't had their homes apowner of the most praised. lucrative and profitable

A commercial real sales agent, who testified on behalf of the applicants, had testified during

the hearings that commercial use would be the "highest and best use" for the property.

Wojcik in his opinion noted that a zoning hearing board may grant a variance when five criteria are met: because of the property's unique physical characteristics or conditions, there would be an "unnecessary hardship" if the variance is denied; a variance is necessary for "reasonable use" of the property because of those



PRESS & JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

#### Lee Dickerson III is seen speaking at a September 2016 hearing regarding rezoning of his property.

characteristics and conditions the property can't be developed within the provisions of the zoning ordinance; the hardship isn't selfinflicted; the variance wouldn't be to the detriment of public welfare or change the character of the neighborhood; and the variance is the minimum variance that would give relief.

Citing a case against Plumstead Township Zoning Hearing Board, Wojcik wrote, "A variance will

not be granted simply because a zoning ordinance deprives the property owner of the most lucrative and profitable uses.'

Wojcik also noted that there was evidence that supported the zoning hearing board's findings that the applicants didn't prove that they couldn't develop the property within the zoning ordinance and that the requested variance is greater than the minimum variance to give relief.

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**PRESS&JOURNAL** 20 South Union Street, Middletown Monday-Friday 9 am to 4 pm

uses." Judge Michael Wojcik

# OUT & ABOUT

## Christmas tree illuminated, Santa visits his new house

Ceremony took place at St. Peter's Kierch on Saturday



Mayor James H. Curry III shows a video about the new Santa house to the crowd at the borough's tree-lighting ceremony on Saturday night.



SEE MORE AT WWW. PRESSAND JOURNAL.COM



Middletown's Human Relations Commission gave out more than 700 festive headgear and necklace sets for free at Saturday's ceremony.



Nevaeh Buckner, 8, takes her turn with Santa Claus after the unveiling of the new Santa house at Saturday's borough tree lighting ceremony at St. Peter's Kierch.







Dianne Billy, center, donated this year's borough Christmas tree from the yard of her Lower Swatara Township home. She is joined by grandchildren Fiona Billy, left, and Corsair Billy.

Middletown First Church of God's youth group performed musical numbers during the borough's tree-lighting ceremony on Saturday night.



The South Mountain Carriage Co. offered public horse-and-carriage rides.



The Hetrick Center of Middletown was represented at Saturday's treelighting with its own trailer. Licensed massage therapist Carlin Miller gives a free 5-minute massage sample to a member of the crowd.



Hummelstown Fire Department 249 EAST MAIN STREET, HUMMELSTOWN

Holiday Open House Wednesday, December 4th - Sunday, December 8th

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New Beginnings Church of Middletown warmed the crowd at Saturday's borough tree-lighting ceremony with free popcorn. From left are volunteers Liz Hicks, Pat Sprecher and Becky Smith.

# SPORTS

**PRESS&JOURNAL** WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019 | B1

## **Bradford seeks better year** for MAHS boys basketball

## Early end to football season might be silver lining for hoops

#### **By Larry Etter**

Press & Journal Staff

Chris Bradford's first year as the head coach of the Middletown boys basketball team was a long, trying one.

Following a good run at Annville-Cleona, Bradford knew coming in to the post that he had a lot of rebuilding to do with the Blue Raiders, who had good success under predecessor Chris Sattele.

But, despite his efforts and the hard work of the players who stuck around, the team produced just two wins in the 2018-2019 season.

Bradford's plan now, of course, is to rebound from that rough start. The Raiders finished up last year with just one senior on the roster and, although the senior class is again small, his underclassmen logged a lot of minutes, which should translate into better results.

"There is a lot of competition in practice for minutes, and it's got to continue to bring the best out of our team," he said.

The one major advantage he has is that, although the football season unfortunately ended earlier than it had the past three years,

"We have a lot of work to do, but the things

we can

correct: alignment, screen game, rotations and knowledge of our systems ... we are confident our guys are up to the challenge."

Head coach Chris Bradford

Bradford was able to work with a full compliment of players right from the first practice. In all, 12 varsity players put away their pads, helmets and cleats from football and quickly made the transition to sneakers and shorts.

Another plus is the addition of senior guard Omarion Fanus, who returned to Middletown after being away for a couple years. Fanus, a 6-foot guard, has shown he can be a leader in the new season.

Also returning are 6-foot-3 se-

Lowest

Prices

on Swiss -

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nior forward Jarrod Pugh, 5-foot-

The group includes starters from last winter and other players who earned valuable varsity minutes.

Also in the mix for varsity time are 6-foot junior Julio Rodriguez, 6-foot-4 sophomore Matt Wagner, sophomore Caden Paul, 6-foot-1 junior Derrick Wall, and 6-foot-2 senior Brandon Burgos.

There is also a good group of others who are competing for starting spots on the junior varsity squad that is led by coach Andrew Placeres. Dan Polachek and Chris Hughes are also on the coaching staff, helping Bradford evaluate players. Among them are Arkel Batts, Seth Smith, Braelan Huber, Jay Smith, Dylan Ruiz, Bamm Appleby, Aiden Miles, Ryan Souders and Quintin Miles.

The Blue Raiders scrimmaged Elizabethtown last week and Bradford got a good look at how his players could compete against a very good Bears team.

"For a first scrimmage, some things we hoped to see, we saw great energy, guys didn't go sideways when adversity hit. And they picked each other up," he said. "I ran groups on and off, giving most

,	11/26	E-town (scrimmage)	н	4 p.m.
-	12/06	Donegal tournament		6 p.m.
7	12/07	Donegal tournament		6 p.m.
-	12/10	Steelton-Highspire*		7:30 p.m.
	12/13	East Pennsboro*	Α	7:30 p.m.
)	12/17	Camp Hill*	А	7:30 p.m.
è	12/18	Bishop McDevitt	Α	7:30 p.m.
-	12/20	Trinity*	н	7:30 p.m.
-	12/27	Holiday Tournament	н	7:30 p.m.
	12/28	Holiday Tournament	н	7:30 p.m.
t	01/03	West Perry*	А	7:30 p.m.
C	01/10	Milton Hershey*	А	7:30 p.m.
	01/11	E-town Mid-Penn Shwdwn	А	4:30 p.m.
3	01/14	Steelton-Highspire*	н	7:30 p.m.
_	01/17	East Pennsboro*	н	7:30 p.m.
_	01/18	Open Mid-Penn, Gettysburg	А	1 p.m.
7	01/21	Camp Hill*	н	7:30 p.m.
	01/24	Trinity*		7:30 p.m.
è	01/28	West Perry*		7:30 p.m.
-	01/29	Pequea Valley		7:30 p.m.
,	02/04	Milton Hershey*		7:30 p.m.
	02/06	Annville-Cleona		7:30 p.m.
,	02/07	Lower Dauphin	А	7:30 p.m.

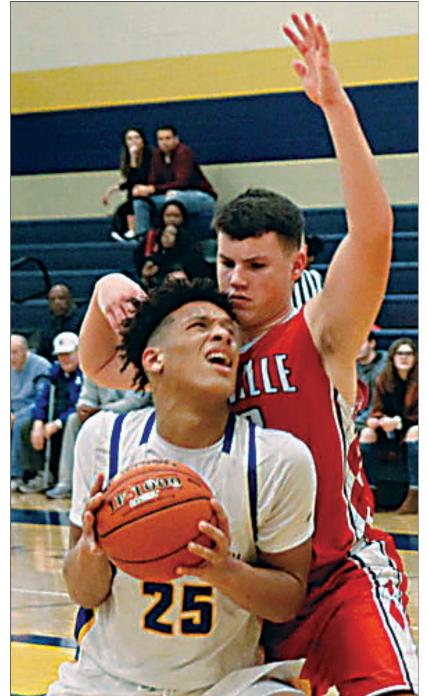
\*League

MAHS boys basketball

guys an opportunity to get on film. It was very physical, which both E-town's coach and the referees commented on — but not a dirty, uncalled for way. Getting after it and being tough. We didn't have that last year," he noted.

"Now we will work towards an 8-9 guy rotation for the (upcoming) Donegal games," he said. "We have a lot of work to do, but the things we can correct: alignment, screen game, rotations and knowledge of our systems ... we are confident our guys are up to the challenge.'

The Mid-Penn Conference will remain in place as it has for this season but changes are coming in the next school year. For now, the Capital Division has Middletown, Camp Hill, East Pennsboro, Milton Hershey, Steelton-Highspire, Trinity and West Perry making



SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL BY DONALD GRAHAM

Tajae Broadie battles an Annville-Cleona defender in Middletown's home loss Feb. 7.

up the division.

Changes next school year in the Mid-Penn will see East Pennsboro leaving the Capital for the Colonial Division. Also, Milton Hershey will move from the Capital to the Keystone. Big Spring will join the Capital, leaving it with six teams.

The Blue Raiders start off the new season at the Donegal High School Tip Off Tournament on Dec. 6-7 and will jump into division play on Dec. 10 at Steel-High. Middletown will play host to its own Holiday Tournament on

FAMILY Favorites Needed To Save! 1 6 oz DRISCOLL **RED RASPBERRIES** PINT RED GRAPE **TOMATOES FRESH CHICKEN** 

## Honoring Blue Raider football seniors in verse

arry Etter, who has covered Middletown Blue Raiders football for more than Lopez, Broadie lead 35 years for the Press & Journal, writes a poem for the senior players for each

Dec. 27-28.



year's banquet. This is what he wrote this year for the banquet Nov. 24.

The strong, the brave, the very few, Their names and faces we really knew. The group was small and numbered just 10.

And we watched them grow from boys to men.

And with their growth the seniors found a way, See page B6 for

photos of the

on Senior Day.

**Middletown players** 

To step up their games when called to play. Their leadership

and guidance are

what made this team great,

And the Blue Raiders started winning right out of the gate.

We honor them today and give them our thanks,

They all stood tall among the football ranks.

Jarrod was always ready when he got the call,

A receiver and d-back, Pugh had a great fall.

Ryan toiled in the shadows, a special teams ace,

Goff was an unsung hero in the league and district chase.

Evan's work in the trenches led the defense to lofty heights,

Grogan's sacks and tackles stood out on Friday nights.

Speed and great hands keyed Chris's all around game,

Big plays on offense and defense are where **Joseph** earned his fame.

**Jose** set school records that may last for many, many years,

With moves, strength and speed Lopez was the idol of his peers.

Quincy played wherever he was needed, his talents spread around,

Reinnagel's versatility and heart showed his limits had no bounds.

Arthur recovered from a serious injury and had a fantastic senior season,

The success of the defense grew and grew, and **Dash** was a major reason.

Collin accepted position changes to help the Middletown team.

At end on the defense or at center with the "O," Heffner lived his Raider dream.

Some players bide time until their senior year, and **Troy** was one of those guys,

Walko stood out on both sides of the ball in front of his teammates' eyes.

**Damion**, too, was terrific this year, his senior season was a blast,

Williams truly left his mark with the team and his memories will surely last.

#### **Mid-Penn All-Stars**

The Middletown Blue Raiders football team placed eight players on the recently announced Mid-Penn Conference Capital Division All-Stars.

Making the first-team offense is running back Jose Lopez, a senior who is the all-time leading rusher in Middletown history. He also made the second team as a defensive back.

Sophomore Tajae Broadie is the first-team tight end and a first-team defensive lineman. Junior Brock Welsh is a first-team offensive lineman.

Also on the first-team defense are junior Tymir Jackson, defensive line (also the secondteam running back); senior Arthur Dash, linebacker; junior Jeremy Wells, linebacker; and senior Chris Joseph, defensive back (also the second-team wide receiver on offense).

Senior offensive lineman Quincy Reinnagel also made the second-team offense.

There were no titles to celebrate this time but they were champions just the same, And we are proud of the 10-2 record as they played the Middletown game.

They showed what hard work can accomplish and they also had some fun.

We wish them well as they now move on, true Blue Raiders each and every one.

## Sunday hunting coming to Pennsylvania next year

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is courtesy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission

Expanded Sunday hunting is coming to Pennsylvania in 2020. Gov. Tom Wolf on Nov. 27 signed into law Senate Bill 147, which permits additional hunting on three Sundays per calendar year — one within the archery deer season, one within the firearms deer season and one selected by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The law will take effect Feb. 25, and the first new Sunday hunting opportunities will be identified by the Game Commission thereafter. In Pennsylvania, Sunday hunt-

inggenerally is limited to the hunting of foxes, coyotes, crows and feral hogs during open seasons. Introduced by state Sen. Dan Laughlin, R-Erie, Senate Bill 147

passed the state House of Representatives by a 144-54 vote Oct. 29, then passed the state Senate by a 38-11 vote Nov. 18.

Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans said Senate Bill 147 is a win for hunters.

"People today tend to lead busy lives, and hunters are no exception," Burhans said. "No matter how badly a hunter might want to get out and enjoy the outdoors during hunting season, other responsibilities might take priority and make it difficult.

"Providing opportunity to experience hunting on previously closed Sundays has game-changing potential for hunters with tight schedules and, in many cases, will make a difference by enabling those hunters to hunt alongside their children, setting them on a path they'll follow the rest of their

lives," Burhans said.

Laughlin, chairman of the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee, said the new law will create opportunities for tens of thousands of working families across Pennsylvania.

"I believe this has been a long time in coming and is truly a tribute to the thousands of hunters and the many organizations who have supported this effort," he said. "Weekends are essentially the only time that most working men and women can get out into the woods. The same could be said for many young people, the ones who represent the future of the sport. Lifting the ban will give them increased opportunities to pursue the activity that they love." Sen. Jim Brewster, D-McKeesport, the Senate Game and FisheriesCommitteeminoritychairman,

said the new law is an important toolin helping to recruit new hunters and keep them active.

"Sunday hunting will boost interest in the sport and open up new opportunities for hunters who are unable to get into the woods on other days of the week," Brewster said. "I have been a longtime supporter of adding days when hunters are able to be in the field.

"This law will create access yet provide reasonable protections for farmers and landowners," he said. "Sunday hunting will allow us to usher in new generations of sportsmen and women to enjoy our woodlands."

The bill also gives Game Commission officers the authority to investigate private-land trespassing complaints and enforce trespassing violations as a primary offense.

## LD students take part in county orchestra event

Lower Dauphin School Dis- Ada Hickey, cello; and Antonio trict will be well-represented at the annual county orchestra in January at Central Dauphin Middle School.

Performing in the senior high orchestra with other students in grades 10-12 will be Lower Dauphin High School musicians Devin Roth, Katherine Foley, and Olivia Meyers, violin; Anna Mauger, Cody Dent, Maya Hoover, and Alayna Graeff, viola; Emma Dickinson, Kate Little, and Kiara Cressinger, cello; and Greyson Parks, string bass.

Performing in the junior high orchestra with other students in grades 7-9 will be Lower Dauphin musicians Jacob Neithercoat, Makenna Robinson, Bethany Snavely, Jonah Fox, Ellyana Snyder, Camryn S.X. Long, Audrey Meyers, Ella Clark, Lauren Gula, Kenneth Frost, Nora King, Sasha Jones, and Makayla Rivera, violin; Joseph Goduto, Jaiden Dissinger, Abigail Foran, Marina Weidman, Mason Dissinger, Katie Mauger, Elias Miller, Virginia Huntzinger, Henry Lewis, Aaron Gingrich, and Chiara Mardegain, viola; Silas Howard and

ne s Au

Mardegain, string bass.

Joseph Goduto and Silas Howard were also recognized with first chair honors based on their auditions

Performing in the elementary orchestra with other students in grades 4-6 will be Ryan Foley, Lila Markowitz, Hannah Richmond, Ananya Patil, Ashley Rehm, Sadie Borelli, Paige Miller, Raya Purdy, Willow Kristich, Aditi Singh, Emma Johnson, Herth Patel, and Eric Smeriglio, violin; Anthony Bruno, Harper Lennox, Casey Sanders, Kenzie Shaffer, and Druthi Naveen, viola; Cooper Braman, Olivia Mahler, Emma Hudson, Madison Schoessler, Makenna Haldeman, Torree Robertson, and Andrew Hartwick, cello.

Lower Dauphin's orchestra teachers include Melody Cliff, high school and middle school; Jason Irvin, Nye Elementary School; Emma Klimowicz, South Hanover Elementary and Conewago Elementary schools; and Jamie Marrs, Londonderry Elementary and East Hanover Elementary schools.

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## Londonderry Township gets \$150,000 state grant toward plans for trail through Sunset Park area

By Laura Hayes laurahayes@pressandjournal.com

Londonderry Township has received a \$150,000 grant to help develop a trail through Sunset Park.

"This trail is going to be a great asset for our community," said township manager Steve Letavic in an email.

The overall cost of the trail was not made available.

Londonderry was one of about 170 recipients of a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and

Natural Resources grant for community parks, small community and partnerships.

In Dauphin County, Londonderry was one of three municipalities to receive grant funding. Harrisburg received \$250,000 to rehabilitate and develop Reservoir Park, and Middletown received \$462,100 for Hoffer Park.

According to Letavic, Londonderry plans to use a \$200,000 Commonwealth Financing Authority grant (made up of \$170,000 in grant funding and a \$30,000 match from the Harrisburg Rugby Football Club) to cover the match for the DCNR grant.

"This is a great example of using previously awarded grant funding as the required match to additional grant funding from other sources," Letavic said.

The grant will go toward phase two of the trail project.

In the past, township engineer Andrew Kenworthy has said that the tail would be 2.4 miles of trail and sidewalk. Plans call for the trails to run along the western edge of Sunset Golf Course and eventually connect to the proposed

Lytle Farmshousing development to the south of Route 230.

In early November, the township supervisors approved a change order of \$55,000 for the first phase of the project. This will include grading, stormwater cross pipes, other infrastructure and the trailhead.

Kenworthy previously told the Press & Journal that phase two would include parking, a restroom, signs and further extending the trail.

Letavic estimated that work on this portion of the project would begin next summer.

### LD National Art Honor Society inducts members



Lower Dauphin High School's chapter of the National Art Honor Society inducted 16 new members in a ceremony in the school library Nov. 20. The inductees included seniors Meghan Lehew, Elizabeth McKissick, Megan Williamson, Gavin Winfrey and Rylee Zartman; juniors Caroline Brubaker, Sophia Bunting, Sydney Linninger, Justine Parcon, Ana Snowden, Mikayla Spangenberg, Ashlynn Tolbert, and Bridget Wappman; and sophomores Paige Berzinski, Britley Brubaker, and Delaney Hoover. Art Society officers include Brandelynn Heinbaugh, president; Samantha Bonawitz, vice president; Arden Baker, secretary; and Kellie Chandler, treasurer.

## **IS YOUR STATE INSPECTION DUE?**

8 am-5:30 pm

**Closed Sat** 

Pennsylvania requires vehicle safety inspections for all passenger cars and light-duty trucks that need registration in the state.

CALL ANY ONE OF THESE LOCAL OFFICIAL PENNDOT INSPECTION STATIONS.

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### Lower Dauphin High School students in choral invitational

The Lower Dauphin High School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Elizabeth Colpo, attended the Susquehanna University Choral Invitational on Nov. 21.

The Chamber Singers participated in clinics with Amy Voorhees, Susquehanna University's director of choral activities, and guest clinician Dr. Andrew Clark,

#### ANSWERS | PUZZLES ON RA

director of choral activities at Brigham Young University.

Participating in the clinic were seniors Ian Bruce, Natasha Ebersole, Aidan Ferguson, Richie Johnson, Matt Little, Emma McQuinn, Oliva Meyers, Madi Miduri, Mauricette Musser, Andie Sierer, and Ben Sierer; juniors Caiden Covell, Sophia Ditty, Brayden Harris, Aden Weigle.

Jacob Pegher, Ali Rankin, Dale Sanders, and Cameron Snelbaker; sophomores Emma Dickinson, Conor Grubb, Josh Given, Christianna Harchuska, Cady Kanode, Andrew King, Hayden Milic, Jack Wolfe, and Donovan McDonald; and freshmen Lily Ditty, Olivia Hulstine, Audrey Meyers, and

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# CHURCHNE

#### **Evangelical United Methodist Church**



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

- Lee Ellenberger; Audio Visual

- Steve Moyer, Justin Hahn and

Jamal Warren; Head Usher - Scott

Green; Nursery Caregivers – Deb

This week's schedule of activi-

Wed., Dec. 4: 6 p.m., Alcoholics

Anonymous Group Book Study;

tuary; 7 p.m., Cantata rehearsal.

6:30 p.m., Choir rehearsal in sanc-

Sun., Dec. 8: 9 a.m., Sunday school for all ages; 10:15 a.m., Wor-ship Service; 11:30 a.m., Cookies

Mon., Dec. 9: 6:30 p.m., Vision

Team meeting at Geyers UMC.

Shawl Ministry; 6 p.m., God's

Tues., Dec.10: 2 p.m., Prayer

Lidle and Joyce Moyer.

ties is as follows:

and Fellowship.

by Evan.

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

This week's worship assistants are as follows: Pastor - Lee Ellenberger; Liturgist - Jaden Miller; Kitchen at Wesley, meal provided Organist – Don Cowsert; Advent

#### New Beginnings Church of Middletown



We are an independent body of believers offering God's invitation for a new beginning to all who seek it. We exist to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of all people through faith in Jesus Christ. We are a Safe Sanctuary congregation. New Beginnings Church invites you to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church is provided. Our congregation meets at Riverside Chapel, 630 S.

Union St., next to the Rescue Fire Company. Sunday School for all ages is at 9 a.m. We are handicap accessible via ramp at back door. For additional church information call 717-388-1641. For security purposes our back and side doors will be locked every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. at the start of worship. The only door for entry after that will be the front door.

The community is invited to our contemporary service on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. entitled "New Beginnings Unchained Worship Fellowship." Persons who have no church affiliation or are seeking to grow in their faith in their relationship with God are invited. We invite you to come and check out our service.

Sundays: Children's choir rehearsal Sundays at 10 a.m.; Youth Fellowship meets the first two Sunday evenings of the month from 5 to 7 p.m. as a family oriented meeting and serves a congregation/community dinner the 3rd Sundays after church.

Mondays: Men meet for prayer at 6 a.m. Community men are invited; Sociable Seniors group meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays

our church life. Ushers for December: Shirley Jones, Bonnie Strohecker, Charles Schiefer and Paul Thompson; Greeter for December: Nancy Leister. Children's Church leaders for Sun., Dec. 8:

Erica and Addy Hunt. Our prayer garden in the rear of the yard has an 8-foot cross that is made out of nails. It is illuminated every night from 8 p.m. to midnight. From spring to winter benches are provided to use to meditate or just enjoy the beauty and quietness along the Swatara Creek.

Pastor Britt writes a devotional on the Facebook page "Pastor Britt Strohecker.

Our Sunday worship service is broadcast on the MAHS radio

every Sunday afternoon. Listen

on the radio or the Internet at

wmssfm.com. Click on "Listen

Stream 1." Check us out on our

website at www.newbeginning-

Pastor Britt's parting words

world is more important than the

you to come and experience this

each Sunday: "Nothing in this

Live" at top and then "Main

schurchmiddletownpa.com.

#### **Geyers United Methodist Church**

This fall our sermon series

will be "The Stories Behind the

church unite in singing hymns of

praise to God. Many of them are

very familiar and we often know

the tunes by heart. But there is a

that we often do not know. In this

well. Please join us in this time of

gly God Seekers). Come and join

us every Wednesday from 6:30 to

8 p.m. Little DAWGS ages 3 - first

grade, Big DAWGS second grade -

middle school. Share the fun and

stories, games, crafts, music, Gaga

Ball, science fun and snacks. Free

Nonperishable food items are

collected for the Middletown Food

Bank each Sunday. Campbell Soup

labels, education box tops, printer

Consider volunteering at Mis-

sion Central the fourth Tuesday of

Tuesday, January 28. We will leave

about noon. Please wear closed toe

shoes. Contact Kathy Espenshade

each month. Our next trip will be

Geyers at 8:15 a.m. and return

ink cartridges and soda tabs are

also collected weekly.

bring a friend with you to enjoy

Club T-Shirts for Everyone!

worship.

series we will explore the meaning

behind the hymn we know and love

D.A.W.G.S. (Dynamic And Wig-

meaning behind each of the hymns

Hymns." Each week we as a



God is Calling YOU! How is God working in your life? Where do you see Him in your everyday tasks? How is He helping to Open Minds, Open Hearts, and Open Doors? Geyers United Methodist Church invites you to worship with us each Sunday at 9 a.m., enjoy Coffee Fellowship at 10 a.m. and attend our 10:30 a.m. Bible Study so that we can help you better understand the answers to these questions and many more. Our Vision Statement is Acknowledge Christ in all we do and share Him with others

and we keep that at the forefront of our minds in all the missions this church does.

> for more information. Make reservations to attend by calling the church office.

The church has had many new exciting additions in the past year! Geyers has completed expanding their building. The building project includes the addition of a handicap-accessible restroom on the top floor as well as an elevator to allow travel from the first floor to the basement floor without use of the stairs. Please join us on any Sunday morning to see the changes. Wesley, Geyers, Evangelical, Highspire, and New Thing churches team up to provide a free meal each Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church in Middletown. All are welcomed, so whether you need a good home-cooked meal, a night off from cooking, or a friend to talk to, come out and enjoy a meal with us.

For more information, please visit our website at geyersumc.com and like our page Geyers United Methodist Church on Facebook to keep up with our current events.

Geyers is located at 1605 South Geyers Church Road, Middletown in Londonderry Township. Pastor Steve Atanasoff and the church office can be reached at 717-944-6426 or geyerschurch@ verizon.net.

#### **Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church**



Calvary church has been a part of the Middletown Borough community since 1936. It has been our privilege to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ all these years and to do so knowing the good news has never changed in over 2000 years. We firmly hold to the Apostles' Creed and the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Larger and Shorter Catechisms as clearly teaching what Scripture teaches. If we believe the Gospel of Christ, then by trusting in his death and resur-

rection for sinners we will be forgiven and saved from God's wrath. Please join us each Sunday to hear the Gospel. Learn more at: www. calvaryopc.com.

Our worship services are at 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. We are located at the corner of Spruce and Emaus streets here in Middletown. We have a fellowship meal following the 10:15 a.m. power of prayer on Wednesday morning worship service on the first Sunday of every month, free

to all who come. We also have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9 a.m. and a Bible Study and prayer meeting each Wednesday at 7 p.m. We are studying the nights.

Victim's mother started iCare Foundation to help those battling many types of addiction

#### By Dan Miller

danmiller@pressandjournal.com

An Elizabeth town woman is to spend up to 37 years behind bars for her role in the March 2017 overdose of 25-year-old Elizabeth Loranzo.

The overdose death of Loranzo, on March 19, 2017, led her mother, Wendy Loranzo, to found the Elizabeth Loranzo iCare Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides support, financial and otherwise, to people who are battling addiction, depression, anxiety, domestic abuse, and alcoholism.

Abigail Morgan Fanus, 34, on Monday was sentenced to 9 to 22 years in state prison by Dauphin County Judge Scott Evans. Fanus on Oct. 9 had pleaded guilty to manufacture, delivery, or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver, and to drug delivery resulting in death.

Fanus had already been sentenced to 4 1/2 to 15 years in prison in March for drug convictions in Lancaster County Court.

The new time imposed by Evans will run consecutive to the Lancaster County sentence - giving Fanus a total of 13 1/2 to 37 years in prison, Dauphin County Chief Deputy District Attorney Stephen R. Zawisky told the Press & Journal.

Loranzo died from an overdoseof fentanyl-laced heroin in Londonderry Township.

An investigation found that Fanus sold the heroin to Loranzo's boyfriend after it was supplied to Fanus by Teewon Weah of

#### Millersville. Fanus ini-

tially cooperated with the DA's office in ordertoarrest Weah. However, while Weah was awaiting trial Fanus was rearrested for selling heroin with fentanyl in Lancaster County, limiting her value as a witness and leading





Loranzo Zawisky to re-

move any chance of a plea agreement that would have resulted from her cooperating.

"Fanus caused the death of a person and at first tried to do the right thing," Zawisky said in a statement applauding the sentence imposed by Evans. "Despite facing very serious charges, she continued dealing what she knows is an extremely deadly drug. Her actions were unconscionable.'

Weah, 27, was sentenced by Evans on Oct. 2 to one to two years inprison, on top of an earlier prison sentence Weah had received in Lancaster County.

Weah was credited with having served 583 days in state prison.

Weah had also been charged with drug delivery resulting in death in connection with Loranzo's death in Dauphin County, but that charge was withdrawn Oct. 2.

#### St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church



St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Spring & Union Streets (121 N. Spring St), Middletown. We are a Reconciling In Christ Church. Visit our website at www.stpetersmiddletown.org. Please join us for worship. Luther Hall Sunday, Adult Sunday church school at 9 a.m. Our worship times are: Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m. Sunday Church school for all ages begins at 9 a.m.; Wednesday morning at 10 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel; Saturday evening at 5 p.m., Good Shepherd Chapel. For Wednesday and

from 12 to 3 p.m., lunch included. station, WMSS 91.1 FM at 3 p.m. All are welcome.

Wednesdays: Choir practice at 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Blanket makers meet the 1st and 2nd Thursdays of the month; Bible study at 7 p.m. followed by Intercessory Prayer.

Saturdays: We clean the Middletown Food Bank the 3rd Saturday every other month. The love of Jesus Christ!" We invite community is invited to participate in these important areas of

#### **Ebenezer United Methodist Church**



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

love.

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

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

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

#### Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown



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

devices for anyone wanting to use one. Nursery is available during the service, as well as Bible Listening bags for children to utilize during the service. Do join us.

9:15-10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for our Adult Forum. The Christmas holidays are nearly upon us and sometimes the rush and activities seem to overwhelm what some see as the real joy of Christmas. In the four weeks of December, we will be discussing the insights from Bible and reflect on how the scripthe book "Unplug the Christmas Machine" by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli. The idea is to help us figure out what we really want the holiday to be like and then creating a plan to get there. Led by Susannah Gal and Melanie Luther, we will discuss some of the challenges we've found for ourselves and provide an opportunity to imagine our fantasy holiday. The

You are invited on Sundays from book provides some great strategies for working on putting the joy into Christmas that allows us to remember the "reason for the season." The plan for this week is: To write and share our fantasy Christmas Day.

All are welcome as we study the tures can inform and inspire us to "walk the talk" in our daily lives and to be responsible and faithful Christians as we confront the critical issues of our time.

For further information, see our website www.pcmdt.org, visit our Facebook page (www.facebook. com/PresbyterianCongregation), or call the office.

Saturday services please enter the church through the parking lot doors. Our Sunday worship service is broadcast on WMSS 91.1FM at 11 a.m.

Free Little Library: St. Peter's has a Free Little Library located at the entrance door by the parking lot. This Free Little Library belongs to everyone. Anyone may use it. The books are always free. It is not necessary to give a book to take a book. Come take a look, read a book!

Check us out on Facebook - St. Peter's Lutheran Church Middletown, PA. Go ahead "like" our Facebook page

Thrivent Member Pop Tab Challenge – If you drink soda or enjoy soups that have a silver pop tab, pop them off and start saving them. Thrivent Financial is collecting these silver tabs because they can make a BIG impact on the families at Ronald McDonald House. We have a Red Box for our tab collection by the church office, which is located off the parking lot entrance.

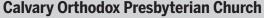
Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Confessions of an Elf(ie) will be presented in Luther Hall at 4 p.m. This Holiday Concert is free of charge.

'Blue" Advent will be held on Friday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This service will be a service where we can come and grieve about our loved ones or life circumstances during these difficult holiday seasons. Come give your worries to God in this contemplative, candle lit service.

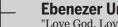
Mental Health First Aid Training: WellSpan Philhaven is providing a certified and clinically proven Mental Health First Aid Training to members of St. Peter's and all citizens in the area at no cost in Luther Hall on Tues., Jan. 28, 2020 at 9 a.m. This 8-hour training will equip people who may not possess mental health clinical training to learn to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to help a friend, family member or colleague in need of assistance.

In the same way that CPR helps you assist an individual having a medical emergency, Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health-related problem or crisis, even if you have no clinical training. Seating is limited and advance registration is required to attend by contacting Don Hossler 717-944-2250.

## **DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SERVICES**



10 Spruce Street, Middletown • 717-944-5835 Sunday School - 9 am • Morning Worship 10:15 am Evening Worship - 6 pm www.calvaryopc.com



#### **Ebenezer United Methodist Church**

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



#### **Evangelical United Methodist Church**

Spruce & Water Sts., Middletown, 717-944-6181 Sunday School - 9 am, Worship - 10:15 am, www.eumch.org



#### **Geyers United Methodist Church**

1605 South Geyers Church Road, Middletown 717-944-6426 PASTOR STEVAN ATANASOFF

Worship - 9 am - Followed by Coffee Fellowship Sunday School - 10:30 am

#### **New Beginnings Church**



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



#### Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown

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

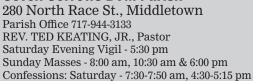
To list your church service here, call 717-944-4628 or email info@pressandjournal.com for more information.



#### St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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





#### **Wesley United Methodist Church**



64 Ann Street, Middletown PASTOR NAYLO HOPKINS Phone 717-944-6242 Sunday Worship - 9:15 am Small Groups - 10:30 am

## FROMTHEVAULT

News from the Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006, edition of the Press & Journal

### Police arrest two teens after chase

Middletown police arrested two adults and are considering charging a juvenile after thwarting the trio's burglary attempt in the 300 block of Caravan Court Tuesday. Nov. 28 around 11:45 a.m.

Though nothing was stolen, two 19-year-old residents of Georgetown Road, Middletown, were charged with burglary, criminal conspiracy and criminal trespassing.

A preliminary hearing will be held for the two on Dec. 8 at9a.m

Middletown Detective David Sweitzer said the trial likely will be delayed beyond that date, though.

A17-year-old male is believed to be connected to Tuesday's incident, but has not yet been charged.

#### Hot buys

 Fresh-cut Christmas trees sold at this location for 31 years. Also fresh wreaths, roping, and boxwood trees. The Flower Pot Boutique, 1191 Eisenhower Blvd.

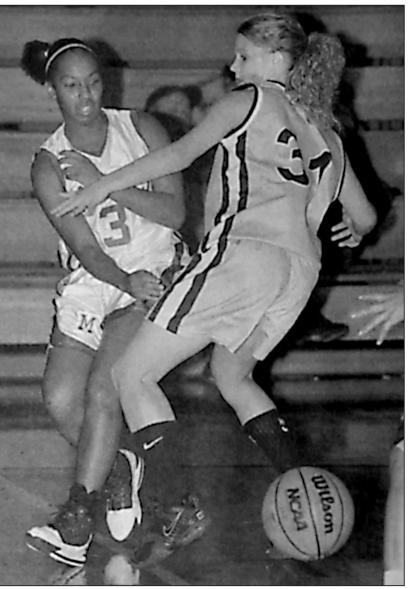
· Your choice of two specials, all you can eat, \$5.99. Highspire Diner, 255 2nd St., Highspire.

#### Other headlines

 Swatara Creek Road homeowners ready to sell to township

• Homes, sweet homes: History is alive on East Main Street • Fire company replaced.

Highspire brings on Steelton



Middletown won its own Blue Raider Tip-Off Tournament last weekend. Dea Dixon feeds Kelly Brennan against Halifax.

### Raiders steal tournament gold

Watch out for the Blue Raiders. They'll pick your pocket, snatch your wristwatch and swipe your ball cap before you know it.

Middletown proved to be master thieves last weekend, winning the Blue Raider Tip-Off Tournament with swarming defense and plenty of takeaways. A 52-26 first round win over Big Spring (1-1) featured 23 steals. The Blue Raiders used a spirited three-quarter court press and tight zone defense to jump out

to a 17-0 advantage.

Dea Dixon, a junior point guard, led Middletown (2-0) with 13 points while Jen Dixon scored 10 points and grabbed 13 rebounds.

The aggressive defense continued the next night when Middletown handled Halifax (1-1) 55-36, capping a weekend in which the Raiders won their games by a combined 45 points.

Kelly Brennan hit seven field goals, to finish with 19 points.

## **Borough budget done: 16** percent real estate tax hike

Middletown Borough Council adopted an \$18 million operating budget for 2007 Tuesday night that represents a 6 percent increase in spending and calls for a 16 percent increase in real estate taxes — considerably less than what was originally proposed months ago when the budget process began.

Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill said, "Council and residents of the community met several times and some tough decisions were made to bring down the size of the tax and fee increase.'

Indeed. Borough residents came out en masse to tell council that proposed tax increases of two or three times that much over the next two years were just too much. Capital projects - including a new firehouse, library and historical society home — were set aside, at least for now. Council also suspended, for one year, making any additions to the fund for new fire equipment.

The fire tax will remain the

"Council and residents of the community met several times and some tough decisions were made to bring down the size of the tax and fee increase."

Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill

same for 2007, at .56 mills, or about \$56 a year for a resident whose home is valued at \$100,000. The real estate tax increase translates to about \$70 more for an owner of a \$100,000 home; the average assessed value of a home in the borough is about 10 percent less than that, though.

Council also authorized at the regular monthly meeting an 8 percent hike in trash fees, and an 8 percent increase in both sewer and water rates.

"Middletown's new tax rate and

fees are higher than 2006 but they are still average or below average for municipalities in Dauphin County," said Danny Crawford, council president.

Stonehill explained how difficult it had been to forge a spending plan to meet the borough's non-negotiable needs, and yet keep taxes down.

"Given negotiated union salary increases and the implementation of the new GASB 45 accounting rules, it was difficult not to raise taxes and fees this year," he said.

GASB 45 refers to newly established accounting practices for municipalities which require that funds be in place for retirement and other future benefits promised.

Council approved the hiring of a new police officer, as well, noting the Middletown Police Department is operating within its budget.

Appointment of a new councilor for the Second Ward was put off until the January meeting.

Utley retiring soon as MASD superintendent

Middletown Area School District Superintendent Audrey Utley announced her retirement to the school board at its meeting Monday night.

Utley said she will leave at the as assistant end of the 2006-07 school year.

"I'm still looking around at some options [for after retirement]," Utley said. "I'd like to do something that requires fewer

hours than my current position." Utley has decided to retire after 35 years in public education. She has been MASD's superintendent for five years, after serving superintendent for four

vears. Utley came

to the district in 1988, working as a building principal before switching to administration. The school board voted to



Deborah Frazier with Jay Burns, effective immediately, at the same meeting. Burns will be sworn in at the board's January meeting and will serve out the remaining year of Frazier's term. The board read a letter of resignation from Frazier at its November meeting.

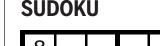
replace former board member

Barbara N. Layne was reelected as president of the school board and David S. John as vice president to fulfill the reorganization agenda.

## PUZZLES AND HOROSCOPE

WORD SEARCH | ANSWERS ON B2 Dining Restaurant search

Prep



#### **CROSSWORD** ANSWERS ON B2

ACROSS

43. Superhero group

4. River in Romania

dull

Bar Busboy Charge Check Chef Counter Delivery					Dishwashing Gratuity Guest House Meal Menu Party Plating						Recipes Restaurant Sections Server Service Table Takeout Turnover								
R V H R S N O I T C E S R C R R E H Y	C E M H Y S E P I C E R Y E K E M S M	S O H T R B E Y N I V D G G V D B W T	H G T T R N K V P Y A D W P R O K Y F	A W A N N R E T N U O C E N B V	R S B N C A F H A U T P R D B Y V R K	D O F K G F R G C H E F K U T S C R U	U D G V S C R U D U N M S R G G I G E	Y K E M T A D U A S R B A S M U Y L H	P I E L T I N I V T O P Y S D A B G T	W A F U I P E O N Y S G T I W A D L C	L O I G S V M L A I U E S Y P R E P H	S T W V E M E N B E N H R N P P C U A	Y R C S O B P R S A W G B S M V Y I R	U V U V N E L T Y A T T U O E K A T G	N O W H S M A F S P C N O M N P A U E	H G D A E P T H H R O V F H U G T A B	T C S S D G I H B K C E H C D T M G I	K O D F T N N I C G R D V U U E B N D	F Y B D G S G R U V D A I N D E M L R
Y	R	Y	W	C	A	G	Т	S	Ε	R	V	I	C	E	Т	H	H	N	V

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		6	7					
						5	2	
5						9	7	2
		4				6		
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Puzzles are a 9-by-9 grid, broken down into nine 3-by-3 boxes. Nos. 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number 8 7 can appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out the order by using the numeric clues provided. The more you name. the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

#### GUESS WHO? (answer below Word Search)

I am singer born Dec. 2, 1991, in New Jersey. I made a name for myself by posting original songs and cover tunes to a YouTube channel. I later was signed by the record label of Ellen DeGeneres, and the rest is history.

Guess Who? answer: Charlie Puth

#### HOROSCOPE WEEK OF DEC. 4

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20 Do your best to put power struggles at work or at home into proper perspective. Looking at things through a new vantage point can serve you well.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21 You are ready to break out of a rut that has kept you in neutral for some time. You may have to sacrifice some comfort to get up and moving.

**GEMINI** MAY 22-JUNE 21 You are outgoing in the days ahead, and the stars are aligned with your interpersonal relationships. This combination could prove rewarding.

**CANCER** JUNE 22-JULY 22 Take some time this week to do something that makes you feel good. Don't just focus on the physical; concentrate on your emotional well-being as well

#### LEO JULY 23-AUG. 23 You do not need a reason to be self-indulgent this week. Just step out there and go get what you desire. You're a hard worker and have earned the privilege.

VIRGO AUG. 24-SEPT. 22 You may be compelled to drop by a friend's or family member's house unannounced this week. Better to pick up the

#### phone and talk things out first.

LIBRA SEPT. 23-OCT. 23 It is time to spread your wings and try something new this week. You'll get restless tied behind a desk. Take some time off to indulge your wanderlust. SCORPIO OCT. 24-Nov. 22 Loosen up the purse strings a little bit this week, as you have been quite disciplined with your finances lately. If you are ahead of the game, splurge. SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-DEC. 21

Don't try to rein yourself in this week. The cosmos are certainly against it. Pour your heart out to someone or take on a grand project.

#### CAPRICORN DEC. 22-JAN. 20

Take your foot off the gas pedal this week. You have a funny way of always being on the move. Sometimes you need to scale back and do nothing. AOUARIUS JAN. 21-FEB. 18 Sometimes the most exciting things happen when you allow them to develop organically. Let things unfold without too much oversight in the days ahead.

PISCES FEB. 19-MARCH 20 Many people see you as gentle and cooperative. These are valuable traits that can benefit you and those around you in the coming weeks.

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. America
8. Type of field
(abbr.)
11. Reagan's Deputy AG
13. Negative
14. Mother of Hermes
15. Summer and Win-
ter Olympics gold
medal winner
16. In shape
17. Oh my goodness!
18. People of Guinea
or Sierra Leone
20. A form of "to be"
21. Succulent plant
22. Estranges
25. Honest
30. Showing convic-
tion
31. High schoolers' test
32. Implant
33. Acknowledgment
38. Cash dispenser

41. Transferred to

another

45. Photographers Blased 48. Small. rich 6. Parties sponge cake 49. Power to perceive one 8. Philly footballer 50. Heavy cavalry sword 55. Israel's first group of China permanent UN 10. Gradually disapdelegate pear 56. Everything 57. Afflicted lope 59. Language spoken in Chad eat it 60. Pioneering MC out of Kool Moe 61. Jewish spiritual 23. Body part leader 24. Succeed in 62. Keyboard key achieving 63. Soviet Socialist 25. Where golfers Republic begin 64. Impudence 26. Computer memory DOWN 1. Type of degree sells securities

2. Expression of sor-

3. Large, predatory

row or pity

lizard

34. A limb on which to walk 7. TV's used to need 35. It precedes two 36. Of she 37. Commercials 9. Recognized ethnic 39. Necessary for sewing 40. Infectious viral disease 41. Expression of 12. Large, dark antegood wishes 42. Some are contact 14. Vegetarians won't 44. More plentiful 19. Takes the energy 45. Secret political clique 46. Behind the stern of a ship 47. Supernatural force 48. Altar in Orthodox churches 51. Swiss river 27. One who buys and 52. Impartiality 53. "Luther" actor 28. Midway between Idris 54. They resist aunorth and norththority (slang) 58. Criticize 29. Quiet and rather

10 13 11 12 14 16 17 15 20 21 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 33 32 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 49 50 54 48 51 52 53 56 55 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

east

# VIEWP()

# Protect taxpayers, fix Pa. brain drain



It's a lovely family reunion. Dad and Mom — now Grandpa and Grandma — sit facing their kids, and their kids' kids, reminiscing about old times and laughing about the trials of parenting.

Then, in mid-sentence, Grandpa stutters and freezes — his face replaced by an hourglass on a black screen.

Video chat is down again. It's an experience shared by tens of thousands of Pennsylvania families — including myself — whose adult children now live out of state. Technology and frequent-flyer miles can bridge our communication gap somewhat, but two of my three children now reside outside of the state. That can be tough.

A big reason many Pennsylvania families are experiencing these kinds of long-distance gaps? The next generation is looking for opportunity and finding it elsewhere.

In 2016, Pennsylvania lost around 260,000 residents in a single year of interstate migration — the eighth-highest level in the country. It's a "brain drain" especially acute among college-educated millennials.

In the last six years, our state lost nearly 32,000 collegeeducated individuals between age 18 and 34. They're moving from high-tax states to low-tax states, and Pennsylvania is on the wrong side of the equation.

The good news? We can turn this around by controlling the growth of state government spending that's driving up taxes and stifling innovation and entrepreneurship.

In fact, a 2019 statewide poll of Pennsylvania likely voters showed universal support for common-sense limits on state spending growth: Republicans, Democrats and independents each reported at least 67 percent support for the measure. Another recent poll showed Pennsylvanians think taxes are the most important issue facing the state — more important than immigration, education, crime and health care. They're right to be concerned. Since 1970, state spending has increased 48 out of 49 years — more than tripling in that time, while our population has grown by just 10 percent. We face a \$1 billion deficit every year for the next five years, according to a recent report by Pennsylvania's Independent Fiscal Office.

and Pennsylvania already has one of the highest tax burdens in the country, averaging nearly \$4,600 in state and local taxes per person. It's no wonder educated

young people are leaving: the Keystone State is 45th in both job growth and income growth since 2001. And we're the fifthworst state to start a business, according to Wallethub. Why would a Penn State or Carnegie Mellon graduate want to start their career in a place with such steep economic hills? More protections against

overspending are exactly what Pennsylvania needs.

That's why fiscal conservatives in the state House and Senate are proposing a constitutional amendment, called the Taxpayer Protection Act, to do just that. House Bill 1316, sponsored by Rep. Ryan Warner, R-Westmoreland County, and Senate Bill 116, sponsored by Sen. Camera Bartolotta, R-Washington County, would limit spending increases to the rate of inflation plus population growth. This ensures spending doesn't grow faster than families' ability to pay.

House Majority Leader Bryan Cutler, R-Lancaster County, who supports the measure, says, "Reasonable spending limits will allow state government to grow at a sustainable rate and help prevent deficits that lead to tax increases or borrowing.'

He's right — states that limit spending growth maintain a relatively low tax burden, which is critical to growth. Those are the states beating Pennsylvania and draining our best and brightest. Enacting the TPA will stem the need for state government to hike taxes and provide an opportunity for economy-boosting tax cuts.

The TPA does not require cuts in spending, just caps. In rare cases of emergency — a natural disaster or severe economic downturn, for example — caps can be exceeded, but only through a supermajority of the General Assembly. Pennsylvania can once again become a destination state for job creators and job seekers. Then, college graduates won't have to go looking elsewhere to launch their careers, and so many families won't have to FaceTime or Skype to catch up. But it all starts with ensuring state government spends within taxpayers' means.

# **EDITORIALVIEWS** Parks are precious; studying them will help communities

One of the greatest assets a municipality can offer its residents is its parks.

That's why we are interested to see the results that both the borough of Middletown and Lower Swatara Township are gathering about their park systems. We think it's a great idea that both are asking residents what they want to see accomplished with the parks.

Middletown residents are being asked to complete a Park Input Survey that can be done by going to middletownborough.com or the borough Facebook page. Residents have until spring 2020 to complete the survey.

Residents can also complete the survey on their smart phone, using a code at signs the borough has posted at all the parks.

Middletown has seven parks, the largest being 10acre Hoffer Park at the end of Mill Street along Swatara Creek.

Hoffer Park is already slated for a big improvement: the Little Middletown playground that is to replace Kids Kastle at an estimated cost of nearly \$925,000. The borough has applied for federal grant funds to help pay for the new playground.

Councilor Robert Reid has rightfully advocated that the borough not "forget" the six other parks in Middletown. They are Oak Hills, a six-acre information used properly

in the Oak Hills neighborhood; Frey Manor Park, also 6 acres behind Hoffer Street and Frey Avenue; 1.5-acre Colston Park on Russell Avenue between South Wood and Lawrence streets; Etnoyer's Park, a 3-acre facility on South Wood at Susquehanna Street; Elner Overdeer Park, a half-acre facility across from the Municipal Building at West Emaus and Catherine streets; and 6-acre Susquehanna Street Park along Susquehanna Street.

facility along Spruce Street

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> The survey asks residents about which park they use the most, how often, and when; how they get there; and what features they use most at the park and which features they use least. The survey also asks what park residents go to outside of Middletown, and what activities they do at these other parks.

Survey results will be incorporated into grants the borough plans to apply for toward improvements at all the parks.

The borough's 2020 general fund budget includes \$100,000 to be used as matching funds for a grant that is to go toward upgrading the Oak Hills and Elner Overdeer parks.

That is no small amount of money to spend, but we support it.

and its goals carried out. We also expect the borough to go above and beyond in efforts to make the results of the survey available to the public and not just rely on the limited, controlled and most often divisive scope of social media. To that end we will strive to ensure that you, the residents and businesses of our town are provided that information.

Since September, Lower Swatara has been holding meetings to develop a comprehensive plan for its parks.

Meetings on Oct. 22 and 29 examined how Lower Swatara's parks measured up against national standards. Also discussed was connectivity between the parks.

The township might hold a public meeting in early 2020 to get public feedback.

A study by the township's contracted engineering firm, HRG, found that based on national standards, Lower Swatara has a surplus of playgrounds, basketball courts, baseball fields and soccer fields. It has the right number of tennis courts and softball fields, and a deficit of multipurpose fields, dog parks, tot lots, community gardens, multipurpose courts, and football fields.

While the national standards say one thing about softball fields, members of the Lower Swatara Township advocated for more, saying that there aren't enough fields, particularly for the older girls. That's the type of important feedback the township needs to consider. Sometimes national standards don't tell the entire story.

Another suggestion was for community gardens.

"I think we need something for the older folks and the people that like to garden and do things like that. They are in the township. You build it, I think they'll come," recreation board member James Kazacavage said at a recent meeting.

For connectivity, recommendations include bicycle and pedestrian facilities along road and bridges, over and under Route 283 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike; along Rosedale Avenue between the residences and the Linden Centre; near Penn State; along Fulling Mill Road and the business parks; and North Union Street, according to Staub.

**Commissioner Chris** DeHart advocated for more walking trails or ways to get between the parks, maybe using the township sewer right-of-ways.

There are some great ideas being discussed. We are excited to see what the end results will be. For now, Middletown and Lower Swatara are on the right track when it comes

Someone has to pay that bill,

## READERVIEW We need information about care for children at border

I was 16 years old when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. And I remember the events leading up to it.

Even though I was only a teenager, I heard talk of Adolf Hitler persecuting the Jews, although I didn't know how badly.

People would say Jews were God's chosen people and he would take care of them, so I would say the attitude was about the same now when people talk about children being separated from their parents at the border.

I wonder how many people know that it is a multi-milliondollar business. The more children they can apprehend, the better it is for business. I cannot believe that our country would allow this.

For most people, the Holocaust happened many years ago. Unless you are as old as I am, or had a family or friends who were killed or survived

Steve Bloom, a former state representative, is vice president of the Commonwealth Foundation (commonwealthfoundation. org), Pennsylvania's free-market think tank.

imprisonment, it does not have as much relevance.

Some people think it never happened.

My husband, Sgt. Vernon E. Tritch Jr., was part of the 69th Division, which met the Russians at the Elbe River when World War II was over. Even he did not know about the concentration camps until then. It was a well-kept secret, and the German people who walked by the camps said they didn't know.

My husband said the German people went to church when he was there. It's hard to believe that Christians would allow the Holocaust. And I cannot believe that our country would allow children to be taken from their parents.

We need to be informed what is happening to these children. My feeling is if you don't want the immigrants, find a humane way to handle it.

#### Mary R. Tritch

Londonderry Township

Also, we want the survey

listed Epstein's suspicious de-

mise as rationale for his Donald

gish student flashed his "Epstein

didn't kill himself" sign during

their backs with the message at

Even a sitting U.S. congress-

man made an acrostic string of

tweets spelling out the line. The

episode caused a chippy Barack

brain drain in the GOP caucus is

a serious problem." You'd think

staff for the selfie-stick president

Popular memes are represen-

called culture's "buzz and hum."

would have a sense of humor.

tative of what Lionel Trilling

The graphics and condensed

messages are pliable enough to

ing lightness to heavy topics or

This is what my friend had

trouble with: that people enjoy-

ing a horse laugh with friends

over them, are making light of

his crimes, even suggesting he

Spreading awareness of the

questionable circumstances

behind Epstein's hyoid-bone

fracture would seem to do that.

After all, the meme doesn't say,

"Epstein didn't kill himself —

but he's better off dead!" It's an

attestation of unproven extra-

iudicial homicide that anyone

who's seen an episode of "Law

Epstein's well-heeled clientele.

& Order" might suspect was

carried out at the request of

was unjustly murdered.

ing Epstein suicide memes, shar-

ironizing serious events.

be applied to current fads, bring-

Obama adviser to bleat, "The

a Texas State basketball game.

ESPN's pregame coverage. A

clutch of young men painted

Trump support during an MS-

NBC interview. Another wag-

Athletic Association have

to its parks.

## Epstein suicide meme reflects on nation's elite



A friend recently asked me, "Why has Jeffrey Epstein become the Harambe of 2019?"

It's a good question. There's been a spike in "Epstein didn't kill himself" memes floating around the Internet and social media. If you're one of the few who has maintained their sanity by avoiding social media's volute attention-sucking machinery, you may not be familiar with the latest meme fad, which has thronged into Facebook groups much like the untimely death of the Cincinnati Zoo's gorilla in 2016.

Epstein suicide memes make light of a conspiracy theory: that Jeffrey Epstein, the wellconnected alleged purveyor of underage sex slaves, did not die by his own hand in a Manhattan prison cell while under strict surveillance. He was given an expedited ticket to perdition, so as to not stand on trial and out his raffish associates who enjoyed his wares.

The meme, which has taken the form of everything from Target Christmas stockings rearranged to spell out "Epstein didn't kill himself" to optical illusions, is now bleeding into real life. One Fox News interviewee blurted out the line at the denouement of his disquisition on military dogs. A University of Alabama funster nonchalantly

### **CONTACTOFFICIALS**

Rep. Tom Mehaffie, 106th District: district office, 250 W. Chocolate Ave., Suite 2, Hershey, PA 17033. 717-534-1323. tmehaffie@

haffie.com. Rep. David S. Hickernell, 98th District:

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2098. 717-783-2076. www.rephickernell. com. dhickern@pahousegop. 43A East Wing, P.O. Box 202098. com.

Here arises my friend's confusion. It's the latter — Epstein's toney brotherhood — who are truly the focus of the meme, not the lecherous Epstein himself. The tout of underage trulls isn't the point. Yes, Epstein apparently was a depraved individual who, with any justice, heeded the command "abandon all hope, ye who enter" before crossing the threshold into damnation. But the memes that bear his name are an indictment of something worse: an opaque cultural clerisy who allowed a fell man like Epstein to flourish.

As Michael Brendan Dougherty writes, those who share an Epstein meme with their closest 6,000 Facebook acquaintances, whether in earnest or in irony, "believe our leadership class is depraved and compromised."

And why shouldn't they? Epstein was the ne plus ultra coordinator of teen sex rings for elite enjoyment. His high-profile arrest was supposed to bring out troves of compromising information on his fellow moneyed degenerates. Yet he managed to turn his heavily monitored jail cell into a makeshift gibbet anyway.

Foul play or not, the penal system failed — all to the benefit of people who can afford to keep attorneys on retainer.

Epstein's premature death was bad enough. But the Project Veritas hot-mic video catching ABC reporter Amy Robach admitting to banking fiery Epstein information for the sake of securing the Royal Family's blessing hasn't bolstered the

official suicide narrative. The re fusal of media to cover Epstein's debauchery — Miami Herald notwithstanding — only sows further distrust in elites.

Some liberal journalists are now openly repining that the Epstein meme is giving rise to anti-social paranoia. One correspondent for The Nation claims that the meme's message of institutional perfidy is "being used by fascists to recruit antisystem people.'

Even if that's true, the culprit is misidentified. The failure to bring Epstein to true earthly justice is what gave rise to the meme — not the other way around. The ruling class failed in its duty to protect the vulnerable.

As Aristotle taught, elites are responsible for disseminating good cultural practices to the masses. They overlooked Epstein's depredations, or even took part in them.

Without this shirking of society responsibility, there would be no Epstein meme. There wouldn't be untold numbers of teenage and preteen girls forced to service the sexual needs of America's most prominent men. There wouldn't be a growing crisis of legitimacy for our institutions.

Epstein's enablers are to blame. The meme's purpose is to not let us forget that.

James E. Miller, a native of Middletown, lives in northern Virginia with his wife and daughter. He is the author of the novel "To Win And To Lose."

#### Rep. Patty Kim, 103rd District: G11 Irvis Office Building, P.O. Box 202103, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2103.717-783-9342.

## pahousegop.com. www.repme-

## Blue Raider football seniors wrap up careers

en Blue Raider senior football players ended their careers Nov. 16 in a 24-21 loss in the PIAA District III 3A title game on the road at Wyomissing — Jarrod Pugh, Ryan Goff, Even Grogan, Chris Joseph, Jose Lopez, Quincy Reinnagel, Arthur Dash, Collin Heffner, Troy Walko and Damion Williams. From their freshman years to their final game, the Middletown program saw unprecedented success, reaching three straight state title games from 2016 through 2018 and winning 51 games including the playoffs in those four years. These pictures were taken Oct. 19 on Senior Day at Homecoming.

#### PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & JOURNAL **BY EARL HAMMAKER**



**Ryan Goff** 







Jose Lopez





**Evan Grogan** 



**Quincy Reinnagel** 



**Jarrod Pugh** 



**Chris Joseph** 



**Arthur Dash** 



8/24

8/31

9/7

9/14

9/21

9/28

10/4

10/13

10/19

10/26

11/9\*

11/17\*

11/23\*

11/30\*

12/8\*

34-12

34-7

6-2

41-12

49-21

35-0

21-33

33-9

42-7

41-27

33-15

21-24

**Troy Walko** 

24-7

35-0

63-7

42-7

45-34

17-10

49-0

57-7

45-7

#### LOOKING BACK AT FOUR GREAT YEARS

9/1

9/8

9/15

9/22

9/29

10/6

10/14

10/20

10/27

42-14

29-6

14-40

63-0

48-40

51-14

32-21

42-0

28-0

42-6

41-6

42-20

21-14

35-21

0-35

Here is a look back at the last four seasons of Middletown football success. Home games are in bold. Homecoming is marked with a #, playoff games with an \*.

2019

(10-2 overall)

Lower Dauphin

**Bishop McDevitt** 

Northern

Camp Hill

Trinity

Palmyra

Wyomissing

Steel-High

**Boiling Springs** 

**Milton Hershey** 

East Pennsboro#

Lancaster Catholic

Points scored: 390 (32.5 per game)

Points allowed: 169 (14.09 per game)

8/23

8/30

9/6

9/13

9/20

9/27

10/4

10/11

10/19

10/25

11/8\*

11/16\*

(13-2 overall, Mid-Penn Capital Division and District III champs)

Lower Dauphin

Northern York

**Camp Hill** 

Steel-High

Trinity #

Palmyra

Wyomissing

Conwell-Egan

Scranton Prep

Aliquippa

Bishop McDevitt

**Boiling Springs** 

Milton Hershey

East Pennsboro

Bermudian Springs

2018

Lower Dauphin

East Pennsboro

Northern York

West Perry

Trinity

Palmyra

Camp Hill #

**Boiling Springs** 

**Milton Hershey** 

2017

(14-1 overall, Mid-Penn Capital

Division and District III champs)

(14-1 overall	
Division and	I

I, Mid-Penn Capital Division and District III champs)

2016

9/2	Lower Dauphin	27-7
9/9	Northern York	33-0
9/16	West Perry	35-6
9/23	East Pennsboro	50-14
9/30	Trinity	69-7
10/7	Palmyra	14-10
10/14	Camp Hill	49-14
10/22	Boiling Springs #	42-6
10/28	Milton Hershey	49-20
11/4	Steel-High	42-7
11/11*	Littlestown	49-14
11/17*	Wyomissing	48-20
11/25*	Scranton Prep	40-13
12/2*	ND-Green Pond	49-14
12/10*	Beaver Falls	13-30
Po	ints scored: 609 (40.6	ner game

**Points scored:** 609 (40.6 per game) Points allowed: 182 (12.1 per game)

Points scored: 530 (35.3 per game)	
Points allowed: 237 (15.8 per game)	

11/4	Steel-High	45-7
11/10*	Bermudian Springs	42-7
11/16*	Wyomissing	49-0
11/24*	Scranton Prep	35-0
12/2*	Conwell-Egan	49-7
12/9*	Quaker Valley	24-41

Points scored: 621 (41.4 per game) Points allowed: 141 (9.4 per game)