

A TAXING TAX?

Borough, school district disagree over per capita tax

By Dan Miller
Press And Journal Staff

Middletown Borough says it is losing up to \$40,000 a year in uncollected per capita and occupation tax revenue, and that the Middletown Area School District is to blame.

In December, council – at the urging of its financial consultant, Mark Morgan – voted 6-0 to send a letter to the school district contending that the borough has failed to collect the full amount of per capita and occupation tax revenue because the district no longer provides accurate and updated census information to the borough.

Morgan, of Susquehanna Group Advisors, said that the district’s failure to provide updated information also impacts the borough’s ability to collect the Local Municipal Services Tax, formerly the occupation privilege tax.

The per capita and occupation taxes are often referred to as “nuisance taxes,” because the amount of money gained from collecting them is often not worth the expense and effort that goes into collecting them.

The per capita tax is a flat tax, usually \$5 or \$10 a year depending on the taxing district, that is supposed to be paid each year by every adult who lives in the municipality.

But to collect this tax to its fullest extent, a person or entity must be keeping track of everybody who moves in and out of town, and when people die, to keep accurate tax rolls.

Before 2001, the district had people going door to door to collect that information through a census. The district then provided the information to Middletown and to the two other municipalities in the district – Lower Swatara Twp. and Roy-alton Borough – according to David Franklin, the district’s assistant superintendent for finance and operations.

At the time, all three municipalities paid a share of the cost to the district to conduct the census. But in 2001, district residents voted to get rid of the occupation tax in favor of increasing the earned income tax. The school board voted to get rid of the per capita tax, because the cost to send out a bill just for the \$10 per capita levy wasn’t considered worth the effort and expense

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HUMMELSTOWN

Officer shoots man after altercation in South Hanover

A Hummelstown police officer shot and killed an unidentified man in South Hanover Twp. after an altercation that followed an attempted traffic stop in the borough on Monday, Feb. 2, state police said.

The officer attempted to stop the man on a borough street around 4 p.m. Monday, but the man fled, state police said.

The officer pursued the man, who drove to his house in the first block of Grandview Road, got out of the vehicle and fled on foot behind the house, state police said.

After an altercation behind the house, the officer fired shots at the man, state police said. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. The officer was not injured, state police said. State police are investigating.

Steel-High cafeteria closed for two days for food violations

Other local schools cited; problems resolved

By Eric Wise
Press And Journal Staff

State inspectors found food safety violations at local school cafeterias last month, the most serious closing Steelton-Highspire Junior/Senior High School’s cafeteria for two days in January until the problem was corrected.

The junior/senior high school and Steelton-Highspire Elementary School both failed January inspections with a rodent problem that led to the two-day closure of the high school’s cafeteria.

The inspector from the Department of Agriculture reported that he observed on Tuesday, Jan. 13 “rodent type droppings too numerous to count behind the wash machine and dry storage areas” at the high school.

He also said in his report, “several doors in the area of the food facility have a gap and do not protect against the entry of insects, rodents and other animals.”

The rodent violations – two of seven violations cited in the inspection report – led the inspector to close the food preparation areas until the school corrected the violations



Press And Journal Photo by Jim Lewis

Standing-room-only crowds have filled Middletown Borough Council chambers recently.

Council asks president to resign post

By Dan Miller
Press And Journal Staff

For the second time in two weeks, it was standing-room-only in Middletown Borough Council’s chambers, with more than 50 residents showing up on a bitterly cold Feb. 2 night for a council meeting.

And for the second time in two weeks, council took a vote on whether Council President Chris McNamara should resign. Only this time, those seeking McNamara’s ouster won the day.

The 5-3 vote for McNamara’s resignation followed a motion made by Councilor Scott Sites and seconded by Councilor Ben Kapenstein asking that McNamara step down as president and be replaced by Vice President Robert Louer.

McNamara was absent from the meeting. Louer, filling in as president, opened the meeting by saying that McNamara was out due to “family problems.”

Joining Sites and Kapenstein in calling for McNamara’s resignation were councilors Anne Einhorn, John Brubaker and Vicki Malone. Councilors Louer, Michael Bowman and Suzanne Sullivan voted against the motion.

In another rebuke to McNamara’s leadership, Mayor James H. Curry III broke a 4-4 tie and sent to defeat a proposal pushed by Sullivan for a “code of conduct” that would govern borough public meetings.

Curry said that such a code was not needed as long as council



Press And Journal Photo by Joe Sukle

Middletown Borough Council discusses resignation request at a meeting on Monday, Feb. 2.

listened to residents in a respectful manner – something that the mayor said was not the case during the fiery Jan. 20 meeting presided over by McNamara.

The only difference between that meeting and tonight’s was the absence of McNamara, the mayor said.

“When there is mutual respect things flow smoothly,” Curry said, adding that while the residents packing council chambers of late are “passionate,” they are “still respectful” if treated in kind.

Two weeks ago, during the Jan. 20 meeting, a similar motion by Sites calling for McNamara to resign as president and be replaced by Kapenstein was defeated, also by a 5-3 vote. Only that time, Brubaker had voted against McNamara’s resignation, and Malone was absent. McNamara was present, and joined Bowman, Brubaker, Louer and Sullivan in voting to keep the

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Highspire man rams wife’s SUV after leaving marriage counseling session, police say

By Dan Miller
Press And Journal Staff

A Highspire man was arrested after he allegedly threatened to kill his wife and drove his car into the back of her SUV after a joint marriage counseling session in Harrisburg on Tuesday, Jan. 20, police said.

Clark Kent Huff, 52, was charged with criminal attempt of homicide, recklessly endangering another person, terroristic threats, careless driving and reckless driving, according to court documents. He was held in Dauphin County Prison in lieu of \$500,000 bond.

The incident happened around 11:15 a.m. on North Front Street after Huff had left his wife at the scene of their counseling session, according to Harrisburg police.

The two drove separately from the session but then met in the area of North Front and Vaughn streets and started arguing, police said. Police said that Huff’s wife told them that he threatened to kill her and himself, and at first prevented her from leaving the scene.

Huff’s alleged statements to his wife were witnessed by numerous observers, police officers and emergency responders, police said. Huff’s wife eventually escaped and started driving south on North Front. Police said that Huff caught up to her and drove his 2006 Toyota Corolla into the rear of his wife’s 2010 Toyota SUV. The impact caused an accident that injured both Huff and his wife, and caused moderate to severe damage to both vehicles.

A preliminary hearing is set for Friday, Feb. 6 before District Judge Barbara Pianka.

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



File Photo

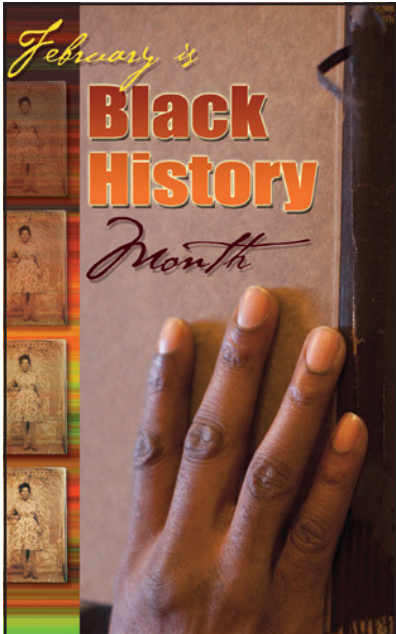
The cafeteria at Steelton-Highspire Junior/Senior High School was closed for two days in January for food violations. The violations were resolved.

and passed a follow-up inspection.

A single violation by a Department of Agriculture inspector can lead to the failure of a restaurant or cafeteria that, depending on the severity, may force a temporary shutdown, according to information from the department’s Web site. In other cases, an inspection may yield multiple violations that do not put the entire facility “out of compliance.”

Steelton-Highspire prepared meals at the elementary school, then delivered them to the high school during the two-day

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Quick NEWS

Middletown customers not affected by rate hike request

Middletown water and sewer customers will not be affected by a United Water request for a rate hike before the Pennsylvania Utility Commission.

Water and sewer rates in Middle-town cannot go up before 2019 under the lease between United Water and the borough, said United Water spokesman David Johnson.

In addition, the Middletown-United Water lease is regulated by the borough, not the PUC, and governed by terms of the lease between the borough and the utility company, Johnson said.

Residents who want to know more about the lease can learn more at a utility forum from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at The Event Place, 11 S. Union St.

United Water will provide information covering such aspects of the lease deal as billing issues, details of the contract and lease agreement between United Water and Middletown Borough and customer service. The event will be set up so residents can come and go as they please.

Wesley UMC concert to benefit youth programs

A gospel music concert to support youth programs at Youth 10 X’s Better will be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8 at Wesley United Methodist Church, 64 Ann St., Middletown.

The concert is free. An offering will be taken to support the youth programs.

Among the performers scheduled are gospel soloists, bands and a mime ministry.

International flight bookings up at HIA

Bookings for international flights through Harrisburg International Airport were up nearly 20 percent in 2014 compared to 2013, according to airport owners Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority.

While international bookings soared, the total number of passengers using HIA declined 1.6 percent compared to 2013. Regular service between HIA and Cleveland and Newark, N.J. were both eliminated in 2014 by United Airlines, and Delta eliminated service from here to Cincinnati, the authority said.



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Prior to working for the U.S. Postal Service, I spent 4 years active duty in the Armed Forces. I am also proud to have coached baseball for several years.

My proudest accomplishment in life is my son, Samuel W. Zimmerman IV

1-800-4-A-CHILD

Police charge two Nittany Village men with drug offenses

Two men from Nittany Village Apartments on West Main Street were arrested on Wednesday, Jan. 21 after police say they found a gallon plastic bag containing psilocybin mushrooms, suspected LSD stamps, steroid pills and marijuana in their rooms.

George A. Degraw, 19, and James D. Hamilton, 20, were arraigned at the Dauphin County Judicial Center and charged with the manufacture, delivery and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, possession of a controlled substance and three counts of possession of drug paraphernalia, according to Lower Swatara Twp. police. Degraw also was charged with underage drinking, while Hamilton was charged with an additional count of possession of a controlled substance, police said.

Both were released on \$50,000 bail on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

Police were called to the apartment complex around 12:30 a.m. to investigate a complaint about the smell of burning marijuana coming from one of the apartments, police said. District Judge Michael Smith issued a search warrant for the rooms used by Degraw and Hamilton, police said.


The gallon bag that was found contained several ounces of psilocybin mushrooms, several plastic bags containing marijuana, suspected LSD stamps, vials of the steroid Testover E, steroid pills and more than 20 syringes, police said. Officers also confiscated \$436 in cash and two pre-paid cash cards.

A preliminary hearing for both men is scheduled for March 4 before Smith.

GENEALOGY

Pennsylvania Family Roots

Sharman Meck Carroll
PO Box 72413, Thorndale, PA 19372
pafamroots@msn.com



Column No. 782/February 4, 2015

Found Research - By Peg Adams

“Here is what I found on the Genealogical Research System at DAR.org. George Keifer was a DAR patriot #A063836, born German 1728 and died 11 April 1809 in Sharsburg, Washington, Co., Md. He was the son of George Keifer, born 27 Oct. 1769 in Washington Co., Md. and died in Clark Co., Ohio on 31 Aug. 1845. On 24 March 1799, George the son, married Margaret Hivner, born 24 July 1772, Md., died 29 March 1827 Clark Co., Ohio.

The will was made by Jacob Hivner in 1823 (probated 1827) who left his estate to his brother and sisters and Margaret was a sister. She evidently died before Jacob, so her money went to her husband, George. The heirs named were Joseph Hivner (Va.), Catherine Hivner Jr., Polly Schnebly, Sarah Kenstrick (my great-great-great- grandmother) Elizabeth Dillon and George Keifer. (Hivner, Hevener, Havene - not sure which is best spelling).

Margaret and George Keifer had a son John 1802-1865. John had a son Edmund H. 1835-1908. This can be verified (in case I made a mistake in copying) on the DAR Web site. I have not looked further. I don't recall reading about this Keifer family, but then I have quite a few years of Keifer newsletters. I wanted to share this with you. George Keifer was born 1728 in Germany, he died 11 April 1809 in Washington County, Md. George married Margaret Schuler about 1760 in Maryland. Their children were George Keifer, Joseph Keifer, and Barbara Keifer.

George Kiefer (Jr.) was born 27 October 1769 in Washington County, Md., he died 31 August 1845 in Clarks County, Ohio. George married Margaret Hivner. They moved to Greene County, Ohio, in 1805. George and Margaret's children were Sarah E. Keifer, Catherine Keifer, John D. Keifer, Mary “Polly” Keifer, George Keifer. George also married Mrs. Barbara Detrick Ohmart on 29 March 1827 in Clark County, Ohio.

George and Margaret's first child, Sarah E. Keifer was born 10 April 1800 in Washington County, Md., she died 1 June 1870 in Clark County, Ohio. Sarah married John Ebsersole on 18 May 1819 in Clark County, Ohio.

The second child, Catherine Keifer, was born 2 March 1804 in Washington County, Md. She died 3 April 1884 in Clark County, Ohio. Catherine married James Humphreys on 15 April 1824 in Clark County, Ohio.

Third child and the one mentioned by Peg, John D. Keifer, was born 17 May 1802 in Maryland. He died 9 June 1863 and is buried at Keifer Cemetery, Clarks County, Ohio. He married Elizabeth Schmutz/Schmuts on 31 May 1823 in Washington County, Md. A genealogy by Gen. J. Warren Keifer calls Elizabeth the daughter of John Donnel. Another genealogy on World Connect says John and Elizabeth Donnel were married 6 May 1824 in Clark County, Ohio. A genealogy by Gen. J. Warren Keifer names him John David Keifer, but his marriage record indicates John Daniel.

The fourth child, Mary “Polly” Keifer married Asa Colman on 25 Oct 1822 in Clark County, Ohio. The fifth child, George Keifer was born about 1816 in Maryland. He married Elizabeth Cushman on 27 October 1833. Their children were Mary E. Keifer, George L. Kiefer (1839-1840) Asa C. Keifer, Sarah Jane Keifer, Henrietta Keifer, and Eliza C. Kiefer.

Going back to John D. Keifer and the reference to J. Warren Keifer, we find that this family has been covered to some extent in the news. I believe Pete wrote about J. Warren Keifer many years ago that I included in an article in March 2012. The article had two newspaper clippings and a photo. John D. Keifer and J. Warren Keifer were both the grandsons of George Keifer born 1728 in Germany. Therefore, they were cousins. I located another newspaper clipping (too hard to reproduce) that states that J. Warren and his son and grandson were involved in the creation of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation. An interesting fact is J. Warren fought against Robert E. Lee in the Civil War.

I also found that Syracuse University has many documents that record the life of J. Warren Keifer. Here is a description from their web site: The J. Warren Keifer Papers consist of correspondence, the bulk of which is incoming and primarily political in nature. There are 260 items, including letters sent as enclosures. The years 1881 to 1883, during which Keifer was Speaker of the House, are the most heavily represented, although there are letters from all but four of the years from 1874 to 1929? An index of the correspondents appears at the end of this inventory.

Kieffer's correspondents include notable Americans of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, among them five presidents of the United States, six other Speakers of the House, and odd-dozen cabinet officers, as well as congressmen, senators, and military figures. Presidents Hayes, Garfield, Taft, Harding, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, the latter writing as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, are represented. Other political notables are James G. Blaine, William Jennings Bryan, “Uncle Joe” Cannon, Roscoe Conkling, Mark Hanna, Nicholas Longworth, and John Sherman. Many of his other correspondents were military figures, mostly former Union generals: Fitzhugh Lee, James Longstreet, William S. Rosecrans, Philip Sheridan, William Tecumseh Sherman, Daniel Sickles, and Leonard Wood. Other notable correspondents are Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Cart, William C. Gorgas, Edward Everett Hale, Oliver O. Howard, Robert Todd Lincoln, Whitelaw Reid, Elihu Root, and Carl Schurz.

Among the collection's few items of non-correspondence material is a program for a dinner in honor of General William Tecumseh Sherman's 63rd birthday on February 1883, autographed by Sherman, Kiefer, and most of the other guests. There are also three petitions, presented to Keifer as Speaker of the House, two on behalf of a candidate from Oregon for membership on the Committee on Commerce, and one on behalf of a candidate from Kentucky.

As I mentioned in my 2012 article, I wonder if there are any Keifer descendants who are willing to join the DNA research? It would be interesting to see how George of 1728 is related to the other Keifer lines. If anyone knows more, please let me know.”

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News From District Judge Michael J. Smith

Following is a compilation of action in cases filed before District Magistrate Michael J. Smith
Please be aware all those charged/cited are presumed innocent unless proven otherwise in a court of law.

Waived

Billie J. Tolan, 33, of the first block of Kennedy Lane, Steelton, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of DUI, DUI-controlled substance, failure to keep right and driving a vehicle with no headlights. Tolan was arrested on Nov. 24.

Rami M. Al-Sabeq, 18, of the 400 block of W. Main St., Middletown, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of possession of a small amount of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. The charges stem from an incident on Nov. 8.

Erica L. Plaunt, 27, of the 100 block of C Lane, Harrisburg, waived to Dauphin County Court a charge of simple assault that stemmed from an incident on Nov. 28.

Loren J. Daniels, 20, of the 3000 block of Greenwood Blvd., Harrisburg, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of DUI-controlled substance (three counts). Daniels was arrested on Nov. 13.

Joseph J. Wright-Wilson, 21, of the 100 block of Lincoln St., Steelton, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of DUI-high rate of alcohol, DUI and failure to use low beams. The charges stem from an incident on Oct. 18.

Farid A. Shabazz, 20, of the 100 block of Wilson St., Middletown, waived to Dauphin County Court two counts of DUI-controlled substance. Shabazz was arrested on Oct. 26.

Clayton R. Zeller, 30, of the 1000 block of Sand Beach Dr., Hummelstown, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of DUI and DUI-high rate of alcohol. A charge of driving

with a blood-alcohol level of .02 or greater with a suspended license was changed to driving without a license. That charge was also waived into county court. Zeller was arrested on Oct. 25.

Barry A. Bailey, 18, of the 900 block of Cumber St., Steelton, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of theft and access device fraud.

Joseph Cangialosi, 40, of the 200 block of Running Bond Dr., Middletown, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of DUI, DUI-highest rate of alcohol and disregarding lanes of traffic. Cangialosi was arrested on Sept. 26.

Kyler M. Kohr, 18, of the first block of Lake Dr., Middletown, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of theft from a motor vehicle, flight to avoid apprehension and loitering. The charges were filed following an incident on Oct. 15.

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Cody L. Eckenroth, 22, of the 200 block of W. Main St., Hummelstown, waived to Dauphin County Court charges of DUI, DUI-highest rate of alcohol and disregarding lanes of traffic. Eckenroth was arrested on Oct. 5.

ARD completed

Gafar A. Oreagba, 20, of the 200 block of W. Main St., Middletown, completed an advanced rehabilitative disposition program for an underage drinking citation. The citation was filed following an incident on Oct. 26.

Held for court

Charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts) and possession of drug paraphernalia (two counts) filed against Torrene J. Sears, 25, of

the 500 block of N. Fourth St., Newport, were held for action in Dauphin County Court. The charges were filed following an incident on Oct. 24.

Charges of DUI (two counts) and DUI-controlled substance (four counts) filed against Kyleigh M. Favasuli, 21, of the 5000 block of Lancaster St., Harrisburg, were held for action in Dauphin County Court. The charges were filed following an incident on Oct. 26.

A charge of simple assault filed against Bret J. Cruz, 34, of the first block of Riverview Dr., Middletown, was held for action in Dauphin County Court. Cruz was charged following an incident on Dec. 13.

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Town Topics



News & happenings for Middletown and surrounding areas.

Bingo Mania

Bingo Mania will be held on Sunday, Feb. 8 at Londonderry Fire Company, 2655 Foxianna Road, Middletown. Doors and kitchen open at noon; bingo starts at 2 p.m.
For more information, call 717-944-2175.

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Chamber concert

The Historic Grace Church, 216 State St., Harrisburg, presents “L’anima d’amore” – The Soul of Love, a chamber concert of beloved opera with a string quartet – at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15. A catered reception will follow.
Tickets can be purchased by calling 717-238-6739 or sending an e-mail to info@TheHistoricGraceChurch.org.

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Handgun safety course

State Rep. John D. Payne is sponsoring a handgun safety course on Saturday, March 28 at Middletown Anglers & Hunters, 1350 Schoolhouse Road, Middletown.
Registration is required. To register, call 717-534-1323 by March 9.



Check The Batteries.
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VIOLATIONS

Continued From Page One

closure. “The kitchen and serving lines remained open, but the cooking section was closed Wednesday and Thursday, until re-inspection,” said Dr. Ellen Castagneto, Steelton-Highspire’s superintendent, in written comments to the Press And Journal. “Student meals were prepared at the Elementary building and delivered to the High School, meeting both federal and state guidelines.”
“The matter was taken seriously and immediate action was taken, keeping student safety and nutrition guidelines as the main priority,” Castagneto said. “An investigation immediately took place and the district worked hand in hand with contractors and the corporation that oversees the high school kitchen, in order to correct all matters as a result of the inspection.”
Both Steelton-Highspire schools passed a follow-up inspection on Friday, Jan. 16 with no violations. The junior/senior high school cafeteria’s food preparation area reopened. The district notified parents about inspection issues Jan. 13 and updated them Jan. 16.

Steelton-Highspire Elementary School’s cafeteria also had failed its

inspection Jan. 13 with nine violations. Violations at the elementary school included food residue on a can opener and food slicer, improperly stored food items, plumbing issues and dust in the ventilation system. For cafeterias in both buildings, the inspector reported, “the person in charge does not have adequate knowledge of food safety in this food facility as evidenced by this non-compliant inspection.”
As a result of an investigation by the district, “additional measures” are being taken by district officials to ensure quality control in the future, according to Castagneto. Among the efforts: “Retraining of the corporation’s kitchen staff – including quality control checklists, regular district administrative inspections of the corporation’s performance, a schedule of weekly maintenance/walkthroughs and improved communication through scheduled meetings between maintenance, the kitchen corporation, contractors and administration,” she wrote.
Like many other school cafeterias, Steelton-Highspire schools were inspected twice a year. Inspection reports from the state show the schools were in compliance overall – meaning they passed the inspections – during inspec-

tions from February 2013 to the present, although two to eight violations were cited during these inspections.
Inspectors also visited Middletown Area School District and Lower Dauphin School District during this school year, in which all cafeterias were in overall compliance despite some violations noted on inspection reports.
Earlier in January, an inspector visited Middletown Area High School, where black mold was found on an ice machine, residue was found on surfaces that contact food and dust was found on the cooler’s fan covers.
The inspector noted ventilation and plumbing problems at Middletown Area Middle School. At Middletown’s

Robert Reid Elementary School, an inspector found food residue on the underside of a storage shelf. There were two violations found at John C. Kunkel Elementary School in which food contact surfaces needed cleaning. Finally, the inspector found no violations at Lyall J. Fink Elementary School.
“Of the few issues which inspectors identified, most were corrected immediately during inspection,” said Jody Zorbaugh, communications specialist at Middletown Area School District. “Others which required action by the district’s maintenance department were corrected within 24 hours of inspection.”
Inspections at Lower Dauphin

schools in September and October found the schools in overall compliance with minor violations.
At Londonderry Elementary School in September 2014, an inspector noted violations including deeply scored cutting boards, water leaking at a food preparation sink and peeling paint near the dish washing area.
At Lower Dauphin High School, an inspector found duct tape on handles of food carts and a heavy buildup of ice on shelving and food products in the freezer.
An inspection at Lower Dauphin Middle School found violations for a poorly maintained ice machine and casters for oven racks.

TAXING

Continued From Page One

involved, Franklin said.
Once the school district stopped collecting these taxes, the school district no longer had any incentive to collect the information and maintain the data base.
The district still does a census – by mail – but only because the Pennsylvania School Code requires it, Franklin said. The district is basically doing the minimum that the law requires, he said.
For the district, the only remaining value of the census is to help maintain accurate records for student attendance, but even this is of little use, Franklin said.
Even assuming everyone fills out the form and mails it back, the census only captures information for one point in time. The district has a large number of transient students who are moving in and out almost daily, Franklin said. Middletown is the only municipality still getting census information from the district, Franklin said. The district no longer bills Royaltown or Lower Swatara for the information, so it has stopped billing Middletown, too, he added.
According to Lower Swatara’s Web site, the township levies the per capita and occupation taxes, but the taxes are collected by Berkheimer Tax Administrators, a private company.
Royaltown still levies the per capita tax, but no longer appears to rely on the district records to collect it. Residents who move into Royaltown fill out a form when they sign up for new utility services, said Amy Burrell, Royaltown Borough secretary. The borough sends this information to DHF Associates, a company that prepares and mails out the per capita tax bills. The borough also sends updated census information to the district.
In Middletown, the per capita and occupation tax issue was brought to

Morgan’s attention by Pam Miller, the elected tax collector in the borough.
Miller told the Press And Journal that for two years she has been giving the district information about new people moving in and out of the town, and about people who have died. She learns of these changes through bills that come back as undeliverable, by reading obituaries, or from family members who contact her.
The district has changed its records to reflect people who are dead, but many people who have moved out are still on the rolls.
“These bills went out and should not have. It’s costing the borough a lot of money,” Miller said. “It has been like that for two years. This would be the third year.”
By law, elected tax collectors like Miller cannot make changes to the tax rolls themselves.
“It would be a conflict for the collector to develop and charge herself for the collection of those taxes,” said Sherry Labs, president of the Pennsylvania State Tax Collectors’ Association.
Moreover, Miller said her compensation from the borough and Dauphin County does not cover the cost of maintaining the tax rolls. “It’s not part of my job,” she said.
Miller collects the per capita and occupation taxes in Middletown, but the bills are printed and mailed by Berkheimer One Source, a sister company of Berkheimer Tax Administrators.
Berkheimer One Source relies on the district’s records in preparing the bills, said Jim Hunt, director of sales and client services for Berkheimer Tax Associates.
For Berkheimer to play a more active role in seeing to the accuracy of the tax rolls, the company would have to be contracted to collect the per capita and occupation taxes in Middletown, not just print and mail the bills, Hunt said.

That would likely mean there would be no further need for an elected tax collector in Middletown.
Or Middletown could do what the district and other municipalities have done – get rid of the per capita and occupation tax entirely and recoup the revenue by increasing the earned income tax. That would likely mean the end of the elected tax collector in Middletown, too, since the earned income tax is collected by a third-party business like Keystone Collections Group, which collects the tax for all of Dauphin County.
Franklin said that the district has never gotten any complaints from the borough regarding the census.
“I was truly blind-sided” when this was brought to his attention by the Press And Journal, he said.
He also questioned Morgan’s assertion that the census is impacting revenue from the Local Municipal Services Tax. The LMST is levied on people who work in Middletown, not live there, he said.
“There is no way that a census is responsible to capture employees,” Franklin said.
The district could commit more resources toward the census, and there are potential advantages for doing so, Franklin said. For example, the census could be made into a better tool for projecting future enrollment.
But this comes at a cost. If the borough wants the school district to do a better job of maintaining the tax rolls through the census, the borough should expect to share in that cost.
“Obviously we want to be a good neighbor, but I don’t know if it would be wise for us to spend excess resources if the only person benefitting is the borough,” Franklin said.

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

COUNCIL

Continued From Page One

president’s gavel.
McNamara did not respond to a request for comment from the Press And Journal that the newspaper made following the vote on Feb. 2.
Sites afterward said his calls for McNamara to resign are the result of the president being “disrespectful of the citizens of this town” and “constantly spreading mistruths and lies.”
Asked why he altered his motion in favor of Louer as president instead of Kapenstein, Sites suggested that it was an attempt at finding a compromise.
“Mr. Kapenstein would be a better president, but in order for this town to come together I believe Mr. Louer is somebody that the whole town can get behind,” Sites said. “I am willing to give him the benefit of the doubt that he can do what is right for the town.”
Sites said he hoped that McNamara will step down on his own, in light of the vote seeking his resignation. “That will show if he is in it for himself or in it for the town,” Sites said.
If McNamara does not resign, Sites said he would continue introducing motions at future meetings aimed at compelling McNamara to step down. If those votes continue to go against McNamara and the president still does not relent, Sites said he will consult with the borough solicitor for what to do next. The solicitor was not present at Monday night’s meeting.
Public pressure for McNamara to step down had been greatly accelerated in recent weeks by the borough’s handling of the controversy over whether state roads in the town should be plowed by borough crews or the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
Residents felt shut out over what McNamara had described as an internal borough matter, yet one that Curry and a number of citizens had contended put people at risk.
The snow-plowing issue came to a

head when Borough Manager Tim Konek chose not to sign a proposed agreement between the borough and PennDOT providing for the borough to plow the state roads, even after council had voted in December to execute the agreement.
The controversy has brought out residents like Courtney Hartnett, who has lived in Middletown for six years but had never attended a council meeting until a few weeks ago. She was among the new faces in the crowd of about 50 residents who confronted council during Monday night’s meeting.
“You weren’t thinking about my four kids when I take them in my minivan to school,” Hartnett said in a comment directed to Konek, whom she asked be fired by council.
“I am just a mother trying to stick up for what is right in this community.”
Resident Kay Wealand suggested that Konek’s decision to not sign the agreement was orchestrated behind the scenes by McNamara and Louer, both of whom had voted against signing the agreement. McNamara was not present to answer Wealand’s accusation. Louer said, “I did not tell him [Konek] not to sign it.”
The movement to oust McNamara gained steam on Jan. 20, when a majority led by the president chose to appoint Bowman to a vacant seat representing the First Ward, despite objections to Bowman that were expressed by numerous residents.
McNamara then managed to make things considerably worse in his public comments regarding a letter that Rep. John Payne had written to the borough, requesting that Bowman be considered for the vacant seat.
McNamara suggested that council was obligated to appoint Bowman in light of funding Payne had secured for the borough during McNamara’s time as president.
The comments backfired when Payne shot back with a follow-up letter attacking McNamara for making it appear that appointing Bowman was part of a “pay-for-play”

scheme.
McNamara’s public rebuttal to Payne’s criticism seemed to only further alienate him from residents like Cathy Winter, who said the response bearing McNamara’s name and posted on Pennlive.com was “the most poorly written letter that I have ever seen in my life.”
The public dust-up between McNamara and Payne over Payne’s letter followed earlier comments from the council president in which McNamara was quoted as saying he didn’t care what residents thought of him.
“He’ll be interested in knowing what the public thinks about him come May,” Wealand said, referring to the May primary. McNamara, a Democrat, is up for re-election in the Second Ward and has said he “absolutely” plans to run again.
Another undercurrent fueling the dissatisfaction with McNamara has been what several residents have characterized as McNamara’s dismissive and “disrespectful” behavior toward Curry, who has not shied away from confronting the McNamara-led majority on such issues as the snow plowing agreement and the content of the borough newsletter.
The mayor has used social media as a tool to speak directly with borough residents and to encourage them to make their voices heard by attending council meetings.
One result of that has been the increasingly public criticism of McNamara’s leadership that has been heard from the overflow crowds of residents at council meetings in recent weeks.

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

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MIDDLETOWN AREA BOYS' BASKETBALL

BLUE STREAK

Raiders win three straight over Panthers, Braves, Mustangs

By Larry Etter

Press And Journal Staff

The goal for the Middletown boys' basketball team was to win three of their last six games and finish the season on the upswing. Following a pair of losses the previous week in the first two games of the six-game set, it appeared as if that goal was slipping away.

But that changed last week as the Blue Raiders were victors in all three contests they played.

It started on Tuesday, Jan. 27 with an exciting 45-41 triumph over visiting East Pennsboro. Next up was a non-league visit to Lancaster County's Pequea Valley, where the Raiders claimed a 56-47 win over the host Braves on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

It ended on Friday, Jan. 30 in an eventful trip to West Perry where the scrappy Middletown squad pulled out a tension-filled 54-47 victory.

The win against East Pennsboro (11-8, 4-7 in the Mid-Penn Conference Capital Division) was technically an upset, simply because the Panthers owned a solid winning record and had posted a 46-34 win over the Raiders (7-14, 3-8) earlier in the season.

The Pequea Valley/Middletown matchup was a toss-up at best after the Braves had recorded their own upset win over Lancaster Catholic the previous night.

Trips to West Perry over the years

have been adventurous, to say the least, and although the Raiders had beaten the Mustangs 52-37 on Jan. 6 in Middletown, there was no way to predict the outcome in West Perry's gym.

When reminded that he had attained the goal of winning the three games, Middletown Coach Chris Sattelle chuckled and said, "Yeah, but I didn't think we'd win them that way." The story lines of those victories reflect on exactly what Sattelle meant.

**Middletown 45
East Pennsboro 41**

The Panthers owned a winning record that included a good Capital Division standing and had to be feeling confident as they took the floor in the Middletown gym on Tuesday. But with thoughts about how they could have played better against the Panthers in their first meeting, the Raiders set out to make a statement.

When the defensive first quarter ended in a 6-6 deadlock and the first half finished with the Raiders up by a 23-13 advantage, the Middletown squad had gained confidence. As it turned out, the Raiders needed to summon all of their grit and determination in the second half, especially after the visitors had charged back to take a 35-34 lead with 4:46 left in the game.

Riding the strength of its defense, the Middletown squad pulled a reversal to regain the lead and finished strong

to nail down the win.

After the Panthers had grabbed a 4-0 lead with 5:51 left in the opening period, the Raiders ran off six straight points from Ryan Hughes, Caleb Leggere and Tre Leach to move ahead. A late bucket by East Penn's Matt Dunkleberger tied the score at 6-6.

After the Panthers broke the tie with a foul shot at the 6:07 mark of the second stanza, the Raiders ran off nine straight points to jump in front, 15-7.

The Middletown side closed out the first half with a 6-0 run to earn the 23-13 lead at the break.

After the Panthers opened up the second half with a 5-0 run, Ryan Hughes scored seven straight for the Raiders to give the home team a 30-18 lead. Hughes scored all nine of Middletown's third-quarter points.

But the Panthers registered the final seven points of the third quarter, five of them by Mitch Henry, to pull the visitors to within 32-28 to start the final frame.

That suddenly became a one-point difference after Henry popped in his third trey of the game at 5:59.

Leggere scored 18 seconds later, but Henry and teammate Colin Grove went back-to-back to push the visitors in front, 35-34, with 4:46 left.

Dagen Hughes drilled a big-time triple, however, to ease the Middletown side back in front with 4:20 left. During the next 40 seconds, the Pan-

thers made just 1-of-4 foul shots, and the Raiders responded with a low post bucket from Leggere off a Brady Fox pass and a basket by Ryan Hughes at 2:37 that gave the home team a little breathing room at 41-36.

A triple by East Penn's Sam Powery and a putback by Dunkleberger following a pair of successful free throws by Fox left the score standing at 43-41 with exactly 1 minute left.

The Raiders missed the front end of a one-and-one, but Dunkleberger missed two foul shots that could have tied the score. Middletown's Luke Mrakovich, who had just entered the game with East Penn at the line, rebounded the second miss and was immediately fouled. With 27.7 seconds left, Mrakovich made both clutch free throws and gave the Raiders the four-point lead.

A late miss by the Panthers iced the win for the home team.

**Middletown 56
Pequea Valley 47**

Pequea Valley Coach Jim Shipper, a Middletown graduate, was looking forward to the visit by the Raiders on Wednesday, as was Sattelle. Both coaches anticipated a good matchup in the non-league contest.

Pequea Valley (9-12) competes in the Lancaster-Lebanon League and entered the game with eight wins. The

Please See RAIDERS, Page B3



Photo by Jodi Ocker

Middletown's Ryan Hughes flies toward the basket against East Pennsboro.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Lions stay close, but fall to St. Mary's, 70-58

By Adam Clay

For The Press And Journal

Penn State Harrisburg refused to give Capital Athletic Conference leader St. Mary's any breathing room in the first half of its matchup on Saturday, Jan. 31 in Middletown.

The Lions used a strong defense, and a good offensive effort by Joey Farthing, to keep the game close in the first half.

But after playing dead even with the first-place Seahawks for 20 minutes, Penn State Harrisburg watched St. Mary's show why it is at the top in the second half. The Seahawks pulled away for a 70-58 win despite the Lions' inspired performance.

With 8:00 remaining in the game, the Lions (3-16, 3-9 in the conference) got within seven, but every time they came within reach of the Seahawks (13-4, 10-2), the visitors' Nicholas LaGuerre had the answer. LaGuerre finished the game scoring 29 points.

The Lions got a great performance from forward Anthony Morgan, who claimed his first double-double by scoring 14 points and pulling down 10 rebounds.

Penn State Harrisburg will need to find some late-season magic if it has any chance of claiming one of the conference's final playoff spots.

Lions 65, York 57

The Lions have had a rough road to travel this season—and many would argue that the rough travels began with York's 59-58 overtime win at Penn State Harrisburg to start conference play.

After returning the favor on Wednesday, Jan. 28 in York, the Blue & White hope to use the

momentum to finish the final third of the season on a different track.

The Lions got off to a tremendous start, taking a 14-2 lead in the first five minutes of the game. Alberto De Los Santos made an early impact by draining two three-pointers in the early run.

York (4-15, 3-9) responded quickly with a 12-2 run of its own to keep the game tight. By halftime, the Spartans had brought the game within a bucket, 28-26.

Penn State Harrisburg regained the momentum by starting the second half on a 6-0 run.

The Spartans again bounced back and tied the score, 44-44, with 10:51 in the game, but never did take the lead. The Lions finished the game with poise, playing as a strong unit on both ends of the floor. Their teamwork, combined with York's 30 turnovers, earned Penn State Harrisburg the victory.

Arick Sodini led the Blue & White with 12 points. De Los Santos had a season-high seven assists while Farthing added 10 points, including a two-handed slam dunk in the final minutes. "I thought our kids' focus to start the game was terrific," said Penn State Harrisburg Coach Don Friday. "We played with good rhythm and our guys took shots where they could be effective. I'm very proud of how our kids kept their poise when York made their runs."

The Lions have "stayed positive" as coaches has kept stressing that they "embrace the process," Friday said.

"They deserved this win tonight and I want them to feel good about themselves and Penn State basketball," he said.



Photos by John Diffenderfer

Penn State Harrisburg's Joey Farthing (23), above, floats toward the basket against St. Mary's.

Penn State Harrisburg's Anthony Morgan (45), right, drives for a layup against St. Mary's. Morgan scored 14 points for the Lions.



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BOWLING



Submitted photo

Middletown bowlers who qualified for the PIAA District 3 championships are, from left, Cole Kautz, Victoria Spangler and Josh Alcock.

Three Middletown bowlers qualify for championships

Three Middletown bowlers qualified for the PIAA District 3 championships at a district qualifying tournament on Saturday, Jan. 31 at ABC North Lanes. Josh Alcock, Cole Kautz and Victoria Spangler, members of the Blue Raiders bowling team, advanced to the championships on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Hiester Lanes in Reading. They will join bowlers from Lancaster, Lebanon and Berks counties who also qualified.

Alcock finished first among boys with a three-game total of 706, which included a perfect 300 game. Kautz finished second with a 662. It is the second consecutive year he has qualified for the District 3 championships. Spangler finished fourth among girls with a 556, which included a high game of 224.

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

HEARTBREAKER

Lions drop OT thriller to St. Mary's, 67-64

By Adam Clay
For The Press And Journal

The Penn State Harrisburg women's basketball team needed a win against visiting St. Mary's on Saturday, Jan. 31 to challenge for a playoff spot in the Capital Athletic Conference.

But the Lions lost a heartbreaker to the Seahawks in overtime, 67-64 in Middletown.

The play was fast paced from the opening tip-off. St. Mary's (5-12, 5-7 in the conference) took an early edge, leading by as many as five points in the first few minutes.

But the Lions (4-15, 3-9) fought back, claiming their first lead of the game, 16-15, at the 10:08 mark of the first half. Jasmine Yanich led the Blue & White early with eight first-half points.

St. Mary's finished strong late in the first half to take a 33-28 lead at halftime.

Penn State Harrisburg started the second half with tremendous intensity, and the Lions slowly chipped away at a deficit that had grown to as much as 11 points. The Lions eventually took a 50-45 lead with 8:11 in the game on a Kate Carmo jumper.

The game stayed within one possession for most of the final minutes.

As the game came to a close, the Blue & White's Kiara Carter was fouled with just 14 seconds to play and the Lions down by two points. She drained the first of two from the charity stripe, but missed the rim on the second, leaving the Lions down 58-57.

Penn State Harrisburg fouled quickly, setting up a 1-and-1 from the foul line for St. Mary's. But the Seahawks missed the first foul shot, giving the Lions one final possession. After an exciting battle in the lane, Carter was fouled with 0.7 seconds left, giving her two free throws and a chance to win it from the line.

She again hit her first to tie the game, and missed the second, sending the game into overtime.

Overtime resembled regulation. The teams went back and forth.

St. Mary's hit two free throws with 8 seconds to play to take a three-

point lead. Penn State Harrisburg used up most of the clock on its final possession before calling a timeout with 1.6 seconds to play. The Lions failed to get off a shot.

York 72, Lions 55

Heading into the final stretch of the regular season, Penn State Harrisburg and York were still in contention for sneaking into the conference playoffs.

The Lions had beaten York in December in Middletown. But the Spartans got revenge, defeating the Blue & White on Wednesday, Jan. 28 in York.

York (9-10, 5-7) wasted no time redeeming itself, taking a 9-0 lead in the opening four minutes.

The Lions attempted to work their way back into the game, but the Spartans had a different plan in mind. York connected on seven three-pointers in the first half to keep Penn State Harrisburg out of reach. The Lions went into the locker room at halftime trailing 44-20.

In the second half, the two teams battled point-for-point. Eventually, the Blue & White whittled the deficit to 11 points with just over 12:00 left in the game.

But York converted open looks down the stretch to keep the Blue & White out of reach.

Carmo led the Lions with 12 points and five rebounds. Freshman Janel Brown contributed 11 points of her own, nine of them from beyond the 3-point arc.

Penn State Harrisburg's Becca Bailey (10), top photo, drives to the basket against St. Mary's.

Penn State Harrisburg's Jasmine Yanich, bottom photo, center, is challenged by a St. Mary's defender in the key.



Photos by John Diffenderfer



MIDDLETOWN AREA GIRLS' BASKETBALL

STILL IN THE HUNT
Raiders lose two, hold final playoff spot

The Middletown girls' basketball team was clinging to the final playoff spot in District 3 Class AAA despite two losses to division rivals last week.

The Blue Raiders fell to West Perry, 59-47, on Friday, Jan. 30 in Elliptsburg. Bianca Jasper led Middletown (11-9, 3-8 in the Mid-Penn Conference Capital Division) with 18 points, while Ja'lynn Burton-Jones scored 11 and Makalia Nester added 10.

Madison Ulrich scored 23 points for the Mustangs (17-2, 9-2).

The Raiders have lost five of their last six games.

East Pennsboro outscored Middletown 24-5 in the second quarter to beat the Raiders, 63-48 on Tuesday, Jan. 27 in Enola.

Burton-Jones led the Raiders with 14 points. Bianca Jasper scored 12, Jey Rivera added 9 and Nester added 7.

Danielle Kreiger scored 20 points for the Panthers (12-7, 7-4).

As of Sunday, Feb. 1, Middletown held the 18th and final playoff spot in

Class AAA, just ahead of Big Spring (11-9). The district's power rankings showed the Raiders ahead in points, 0.594949 to Big Spring's 0.585519.

The race for the final playoff spot could come down to the last day of the regular season on Thursday, Feb. 5. Middletown hosts Greencastle-Antrim (17-2) while Big Spring plays Northern York (3-18) in Dillsburg.

Prior to those games, the Raiders were scheduled to host Steelton-Highspire (4-15) on Tuesday, Feb. 3, while Big Spring was scheduled to host Bigler-ville (13-7) the same night.

Heat notch first win, beat Ambush

Midfielder Tyler Witmer scored six times to lead the Harrisburg Heat to its first victory of the season, 25-16 over the St. Louis Ambush on Friday, Jan. 30 at the Farm Show Arena.

Georges NouBossie, Val Teixeira, Jade Messias, Chris Hall and Kingsley Onwuka also scored goals for the Heat. Brad Kerstetter scored a three-point goal for Harrisburg.

The Heat, owned by Middletown native John Wilsbach, is currently 1-13 in the Major Arena Soccer League. St. Louis fell to 5-11.

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Photos by Jodi Ocker

Middletown senior players and cheerleaders honored with their parents on Senior Night against East Pennsboro are, Dagen Hughes, second from left; Harry Kapenstein, fourth from left; Nik Moose, fifth from right; and Amanda Shank, second from right.

RAIDERS

Continued From Page One

game turned out to be as competitive as the two coaches thought.

The first quarter ended in a 12-12 tie and the second period ended with the teams deadlocked at 27-27, backing up the expectations of the coaches.

An 18-7 scoring advantage by the Raiders in the third quarter, however, swung the game in Middletown's favor and proved to be enough of an edge to allow the Raiders to prevail.

The Braves earned the early lead on a pair of baskets by James Brown and Zamier Owens before the Raiders eased in front on a basket by Leggore and a three-pointer by Dagen Hughes.

After the Braves scored six straight points to regain the lead, Leggore, Harry Kapenstein and Ryan Hughes teamed for a 7-0 Middletown run.

In the evenly played second stanza, each team scored 15 points to keep the game all even at the halftime break. Ryan Hughes and Leach split 10 points to lead the Raiders while Jason Stoltzfus registered 8 of his 11 points to pace the hosts.

The Braves opened up the second half with four points to go back in front, but Fox and the Hughes brothers scored seven straight points to ease the Raiders back on top.

In the final 3:00 of the third quarter, Dagen Hughes hit a triple and Ryan Hughes collected eight of his game-high 19 points to give the Middletown squad a 45-34 lead.

But, as the Middletown offense missed early shots and went scoreless in the first 2:30 of the final frame, the Braves closed the gap to 45-41.

Middletown's Fox broke the drought by converting a Leggore assist into a baseline goal and a 47-41 Raider lead with 5:34 left on the clock.

After the Braves made it a three-point game with 4:00 left, Dagen Hughes drained a triple and Ryan Hughes drove to the hoop following a Pequea Valley foul shot to push the Middletown lead to 52-45 with 1:53 to go.

The Braves scored one more time with 1:06 left, but Dagen Hughes made 4-of-4 free throws in the final 45 seconds to lock down the victory.

Middletown 54 West Perry 47

With the boys and girls junior varsity and varsity teams all playing at West Perry on Friday, the schedules were off right from the start.

Arriving late due to bad weather and awful traffic conditions, the varsity boys were slated to start their game at 6:15 p.m. But the junior varsity girls' game ran late and the boys' game got underway well past the scheduled start time.

Once it got started everything was rolling along for a while before a second quarter altercation on the court suddenly stopped the action for 40 minutes. When order was restored, the game continued – minus players from both teams.

The good news, however, was that the Middletown boys escaped West Perry (7-13, 1-10) with the 54-47 victory to complete their successful week. A strong finish by the Raiders under adverse conditions spoiled West Perry's Senior Night in front of a big home crowd in Elliottsburg.

The physical style of play that showed right from the opening tipoff led the hosts to an early lead at 4-0.

Fox broke the ice for the Raiders at the 7:05 mark and Dagen Hughes drained a triple following a Mustang miss to give the Middletown side a 5-4 edge.

Later in the opening quarter, the Mustangs broke the Raiders' 9-8 lead with a pair of threes by Ethan Leshner.



Tre Leach, right, drives to the basket against East Pennsboro.

After Ryan Hughes and Leach went back-to-back to pull the Raiders to within one point, West Perry's Tay Corothers and Leshner ripped a pair of treys to push the hosts to a 20-13 lead to start the second stanza.

After the Raiders had closed the gap to four points, 20-16, with 6:40 left in the second stanza, the game was halted at the 6:19 mark because of the on-court problems. Following the long delay, four West Perry players and two Middletown players were disqualified, and play resumed.

Following an exchange of foul shots, the Mustangs were sitting on a 22-17 lead. Dagen Hughes, however, followed with a personal eight-point run that pushed the Raiders ahead, 25-22.

After the Mustangs erased the lead and slid back in front, 26-25, Middletown substitute Ryan Divitore swished two foul shots and Ryan Hughes made 1-of-2 free throws to send the Raiders into the halftime break with a 28-26 lead.

Neither team shot well in the third quarter and each side collected just 10 points in the span. Ryan Hughes erased a 31-29 West Perry lead with a go-ahead triple off a Fox assist with 5:15 left in the third and Dagen Hughes offset a Mustang bucket a minute later. After West Perry's Scott Messner

scored, Ryan Hughes tied the game at 36-36. Leach broke the tie with a running basket off a Raider miss with 1:01 left.

Mrakovich's goal following an exchange of turnovers gave the Raiders a 40-36 lead, and Fox answered a pair of Mustang foul shots with a driving layup with 5:53 left in the game.

With 5:17 left, West Perry's Carothers drew his fifth foul on a charge and was also whistled for a technical on the play. Ryan Hughes made three free throws and Fox scored a two-pointer to push the Middletown lead to 47-38 with 4:59 left.

Over the next two minutes, two West Perry players and two Middletown players fouled out.

Making just 3-of-11 foul shots down the stretch nearly cost the Raiders the game as the Mustangs cut the Middletown lead to just two points, 49-47, with 1:30 on the clock.

But West Perry missed several late shots and was forced to foul. With 19.5 seconds left, Ryan Hughes made two free throws to stretch the Middletown lead to five points, and Dagen Hughes sank two more with 8 ticks left to ice the victory.

Larry Etter can be reached at larryetter66@gmail.com

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Standings for 2-4-15

BOYS' BASKETBALL MID-PENN CONFERENCE Capital Division			
W	L	OVERALL	
Steelton-Highspire	10	1	17-3
Camp Hill	8	3	15-4
Trinity	7	4	12-7
Milton Hershey	6	6	10-10
East Pennsboro	4	7	11-8
Middletown	3	8	7-14
West Perry	1	10	7-13

Last week's games

Middletown 54, West Perry 47
Middletown 56, Pequea Valley 47
Middletown 45, East Pennsboro 41
Oxford 75, Steelton-Highspire 70
Steelton-Highspire 82, Trinity 78
Steelton-Highspire 85, Milton Hershey 66

This week's games

Steelton-Highspire vs. TBA, Mid-Penn
Conference semifinal, Tuesday, Feb. 10 or
Thursday, Feb. 12

Keystone Division

	W	L	OVERALL
Cedar Cliff	11	2	18-2
Bishop McDevitt	11	2	16-3
Susquehanna Twp.	11	2	16-5
Hershey	5	8	11-9
Lower Dauphin	5	8	10-11
Palmyra	4	9	11-10
Mechanicsburg	4	9	9-12
Red Land	1	12	5-16

Last week's games

Lower Dauphin 67, Red Land 41
Mechanicsburg 56, Lower Dauphin 55

GIRLS' BASKETBALL MID-PENN CONFERENCE Capital Division			
W	L	OVERALL	
West Perry	9	2	17-2
Camp Hill	9	2	17-3
Trinity	8	3	11-9
East Pennsboro	7	4	12-7
Middletown	3	8	11-9
Milton Hershey	3	9	7-13
Steelton-Highspire	0	11	4-15

Last week's games

West Perry 59, Middletown 47
East Pennsboro 63, Middletown 48
Trinity 69, Steelton-Highspire 52
Milton Hershey 59, Steelton-Highspire 56

This week's games

Wednesday, Feb. 4
Bishop McDevitt at Steelton-Highspire,
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Greencastle-Antrim at Middletown, 7:30
p.m.

Keystone Division

	W	L	OVERALL
Palmyra	12	1	19-2
Mechanicsburg	11	2	18-2
Red Land	10	3	17-4
Cedar Cliff	6	7	12-9
Lower Dauphin	4	9	10-10
Bishop McDevitt	4	9	6-14
Hershey	3	10	10-10
Susquehanna Twp.	2	11	3-17

Last week's games

Lower Dauphin 37, Spring Grove 19
Red Land 50, Lower Dauphin 36
Mechanicsburg 34, Lower Dauphin 24

WRESTLING MID-PENN CONFERENCE Keystone Division			
W	L	OVERALL	
Cedar Cliff	6	0	19-5
Mechanicsburg	4	1	12-8
Red Land	3	2	8-5
Lower Dauphin	3	3	11-6

Susquehanna Twp.	3	3	7-9
Hershey	1	5	8-10
Middletown	0	6	1-13

Last week's matches

None

This week's matches

Wednesday, Feb. 4
Elco at Middletown, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 6

Conestoga Valley at Middletown, 7 p.m.

BOYS' SWIMMING MID-PENN CONFERENCE Keystone Division			
W	L	OVERALL	
Lower Dauphin	6	0	9-3
Palmyra	6	0	6-4
Red Land	4	2	6-5
Mechanicsburg	3	3	4-7
Bishop McDevitt	3	4	3-5
Milton Hershey	2	5	3-6
Susquehanna Twp.	1	5	2-6
Cedar Cliff	0	6	0-8

Last week's meets

Central Dauphin 97, Lower Dauphin 73

This week's meets

None

GIRLS' SWIMMING MID-PENN CONFERENCE Keystone Division			
W	L	OVERALL	
Palmyra	6	0	9-1
Lower Dauphin	6	0	9-3
Cedar Cliff	4	2	4-4
Mechanicsburg	3	3	4-7
Bishop McDevitt	3	4	3-5
Red Land	2	4	3-8
Susquehanna Twp.	1	5	1-7
Milton Hershey	0	7	1-8

Last week's meets

Central Dauphin 100, Lower Dauphin 70

This week's meets

None

ICE HOCKEY CPIHL Tier 1				
W	L	T	PTS	
Hershey	16	0	1	33
Lower Dauphin	11	3	4	26
Palmyra	9	4	5	23
Hempfield	8	6	4	20
Cumberland Valley	9	8	1	19
Warwick	9	8	1	19
Central York	5	11	1	11
Wilson	4	11	2	10
Dallastown	4	12	2	10

Last week's games

Lower Dauphin 3, Palmyra 3

This week's games

Tier 1 playoffs, Wednesday, Feb. 4 and
Friday, Feb. 6, TBA
(Lower Dauphin vs. Cumberland Valley or
Warwick, Monday, Feb. 9 at TBA)

Tier 3				
W	L	T	PTS	
MSM	16	2	0	32
Carlisle	15	1	2	32
Penn Manor	11	6	1	23
West York	8	9	1	17
Susquehannock	7	10	1	15
Northern York	2	16	0	4
Middletown	1	16	1	3

Last week's games

Penn Manor 10, Middletown 0

This week's games

None

COLLEGE BASKETBALL CAPITAL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE MEN			
W	L	OVERALL	
St. Mary's	10	2	13-4
Marymount	9	3	15-4
Christopher Newport	9	3	14-5
Salisbury	8	4	12-7
Wesley	7	5	9-10
Frostburg St.	5	7	9-10
Mary Washington	5	7	5-14
York	3	9	4-15
Penn State Hbg.	3	9	3-16
Southern Virginia	1	11	3-15

Last week's games

Penn State Harrisburg 64, York 57
St. Mary's 70, Penn State Harrisburg 58

This week's games

Wednesday, Feb. 4
Frostburg St. at Penn State Harrisburg,
8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7

Penn State Harrisburg at Southern Vir-
ginia, 3 p.m.

WOMEN

	W	L	OVERALL
Salisbury	12	0	18-1
Mary Washington	11	1	15-4
Christopher Newport	8	4	12-7
Marymount	8	4	12-7
Wesley	6	6	10-8
York	5	7	9-10
St. Mary's	5	7	5-12
Penn State Hbg.	3	9	4-15
Southern Virginia	2	10	4-14
Frostburg St.	0	12	1-16

Last week's games

St. Mary's 67, Penn State Harrisburg 64
(OT)
York 72, Penn State Harrisburg 55

This week's games

Wednesday, Feb. 4
Frostburg St. at Penn State Harrisburg,
6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7

Penn State Harrisburg at Southern Vir-
ginia, 1 p.m.

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EDITOR'S VOICE

A "code of conduct" is unnecessary, restrictive

Are there more volatile subjects for public debate than politics and religion? People seem to feel most passionately about them. Disagree on your favorite movie, or music, or book, but disagree on political parties, or religious beliefs, and the conversation escalates to a more personal level.

Politics is a very personal thing. There will always be different views. How we deal with them – with one another – is what’s important.

Middletown Borough Council has drastically changed the way it handles public opinion of its politics over the past five years. Used to be citizens could talk as long as the council president believed they needed to talk to express their views and concerns. Citizens even could question department heads at council committee-of-the-whole meetings. The interaction between the public and the officials who serve them was rather amazing.

Over time, the rules in Middletown changed. Time limits were strictly enforced when a citizen stood up to speak at a council meeting. Department heads did not provide regular reports at public meetings, hindered by a new communications policy that attempts to control speech – and succeeds.

Perhaps it’s not practical to have absolutely no rules about our freedom of speech. Some rules, such as time limits, indeed are reasonable.

Council considered a move on Feb. 2 to advertise a new ordinance that would create a “code of conduct” for the public who attend and speak at council meetings. Its main supporter, Councilor Suzanne Sullivan, said it was necessary to create “standards” for public speech and preserve decorum by giving the council president greater power in controlling speech at meetings.

Sullivan cited two recent meetings – a Jan. 20 council meeting that saw a big crowd disturbed by recent actions by borough government, particularly the borough’s failure to sign a snow plowing agreement with PennDOT that was approved by council in December, and a committee meeting in January. The crowd at the Jan. 20 meeting was so big that residents were forced to stand in the hallway outside council’s chambers. Some citizens were angry, politics being the subject that it is.

It was not ugly. Indeed, Roberts Rules of Order were applied, and order prevailed. Even without a new code of conduct, the council president has some power to maintain order and civility. Some citizens, newbies to government meetings, seemed to expect to engage in a back-and-forth with councilors and administrators, something that rarely happens at any municipal meeting, and were peeved that their questions and comments weren’t directly addressed. There were differences of opinion, but nothing you’d be embarrassed to have your mother hear.

Indeed, it was a healthy exercise of freedom of speech. It’s the most effective way to let elected officials know what you want. In fact, at least two councilors have stated they do not use computers often – they’re not on Facebook, and they’re not tweeting. Speaking up at public meetings of our government officials is the American way.

Sullivan’s proposal for a code of conduct failed by a 5-4 vote, with Mayor James H. Curry III casting the tie-breaking vote.

It’s interesting that both Sullivan and Curry pointed to council’s Feb. 2 meeting as a good example of how it should be. “This is perfect,” Sullivan said, admiring the decorum. “They can behave themselves and we can behave ourselves,” Curry observed, asking, “Why pay the solicitor money for something we can accomplish as human beings?”

Good question.

Taking heat is part of a politician’s existence. As Councilor John Brubaker pointed out during the debate over Sullivan’s proposal, codes of conduct have been discussed, though not imposed, by council before – in 2011, in fact.

But we can agree to disagree without getting brutal. And we can accept others’ opinions without trying to limit them.

READERS' VIEWS

Social Security protects older, vulnerable citizens

Editor,

The 75th anniversary of the first issuance of Social Security checks to older Americans was Jan. 31.

Following the Great Depression, Social Security was implemented to address skyrocketing poverty rates among seniors. Even today, as a nation, we have got to do more to protect our oldest and most vulnerable Americans.

At the time, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “This Social Security measure gives at least some protection to 30 million of our citizens.”

Today our nation has yet another older American crisis, as tens of millions of retired Americans who were guaranteed lifetime pension and healthcare benefits from their former employers in exchange for working decades at a lower wage are under assault by self-serving corporate CEOs and their bean counters.

I am part of www.ProtectSeniors.Org, a nonprofit retiree group that is fighting back for retirees on Capitol Hill and in state capitals to achieve legislation and recognition that protects older Americans’ earned retirement benefits.

It is time for Democrats and Republicans alike to stand shoulder-to-shoulder to recognize these are not party issues but rather about safeguarding older citizens.

Join us by calling 1-800-398-3044 today.

Vicki B. Wright
Halifax

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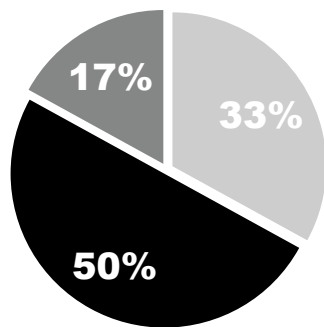
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EDO'CONNOR

An Ecuadorian Christmas – or must I say, "yuletide?"



Christmas has passed as well as New Year's. Oh – with the Political Correctness Nazis there, is one still permitted to use the word “Christmas,” or has that been banned from the lexicon?

This was our third Christmas in Cuenca. On Dec. 12, we celebrated our second anniversary in Cuenca.

There were many Christmas concerts around the city. We went to a performance by the newly-formed Cuenca International Chorus. I am considering joining the group. The Cuenca Symphony performed at four venues in the city. The one we attended was in an old, ornate Catholic church. Being a Methodist, I am not accustomed to all the statues of saints. The only saint I did not see was Drew Brees!

We spent Christmas at a resort – our gift to each other. It was a beautiful, restored 30-acre hacienda – Hacienda Uzhupud, in Paute, Ecuador. We had a great time. The service, staff, food and amenities were wonderful. We spent time in the steam room, sauna, big Jacuzzi and pool.

It seems strange to swim in an outdoor pool on Christmas Day. This facility could not be open in Pennsylvania. Why? One can have an adult beverage by the pool, and there are no lifeguards to babysit the “yutes.” Parents watch their children. Drat that personal responsibility thing!

We met a couple from Florida two years ago and they return here for a one-month vacation every year. They are seriously considering moving here permanently. In just three areas – health insurance, car expense and electricity – they would save approximately \$20,000 annually. He was the Miami Beach chief of homicide detectives and later a body guard for Gov. Jeb Bush. He always has interesting stories.

I turned a year older this month (Jesus and I are both Capricorns). For my birthday we went to a restaurant that serves the Ecuadorean traditional entree “cuy.” We had to make reservations and give the restaurant a time when we wanted to eat since it takes an hour to prepare cuy on a spit over a charcoal fire. Friends from Wisconsin who accompanied us decided to give it a try also.

We were served a big platter. I really liked it and I ate the most. Olga said that she could take it or leave it. The folks from the Badger State did not care for it too much. There was enough left over that we took the remainder home, and I feasted again the next day. Oh – you do not know what cuy is and have never eaten it? The English translation for cuy is "guinea pig!"

Speaking of animals, I see that the sheeple of Pennsylvania elected a Wolf as a leader. How ironic!

The tale of the tape: Since I am shrinking, I had to sell most of my clothing. When I left Middletown two years ago I had a 36-inch waist and weighed 192 pounds. I presently am in the best physical condition I have been since 1988. I now have a 32.5 inch waist and weigh

162 pounds. Olga has gone from a size 12 to a size 6, which is exactly what she was when I met her in 2005.

We do a lot of walking. This past week we walked from our apartment to one of the highest points in the city, from there to center city and then back home. It was approximately 7 miles and included 1,320 concrete steps. The next day I walked for 2.5 hours and worked out on the machines in the park.

Medicare will not cover me here. Apparently the U.S. government cannot accept paying low prices for health care! We have no health insurance and have been “self-insuring.” I guess I will have to rethink that. I can get Ecuadorean government health insurance for \$70 monthly, and add Olga for an additional \$10.12. So for a total of \$80.12 we can both be completely covered with no co-pays or deductibles.

Since the only income we have is my Social Security, we squeeze every penny until Lincoln’s eyes water. I calculated what our monthly expenses averaged for 2014 and the results are as follows:

- Rent, \$350
- Food, \$192.29
- Electricity/trash removal/fire department fee/public lighting, \$11.91
- Propane for water heater, clothes dryer and stove, \$4.38
- Internet/phone, \$30.08
- Water/sewer, \$6.48
- Transportation, \$17.51

Our blender stopped working. Now what? I remembered that there is a repair shop across the street, so off I go with the blender. Having dealt with getting things repaired in the U.S., I expected to pay a deposit, then wait two weeks for repairs to be made. Wrong. The machine was repaired while I waited 15 minutes – and I was charged \$4.

The computer had problems and needed technical expertise. I called a computer tech who came to the apartment and fixed it on site – and the bill was \$15. His fee was \$10 per hour.

The International Living magazine recently published the world’s top 10 best places to retire for 2015. Ecuador was selected as No. 1!

Until later, from beautiful Cuenca,

Eddy the Ex-pat

Ed O'Connor, a former resident of Middletown and Lower Swatara Twp., is an expatriate living in Ecuador.

YOUR VIEWS ARE WELCOME

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JOHN MORGANELLI

Law needed to investigate sitting AG



There is no question that Attorney General Kathleen Kane has made mistakes. Whether those mistakes amount to prosecutable crimes will initially be determined by Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Ferman and, perhaps, by a judge or jury.

If the Attorney General is found guilty of crimes after receiving due process, so be it. But with that said, right from the outset, there have been legitimate questions raised as to the process that has led to the appointment of a special prosecutor and now, presumably, a presentment by a sitting grand jury in Norristown.

Kane’s attorney, Lanny Davis, recently cited the Doctrine of Separation of Powers as prohibiting a judge from acting in an executive fashion to investigate another branch of government. Davis has hinted that the appointment of Thomas Carluccio as a special prosecutor is an illegal appointment under the Pennsylvania Constitution and the aforesaid doctrine. Ultimately, that issue may also be litigated.

In the meantime, lawyers in Pennsylvania, including many prosecutors and legal scholars are also privately questioning the legal basis that has led us to where we are. The questions are numerous: Who initiated the request for the Attorney General to be investigated? Were petitions filed? Why are all of the filings sealed? Why is Attorney General Kane allegedly gagged from speaking about anything including information that could aid in her defense?

Former Chief Justice Ronald Castille has stated that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has the power to appoint a special prosecutor to look into grand jury leaks. Admittedly, it has not been unusual for the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate grand jury leaks. What is unusual in this case, however, is the appointment of a special prosecutor by the judicial branch of government to investigate a sitting attorney general elected by the people of Pennsylvania and who is part of the executive branch of government.

In addition, the investigation into grand jury leaks normally would result in a report with recommendations. In this case, however, the leaks out of the current grand jury suggest that a presentment rather than a report has been issued. A presentment is more compelling because it is in the nature of a probable cause determination with a direct recommendation to a prosecutor to charge. As such it is much more significant than a grand jury report.

All of these issues raise the question as to whether Pennsylvania should revisit the enactment of an independent counsel statute which existed for a period of five years between 1998 and 2003.

Pennsylvania’s law was known as the “Independent Counsel Authorization Act” and established a special independent prosecutor’s panel comprised of various judges of the Commonwealth chosen by lot. Authority was placed in the Commonwealth’s General Counsel to appoint a special investigator under certain circumstances.

The law provided a transparent and legislatively-approved process to investigate the Attorney General in the event of alleged wrongdoing. The act spelled out the full authority of an independent counsel and provided legislative oversight. Unfortunately, the law had a five-year sunset provision that expired in 2003 without further legislative action.

In light of the current matter involving Kane, the Pennsylvania legislature should revisit this. The former statute was a bit cumbersome and probably should be rewritten. Still it achieved its intended purpose – having a transparent, orderly and legislatively legitimate method of investigating any wrong doing alleged on the part of the Attorney General.

The enactment of an Independent Counsel Statute would go a long way in assuring a fair and open process in the future, and would eliminate any speculation that powerful people acting in secret behind closed doors can bring down an independently elected Attorney General.

John M. Morganelli is the District Attorney for Northampton County and the Democratic candidate for Attorney General in 2008.

JOHN PAYNE

The Capitol REPORT



Our 199th session begins with an oath

According to the Pennsylvania Constitution, the General Assembly must convene at noon on the first Tuesday in January each year. This year, Tuesday, Jan. 6 marked the official swearing-in day for the 199th session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Representatives from across the Commonwealth, including myself, took the oath of office. There are 26 freshman members, of which 22 are Republicans and four are Democrats.

The oath we take reflects the responsibility we hold to the people who sent us here.

I was honored to be a part of this historic day, which marked the official start of my seventh term in the House. Each member recited the Oath of Office, which was administered by the Honorable Judith Olson, a judge on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

The official Oath of Office reads as follows:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.”

The day’s proceedings also included the formal election of House speaker as well as voting on rules to govern the body for the next two years. Rep. Mike Turzai, from

Allegheny County, was nominated and unanimously elected for the position of speaker.

As we begin the 2015-16 legislative session, there are many key areas we must address. Job growth measures will continue to be a top priority for the House. In addition, education reform and funding, and pension reform are important issues on the agenda. Although we accomplished a lot in the 2013-14 session, there is still much more work to be done.

I will continue to make myself available to residents of the 106th District who might have questions, concerns or problems related to state government. It is a tremendous honor to serve as your state representative, and I look forward to meeting the challenges we will face together in the coming years.

Reduced vehicle registration fee for retirees

I would like to remind retired residents residing in the 106th District that they may qualify for a reduced annual vehicle registration fee.

To qualify for the reduced fee, an individual must be retired and receiving Social Security or a pension, and total annual income from all sources must be less than

\$19,200 a year.

Qualifying individuals can register a passenger vehicle or light truck (9,000 pounds or less) for a \$10 processing fee per year instead of the annual registration fee.

Under this plan, only one passenger vehicle or truck per person may be registered for the \$10 processing fee, and the person applying must be the principal driver of the vehicle, unless a physical or mental disability exists that makes the individual incapable of driving.

A completed MV-371 form must be included with a regular registration renewal, along with a check or money order for \$10 made payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

To apply for retired status through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, residents must obtain an MV-371 form from any authorized agent, tag service or from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This form can also be obtained online at www.dmv.state.pa.us or by calling my Hershey office at 717-534-1323.

John D. Payne is a Republican member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He represents the 106th District, which includes Middletown, Royalton, Lower Swatara Twp., Hummelstown, Derry Twp., Conewago Twp. and part of Swatara Twp.

SOUND OFF

Submissions to Sound Off appear as submitted.

Additional comments of some Sound Off comments are available at www.pressandjournal.com.

• “You know what makes me mad is when a policeman sends in a canine when they know the suspect is armed. Most times the canine has no chance. They say a canine is a police officer. Well, an unarmed police officer won’t go in after an armed suspect, so don’t ever send the canine, either.”

• “Thank you to the person that shoved/blew the snow off the sidewalks on Shirley Drive the last two snowstorms. It was greatly appreciated. It’s nice to know that there are still great people in the world today!”

• “POLICE BLOTTER Jan. 19, 2015: The police who ride around on horses enjoyed another day of doing virtually no police work whatsoever.”

• “To all landlords in Middletown: Do you have an occupancy permit and have you registered with the borough office as to who and how many live in your apartments/houses? The answer is probably “no,” you have not – and those who think there are slum landlords in their area, here is a very easy way to bring attention to them. Report them to the borough for codes violations! We as residents need to stick together, not fight among ourselves. Win the war on urban blight and bring back the beauty that once was the Borough of Middletown!”

• “What an underhanded way for the Middletown Police Department

You may e-mail your Sound Off any time day or night, at our Web site: www.pressandjournal.com.


Sound Off is published as a venue for our readers to express their personal opinions and does not express the opinions of the Press And Journal. Sound Off is published in the Viewpoints sections but is not intended to be read as news reports.

to make money. Let’s call a snow emergency and not tell anyone and ticket all the cars in the wee hours of the morning. Way to go mayor and Middletown Police Department.”

• “I am so sick and tired of hearing about the 2016 presidential runners. Forget 2016 for now. All the Republicans do is blah, blah, blah. If the Republican Congress cannot get anything done now, what good are they – and we sure don’t want a Republican president then. As of right

now I only see two Republicans who could win, but they’re not saying anything – and that is Donald Trump or Chris Christie. They’re the only two I see with backbone. All others need not apply.”

• “People need to be responsible and stop breeding pit bulls. These poor dogs take up more than half of the dog shelters – those need homes. You are ignorant of the issues these dogs face, obviously! Go get a second job if you want to make extra money! Stop breeding!”



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SYLVAIN CHARAT

Think the U.S. has border problems? Look at what’s happening in Europe



The cargo ship recklessly headed toward the coast of Italy. The crew had abandoned ship, and the Italian coast guard scrambled to intervene. After regaining control of the ship, the coast guard discovered a troubling reality: 800 illegal immigrants were hiding in the ship’s hull.

These men, women, and children – most of them coming from Africa – were exhausted and terrified by the ordeal. Later that day – Dec. 31 – the ship was brought safely to the Italian harbor of Gallipoli, where the migrants got off.

Scenes like this play out almost on a daily basis. Two days later, the same scenario occurred with another cargo ship that was carrying roughly 450 illegal immigrants. Illegal migrants from Africa, Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq are desperately trying to cross the sea to reach Europe.

There is a lot at stake for everyone involved, and 2014 saw record numbers of immigrants. On Jan. 13, the European Union Commission (EUC) released a statement that said in 2014 “more than 276,000 migrants illegally entered the EU, which represents an increase of 155 percent compared to 2013.”

The smugglers use two main routes, both crossing about 300 miles of sea. The Central Mediterranean route goes to the south of Italy and is most often used. In 2013, 45,298 immigrants illegally entered Europe using this route. In 2014, there were 170,816, which is an astounding 277 percent increase.

The second route, known as the Eastern Mediterranean route, goes to Greece, Cyprus and Italy. In 2013, 23,299 immigrants illegally entered Europe through this path. In 2014, there were 50,561, a 117 percent increase.

The exponential growth of

illegal migration began around the collapse and destabilization of Arab dictatorial regimes in 2011. The former authoritarian regimes stopped migrants by securing their own borders and their fall has had dramatic consequences on migration.

The EUC notes that “over the last years, flows from the Central Mediterranean have increased substantially, first following the Arab Spring in 2011 and more recently, due to the difficult situation of political instability and civil war, in Libya. Many smugglers today carry out their criminal activities from Libya, where government control is very limited.” The Arab Spring and the collapse of the Libyan state have opened the gates for massive migration towards Europe.

Not only is this an immigration issue, it is also a huge business. The EUC reported that “it appears that the people on board have paid, in most cases, between \$5,000 and \$7,000 per person for the trip, and in some cases children travelled for free.” The cargo ship in the incident above, with 800 immigrants, would have yielded around \$4 million. And be sure that part of the money, if not all, goes to radical Islamist movements.

While smugglers are making money, Europe is losing control of its borders and it is getting harder by the day to stop this movement. The coast guards are not large enough to prevent every smuggler, and by the time they are found the immigrants on board are in such poor health that there is no other choice than to bring them to Europe and take care of them.

Once on the soil of the European Union it is near impossible to deport the migrants. In a lot of cases, the illegal immigrants’ ID documents have been destroyed either intentionally or by accident. Because of this they will then become asylum seekers, stay in Europe, and even wander

throughout the different countries of the Schengen Area since borders no longer exist between them.

One of the consequences of uncontrolled migration is the creation of refugee camps. The most important is in Calais, a harbor of northern France, which faces England a mere 25 miles away. It is estimated that between 2,500 and 3,000 illegal immigrants in Calais will at some point attempt to enter England. While waiting, they create tensions with the locals. As of today, the authorities are struggling desperately to deal with the migrants.

This struggle gives the appearance that not only is France, Germany, Italy, Cyprus and Greece powerless against this massive migration, but so is the entire European Union.

Uncertainty in the Middle East and in some parts of Africa is pushing more and more people out of their countries. Europe looks like a haven to them, especially with generous welfare systems like they currently have in France.

The problem is that Europe did not expect this migration to happen. Now that it is happening, it may very well destabilize European society as a whole. The destabilization comes in the form of bloated European welfare systems that are already overtaxed and bankrupt as well as the likelihood of increased numbers of radical Islamists who pose a threat to European society.

Americans believe they have a border problem, but many are unaware of the serious border problems in Europe.

Dr. Sylvain Charat, former chief of staff for a French Minister of Finance in the French National Assembly, is a public affairs consultant who specializes in the welfare system. He is a contributing scholar with The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College, Mercer County.



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Church

B-6 - THE PRESS AND JOURNAL

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown Middletown

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

Please plan to join us for worship – visitors are especially welcome. On February 8, Church school begins at 9:15 a.m. with classes for all ages. Children meet in the Morrow Room; Teens meet in the Teen Room; Adult Forum meets in Fellowship Hall. Adult Forum will continue to learn about forgiveness and finding peace through letting go. Join us at 10:30 a.m. for Worship as we continue seeking God's guidance in Jesus Christ. Nursery is available during this service, and there are hearing devices for anyone wanting to use one, as well as Bible Listening bags for children to utilize during the service.

Annual reports for 2014 are due in

the church office by Feb. 8.

PYC invites members of the church to an all-church bowling party on Sun., Feb. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. at ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Boulevard. There is a cost that includes two games, a bowling ball and shoes. The snack bar will be open. If you are planning to attend please contact Pastor Potter. Children, accompanied by a parent, teens in grades 6 through 12, and adults are welcome. Come, shake off the winter blues.

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

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18. You are invited to join us for worship at 7 p.m. The service will include hymns, scripture, time for silent reflection, as well as the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality. Let us gather to reflect on the example of Jesus who laid down his life for our salvation. Lenten devotional booklets will be available.

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

Evangelical United Methodist Church Middletown

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

Evangelical Church meets on the corner of Spruce and Water streets at 157 E. Water St., Middletown, south of Main St., behind the Turkey Hill convenience store.

The ministries scheduled at Evangelical United Methodist Church for February 4-10 are always open to everyone.

Wed., Feb. 4: 6 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous Book Study; 6:30 p.m., Senior Choir rehearsal.

Thurs., Feb. 5: 6 p.m., Girl Scout

Troop #10067.

Sun., Feb. 8: 9 a.m., Sunday Church school, with classes for all ages. Adult Sunday school devotional leader for February: June Martin; 10:15 a.m., Worship service. The worship center is handicap and wheelchair accessible. Nursery helpers: Ethel Angeloff, Mike Harris. The altar flowers are given in memory of wife Janet and son Lynn C. Meinsler presented by husband and father Charles Meinsler; 11:30 a.m., refreshments and fellowship time.

Tues., Feb. 10: 2 p.m., Prayer Shawl Ministry; 6 p.m., Finance Committee meeting; 7 p.m., Church Council meeting.

Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church Middletown

Are you perplexed or perhaps distressed by the rapid change in moral standards of the present day? We at Calvary Church are committed to upholding the unchanging standards of the Word of God, which is revealed in the Bible. We are also committed to proclaiming the hope of salvation from the sin that results from the world's changing moral standards, the hope found in faith in Jesus Christ alone. We invite you to join us each Sunday to hear more about this message of

free grace. Our services are at 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. We are located at the corner of Spruce and Emaus streets here in Middletown.

We have a fellowship meal following the 10:15 a.m. morning service on the first Sunday of every month, free to all who come. We also have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9 a.m., and a Bible Study each Wednesday at 7 p.m. We are now studying the Gospel of Luke. Feel free to contact us with questions at 944-5835.

First Church of God Middletown

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

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

Wednesday Night Live: 5:30 p.m. supper, 6:30 p.m. classes. Four new classes and some old favorites continue. Men's Book Study "The Way of the Wild Heart"; Women's group "He Loves Me!"; Yoga - you bring your mat; Cooking Together - Come prep meals together, so minimal work is required throughout the week. Bring the groceries, and we will prep four meals together. Then you will take them home, freeze or refrigerate them, and just throw the meal in the oven or crock-pot on the day you wish to eat it; Craft Class; Discipleship

Class - designed to help you become a believer that bears much fruit; Ladies Bible Study, "Women of the Old Testament." There are also classes for youth: middle school and senior high; Children's classes for all ages and babysitting.

Thursdays: 6 p.m., Pasta and Prayer Young Adult Bible Study.

Thurs., Feb. 19: 11:30 a.m., Seniors Alive. The menu is marinated ham balls, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, slaw, roll, dessert, and beverage. Entertainment is The Sentimentalist with songs from the past. Remember to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the Middletown Food Bank. All Seniors 55 and older are welcome.

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

For additional information call the church office at 944-9608 or e-mail us at mdtcog@comcast.net.

Wesley United Methodist Church Middletown

Epiphany moments are continuing as we count the days to the start of our Lenten journey. These are special times during which we see God at work. Where did you see God today? Come, join us at Wesley where we are taking time to look and listen for that Divine Presence in our lives.

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

We share Holy Communion the first Sunday of every month. All who love Jesus and desire to follow in his way are welcome at the table.

Pastor Dawes' Sunday sermon is "Jesus as Message" based on Mark 1:29-31.

Our Meals on Wheels Ministry in cooperation with Evangelical United Methodist Church takes place throughout February. Wesley's days

of delivering meals are February 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Our Threads of Hope Clothing Bank is open on the Fourth Friday of every month from 4 to 6 p.m. Free clothes in all sizes from infant to adult are available.

Youth 10x's Better is sponsoring a benefit concert here on Sun., Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. Various musical groups, soloists, and praise dancers will be featured. Wesley provides space for the teen and youth center as well as other special classes and activities of Youth 10x's Better Youth Ministry.

We will be joining with other Middletown area United Methodist Churches in a special Ash Wednesday Evening Worship Service to be held at Geyers Church.

Wesley is located at the corner of Ann and Catherine streets in Middletown. Contact us by e-mail at wesleyumc@comcast.net. Call us at 944-6242.

"Follow Jesus, Change the World. Seek. Serve. Send."

Ebenezer United Methodist Church Middletown

Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 890 Ebenezer Road, Middletown, invites everyone to join us for worship on Sunday mornings lead by Pastor Suanne Whorl. Our services are relaxed and casual. Pastor Su teaches and inspires us through her message and children's time. She brings a modern touch to the contemporary service by using video, pictures and props. We offer a traditional service at 8:45 a.m. and a contemporary service with a band (electric guitars) at 10:45 a.m. At 10 a.m., between services, there are a variety of Christian education classes for all ages. Nursery is available throughout the morning.

We have several things happening at Ebenezer and all are welcome. Our youth group (kids in grades 6-12) meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A young adult group meets twice monthly, the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7 p.m. in the church office. We also offer a variety of adult groups. Please call for details. We are

always open to new group ideas. There is a prayer time, "Partners in Prayer," that meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. 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. Want to learn about budgeting your money, debt reduction, retirement savings and more, come to our 9-week DVD class, Financial Peace University taught by trusted financial guru Dave Ramsey starting Tues., Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. FPU has helped 2.5 million families change their lives. There is a cost. Anyone interested please contact Mel Bollinger at 583-0502.

Our homemade chocolate Easter egg making has started. Local businesses interested in selling and anyone wanting to place orders please call Mel at 583-0502 or Bill at 944-6080.

Any other questions please call us at 939-0766.

New Beginnings Church Middletown

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

New Beginnings Church invites you to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church is provided. Our congregation meets at the 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. Youth Fellowship is from 5 to 7 p.m. For additional church information call 944-9595.

Wednesdays: Craft Group, 6 p.m.; Choir rehearsals, 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Intercessory Prayer Group at 6 p.m., followed by Pastor Britt's Bible study at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate in these important areas of our church life.

Sociable Seniors group meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. Blanket making is the 2nd Thursday of every month at 9 a.m.

Intercessory Prayer will be starting a new schedule on Thurs., Feb. 5, beginning at

6 p.m., followed by the Sanctuary being open from 6:15 to 7 p.m. for anyone to come and pray. The community is invited to stop and pray.

Our new working persons fellowship group, "The Not As Young As I Used To Be" group will meet on Fri., Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Dana and Jeff Rhine's home. We invite anyone still in the working group to join our group. Please call or text Dana

Rhine at 717-215-4246 for additional information.

Children's Church leaders for February are Michelle, Katie & Jenny Strohecker. Acolyte for February is Larae Rhine. February ushers are Earl Peters, Mary Mulka, and Jackie and Sam Rainal.

Tues., Feb. 10: 6:30 p.m., Wacky Wednesday Planning meeting.

Undies Sundays are February 8, 15 and 22. We will be collecting underwear, sweat pants (sizes 6-10) and socks for the elementary schools in town.

Youth Fellowship will be offering free babysitting on Sat., Feb. 14 from 5 to 9 p.m. for parents to enjoy Valentine's Day. Contact Dana Rhine at 717-215-4246 if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy Valentine's Day. The community is welcome.

Anyone interested in attending the Sight and Sound presentation of "Moses" with our congregation on Fri., Feb. 27, please call Michelle Strohecker at 717-982-5068.

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

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



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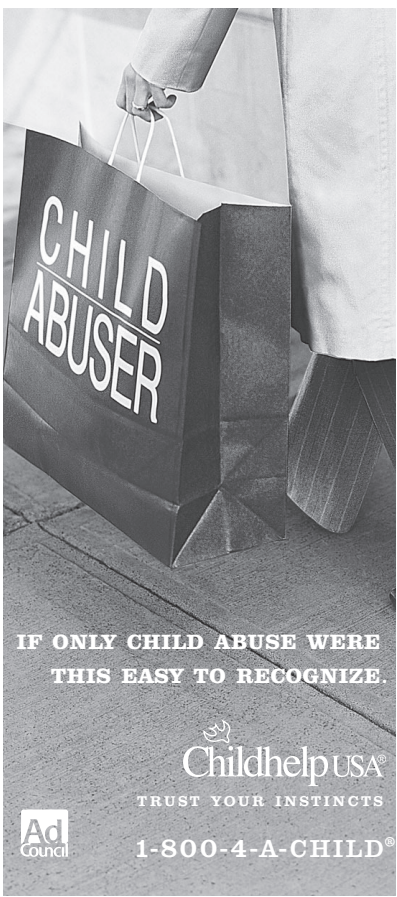
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Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church 10 Spruce Street • 944-5835 Sunday School - 9 am • Morning Worship 10:15 am Evening Worship - 6 pm www.calvaryopc.com	New Beginnings Church at the Riverside Chapel 630 South Union St., Middletown • 388-1641 Sunday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



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NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

LaVonne Ackerman • 1438 Old Reliance Road, 939-5584 • LaVonneAck@comcast.net

Yay. Here we are in a brand new month!

We are closer to the end of winter and we are surrounded by love. Tons of pink and red hearts remind us of a wonderful human action, emotion, feeling – a poem? Is it a many-splendored thing? Does it hurt? What is love?

The physicist says it is chemistry. The psychotherapist says love has many guises. The philosopher says it is a passionate commitment. The romantic novelist says love drives all great stories. The nun says love is free yet binds us!

I like this: Love is patient and kind. It doesn't envy, nor boast. It is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, nor easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love doesn't delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always endures. Love never fails. So if you measure whatever you are going through up against this you might find whether or not it is love!

Have a wonderful week, and be sure to share your family news, birthdays, anniversaries, favorite recipes ... you get the idea!

Birthdays

Happy 17th cake day to **Jennifer Hardison** of Lower Swatara Twp. as she observes her bling and sparkles day on Wednesday, Feb. 4. Hope it is sunshiny out for you today.

Kyle Relken celebrates his cake day on Thursday, Feb. 5. Lots of fun memories of you, Kyle – hope things in Lancaster are going great. Best wishes to you!

Best wishes to **Boots/Bev Hockley** of Middletown. Her snappy-happy birthday is Thursday, Feb. 5. Blessings and smiles are sent to you.

Emily Russell celebrates her very special 11th cake and ice cream day on Friday, Feb. 6. May your day be just how you like it!

Happy Sweet 16 birthday to **Adrian Landis** of Lower Swatara on Friday, Feb. 6. Hoping this exciting beep-honk-honk day is one of the best ever.

Vicki Hartman of Middletown will hear the birthday song on Friday, Feb. 6. Hoping it is a sweet sound to your ears, Vicki.

Best wishes for a fantastic Saturday, Feb. 7 birthday to **David Hill** of Lower Swatara. Enjoy your 22nd frosty-filled day.

Here is a shout-out to **Doris Stauffer** of Londonderry Twp. She celebrates her 83rd cake day on Sunday, Feb. 8. Congrats, and God bless you, Doris!

If you see **Reggie Williams** out and about Lower Swatara on Sunday, Feb. 8 be sure to give him a very peppy happy birthday greeting. Enjoy it, Reggie!

Happy brand-new teener balloon-

flying day to **Joey Spear** of Lower Swatara. He is 13 on Sunday, Feb. 8. Hope your weekend is terrific, Joey.

Happy “and holding” birthday to **Melissa Williams** of Lower Swatara on Monday, Feb. 9. May your day be as sweet as you.

Spaghetti dinner

The Lower Swatara Lions Club will be holding their annual all-you-can-eat spaghetti and meatballs dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Lions building in Shopes Gardens.

Don't cook that night – come out and support our Lions Club and enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner.

It is through projects like this that they are able to support Lower Swatara Athletic Association softball and soccer teams. They help the needy with eye exams and glasses and donate to various local charities. They have their annual Easter egg hunt and Halloween parade for our children. Please come out and support our great Lions Club..

Elizabethtown dean's list

The following local students were named to the dean's list at Elizabethtown College for the fall semester:

Middletown – **Ryan Perez**, a senior accounting major

Highspire – **Brandon Diaz**, a sophomore engineering major

Hummelstown – **Katharine Rozman**, a senior early childhood education major; **Sarah Schulteis**, a freshman computer science major; **Kelsey Sloan**, a junior business administration-management major; **Joseph Clark**, a sophomore accounting major; **Steven Onorato**, a sophomore biology major; and **Angelina Farole**, a freshman health and occupation major

Elizabethtown – **Tyler Athey** a senior engineering major; **Erin Horting**, a senior health and occupation major; **Sarah Kennedy**, a senior English professional writing major; **Casey Meier**, a senior biology allied health major; **Kyler Koons**, a senior English professional writing major; **Rachel Bair**, a senior early childhood education major; **Jacob Moyer**, a junior business administration-marketing major; **Meghan Kreider**, a junior fine arts major; **Emily Hornung**, a senior social work major; **Kelsey Detweiler**, a sophomore business administration major; **Alexander Good**, a freshman actuarial science major; and **Alexandra Sevarcid**, a freshman communications major

“One Nation”

Here is an excerpt from Dr. Ben Carson's book, “One Nation:”

“The same thing is happening in America today that happened to the colonists of old. As our government grows larger and more complex, it will

require increasingly larger proportions of the people's earnings. Also, as the rights of the government increase, the rights of the people decrease. The question is will the American people of today be as courageous and tough as the colonists were and are they ready for the ultimate push back? Are they ready to stand boldly for those things they believe in without fear of consequences and are they willing to fight with all tools available to them against those who wish to change the nature of the country from people-centric to government-centric?”

Wilkes dean's list

The following local students were named to the dean's list at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, for the fall semester:

• **Jessica Drebot**, of Middletown

• **Todd Espenshade**, of Hummels-

town

• **Tracey Hilker**, of Hummelstown

• **Jennifer Smith**, of Hummelstown

• **Jennalyn Garrity**, of Elizabethtown

• **Lucas Kline**, of Elizabethtown

Alvernia dean's list

The following local students were named to the dean's list at Alvernia University, Reading, for the fall semester:

• **Anna Pantalone**, of Hummelstown, a senior occupational therapy major

• **Jason Brumbaugh**, of Hummels-

town, a senior forensic science major

• **Kirby Turner**, of Elizabethtown, a senior biochemistry major

• **Derek Klim**, of Elizabethtown, a senior criminal justice major

• **Brianna Kuhn**, of Elizabethtown, a senior sport management major

Roger Williams dean's list

Elizabeth Crouse, of Hummelstown, a dance major, and Joshua Fejfar, of Hummelstown, an international relations major, were named to the dean's list at Roger Williams University, Bristol, R.I., for the fall semester.

James Madison dean's list

Katie Housman, of Middletown, a sophomore health services administration major, and **Hannah Collins**, of Hummelstown, a senior communication studies major, were named to the dean's list at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va., for the fall semester. **Jenna Paige Flickinger**, of Hummelstown, a junior graphic design major, was named to the president's list at the university.

Mary Baldwin honors list

Aria Dougherty, of Hummelstown, was named to the honors list at Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Va., for the fall semester.

Students of the Month

ELIZABETHTOWN AREA HIGH SCHOOL



Lauren Ober



Joel Skinner

Lauren Ober and Joel Skinner were named Elizabethtown Area High School's Students of the Month for December by the Elizabethtown Rotary Club.

Ober, daughter of David and Boni Ober of Elizabethtown, has excelled in the classroom, earning membership into the prestigious National Honor Society. She has earned underclassmen honors in fields of biology, speech, health and art.

She is a member of Student Council, as well as Key, Bible and Symphonium clubs. She is a peer tutor, serves on the Mini-THON Committee and helps with the high school's Bear Bags program. She was a key member of the Lancaster-Lebanon League Section Champion volleyball team, where she earned league all-star honors.

In the community, she volunteers time with the Share the Blessing program

and at the Faith Friendship Villa. She is active with the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services and Central Penn Volleyball Club.

She plans to attend college and pursue a pre-medical degree with the ultimate goal of becoming a cardiac or respiratory surgeon.

Skinner, son of Gary and Paige Skinner of Elizabethtown, has earned membership into the prestigious National Honor Society.

He has been active in numerous school programs, including Ski Club, Mini-THON, boys' lacrosse team and cross country team. He is a three-time Lancaster-Lebanon League all-star in lacrosse.

In the community, he is a volunteer with both the Fiddle Stick and Fall Ball Lacrosse programs.

He plans to attend Penn State and major in engineering.



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More than 40 Lower Dauphin students to perform in band festival

The Lower Dauphin School District will send more than 40 students to the Dauphin County Music Educators Association's Band Festival on Friday, Feb. 20 and Saturday, Feb. 21 at Central Dauphin East High School.

The Elementary Honors Band will include students from Lower Dauphin's five elementary schools, including two from Londonderry Elementary School:

Londonderry – Andrew Good and Jack Wolfe, clarinet

Conewago – Avery Book, trumpet, and Austin Little and David Shillow, trombone

East Hanover – Luke Johns, trombone, and Colton Waters and Hudson Millar, trumpet.

Nye – Chelsea Blazina, flute, and Emma Waughen, percussion

South Hanover – Adam Fellin, clarinet,

and Logan Devine, baritone.

Also performing in the Elementary Honors Band are sixth-graders Ali Rankin, flute; Kaycee Johnson, clarinet; Stephanie Kopec, alto saxophone; Alec Merry, trumpet; Daniel Kreiss, mallets; and Cole Rife, percussion, from Lower Dauphin Middle School.

Performing in the Junior High School Honors Band are Kelly Barr, clarinet; Kayla Anne Pederson, clarinet; Tristan McQuiddy, clarinet; Elizabeth Scipione, alto saxophone; Madi Miduri, alto saxophone; Ethan Elicker, trumpet;

Cassie McIntire, trumpet; Kane Schrum, baritone; Reese LaDuke, tuba; Ian Tonkin, percussion and Hayden Tierney, mallets.

Attending from Lower Dauphin High School are Megan Barr, French horn; Erin Bell, flute; Grady Cole, baritone; Jocelyn Hanula, clarinet; Leah Miller, clarinet; Reed Morris, tenor saxophone; Rachel Orth, flute; Ioanna Radanovic, oboe; Nick Scipione, trombone; David Sgrignoli, tuba; Stephen Slimak, trombone; and Katelyn Truesdell, trumpet.

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PSU-Harrisburg hosts grad school open house

Penn State Harrisburg will host a graduate school open house at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5 in the campus library.

Participants will learn about the more than 30 masters, doctoral and certification programs at the university, meet faculty and obtain admissions and financial aid information.

RSVP is preferred but not required.

To make a reservation or get more information, readers may visit the university's Web site or contact Mitchell Patterson at 717-948-6250 or mbp13@psu.edu.

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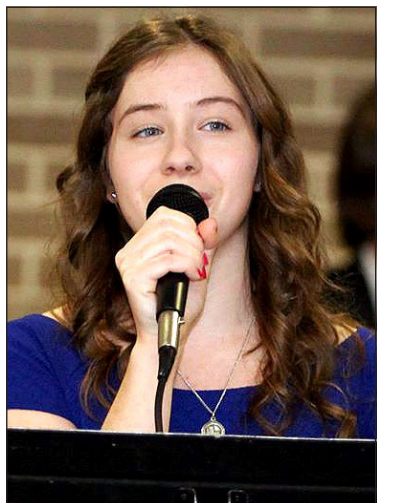
OUT & ABOUT



Middletown Area High School Band Boosters' Souper Saturday

The New England Patriots were super in Super Bowl XLIX on Sunday, Feb. 1, but the chicken corn soup was hard to beat the night before at the Middletown Area High School Band Boosters' Souper Saturday at the school cafeteria.

Not only were there delicious homemade soups, salads and desserts at the fundraising event on Saturday, Jan. 31, but also music by the Middletown Area High School Jazz Band. And there was dancing. See who was there!



Photos by Jodi Ocker